

Grinev, A., Bland, R. (2016) Cultural Borrowings of Russians from the Natives of Alaska in the 18th and 19th Centuries *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 20(4), 1-7. DOI: 10.1177/1367877916629732

ABSTRACT

This article is dedicated to an analysis of Russian cultural borrowings from the Natives of Alaska and Aleutian Islands during the second half of the 18th century until 1867, when these territories were sold to the USA. As this research shows, the Russians, in the process of their colonization of the New World, borrowed objects of a predominantly utilitarian character in the sphere of material culture. Most of these borrowings took place in the 18th century, when the Russians had weak connections with the metropolis and there was a scarcity of European goods. The spiritual culture of the Natives, with the exception of some linguistic borrowings, chiefly of a toponymic character, remained outside the cultural circle of the immigrants from Russia.

Quotes

The distinctive features of interaction of various cultures are especially clearly manifested in contacts of ethnic groups that differ sharply in their origin, language, way of life, level of socio-economic development, and religion. (Grinev, Bland , 2016, p.1)

it can be concluded that Russian cultural borrowings from the Natives of the New World bore a predominantly utilitarian character and were limited almost exclusively to the sphere of material culture. It should be noted that such borrowings took place mainly in the 18th century, when the Russians had weak connections with the metropolis and there was a scarcity of European goods. The spiritual culture of the Natives, with the exception of some linguistic borrowings, chiefly of a toponymic character, remained outside the cultural circle of the immigrants from Russia (Grinev, Bland , 2016, p.5)