

Nations at War

Nations At War Season 2



" The battle for the Continent has just begun..."

Episodes

201 - New Frontiers: In the 1700s, the Ojibwe were a nation on the move. Having migrated from an ancient homeland to the east, the Ojibwe sought to carve out a place for themselves in the prairies and its booming fur trade. Standing in their way were a group of nations known to outsiders as the Sioux. A powerful civilization who would ferociously resist any attempted expansion into their territory.

202 - Death March: At the start of the Seven Years War, British general Edward Braddock marched a massive army through the North American wilderness to attack the French held Fort Duquesne. Among his army was George Washington, an ambitious American officer who had been manipulated into starting this earth shaking conflict by Tanacharison. A leader of the Mingo who hoped to play one empire against another to save his people. The Mingo had become the plaything of European and Iroquois grand politics, forcing Tanacharison into a deadly gamble to save the Mingo from land hungry empires.

203 - Father: As the Seven Years War raged across the planet, France and Great Britain were locked in deadly struggle for control of North America. Led by the legendary general the Marquis De Montcalm, the outnumbered French desperately needed the support of longtime allies like the Abenaki. An ancient nation who had their own bloody history with Britain's land hungry American colonists. While willing to back the French when it suited them, the Abenaki would teach the arrogant French commander they respectfully called "father" they were not merely an army for him to command.

204 - Freedom Fighters: In 1763 Britain had emerged victorious over their old French rival and claimed Canada as a spoil of war. To keep the peace with France's unbeaten First Nations allies, King George III agreed to restrict British expansion of west of the Appalachian mountains. The king's decree would be ignored by his American subjects and colonial commanders. Sparking a violent resistance under Odawa leader Pontiac which would stun the British Empire. With fort after fort burning, ruthless general Jeffery Amherst turned to weapons of mass destruction to annihilate a First Nations alliance fighting for the sovereignty they had been promised.

205 – Eastern Front: In the year 1776, the fires of revolution swept across eastern North America. Fighting the greatest empire of the day, the upstart USA needed allies to turn the tide of war in their favour. Their first target were the Maliseet of New Brunswick. Though they had once been bitter enemies, the Americans hoped to woo the Maliseet with diplomacy and gifts. With the Maliseet on their side, the Americans could launch an ambitious plan to capture Eastern Canada and cripple the British war effort.

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206 - Stand On Guard: In 1812 the United States tried to finish what their revolution started. Hoping to conquer British Canada while the British were busy fighting Napoleon across the globe. Despite their differences, British settlers, French Canadians and First Nations joined forces in a desperate fight to push back the American invasion. Led by the son and protégé of the legendary Thayendanega, Mohawk warriors would be on the front lines of some of the war's bloodiest battles. Facing impossible odds to end the USA's dreams of conquest and avenge the destruction of their homeland during the American Revolution.

207 - Rule The Waves: At the end of the 18th Century, American, British and Spanish ships fought for dominance of the Pacific Northwest. The epicenter of this international crisis was Nootka Sound. Home of the Nuu-chah-nulth people. As empire's clashed within sight of their homes, Nuu-cha-nulth warriors would take to the waves. Defending their place on the waters, which had nourished and sustained their civilization for generations.

208 - The Siege: In the 1800s Russia nursed dreams of expanding their growing empire into North America. Though they conquered the Aleutian Islands with brutality and gunpowder, their Alaskan ambitions would meet an imposing obstacle: The Tlingit and their imposing citadel of Noow Tlein. Led by the courageous chief K'aylaan, the Tlingit defenders would meet the invaders in hand-to-hand combat on the slopes of their stronghold. The climax of a vicious war to decide control over a trading empire which stretched across the northern pacific and deep inland.

209 – Prairie Fire: By the 1800s, the Metis people of western Canada were battle tested and accustomed to hardship. Their buffalo meat trade was a key part of an international trade stretching from the Arctic Circle to London. Hungry for fresh profits, their hunting parties pushed further south. Actions which made the Metis dangerous rivals in the Dakota, a Sioux speaking nation already fighting their Ojibwe allies. As commerce sparked conflict, the Metis combined European and First Nations tactics to protect their way of life.

210 - Bleeding Kamloops: In the 1850s gold, trade and land drew newcomers deep into the Rocky Mountains. Already a key trading post, Kamloops became a violent boom town. The meeting place of British traders, American miners, Metis outlaws and an ambitious chief named Nkwala. A charismatic military genius who led an alliance Salish speaking First Nations to fame and war. Carving his name on the landscape itself.

211 – Broken Promises: In 1868 the Sioux Treaty was signed. Ending three years of First Nations resistance to American expansion. For the Sioux leaders like Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, their victory represented the dream of an independent future and the survival of their culture. For the Americans, it was a humiliating failure. A promise of peace they could never keep as their government faced political and economic pressure for constant westward expansion. By any means necessary.

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212 - Medicine Line: In 1877 the Niimiipu faced a stark choice. Leave their lands and surrender to life on a reservation or take up arms against the American government and decide their own fate. Led by the courageous Chief Joseph, the Niimiipu would brave impossible odds and the United States army, in a desperate fighting retreat to the Canadian border and freedom.

213 – Manifest Destiny: During the 1700s war spread across North America with one primary cause: the hunger for land. Whether it was First Nations societies in search of fresh hunting grounds and new homelands, or European empires eager to control key trading hubs and expand their booming colonial settlements. In 1776 these battles over land became a winner take all struggle for the future of North America. As the young but ambitious United States of America sought to fulfill their “manifest destiny” to claim their entire continent for themselves. No matter who stood in their way.