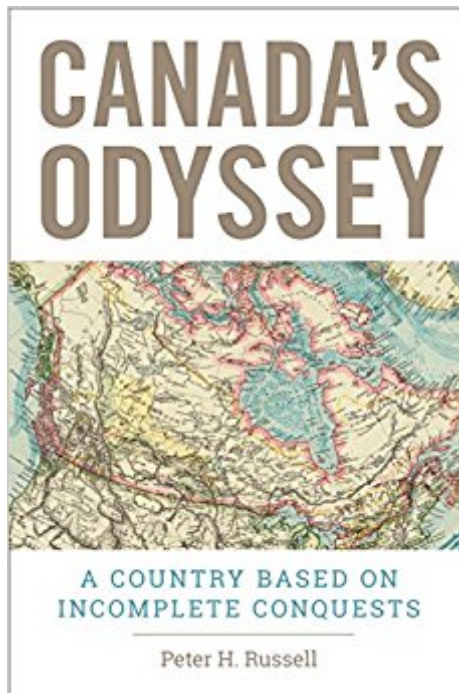




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Canada's Odyssey: A Country Based On Incomplete Conquests



Synopsis

150 years after Confederation, Canada is known around the world for its social diversity and its commitment to principles of multiculturalism. But the road to contemporary Canada is a winding one, a story of division and conflict as well as union and accommodation. In *Canada's Odyssey*, renowned scholar Peter H. Russell provides an expansive, accessible account of Canadian history from the pre-Confederation period to the present day. By focusing on what he calls the "three pillars" of English Canada, French Canada, and Aboriginal Canada, Russell advances an important view of our country as one founded on and informed by "incomplete conquests". It is the very incompleteness of these conquests that have made Canada what it is today, not just a multicultural society but a multinational one. Featuring the scope and vivid characterizations of an epic novel, *Canada's Odyssey* is a magisterial work by an astute observer of Canadian politics and history, a perfect book to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The value of *Canada's Odyssey* is that it requires very little of the reader in advance. It offers an open and accessible path and, although it may appear somewhat daunting (given its length of 500 pages), it is a very enjoyable and engaging read. In its writing style, the book manages to walk a line somewhere between academic and popular history, which is a challenging line for any author. The informality of its tone combined with the sheer scope and detail of the project serves to reach and hold the attention of a diverse set of readers. Anyone looking for some way to mark

Canada's sesquicentennial would do well to read this book." (Joshua Nichols Literary Review of Canada, July/August 2017)

"Lucid and lively, Canada's Odyssey is both a joy to read and also a provocative story about a country that has been and continues to be an unfinished project. The tone is friendly, the prose is free of jargon – but Professor Russell's hand is firm on the tiller. This is Big History: the distillation of fifty years of scholarship written for a contemporary popular audience. The author gives the three founding peoples their due, while recognizing some of the uglier chapters in the past and also the rapidly shifting demographics of today. He explains how nothing was inevitable as Canada took shape; successive governments relied on incremental change and accommodation to absorb the complexity and diversity of this country. This has allowed Canadians to develop the institutions and compromises required to become not a homogenous nation but a mutually respectful people who, for the most part, peacefully share the grandeur of our extraordinary land" (Charlotte Gray, C.M., adjunct professor at Carleton University and author of 'The Promise of Canada: 150 Years' – 'People And Ideas That Have Shaped Our Country') "Canada's Odyssey is a remarkable achievement. Peter H. Russell weaves together his robust knowledge of Canadian history and government in an accessible and inviting read. Canada's Odyssey is ideal for those scholars, students, and general readers who long to be better informed about our country." (Kent McNeil, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University) "Russell's book provides a seminal and deep insight into Canada's political identity. His magisterial political analysis of how and why – 'compromise' usurped 'conquest' makes this must read book a new and compelling take on the evolution of our nation" (The Hon. Hugh Segal, OC, O.Ont, Master, Massey College)

This is an exhaustive political history of Canada with an emphasis on the Three Pillars, English Canada, French Canada, and Aboriginal Canada. The author writes about the problems and successes of trying to govern three distinct cultures as one nation. Although this book is mostly a historical account the author also includes modern challenges. He also has suggestions on how the rest of world can learn from Canada as more countries become multinational. Anyone with an interest in Canadian and World politics will find this an interesting read.

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