





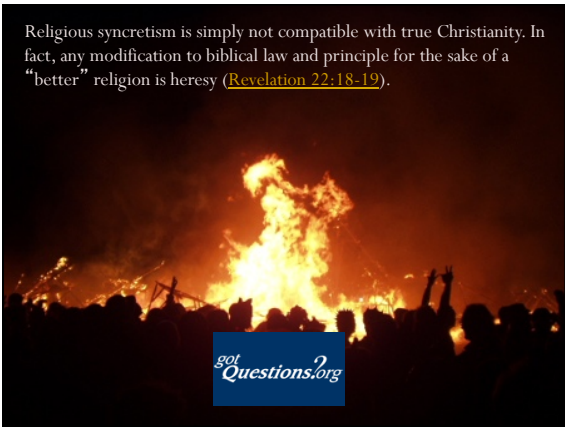
FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULTS OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF MANY YEARS.

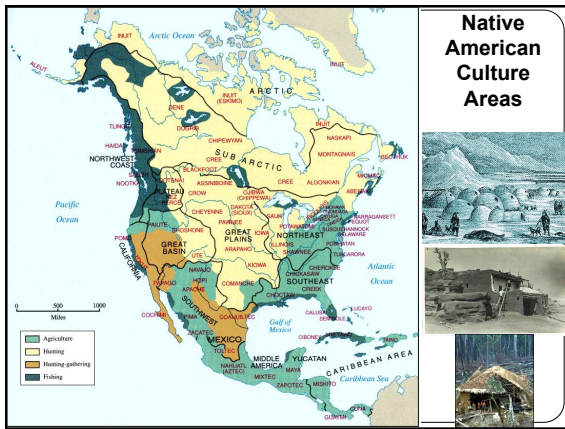


Syncretism



Religious syncretism exhibits blending of two or more religious belief systems into a new system, or the incorporation into a religious tradition of beliefs from unrelated traditions. This can occur for many reasons, and the latter scenario happens quite commonly in areas where multiple religious traditions exist in proximity and function actively in the culture, or when a culture is conquered, and the conquerors bring their religious beliefs with them, but do not succeed in entirely eradicating the old beliefs or, especially, practices.





Indian Religious Beliefs

- ❖ Life after death.
- ❖ Ghosts, gods, and anthropomorphic spiritual personalities with intelligence, emotions, and freedom of will to intervene in human affairs.
- ❖ All Indians further believed in a supernatural power, shared by spiritual personalities, human beings, and the entities of the natural world.
- ❖ Their religiousness was an attempt to understand, enter into relations with, appease, revere, and, if possible, manipulate these sources of existence in order to promote their own lives and the lives of their relatives.

Cosmology

- "Study of the Universe"

- Religion:

The symbolic transformation of a human being's perception of the universe, thus giving a conviction of order and purpose for society and individuals alike.



Categories of Religion

- Animism
- Polytheism
- Dualism
- Monotheism



Animism

Animism – [Latin – anima, "soul," "spirit] is the belief in spirit beings. They are known by many names; plant and animal spirits, souls, ghosts, goblins, genies, elves, leprechauns, fairies, witches, demons, devils, angels and gods. They are beings without real flesh and blood – nonmaterial, but real enough for those who believe in them.



Mana

A concept associated with Animism.

[Native Polynesian] Mana is a force, but not a vitalistic force. It exists as a supernatural attribute of persons and things. Above all, it is the exceptional power to do unusual things. Mana, though it is an impersonal force, can be manifest in and through persons, as well as inanimate objects.

Polytheism

Belief in many gods. See Greek mythology or Hinduism.



Dualism

- The term has been used to denote the religious or theological system which would explain the universe as the outcome of two eternally opposed and coexisting principles, conceived as good and evil, light and darkness, or some other form of conflicting powers, BUT ...

- Good/evil; male/female



Monotheism

Literally, one god. The belief in one, supreme god.



Native American Prophet Movements

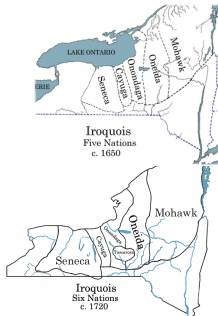


Contact with Christians proved traumatic for Native American religions, as both civil and religious authorities attempted to repress native spirituality and force conversion. Over the past three centuries, this attempt has provoked the rise of various native religious movements.

The **Longhouse Religion**, also known as the **Handsome Lake cult**, or **Gai'wio** (*Good Message* in Seneca) is a religious movement started by the Seneca **Chief Handsome Lake** (Ganioda'yo). Founded in 1799, it is the oldest active prophet movement in North America.

The Haudenosaunee

(pronounced HO-dee-no-SHOW-nee)



Current Haudenosaunee territories can be found in New York State, Oklahoma, (Seneca & Cayuga) Wisconsin, (Oneida) and Canada. (Mohawk & Oneida)



In the beginning ...

- Long before the Europeans came, the prophet named Peacemaker came among the Haudenosaunee.
- Great Law of Peace was the law that called for the conception of democracy and the principles of constitutional government.



The Peacemaker created...

- A four-tiered nomination system:
 - A person is FIRST selected by the female spokesperson, the clanmother, of the clan
 - 2ND, the Clanmother guarantees that the candidate is free of greed, lust for power, envy and malice
 - 3rd, Leader must be able to see and think beyond his time, seven generations out
 - 4th, Council Members (Chiefs) must have stable family life, great patience and accept criticism

Peacemaker created (Con.t) ...

- Once chosen by the Clanmother, person is brought before the Clan
- Everyone can speak, and the person nominated can be accepted or rejected at this point
- Once clan consensus is reached, the person then goes before the nation's council of chiefs for approval or denial
- If not accepted, then the person must be withdrawn, and process starts again

Peacemaker created (con.t)...

- Once passed the Nation's Council of Chiefs and Clanmothers, then the Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee is convened, and the person has to be accepted or denied.
- If approved, the position is for life, or until illness prevents the individual from carrying out his duties

Some of the reasons a Chief can be removed: ...

- Corruption
- Adopting another religion's faith
- Encouraging violence
- Lying
- Shedding blood
- Committing immoral acts
- Breaching the Great Law of Peace
- It is the Clanmother who is empowered to remove him

Before the Peacemaker and the adoption of the Great Law...

- Manslaughter, Rape and Assault were punishable by death or torture
- Before the Peacemaker, everyone had to participate and share in the pain of the individual, underscoring the negative of the act against the community not only the individual.
- Fire was the usual punishment for antisocial behavior

The Peacemaker reasoned...

- All dictators and warlords rule through fear and profit by creating artificial social divisions
- By eliminating the root cause of terror and vengeance, true healing could take place
- When reason flourished, no dictator could remain in power

Justice rooted in compassion...

- If a person was killed, the offended Family and Clan decides the punishment
- Death, banishment, compensation or adoption were considered reasonable penalties

In instances of rape (which were rare), for example, the offender was branded with a facial mark and expelled from the community

The Haudenosaunee government...

- A Chief could be impeached; if he was, he was disgraced and banned forever from political office
- The true power of the Confederacy lay in the clans and people. Even if a law were passed by the Grand Council, it could be overturned by the people
- The clans controlled immigration, residency, names and marriages.

Haudenosaunee gov.t (con.t)

- The Dutch secured the trading post-Fort Orange, later named Albany via treaty
- This negotiation is represented by the Guswenta (Two-Row Wampum belt)
- The three rows of white beads between the purple rivers (rows) stand for Peace, Friendship and Forever



The Peacemaker again...

- Showed the vulnerability of one nation by snapping one arrow in half
- Showed the strength of many nations by the inability to break five bound arrows



Upper House

- The Onondaga Nation is known as the upper house with 14 chiefs



Peacemaker con.t...

- If the Onondaga agree a Grand Council session should be held, they would dispatch envoys (“runners”) with wampum
- The Oneida and Mohawks have nine chiefs
- The Seneca - Eight
- The Cayuga - Ten
- The Tuscarora interests were cared for by the Oneida and Cayuga

Grand Council...

- The Grand Council is called to session by the Onondaga selecting a chief to recite the Opening Address (Thanksgiving Address)
- The Chairperson’s title in the Grand Council is “Tadodaho”
- Tadodaho sets the agenda and ensures proper procedure is followed



Tadodaho Sid Hill

Thanksgiving Address

Greetings to the Natural World

The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds

together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.

Now our minds are one.

The Earth Mother

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as

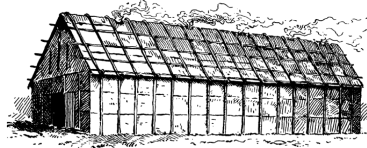
she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

People of the Longhouse

- Mohawk and Seneca sit on North side of longhouse
- Oneida, Cayuga and Tuscarora on South side of longhouse
- Onondagas at the East end
- The public at the west end

Issues and agenda are passed back and forth over the "Fire" for discussion and consensus. Once approved, the legislation is then referred to the Onondaga for approval or rejection.



Heroes among the Haudenosaunee

- Garakontic, Onondaga 1650-1678
- Ourhouasse, Cayuga returned 1689
- Onkswathetami, Oneida, first decade of 1700s
- Teoniahigarawe (Hendrick) Mohawk, visited Queen Anne 1710
 - Killed at 73, in 1755 at the battle of Lake George



*Tee-Yee-Neen-Ho-Ga-Row/
Emperor of the Six Nations -
1710*

Anti-Heroes among Haudenosaunee

- *Tyendinga*; Joseph Brant - Mohawk
 - Formally educated, well spoken
 - Sought power
 - Believed in other (Anglican) Religions
- He was a controversial figure in both Mohawk and American History



Handsome Lake

(1735?-10 Aug. 1815)

- During times of crisis and alteration change must happen, but the pace at which change happens is key.
- In Handsome Lake's era, change was happening too quickly for normal evolution and adaptation to change
- Unlike the Peacemaker (born of virgin birth) Handsome Lake was a drunkard



Handsome Lake (Con.' t)

- Born of the Turtle clan, of the Seneca
- He was born approximately 1735
- Was a veteran of the Revolutionary War
- So why were the Haudenosaunee in such bad shape at this point?
 - Revolutionary war
 - Alcohol
 - Poverty
 - Land issues

Gawaiio - the "Good Word"

- When Handsome Lake was in a coma, four sacred beings visit him and instruct him in a message that may save the Haudenosaunee
- Key was embracing ancestral rituals such as Thanksgiving Address
- Another Key was avoidance of substances that altered the Good Mind



Gawaiio (Con.'t)

- Stressed the need and importance of family
- Permanence of marriage, need to refrain of sexual promiscuity
- Concern for the Elders and their welfare
- Dissuaded gossip or idle talk, opposed land sales
- Gave a set of prophecies about the future of the planet

Handsome Lake's Message

• "I have a message to deliver to you who are gathered. I have been told by the servants of the Creator that I should live upon the earth to teach the onkwehonwe (Haudenosaunee) the things that will please the Creator again. The Creator has seen that you have transgressed from the things that he taught you. He made you so that you could have good lives and not do harm to others. He sees that you have accepted the sins brought to you by Sawiskela's Islanders. The worst thing that you have done is to take the fire water which you know to be the mind changer. The Creator says you have to stop this."

• He continued, "All this came about because your ancestors took it from the White man. You have suffered ever since because of it. Those that did this have never gotten to the Creator's world in the sky. This was not made for you. It was made for the White man as a medicine on his island. By drinking to excess, they too have violated the will of the Creator who blew life into all of you. The Creator says that to be drunk is forbidden, and he wants you to stop. In fact, he forbids you to continue this evil habit. If you leave it behind, much of your suffering will end, and your children will be happy once again. The Creator is sad that, because of it, there is so much crime and wickedness on the earth. There are some things that were never intended for his Red children." (Source: Brian Rice, PhD from Wampum Chronicles Website)

Christian Influence

- From Quaker contacts
- included a personal creator-ruler, a devil, heaven, hell, and judgment; Jesus was identified with a local mythological figure. Seneca divinities were retained as ruling angels, rituals were reduced to four transformed dance feasts, and the longhouse was modified into a "church."



- A puritan and modernizing ethic attacked alcohol and witchcraft, banned further land sales, encouraged the men to practice plow agriculture and animal husbandry, and stressed stability of the nuclear family.



Handsome Lake cult. (2011). In *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved from <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/254252/Handsome-Lake-cult>