

Nations at War

Nations At War Season 3 TV – Themes, Subject Matter & Setting of the Storyline



"The price of survival is war"

Themes and Subject Matter

While the British use trade, treaties and force to build an empire in Canada, to the South their American colonies' constant need for land sparks global wars. Once independent, the USA faced an even greater flood of people onto their shores. To cope with this human tide and expand their power, they looked to the west, claiming a manifest destiny to rule the continent. American dreams would meet harsh reality as the First Nations defiantly fought for home, culture and survival, in an era of imperial expansion.

Through centuries of violent change, the series narrator is our guide, describing the people, events and aftermath of every violent clash with no bias for either side. Rather the narrator will assess and examine the motivations of both sides and pragmatic reasons for their political and military actions. Alongside academic experts, elders and First Nations individuals who each lend their unique voices to **Nation At War's** exploration into North America's often violent past.

Setting of the Storyline

Like season two of **Nations At War**, the series mingles live action footage and stunning visual effects to illustrate the scope and depth of European and American expansion into the interior and western coast of the North America continent. High quality maps set the theatre of battle while comparing the size and reach of the opposing nations. While digitally augmented live action footage, animated "2.5D" images and motion capture VFX sequences bring the conflict to life for the viewer. Tying this mosaic of visuals together is our series narrator who guides the viewers through the immense and complex historical events, which still influence politics, culture and business in North America today. The battle for North America rages on as the Americans claim a manifest destiny to take the continent. The First Nations of the West were forced to fight for their survival. **Nations At War** is an epic story of courage and horror, played out across an entire continent over the course of centuries. To give it the proper the grandeur and gravitas, **NAW** has a sweeping dramatic score, as well as a rich soundscape, full of thundering hooves, hails of gunfire and the marching feet of imperial armies.

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Episodes

301 – THE CRUCIBLE

Though the arrival of Africans and Europeans to North America would unleash an unparalleled era of change and conflict, the First Nations were no strangers to war, and it had hardened them into some of the fiercest warriors in the world. By the 1600s, nations from the Atlantic to the Pacific had spent generations struggling for survival. In the Northeast, the Wendat Confederacy fights a winner take all war against their cultural cousins, the Haudenosaunee. Far to the west, a mosaic of nations known commonly as the Coast Salish, traded, married and fought each other, all while living under constant threat from external enemies. On the Great Plains, European influence and weapons would push the Aaniiih and Cheyenne to brink of extinction.

302 – Foothold

While the initial European settlements in North America seemed doomed to failure, by the mid-1600s, colonies and outposts from several European nations and kingdoms had spread across the continent, linking the Indigenous peoples to a global network, and an international power struggle. Nations like the Powhatan and Lenape, who tried to live peacefully alongside Europeans, found their friendship came at a steep price.

303 – FROM THE ASHES

In the 17th century, the European fur trade caused chaos and war among the nations of the Great Lakes. Despite being one of the most powerful societies in Pre-Contact North America, European disease and Iroquois guns nearly destroyed the Wendat nation. Driven from their homes, and most of their people assimilated into the Iroquois, the few surviving Wendat fight for over a century of just to keep their culture alive.

304 – NO SHELTER

On the Great Plains, the Algonquian speaking Cheyenne struggle to find a safe home, in a land where enemies surround them. Driven from their traditional home in Minnesota by the Iron Confederacy and Daktoa, the Cheyenne would be flee from one refuge to the next, until they reached a lush safe haven known as the Black Hills. But their new life in a distant land would come to a bitter end, when a new wave of eastern exiles arrived: the Lakota.

305 – WARLORD

In the late 1700s, Imperial expansion plunges Eastern North America into war, at the same time Fur traders and ambitious chiefs spark dozens of conflicts west of the Great Lakes. Those nations who lack numbers or firepower, are forced to take extraordinary

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measures to secure their future. Living in constant fear of seaborne raiders from the north, several clans of the Gitxsan unite around a legendary hero, to build one of the mightiest indigenous fortresses in history.

306 - ARMS TRADE

In the late 18th century, the Aaniiih are losing a bitter war with the expanding Iron Confederacy of Assiniboine, Cree and Ojibwe. The key to their enemy's success are muskets and steel, provided in large quantities by the Hudson's Bay and Northwest Companies, who were also eager to increase their influence in west. Outgunned and outnumbered, the Aaniiih have only one chance to turn the tide of the war: attack the fur trade itself.

307 – THE LAST FRONTIER

Unlike the fertile fields and forests of eastern North America, the Pacific Northwest was spared a rush of settlers for centuries due to its distance and ruggedness. However in the late 18th century, advancements in maritime technology brought more and more Europeans to the Salish Sea. There they found a diverse array of Salish speaking nations, who would be forced to choose between war and co-existence, in an age of disease and bloodshed.

308 – OLD WOUNDS

In the wars that consumed eastern North America during the 18th and early 19th centuries, the Mohawks who call the Quebec home were key players. During the War of 1812 alone, their warriors were essential to keeping Canada out of American hands. But as the need for Mohawk warriors declined, the peoples of Kahnawake, Akwesasne and Kanesatake would struggle to preserve their homes, as the neighbors they fought to defend turned their backs on them.

309 – DYNASTIES

In the early 19th century, the Tsimshian nations squabble among themselves for territory, resources and respect. But these struggles make them weaker in the face of their mutual rivals: the Haida and Tlingit. Into this power vacuum stepped the Legex, a dynasty of chiefs who would change the Tsimshian's fortunes forever. The Legex Chiefs would lead the Tsimshian into a bitterly competitive fur trade, founded by some of the richest and most influential families in American and Canadian history.

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310 – BLOOD IN THE WATER

On the shores of Vancouver Island and southern British Columbia, dwell a nation known as the Kwakwaka'wakw, a civilization that continues to fascinate people from around the world. Famed as artists and storytellers today, in the 18th and 19th centuries it was their prowess in war, which earned them the fear and respect of their neighbors. However, their success would inspire an unlikely coalition of rival Coast Salish nations and British traders, all eager to end the Kwakwaka'wakw threat once and for all.

EP 311 – A NATION DIVIDED

Few nations paid the price of the USA's westward expansion, more than the Cherokee. After fighting many brutal conflicts against American settlers during the colonial period, and subjected to the cruelty of forced removal, the divided Cherokee nation struggled to find their place inside the American nation. However, in 1861 a bitter conflict between the American government and rebel states would drag Cherokee into a civil war of their own.

EP 312 – WARRIOR SOCIETIES

In 1877, the Cheyenne, Arapaho and the Lakota scored a decisive victory against the American army along the Little Bighorn River. It was the culmination of decades of war, during which the three allies endured rape, pillage and murder at the hands of the American settlers and soldiers. However, this stunning victory would come at a terrible cost, and earn the Cheyenne in particular the wrath of a wounded superpower.

EP 313 – THE SURVIVORS

North America has always been a place where war can shape the fate of nations, but beginning in the 17th century a new era of conflict and chaos began, that made strength on the battlefield essential. New technologies, ideas and settlers radically altered the existing balance of power, resulting the rise of new powers and dynasties, at the expense of their bitter rivals. Those who wished to survive and thrive would have to adapt to the rapidly changing realities of combat in North America.