

Chilcotin war essay



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It all started in wake of the Caribou Gold Rush.

But was it really a war or just a confrontation? I believe that the Chilcotin War was not a war at all, but a confrontation between members of Tsilhqot'in people and a work party cutting a road through their territory. The Tsilhqot'in people attacked the road workers because they were trying to protect what was theirs. They were trying to protect their land, their people and their way of life. The newcomers did not ask the aboriginals' permission to cross their land and did not always treat the Tsilhqot'in with respect.

The government wasn't doing anything to protect the Tsilhqot'in peoples land or way of life. The Europeans only wanted the gold, they didn't care what they had to do to get the gold just that they got it. The Europeans brought in small pox which threatened the Tsilhqot'in population by killing more than half the Tsilhqot'in people. It was one of the main reasons that they attacked the Europeans. The Tsilhqot'in didn't appreciate the fact that the whites came in and brought such a horrible disease.

Some people call it a war, what is a war really? If you look up the meaning of it you will find that war is about one group trying to conquer another, its more about trying to take over ones land and prove to be better than them rather than what the Europeans did to the Tsilhqot'in people who came into their land and want nothing more than gold. This so called war was nothing more than a group of first nation's peoples protecting their land, their water, their whole existence. In the end the five chiefs were tricked into coming back just so that they could be charged with the murders and hanged.