

American Indians

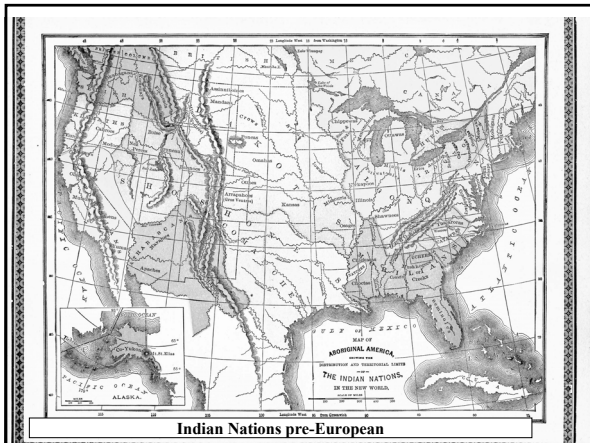
History 1500-1900

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Americans Before 1500

- Only indigenous Americans (AKA American Indians, Native Americans, indios)
- Arrived 12,000 – 30,000 years ago (before agricultural settlements in Europe)
- Long history of civilizations rising & falling before Europeans
- Estimates 2-10 million in what is now US
- 300+ languages spoken but significant trade and “trade languages”
- Some hunter/gatherers, some settled agriculture
- No horses [horses introduced by the Spanish]

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The Europeans & Africans Come

- Columbus 1492. Spanish & Portuguese in Latin America & Caribbean
 - Columbus & slaves
 - Conquistadores of African descent (Moors)
- French and British trade in North America
- European settlers & their slaves in North America in 1600s. Importation of slaves 1607-1808.
- Settlers vs. armies of conquest.
 - Settlers ultimately more deadly to the Americans
 - Indios still survive in much of Latin America

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1500-1776 Colonial Era

- European incursions
- European governments "claim" America and divide it among themselves.
- Enslavement, pestilence and plagues, economic disruptions, warfare for the Americans.
- South America: Spanish conquerors put a new layer on American [indio] populations; slavery
- In North America, European settlers intrude on the land, ultimately displace. (Some slavery)

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The Europeans

- Religious self-views. The Promised Land. The New Canaan, New Israel.
- Some thought they should live peacefully with native Americans and share the land. Some did.
- Others took a Biblical view: enter Canaan & kill all the inhabitants. Saw disease and deaths of natives as a sign from God. Hostile reactions from natives increased European hostility to the locals.
- Tiny proportion of colonists were Pilgrims & Puritans arriving 1620s, but they became icons of the national myth. Most Europeans arrived after 1800. Most colonists immigrated for economic advancement

European Claims 1750



Contact and Genocide

- AmerInds: From 2-10 million before 1500 to 500,000 in 1800
- Military battles, especially Spanish (less so English, French early on)
- Disease: killed 90%+ of many American populations, weakened others, made European settlements possible
- Economic disruption: Fur trade, Horses, plains culture
- Early contacts ambiguous: coexistence & conflict; intermarriage, contact between cultures.
- Some AmerInds groups adopt European ways, even own slaves.
- Others retreat west, regroup in the face of disruption

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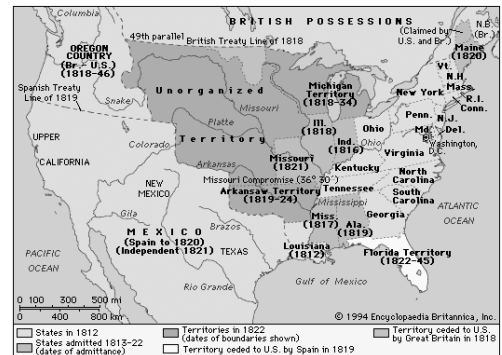
1776-1815

The formation of the racial state

- Europeans (calling themselves Americans) create a new government of, by, and for "white people."
- American Indians are excluded, treated as separate nations (generally as they wish to be).
- Louisiana purchase: 1803. Buy from the French land that is inhabited by Americans.
- War of 1812. Defeat of Tecumseh, British cannot block expansion.

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United States 1816-22



The United States, 1812-22.

1815-1860 The White State Expands

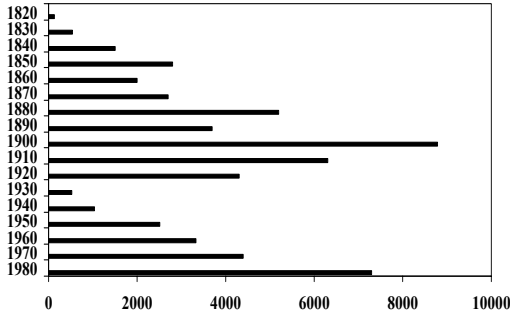
- European migration accelerates, especially after 1830. Immigrant hordes create population pressures, westward expansion. Accelerated displacement, "cleansing" of indigenous Americans.
- 1824 BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) created under the War Dept.

Trail of Tears

- 1830 Trail of Tears.
- Forced relocation of "five civilized tribes" from Georgia to what is now Oklahoma.
- Tribes had adopted European ways, religion
- States unwilling to let "Indians" live even as individuals in "white" land
- Thousands die in a thousand mile march.

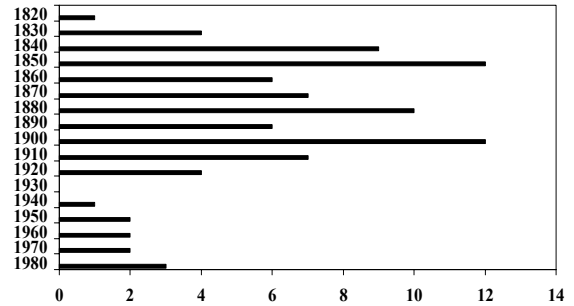
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Immigration to US, in 1000s



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Immigration to US as a % of Base



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European Americans 1870-1900

- High rates of immigration (see charts)
- Much ethnic conflict, riots in the streets: descendants of European migrants violently attack the new migrants as “foreigners”
- Northern Europeans view eastern and southern Europeans (and Jews, Gypsies etc.) as different races
- Capitalism consolidating, middle classes seizing political control from the immigrant working classes

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The Final “Indian” Wars 1870-1900

- 1871 Indian Appropriations Act. US decides it will no longer sign treaties, will just legislate. Land belongs to EurAms.
- US Army battles native people on the western plains, forcing them all onto reservations.

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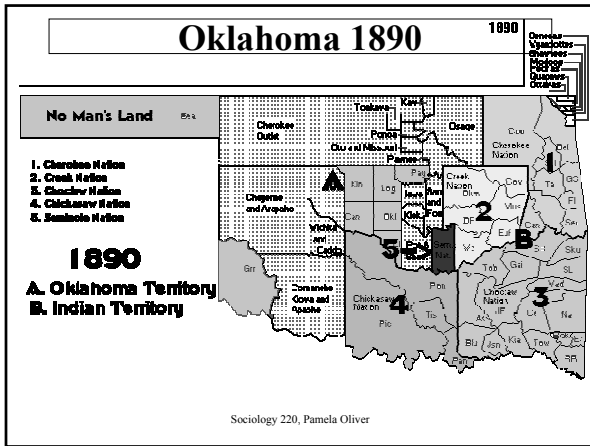
Cultural Destruction

- “Friends of the Indians” 1883. Goal of US policy is to eliminate Indians as Indians. Force them to adopt European-American ways
- Boarding schools, ban their religions, language
- Dispirited, broken people, starving on reservations or battling to the death.
- 1889 Wokova “Ghost Dance” sweeps American Indians. Spiritual practices will restore land to American Indians. Banned by US.

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1887 Dawes (General Allotment) Act

- Break up the AmerInd reservations, give land to individuals; “surplus” land to whites.
- Much land passes to white hands, reservations shrink by 60-70%.
- Indians not permitted to manage their own land, instead Bureau of Indian Affairs manages it as a trust. If land is leased or sold, money collected by BIA and supposed to be paid to the Indian owner. [Recent lawsuit: \$20-40 billion dollars is missing, unaccounted for by BIA; BIA shredded documents, uncashed checks.]



Oklahoma

- After removal, American Indians organized stable self-government in "Indian Territory," coped with continuing influx of American Indians displaced by the wars.
- 1889 Despite treaty, the eastern part of "Indian Territory" [Oklahoma] is opened to whites in a "land run."
- 1893, Congress passes law requiring tribes to sell their land, tribes hold out.
- 1898 Congress passes Curtis Act, forcing allotment and division of their other property, terminating their government. Dept of Interior takes over their schools.
- 1901 Tribal citizens declared citizens of US and Territory of Oklahoma
- 1907 Oklahoma admitted to the Union as a state.

Final Battles

- 1876 Battle of Little Big Horn. (Crazy Horse vs. Custer) The last major Sioux victory.
- 1886 Geronimo surrenders after a decade of guerilla warfare
- 1890 census, American population down to 200,000. Its low point.
- 1890 The Battle/Massacre at Wounded Knee. 300 Sioux, including women and children, and 25 soldiers are killed after the army breaks up a Ghost Dance.

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What's Left

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