Indigenous Sovereignty: Redefining Colonial Perceptions of Sovereignty through Indigenous Self-Governance in BC, Canada

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Research Questions

1) How do settler states assert sovereignty over Indigenous nations, specifically in areas with unceded territory?

2) How do Indigenous nations negotiate, and attempt to assert sovereignty over their traditional lands with the settler state?

3) How does Indigenous people’s connection to land affect their definition of sovereignty?
Sovereignty

Westphalian sovereignty:

- Loyalty and support from population
- Mutually recognized by other sovereign states
  - Complete authority over a specific geographical area, without interference from outside sources

*Both nation, by their own definitions, have a legitimate claim to the land*

Redefining the concept of sovereignty

- Importance of land
- Protection of land vs. economical exploitation
Why is this important?

- It proves that Indigenous nations can self-govern without a treaty
- Asserting sovereignty without a treaty can compromise the power of a settler state and challenge their claim to sovereignty
- It challenges the term sovereignty
- It focuses on a relevant, ongoing case, contributing valuable information to Indigenous nations
Thank You!

QUESTIONS?
Sources


