

ETHNOGENESIS AND THE METIS ^{MAS}

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During the sixteen hundreds, the Algonquian tribes that inhabited the Great Lakes Basin developed an alliance with the French that offset the Iroquois-English pact. Relationships between French men and Native women produced a culture we now label "Metis". Through various modes of transportation, the Metis people adapted to the prairie-plains region of

North America. Geographic mobility, crucial to the fur trade, was essential to the ethnogenesis and maintenance of the Metis identity. Centered along the Red River area of present day Manitoba, North Dakota, and Minnesota, the Metis culture is a synthesis which has developed into a singularly unique identity and way of life.