

# The Untold Story of Resource Exploitation in Upper Michigan: Unveiling the Secrets of Sault Sainte

What if I told you that hidden in the heart of Upper Michigan lies a story of resource exploitation that rivals the tales of gold rush and oil booms? Welcome to Sault Sainte, a place where dreams were turned into reality and fortunes were made through the relentless extraction of rich natural resources. Join us on a journey through time as we uncover the forgotten history of this fascinating region.

## The Birth of Industrialization

In the late 19th century, Upper Michigan witnessed a significant turning point in its history when the discovery of vast iron ore deposits sparked a frenzy of industrialization. The region became a hub for mining companies from around the world, all eager to capitalize on the abundant resources hidden beneath the surface.

As the mining operations spread throughout the region, the town of Sault Sainte emerged as a critical player in the unfolding story of resource exploitation. Its convenient geographical location, situated on the banks of the St. Mary's River, provided easy access to shipping routes, enabling the transportation of vast amounts of minerals to markets across the globe.

## U.P. Colony: The Story of Resource Exploitation in Upper Michigan -- Focus on Sault Sainte Marie

**Industries** by Jasmine Lee-Jones(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 4756 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 89 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## The Impact on the Land and People

The rapid expansion of mining in Upper Michigan had a profound impact on the land and its indigenous inhabitants. Lush forests were felled, giving way to sprawling mines and factories that scarred the once-pristine landscape. The disruption caused by resource exploitation led to the displacement of native tribes, forever altering their way of life.

The influx of workers from different parts of the country and overseas shaped the fabric of society in Sault Sainte. The town witnessed a population boom, with immigrants from Europe seeking employment in the mines and industries that flourished around them. With such transformative changes occurring, Sault Sainte became a melting pot of cultures, traditions, and aspirations, offering a unique glimpse into the complex issues that resource exploitation entails.

## Environmental Consequences and Modern Challenges

While the booming era of resource exploitation brought economic prosperity and development to Sault Sainte, it also left lasting scars on the environment. Decades of mining activity generated massive amounts of waste and pollutants that contaminated rivers and soils, posing long-term risks to local ecosystems.

Today, the community faces the challenge of undoing the environmental damage caused by their predecessors. Efforts to restore the land and waterways are underway, driven by a growing consciousness of the importance of sustainable practices. Local organizations, supported by government initiatives, are striving to strike a balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship.

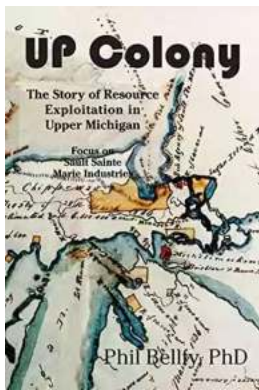
## **Preserving History and Honoring the Past**

As we explore the fascinating story of resource exploitation in Sault Sainte, it is important to acknowledge the role of historical preservation in keeping the memories of the past alive. Museums, heritage centers, and cultural initiatives have been established to honor the struggles and triumphs of those who shaped the region.

By understanding the mistakes of the past and celebrating the achievements of resource exploitation, Sault Sainte keeps its history alive as a reminder of the importance of responsible resource management. The lessons learned serve as a compass to guide future generations towards a more sustainable and equitable approach to utilizing the Earth's bountiful resources.

The story of resource exploitation in Upper Michigan, with a particular focus on Sault Sainte, is a captivating tale of economic growth, cultural exchange, and environmental consequences. From the birth of industrialization to the modern challenges of sustainability, this region has experienced a rollercoaster ride through history.

As we reflect on this forgotten past, we are urged to consider the impact of our actions on the planet and the peoples who depend on its resources. Only through learning from our past can we create a future that harmonizes prosperity with the preservation of our natural world.



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In the 1980s, Phil Bellfy pondered the question: Why does Sault, Ontario, appear to be so prosperous, while the "Sault" on the American side has fallen into such a deplorable state? Could the answer be that the "American side" was little more than a "resource colony"-or to use the academic jargon of "Conflict and Change" Sociology-an "Internal Colony." In UP Colony, Bellfy revisits his graduate research to update us the state of the Sault.

The ultimate question: why has the U.P.'s vast wealth, nearly unrivaled in the whole of the United States, left the area with poverty nearly unrivaled in the whole of the United States? None of the conventional explanations from "distance to markets," to "too many people," to "disadvantageous production costs," have any credibility. Simply put: "Where did the \$1.5 billion earned from copper mining, \$1 billion from logging, and nearly \$4 billion in iron ore go?"

To get to the bottom of these thorny questions, Bellfy looks at the possible economic pressures imposed by "external colonial powers." The pressure-points examined in this book include presence of a complimentary economy, lopsided investment in one sector, monopoly style management, disparity of living

standards, a repressive conflict-resolution system, and the progressive growth of inequality over time.

In UP Colony, Dr. Bellfy has revisited his MA Thesis and brought this analysis up-to-date in conjunction with the Sault's Semiseptcentennial-the 350th anniversary of its French founding in 1668.

"In the 1980s the author headed north and attended Lake Superior State University at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. As a student he was struck by the differences between the sister cities on either side of the St. Mary's River. The American Soo was clearly in decline while the Canadian Soo prospered. The question why turned into a master's thesis that grew to include an examination of the economic woes of Michigan's U.P. This short book includes the original thesis and a 20-year update of the manuscript. For a book of only 70 pages, it is filled with eye-opening facts that clearly show that the U.P. was treated as if it was no better than a colony in which the colonizing country systematically exploited its enormous wealth then left it one of the most poverty-stricken areas in the country." --Tom Powers, Michigan in Books

"There are many people who will benefit from reading this book: academic readers and researchers; nonfiction writers working on similar themes; and more "creative" authors who want to get the facts straight, whatever their projects. The extensive bibliography will be helpful to many of these readers, too. UP Colony is a fairly quick read and easy to follow with its typical academic format of stating a premise/theory, organizing the points of the argument, supporting that argument with facts and statistics, and finally drawing a ." -- Deborah K. Frontiera, U.P. Book Review

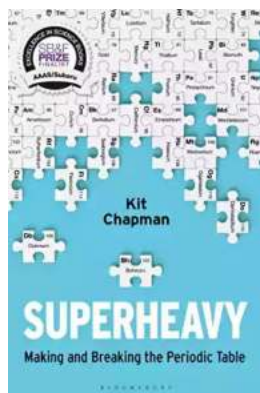
"Bellfy's deft rural sociological analysis cuts through centuries of whitewashing and exploitation with a single stroke" -- Victor R. Volkman, Marquette Monthly

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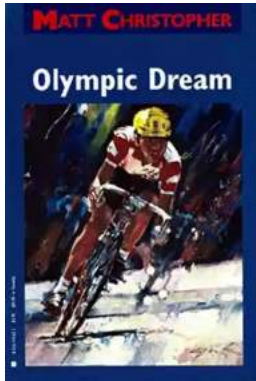
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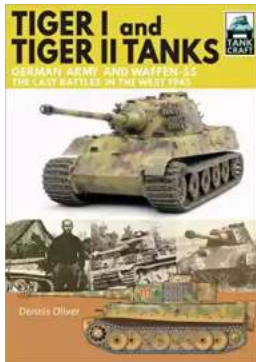
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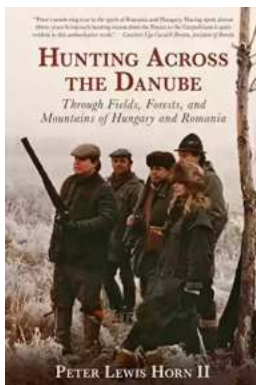
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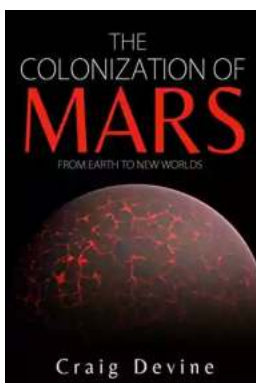
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