

Cockburn Bruce

"Stolen Land 523"

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From Tierra del Fuego to Ungava Bay
the history of betrayal continues to today
the spirit of Almighty Voice, the ghost of Anna Mae
call like thunder from the mountains -- you can hear
them say
it's a stolen land

Apartheid in Arizona, slaughter in Brazil
if bullets don't get good PR there's other ways to kill
kidnap all the children, put 'em in a foreign system
bring them up in no-man's land where no one really
wants them
it's a stolen land

stolen land -- but it's all we've got
stolen land -- and there's no going back
stolen land -- and we'll never forget
stolen land -- and we're not through yet

In my mind I catch a picture -- big black raven in the sky
looking at the ocean -- sail reflected in black eye --
sail as white as heroin, white like weathered bones --
rum and guns and smallpox gonna change the face of
home
in this stolen land...

If you're like me you'd like to think we've learned from
our mistakes
enough to know we can't play god with others' lives at
stake
so now we've all discovered the world wasn't only
made for whites
what step are you gonna take to try and set things right
in this stolen land

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stolen land -- and there's no going back
stolen land -- and we'll never forget
stolen land -- and we're not through yet

(Toronto, January 86

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