

1  **Native Americans**

Chapter 7

2  **Early history**


- When Columbus arrived, there were 6-10 million indigenous people here

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- Great diversity

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- Europeans stereotyped Native Americans as backward, savage, uncivilized.

3  **Why couldn't they co-exist???**

- Settlers wanted Native Americans' land
- Settlers couldn't understand why NA resisted being "civilized" and Christianity
- Native Americans couldn't understand Europeans use of beating, hanging, prison as a way of controlling citizens.

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Today, the U.S. government recognizes 556 different tribal entities and over 300 reservations.

5  **Self Justification**

Whites stereotyped Native Americans because they wanted both the land and free labor.

6  **Swinging between Anglo-conformity and Pluralism**

Government policies toward Native Americans, 1763-1970

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1763: King George III declares that Native American tribes are to be treated as independent, sovereign nations

8  **The Indian Removal Act: 1830**

Needing land for cotton, Congress required that all Native Americans in the southeastern U.S. be relocated west of the Mississippi

9  **The Cherokee, the most assimilated of all Native American tribes, fought removal through the courts.**10  **1832: Supreme Court rules that the Cherokees may keep their land**

"John Marshall has rendered his decision, now let him enforce it."

--Andrew Jackson

11  **Relocations**

- The Choctaw
- The Creek
- The Chickasaw
- The Cherokee "Trail of Tears"
- The Seminole











12  **1850-1880**

- The U.S. government stops using expulsion and genocide to control Native Americans
- Requires the army to round up all Indians and put them on reservations. Eventually 300 were established.


13  **1871**

- Congress ends Native American status as "sovereign nations", making them "wards" of the government
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- Push toward Anglo-conformity
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- Banned Native American languages, art, ceremonies, religions, tribal organizations


14  **The General Allotment Act: an attempt to reduce poverty on the reservations**

- Aka The Dawes Act
- 15  **The Dawes Act: Anglo- Conformity**
- Native American lands divided among tribe members for farming
 - Any leftover lands could be sold to whites
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 - Native Americans could bequeath their land to whites
- By 1914 138 million acres held by Native Americans was reduced to 56 million.
- 16  **Problems with the Dawes Act**
- Most Native Americans had no technical knowledge of farming.
 - Most had no money or credit to buy farming tools
 - Some tribes believed it sacriligious to plow.
- 17  **The Indian Reorganization Act**
- A move back to pluralism
 - Ended the Allotment program
 - Extended government credit to tribes for improvements
 - Gave preference to Native Americans in BIA hiring
 - Encouraged revival of lost languages, religions, music, art, etc.
- 18  **1952: The Relocation Program**
- Move back to Anglo-conformity
 - Financial assistance to persons/families who moved to urban areas
 - 40,000 enrolled; eventually 10,000 returned to reservations
 - Most who relocated found low-skill, low pay jobs in poor housing
- 19  **The Termination Acts**
- Men who fought a war don't need the U.S. government to provide a reservation for them.
 - Gradually ended all federal services to tribes—medical care, schools, roads, police, fire services, etc.
 - Native Americans should become self-sufficient.
- 20  **Present-Day Native American Life**
- 21  **Population**
- In 2000, 2.5 million Americans self-identified as Native American, up from 2.1 million in 1990.
- Why the increase?
- More people claimed NA heritage
 - Higher birthrate—younger average age
- 22  **Employment**
- Unemployment is 50% on most reservations, but up to 95% on a few.
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 - 75% of those employed nationwide are employed in services to the tribes
- 23  **Tribal Enterprise**
- The Choctow
 - The Oklahoma Cherokee
 - The Passamaquoddy
 - Casinos, the "New Buffalo"
- 24  **Life Expectancy**
- On average, 10 years less than most Americans
 - Leading causes:

- Car accidents
- Liver disease
- Diabetes
- Homicide
- Suicide

25  **Alcohol Abuse**

- Native Americans aged 25-34 have terminal liver cirrhosis at 3X the national average

26  **Why???**

- 75% of suicides and homicides involve alcohol

- No physiological differences
- Drinking doesn't level off
- Michael Nofz: Cultural marginality

27  **Native Americans: Problems over Natural Resources**
Read On Your Own
Text, Pages 264-271