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History and Anthropology

September 18, 2019.

Townsend Chapter 2: Native People and European New Comers Shoemaker Chapter 2: First Encounters

The Eastern Woodland culture was comprised of the Indian tribes living throughout the length and breadth of Eastern America and Canada. The gender roles among the Native Americans were accustomed according to the region and community they were the parts of. Compared to them the Indian tribes of the Eastern Woodlands also shared similar cultural traits. The Indian’s societies were divided into classes, which included a tribal chief and some commoners. The English views of gender influence the viewpoint of Eastern Woodland Native Americans, more in the form gender roles. Although divided into classes, the gender roles among Indians were based on the division of labor. Normally, the Indian females will tend to work in the fields of maize with digging sticks and hoes. The English considered that Algonquian- English gender roles have been influenced by the gender perception of Indians in the manner that English people often questioned about the agricultural role of women among the Indian tribes and about their other social roles (Brown).

The Native American culture was influenced by the European New Comers in many ways. Other than the roles in labor and gender classification, the gender classification in the Southern part of America is the proof of this fact. The early American culture provided a great autonomy to women, however, the eastern Woodland Culture was different (GUERRERO). It opened the ways for gender inequality and oppressions and this was how things started influencing the American culture. Other than labor distribution patterns and about the role of women, the Woodland culture remained insignificant for altering the societal pattern of the American society. Many historians believe that such distance remained for the fact that Early Americans were so possessive about their gender roles and cultural patterns (Restoule). They believe that any other social pattern or way of life might affect their pattern of living tremendously.

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