

# American Indian History

## Theme: Identity

- In what ways and to what extent have gender, class, ethnic, religious, regional, and other group identities changed in different historical eras?

## Period 1: 1491-1607

1. European overseas expansion and sustained contacts with Africans and American Indians dramatically altered European views of social, political, and economic relationships among and between white and nonwhite peoples.
2. In the economies of the Spanish colonies, Indian labor, used in the *encomienda* system to support plantation-based agriculture and extract precious metals (e.g., silver), and other resources (e.g., sugar), was gradually replaced by African slavery.
3. With little experience dealing with people who were different from themselves, Spanish and Portuguese explorers poorly understood the native peoples they encountered in the Americas, leading to debates over how American Indians should be treated and how “civilized” these groups were compared to European standards.
4. Many Europeans developed a belief in white superiority to justify their subjugation of Africans and American Indians, using several different rationales.
5. European attempts to change American Indian beliefs and worldviews on basic social issues such as religion, gender roles and the family, and the relationship of people with the natural environment led to American Indian resistance and conflict.
6. Native American Societies
  - Pueblo
  - Chinook
  - Iroquois
  - Algonquin
7. Racially Mixed Populations
  - Mestizo
  - Zambo
8. smallpox
9. *encomienda* system
10. Juan de Sepúlveda
11. Bartolomé de Las Casas
12. Acoma Pueblo Uprising, 1598

## **Period 2: 1607-1754**

13. Spain sought to establish tight control over the process of colonization and to convert and/or exploit the native population.
14. French and Dutch colonial efforts involved relatively few Europeans and used trade alliances and intermarriage with American Indians to acquire furs and other products for export to Europe.
15. Unlike their European competitors, the English eventually sought to establish colonies based on agriculture, sending relatively large numbers of men and women to acquire land and populate their settlements, while having relatively hostile relationships with American Indians.
16. Reinforced by a strong belief in British racial and cultural superiority, the British system enslaved black people in perpetuity, altered African gender and kinship relationships in the colonies, and was one factor that led the British colonists into violent confrontations with American Indians.
17. Conflicts in Europe spread to North America, as French, Dutch, British, and Spanish colonies allied, traded with, and armed American Indian groups, leading to continuing political instability.
18. Continuing contact with Europeans increased the flow of goods and diseases into and out of native communities, stimulating cultural and demographic changes.
19. By supplying American Indian allies with deadlier weapons and alcohol, and by rewarding Indian military actions, Europeans helped increase the intensity and destructiveness of American Indian warfare.
20. Spanish colonizing efforts in North America, particularly after the Pueblo Revolt, saw an accommodation with some aspects of American Indian culture; by contrast, conflict with American Indians tended to reinforce English colonists' worldview on land and gender roles.
21. Late 17th-century efforts to integrate Britain's colonies into a coherent, hierarchical imperial structure and pursue mercantilist economic aims met with scant success due largely to varied forms of colonial resistance and conflicts with American Indian groups, and were followed by nearly a half-century of the British government's relative indifference to colonial governance.
22. King Phillip's War, 1675-1676
23. Pueblo Revolt, 1680

## **Period 3: 1754-1800**

24. After the British defeat of the French in 1763, white-Indian conflicts continued to erupt as native groups sought to continue trading with Europeans and to resist the encroachment of British colonists on traditional tribal lands.

25. The French withdrawal from North America and the subsequent attempt of various native groups to reassert their power over the interior of the continent resulted in new white–Indian conflicts along the western borders of British and, later, the U.S. colonial settlement and among settlers looking to assert more power in interior regions.
26. During and after the colonial war for independence, various tribes attempted to forge advantageous political alliances with one another and with European powers to protect their interests, limit migration of white settlers, and maintain their tribal lands.
27. The Constitution’s failure to precisely define the relationship between American Indian tribes and the national government led to problems regarding treaties and Indian legal claims relating to the seizure of Indian lands.
28. The Spanish, supported by the bonded labor of the local Indians, expanded their mission settlements into California, providing opportunities for social mobility among enterprising soldiers and settlers that led to new cultural blending.
29. French and Indian War, 1754-1763
30. Pontiac’s Rebellion, 1763
31. Proclamation Line of 1763
32. Paxton Boys, 1764
33. Iroquois Confederation
34. Battle of Fallen Timbers, 1794
35. Treaty of Greenville, 1795

#### **Period 4: 1800-1848**

36. Resistance to initiatives for democracy and inclusion included proslavery arguments, rising xenophobia, anti-black sentiments in political and popular culture, and restrictive anti-Indian policies.
37. Various groups of American Indians, women, and religious followers also developed cultures reflecting their interests and experiences, as did regional groups and an emerging urban middle class.
38. Whites living on the frontier tended to champion expansion efforts, while resistance by American Indians led to a sequence of wars and federal efforts to control American Indian populations.
39. Tecumseh
40. Battle of Tippecanoe, 1811
41. Indian Removal Act, 1830

- 42. Black Hawk
- 43. *Worcester v. Georgia*, 1832
- 44. Trail of Tears. 1838
- 45. Seminole Wars, 1814-1819, 1835-1842

## **Period 5: 1844-1877**

- 46. The desire for access to western resources led to the environmental transformation of the region, new economic activities, and increased settlement in areas forcibly taken from American Indians.
- 47. As the territorial boundaries of the United States expanded and the migrant population increased, U.S. government interaction and conflict with Hispanics and American Indians increased, altering these groups' cultures and ways of life and raising questions about their status and legal rights.
- 48. Sand Creek Massacre, 1864
- 49. Crazy Horse
- 50. Sitting Bull
- 51. Little Big Horn, 1876
- 52. Chief Joseph's surrender, 1877

## **Period 6: 1865-1898**

- 53. As transcontinental railroads were completed, bringing more settlers west, U.S. military actions, the destruction of the buffalo, the confinement of American Indians to reservations, and assimilationist policies reduced the number of American Indians and threatened native culture and identity.
- 54. Post–Civil War migration to the American West, encouraged by economic opportunities and government policies, caused the federal government to violate treaties with American Indian nations in order to expand the amount of land available to settlers.
- 55. The competition for land in the West among white settlers, Indians, and Mexican Americans led to an increase in violent conflict.
- 56. The U.S. government generally responded to American Indian resistance with military force, eventually dispersing tribes onto small reservations and hoping to end American Indian tribal identities through assimilation.
- 57. Great Sioux War, 1876-1881
- 58. Helen Hunt Jackson, *A Century of Dishonor*, 1881

59. Geronimo's surrender, 1886

60. Dawes Severalty Act, 1887

61. Ghost Dance

62. Massacre at Wounded Knee, 1890

### **Period 7: 1890-1945**

63. Snyder Act, 1924

64. Wheeler-Howard Act, 1934

### **Period 8: 1945-1980**

65. Latinos, American Indians, and Asian Americans began to demand social and economic equality and a redress of past injustices.

66. American Indian Movement (AIM), 1968

67. Dennis Banks

68. Russell Means

69. Alcatraz, 1969

70. Wounded Knee, 1973

71. Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 1974