

The background of the cover is a close-up of a wooden carving. At the top, there is a bird's head, possibly a raven or crow, with its beak open. Below it is a large, stylized face of a person, likely an indigenous figure, with a wide, flat-topped headdress. The face has large, dark eyes and a slightly open mouth. The wood is light-colored and shows some texture and grain. The overall composition is centered and symmetrical.

ABORIGINAL IDENTITY AND  
HISTORICAL CONSCIOUSNESS  
IN THE CAULDRON  
OF COLONIALISM

**THE POWER OF PLACE  
THE PROBLEM OF TIME**

**KEITH THOR CARLSON**  
FOREWORD BY SONNY McHALSIE

## THE POWER OF PLACE, THE PROBLEM OF TIME

### Aboriginal Identity and Historical Consciousness in the Cauldron of Colonialism

The Indigenous communities of the Lower Fraser River, British Columbia (a group commonly called the Stó:lō), have historical memories and senses of identity deriving from events, cultural practices, and kinship bonds that had been continuously adapting long before a non-Native visited the area directly. In *The Power of Place, the Problem of Time*, Keith Thor Carlson re-thinks the history of Native-newcomer relations from the unique perspective of a classically trained historian who has spent nearly two decades living, working, and talking with the Stó:lō peoples.

Stó:lō actions and reactions under colonialism were rooted in their pre-colonial experiences and customs, which coloured their responses to events such as smallpox outbreaks or the gold rush. Profiling tensions of gender and class within the community, Carlson emphasizes the elasticity of collective identity. A rich and complex history, *The Power of Place, the Problem of Time* looks to both the internal and external factors that shaped a society during a time of great change, and its implications extend far beyond the study region.

KEITH THOR CARLSON is an associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Saskatchewan.

*The Power of Place, the  
Problem of Time*

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Aboriginal Identity and Historical  
Consciousness in the Cauldron of  
Colonialism

KEITH THOR CARLSON

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