

SEVEN TIME PERIODS OF FEDERAL INDIAN POLICY

Indigenous Peoples Timeline

1492 - 1787: Tribal Independence - Jimin

Dominant Narrative

At the time of first contact with Europeans, the tribal societies throughout the Americas and surrounding island nations or empires were flourishing. Many of the tribal nations developed agricultural, navigational, medicinal, and technological advances. While they are suffering by slavery, colonialism, land dispossession and genocide, they kept fight for their freedom

[Source](#)



1492 - 1787: Tribal Independence - Sarika

Counter-Narrative:

1492: Columbus saw Native people as the inferior race and enslaved and murdered many of them

1524: The first kidnapping of a Native person.

1600: Masses of Native American deaths due to the introduction of new diseases from settlers.

1676: Bacon's Rebellion occurs. Colonists burn Jamestown and many Natives die.

1704: British settlers used Native people as soldiers to attack Spanish settlements and to capture more Natives.

1756: The Scalp Act was made. It stated that anyone who brought in a killed Native from a certain trade would be given money.

1787: First federal treaty enacted with the Native people of Delaware. .

1492 - 1787: Tribal Independence - Sarika



North American Indian Timeline (1492-1999). North American indian timeline (1492-1999). (n.d.). Retrieved November 29, 2022, from <https://www.thelatinlibrary.com/imperialism/notes/nativeamericanchron.html>

1787 - 1828: Agreements of Equals-Natalia and Jocelyn

Dominant Narrative

- 1789 - First federal treaty enacted with Delaware Indigenous people
- Indian Commerce Clause - congress had power to regulate the tribes but Indigenous agents were empowered to negotiate treaties
- 1790-All interactions between indigenous people and non indigenous people was under federal law
 - Established boundaries of indigenous country, protected indigenous land, stipulated that injuries against indigenous by non indigenous people was a federal crime



Counter Narrative

- Indigenous folk were not consulted when Great Britain gave US land to settlers
 - US started making treaties as an attempt at keeping the peace
- 1786- U.S. signs several treaties with multiple indigenous nations
 - Indigenous people were unhappy with the rapid expansion of the US into the west
- 1787 - Disputes and between indigenous people and settlers increased
 - Congress calls in additional troops and fortification as a response to violence

1828 - 1887: Relocation of the Indians (slide 1): Poiema and Henry

Dominant Narrative:

- The Native Americans could move to the newly made reservations in Oklahoma and live using their old lifestyle.
- This move was beneficial to both parties, the natives got to keep their culture and the settlers got the sought after land in the eastern US.
- Most of the southern tribes being moved were mostly untouched by the settlers and Andrew Jackson wanted to preserve there tribes and not suffer the same fate as the natives in the north east.



Counter-Narrative:

- Taking land, faith, and culture away
- US government making laws removing power from tribes
- May 28, 1830: Indian Removal Act
 - Law promised fairness → President Jackson ignored
- Native Americans forced travel west with no food or water leading to thousands dead (“Trail of Tears”)
- Either relocation or death - Seminoles refuse to leave, government slaughter many, tribe surrender and move

1828 - 1887: Relocation of the Indians - Eva & Rafael

Dominant Narrative: Through Andrew Jackson's presidency he instilled the idea that the removal of the Indians was necessary for the removal of American Indians, implying that it was a noble act for the benefit of the Indian tribes. And that the Indian Removal Act had saved the tribes from life under state control. Military force was the only way to protect the tribes from invading Southerners. He continued to urge Indian Removal despite his opposition to pouring the blood of Americans in the name of protecting Indian rights.

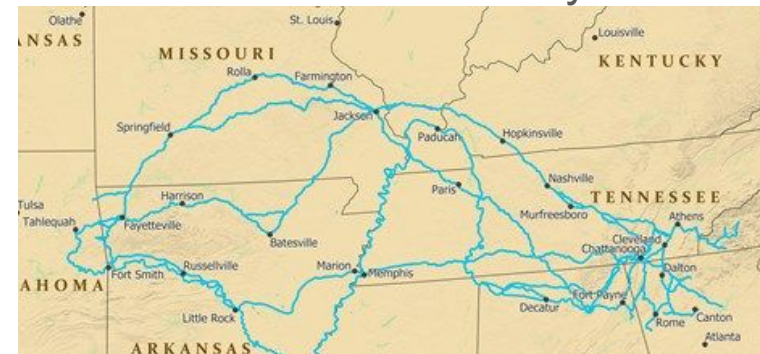


The 5 tribes that were relocated

- Within 1838-39, approximately 4,000 of 16,000 Cherokees died along the way. This sad chapter in our history is known as the "Trail of Tears."

1828 - 1887: Relocation of the Indians - Eva & Rafael

Counter-narrative: Congress codified the removal of Native Americans from their land and moving them West through the Indian Removal Act (1830). President Jackson ignored promises of fairness to the Native Americans. The removal of the Cherokee (the Trail of Tears) being one of the most deadly displacements, with over four thousand Indigenous deaths. Allotments were sold to white settlers on Native land by force and the removal cost Native Americans their tribal identity and independence.



A map of the Trail of Tears from the National Park Service website

1887 - 1934: Allotment & Assimilation (slide 1) Max & Damien

The Allotment & assimilation era was built upon the goals of the reservation era (relocation), altering the Indigenous People's way of life.

INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME
OF
YOUR OWN
*
EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE
*
POSSESSION
WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST
IRRIGATED IRRIGABLE GRAZING AGRICULTURAL DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre	Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre

001-002-5-17 Advertisement - Library of Congress



1887 - 1934: Allotment & Assimilation (slide 2)

Dominant Narrative:

- The assimilation of Native American culture was to help “re-socialize” their population.
- Tribes still had say for what happens to their land
- Treaties were still respected.

Counter-Narrative:

- The assimilation of Native American culture and Indian country to spread Christianity, and make money off the land. Most Indigenous people didn't have a choice to rebel.
- The US government further rolled back treaties made with Native Americans. For example, access to land was only legible to those who were legally enrolled in a tribe.

1934 - 1954: Indian Reorganization Ricky, Arleen

Dominant narrative:

The act was seen to help decrease federal control of American Indian affairs and increase their own self government and responsibility.

- ❖ Help restore surplus land to the tribe rather than homesteaders
- ❖ encouraged written constitutions and charters giving Indians the power to manage their internal affairs
- ❖ Funding(credit) given by the federal gov. To help improve schools(educational assistance), tribal land purchases, health care, business
- ❖

- privatization was terminated
- some of the land taken was returned and new land could be purchased with federal funds
- Over 90 million acres of tribal land held under treaties were taken
- more than two-thirds of the tribal land base
- The Indian Reorganization Act faced considerable opposition from people who wanted to acquire or exploit tribal lands
- The act faced opposition from some tribes



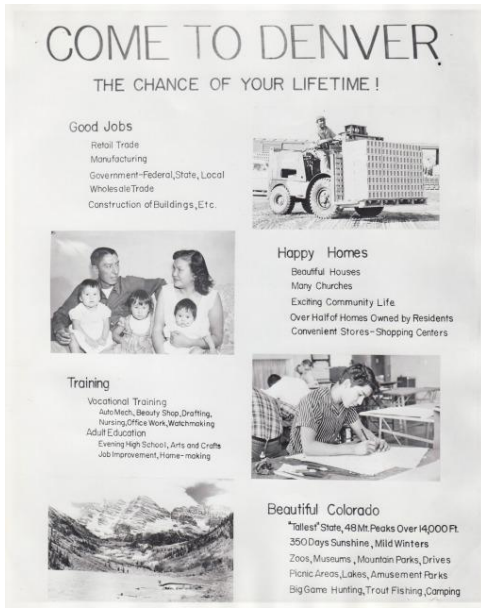
1953 - 1968: Termination - Emilia and Eleanor

Dominant Narrative

- Congress intends to free tribes from federal control
- House Resolution No. 108 passed on August 1, 1953
 - Indigenous people's status as "government wards" ended
 - They were to become full citizens
 - They were given the same privileges as other citizens
- Indigenous people were encouraged to move out of the reservations to live in more urban areas and look for the many promising economic opportunities

Counter-narrative

- In practice, the goal of liberation for indigenous people played out as forced relocation and removal of rights
- Tribes were ordered to distribute their land to their members and dissolve their governments
- Land dedicated to homeless native americans (Rancherias) was terminated
- Transfer act of 1954: To transfer the maintenance and operation of hospital and health facilities for Indians Public Health
 - Allowed for discrimination in healthcare
- BIA relocation office established in 1955
 - Forced assimilation led to racial discrimination within cities



A brochure distributed to natives by the Bureau of Indian Affairs relocation

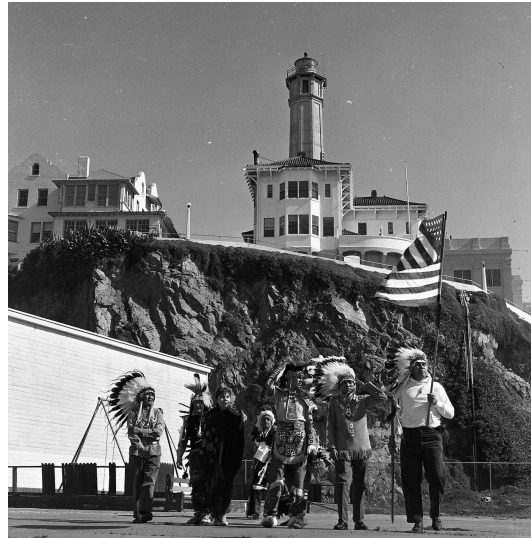


“Community of occupation” set up by native residents to protest inferior housing in Chicago



Background: 1968 - Present: Tribal Self-Determination - Madison and Amita

American Indians originally occupied Alcatraz Island before settlers arrived. In the 1850s, the government declared Alcatraz Island for military purposes. The American Indians have been attempting to retrieve an island that was once theirs.



1968 - Present: Tribal Self-Determination - Madison and Amita

Dominant Narrative:

- President Nixon determined that the Federal government should recognize all Indigenous people and “build on the capacities and insights” of them
- During the Occupation of Alcatraz, the government introduced a non-interference tactic and wait for the occupation to end
- In order to make money occupants sold scrap copper from wiring and buildings
 - 3 occupants were found guilty and arrested
- During the Wounded Knee occupation AIM members protesting on Alcatraz engaged in gun fire with federal marshals
- Aftermath: AIM members were violent protesters and therefore warranted the police brutality that followed in the years after the Occupation of Alcatraz.

Counter Narrative:

- Under a 1868 treaty, the Sioux tribe had a right to claim their property
- Several occupations by Indigenous people attempt to take over Alcatraz (longest: held island for 18 months)
 - Goal: prove that this was their land
- Many American Indians were sent to prison on Alcatraz in their own land
- American Indians wanted to build establish a school, cultural center and museum
- History lost on island
- Government shut off all electrical power & water so a fire broke out
 - American Indians blamed undercover government infiltrators trying to turn non-American Indian supporters against them

Pictures of Wounded Knee and Alcatraz

Wounded Knee:



Alcatraz:



1887 - 1934: Allotment & Assimilation(Zihao Lin)

Dominant narrative:

- The United States Congress passed the General Allotment Act in 1887, tribal lands were no longer under the control of tribal governments and the land became under the control of individual land owners.
- This act give Natives a sense of land ownership as well as integrate an agricultural lifestyle with the tribes
- Americanize Native peoples into mainstream society.

Counter narrative:

- Native peoples was forbidden to live their lives according to traditional practices and teachings on the reservation.
- Resulted in the loss of over two thirds of tribally entrusted lands.

