

STANDING ROCK

NATIVE AMERICANS & THE US GOVERNMENT

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Adapted from:

https://prezi.com/juzombu_og0f/standing-rock/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy

CREATING THE NEXT®

What is the meaning of your term in the context of the Standing Rock protests? What different dimensions or meanings does your term have in this context versus that of the Civil Rights Movement or Students for a Democratic Society?

1. Resistance
2. Youth
3. Power
4. Generation
5. Law
6. Leadership
7. Nation
8. Culture
9. Nonviolence

A (TOO) BRIEF HISTORY

The history of the relationship between the US government and the indigenous in this country/on this continent is a complex one, but for today we are working with:

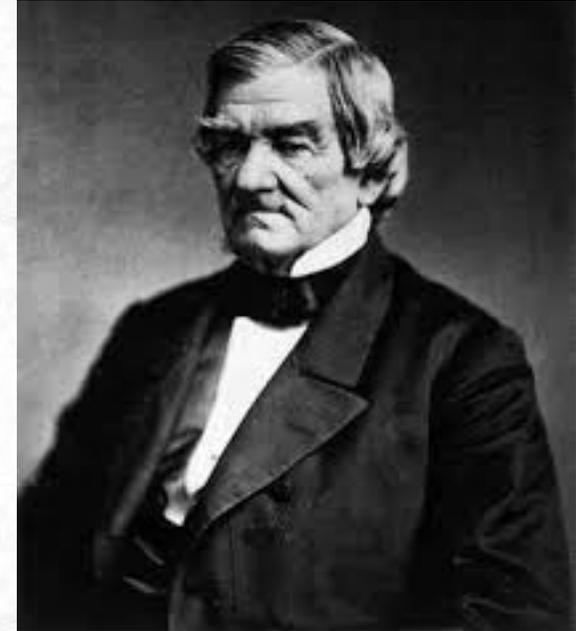
- **the Doctrine of Discovery** [<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/imperial-rivalries/resources/doctrine-discovery-1493>]
- "The [1493 Papal] Bull stated that any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be “discovered,” claimed, and exploited by Christian rulers and declared that “the Catholic faith and the Christian religion be exalted and be everywhere increased and spread, that the health of souls be cared for and that barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself.” This “Doctrine of Discovery” became the basis of all European claims in the Americas as well as the foundation for the United States’ western expansion. In the US Supreme Court in the 1823 case *Johnson v. McIntosh*, Chief Justice John Marshall’s opinion in the unanimous decision held “that the principle of discovery gave European nations an absolute right to New World lands.” In essence, **American Indians had only a right of occupancy, which could be abolished.**
- **the Three Rs: REMOVAL, RESERVATIONS, REORGANIZATION**
- And finally, **TERMINATION**



REMOVAL

"To achieve his purpose, Jackson encouraged Congress to adopt the Removal Act of 1830. The Act established a process whereby the President could grant land west of the Mississippi River to Indian tribes that agreed to give up their homelands [in exchange for material and financial aid.] Jackson and his followers were free to persuade, bribe, and threaten tribes into signing removal treaties and leaving the Southeast.

By the end of [Jackson's] presidency, he had signed into law almost seventy removal treaties, the result of which was to move nearly 50,000 eastern Indians to Indian Territory—defined as the region belonging to the United States west of the Mississippi River [except for Missouri, Arkansas and Iowa]—and open millions of acres of rich land east of the Mississippi to white settlers. Despite the vastness of the Indian Territory, the government intended that the Indians' destination would be a more confined area—what later became eastern Oklahoma."



Cherokee Chief John Ross – architect of the tribal resistance to removal

RESERVATIONS

"Under the reservation system, American Indians kept their citizenship in their sovereign tribes, but . . . reservations were devised to encourage the Indians to live within clearly defined zones The reservation policy also reflected the views of some of the educators and protestant missionaries that forcing the Indians to live in a confined space with little opportunity for nomadic hunting would make it easier to "civilize" them.

Reservations were dotted across "Indian Territory" but it was "not safe from white settlers. In 1854, the Federal Government abolished the northern half of Indian Territory and established the Kansas and Nebraska Territories, which were immediately opened up to white settlement. Many of the tribes occupying the land ended up on vastly reduced reservations." SOURCE: The Reservation System, <http://www.nebraskastudies.org/>.

It should also be emphasized that there were ALREADY tribes occupying the "unsettled" West-- Northern Plains Indians, like the Sioux, had lived there long before first contact with European traders in the 1700s.



THE DAWES ACT 1887

The Dawes Act, or the **General Allotment Act of 1887**, "authorized the president . . . to survey Indian tribal land and divide the area into allotments for individual Indians and families.

The Allotment Act (also known as the Dawes Act) was applied to reservations whenever, in the president's opinion, it was advantageous for particular Indian nations. Members of the selected tribe or reservation were either given permission to select pieces of land—usually around 40 to 160 acres in size – for themselves and their children, or the tracts were assigned by the agency superintendent.

If the amount of reservation land exceeded the amount needed for allotment, the federal government could negotiate to purchase the land from the tribes and sell it to non-Indian settlers.

As a result, 60 million acres were either ceded outright or sold to the government for non-Indian homesteaders and corporations as “surplus lands.”

SOURCE: Indian Land Tenure Foundation, <https://www.iltf.org/resources/land-tenure-history/allotment>

REORGANIZATION or the "Indian New Deal" of 1934:

- By 1934, because of the Dawes Act, 2/3 of Indian land had been converted to private ownership (and usually to white ownership).
- The IRA was intended to restore a measure of "self rule" to the tribes who voted to participate; allotment would cease and the federal government was granted some authority to take alienated tribal land "into trust"
- The "father" of the IRA, John Collier, felt himself to be honoring Indian cultures and customs and protecting tribal traditions, resources, and land
- The IRA led, many say, to the termination period, which was profoundly destructive to tribes cross the country



John Collier with South Dakota Blackfoot members in 1934

TERMINATION AND THE BIRTH OF AIM AND IAT

A reaction to the Indian New Deal, termination defined the last major overhaul in federal policy vis a vis Native Americans. Termination was pursued by the federal government to abolish the tribal status of as many Native groups as possible. It also ended supervision by or support from the federal government. It intended to complete the “assimilation of Indians” – through termination, more than 100 tribes’ status was legally abolished, with the return of more than 2,000,000 acres of formerly protected tribal land to alienable, non-protected status.

"Under this policy, Indians' status as government wards would be ended as soon as possible and Native Americans would assume all the responsibilities of full citizenship." House Concurrent Resolution 108, 1953.

SOURCE:

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=726

- Founded in 1968 by Dennis Banks and Russell Means with the explicit aims of:
- "economic independence, preservation of traditional culture, civil rights, autonomy for tribal lands, and the restoration of lands seized by the government to American Indians"
- Major actions
 - THE 1969 OCCUPATION OF ALCATRAZ
 - THE SECOND BATTLE AT WOUNDED KNEE

The 1969 Alcatraz occupation was 19 months long—it ended the “termination policy” and re-oriented federal policy toward tribal self-rule with government assistance; the shift also brought more money to BIA programs and more money toward scholarships and healthcare. It was initiated by a student group led by Richard Oakes—they called themselves “Indians of All Tribes.”

SOURCE:

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=726

THE SECOND BATTLE AT WOUNDED KNEE

"On February 27, 1973, a team of 200 Oglala Lakota (Sioux) activists and members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) seized control of a tiny town with a loaded history -- Wounded Knee, South Dakota. They arrived in town at night, in a caravan of cars and trucks, took the town's residents hostage, and demanded that the U.S. government make good on treaties from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Within hours, police had surrounded Wounded Knee, forming a cordon to prevent protesters from exiting and sympathizers from entering. This marked the beginning of a 71-day siege and armed conflict."



"The first was, in fact, not a battle but a massacre in 1890; 250 Lakota Sioux were killed by soldiers in the US Cavalry-- women, children, and men were gunned down at Wounded Knee. "Wounded Knee became, and remains, the symbol of the inhumanity of U.S. government policy toward Native Americans."

Source: <http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.war.056>

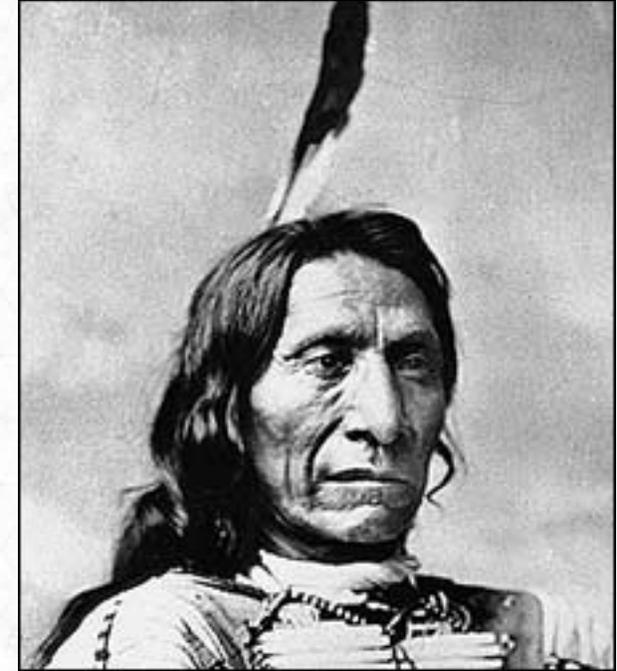
From Red Cloud to Standing Rock:

THE SIOUX AND THE US GOVERNMENT



RED CLOUD'S WAR

1866-1868: After the opening of the Dakota Territory in 1863, General Alfred Sully attempts to force the Sioux (through pillage and violence) to treaty with the government and relinquish their land. They won't. Red Cloud embarks on a two year war against US military forces; he drives them out of their Dakota territory forts.



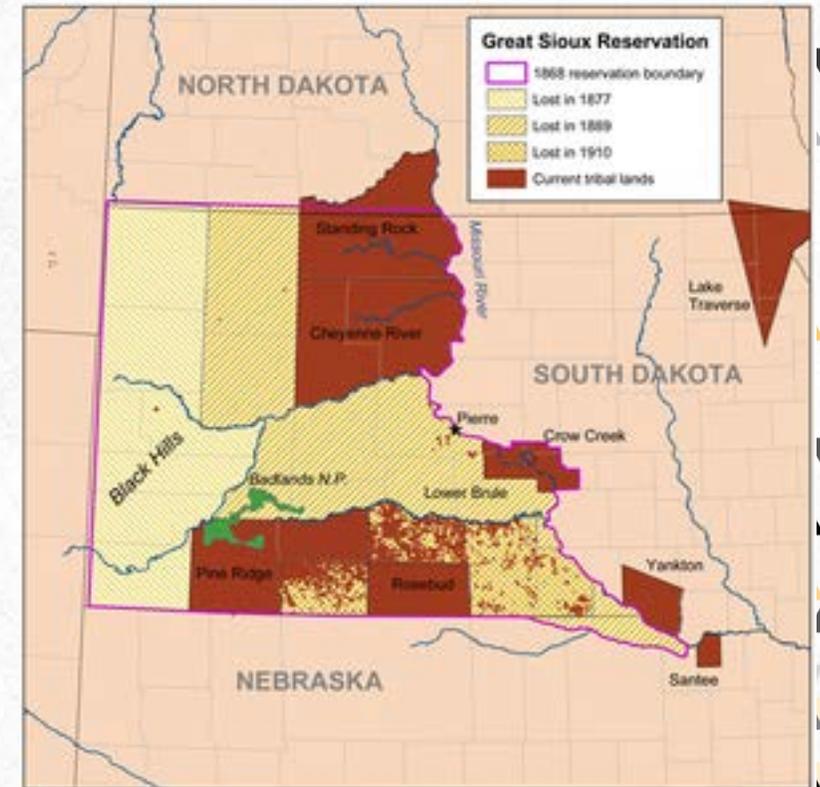
SOURCE:

http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/i_r/redcloud.html

TREATY OF FORT LARAMIE, 1868

"The treaty established the "Great Sioux Reserve" giving the land west of the Missouri River, including the sacred land of the Sioux, the Black Hills to the Indians.. Red Cloud insisted that certain government forts, including Fort Laramie, be removed from Native lands before he would sign. The Sioux celebrated the signing of the treaty by burning down every abandoned fort along the Trail. Signed by various Native parties over a period of months after hard negotiations, this treaty sought to establish peaceful relations between the United States and Indian parties, as well as to settle reservation boundaries within which Indian people agreed to settle."

SOURCE: http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=airc_hist_laramietreaty



THE BLACK HILLS

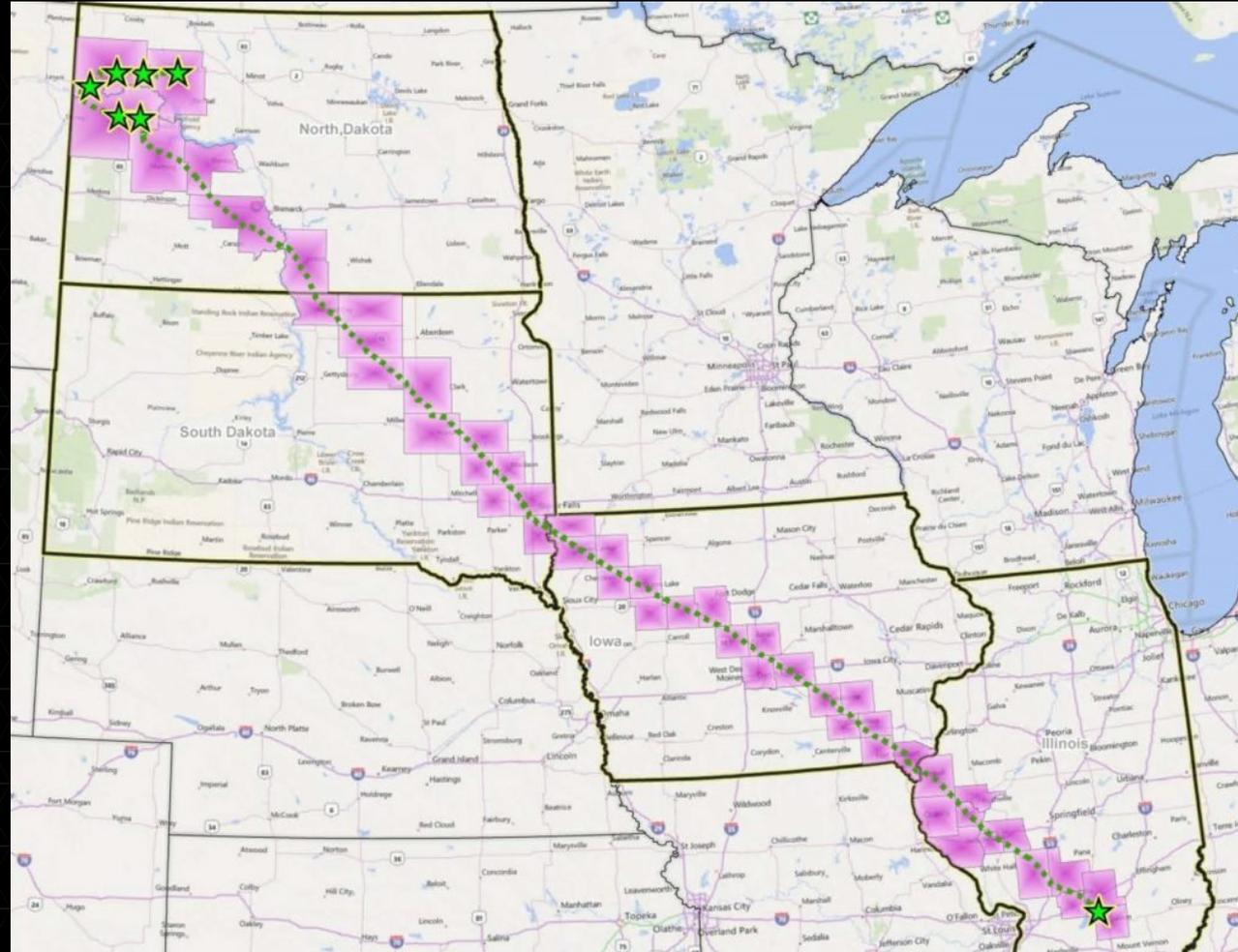
"The treaty lasted only until gold was discovered in the Black Hills in 1874. The rush of miners to the Black Hills started the last of the Plains wars, including the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The Sioux Nation has never acknowledged the loss of the Black Hills." In 1980, Supreme Court upheld the Sioux claim to the land and ordered the tribe be compensated with \$106 million. Tribal elders refuse to accept the funds and relinquish their claim to sacred lands.



SOURCE: fodors.com

SOURCE: http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=airc_hist_laramietreaty

PROPOSED ROUTE OF DAPL: ND, SD, IOWA AND ILLINOIS



SOURCE: https://dapipelinefacts.com/dt_articles/where-does-the-dakota-access-pipeline-run/

THE DAWES ACT 1887

- **January 2016:** The Dakota Access Pipeline and its owners Energy Transfer Partners receive approval for the pipeline
- **April 2016:** The Standing Rock encampment--Sacred Stone-- was founded; beginning with just a couple hundred activists, it blossomed to 10,000 over the course of the year
- **December 2016:** The Army Corps of Engineers announced it would not grant the easement necessary for construction to continue.
- **January 2017:** President Trump signed an executive order constituting a "green light" for pipeline construction
- **February 2017:** Protestors were forcibly ejected and arrested at Sacred Stone. They vow to keep fighting.

LaDonna Allard, Director of the Sacred Stone Camp, says, "I was asked, "When do you consider this pipeline issue to be over?" I said, when every pipe is out of the ground and the earth is repaired across the United States. I am not negotiating, I am not backing down. I must stand for our grandchildren and for the water."

SOURCE: <http://sacredstonecamp.org/about/>



Jasilyn Charger interviewed by
Amy Goodman;

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/1/4/from_k_eystone_xl_pipeline_to_dapl

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