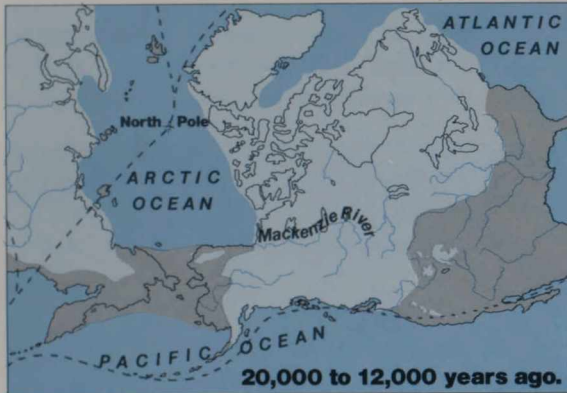


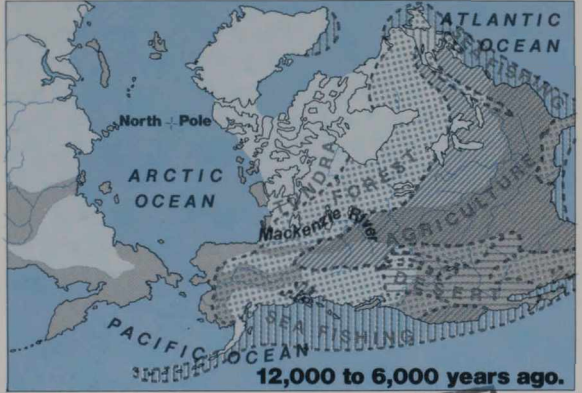
Others went south, probably down the coast, to the Pacific Northwest. Their children and culture would remain unique. Their eyes would seem slanted; for unlike the majority of other Indians, many of the Northwest settlers would have the Mongolian fold, and their tools—semicircular knives of ground slate and toggle-headed harpoons—would be similar to those used by their



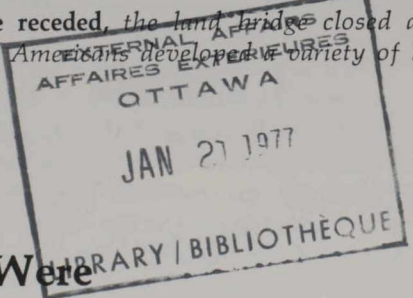
Later, glaciers closed off the Mackenzie Valley. The dotted lines indicate the plates in the earth's crust.

putative cousins in the Arctic north.

The white man came last. The first recorded confrontation occurred in northern Newfoundland around 1000 AD, when a band of Vikings met some natives, whom they derisively called Skraelings. At first the two groups traded red cloth for furs; three weeks later they fought. Modern history had begun.



As the ice receded, the land bridge closed and prehistoric Americans developed a variety of life styles.



The Way Things Were

THE COLONIAL FRENCH got along well with the Indians. Most of the Colonial English did not. When the first colonists arrived, there were perhaps 200,000 Indians in what is now Canada. The French had two agreed-upon goals: They wished to make money by trading in furs and to convert the natives to Christianity. In 1666 Colbert wrote to Talon, the *intendant* of New France: "Nothing would contribute more [to strengthen the colony] than to endeavour to civilize the Algonquins, the Hurons and other Indians who have embraced Christianity and to induce them to come and settle in common with the French, to live with them and raise their children according to our manners and customs."

To the south, New England's colonists hoped to profit from cultivating the land and regarded all nonwhite peoples as descendants of Ham, condemned to eternal subjugation. Charles I's charters ordered his colonists to "collect troops and wage war on the barbarians and pursue them even beyond the limits of their province and if God shall grant it, to vanquish and captivate them, and the captive put to death." One of the early results of this policy was the flight of the Abenakis from New England to New France in the 1670s.

Even the benevolent association of the French and the Indians had its disasters. The Hurons accepted French missionaries and were New France's first trading allies, acting as middlemen between the French and fur-trapping tribes. Between 1615 and 1650, their population shrank from thirty thousand to two thousand, the rest destroyed by war with their trading rivals, the Iroquois, and by famine and European diseases.

The Indians proved essential military allies, and by 1763, when the English took over New France, the official British attitude toward Indians had softened. King George III recognized that Indians had rights, and the concepts of land acquisition by treaties and the setting aside of reserves were established.

After the American Revolution, the British colonies in the north continued to acquire land by treaty, and by 1836 some two dozen land alienation treaties had been concluded in Ontario. The prevailing white attitude became paternal (or perhaps avuncular); Indians should be guided, watched over, disciplined and made to improve themselves. They should be persuaded to settle down and become farmers. The Reverend James Coleman, a Canadian missionary, offered a formula for conversion in 1847: