

Conflicts Over Land

Chapter 11 Section 2

Moving Native Americans

- As the nation expanded west in the 1830s, many Native Americans still lived in the Southeast.
- The “Five Civilized Tribes”—the Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw—lived in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida.
- They established great farming communities and successful economies.
- The land west of the Mississippi was dry and not great for farming so a lot of farmers were not out there. Americans called for the federal government to relocate the Native Americans to the Great Plains.
- President Jackson agreed with them and planned the relocation.

Indian Removal Act

- In 1830, President Jackson pushed the Indian Removal Act through Congress.
- This act would pay the Native Americans to move west
- Jackson then sent people to make treaties with them.
- The Native American leaders felt forced to accept the payment for their lands.
- In 1834, Congress created the Indian Territory which was in present-day Oklahoma that was set aside for the relocation of Native Americans in the Southeast.

The Cherokee Nation

- The Cherokee refused to give up their land in Georgia.
- They had made treaties in the 1790s with the federal government to recognize the Cherokee as a separate nation.
- The state of Georgia refused to recognize the Cherokee laws and pressure mounted for the Cherokee to leave.
- The Cherokee appealed to the people of the United States but the government's position did not change.
- They eventually took the case to the Supreme Court and Marshall agreed with the Cherokee.
- Jackson, however, supported Georgia to rid of the Cherokee and ignored the Supreme Court decision by saying "John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it."

The Trail of Tears

- By 1835, The Cherokee were divided and hopeless.
- The federal government was able to persuade a small number to sign the Treaty of Echota, which gave up their land.
- The treaty was what Jackson needed to remove the Native Americans. The approval of the treaty by the US Senate sealed the fate of the Cherokee.
- The treaty passed by a single vote through opposition from Henry Clay and Daniel Webster.
- The Cherokee leaders refused to honor the treaty and they wrote a letter to the United States government pleading that they do not enforce this treaty.

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- The plea did not soften the resolve of President Jackson.
- The Cherokee resisted until 1838 when Martin Van Buren took over as president.
- General Winfield Scott took over from John Wool, who resigned in protest, and brought 7,000 federal troops to New Echota, the Cherokee capital.
- Scott threatened to use force if they did not leave and he had positioned his troops all around the country.
- The Cherokee gave in and began their long march to the West.
- 2000 died in camps while another died on the march itself.
- This march became known as the Trail of Tears.

Native American Resistance

- In 1832, Black Hawk, the chieftan Sauk, led a group of Sauk and Fox people back to Illinois to take back their land.
- The Illinois state militia and federal troops responded with force by gathering over 4,500 soldiers.
- They chased the Sauk and Fox to the Mississippi River and slaughtered most of them as they tried to flee westward into Iowa.
- The Seminoles of Florida were the only ones who successfully resisted their removal.
- Osceola and some of his people refused to leave Florida and decided to go to war with the United States.

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- In 1835, the Seminole joined forces with a group of African Americans who had run away to escape slavery.
- Together, they attacked settlements along the Florida coast.
- They used guerrilla tactics as they attacked.
- In December, the Seminole ambushed soldiers under the command of Major Francis Dade.
- Only 110 soldiers survived the attack and the Dade Massacre prompted for more troops to fight the Seminole.
- By 1842, more than 1,500 Americans died in the Seminole wars.
- The government gave up and allowed them to stay but many died in the war and others were captured and sent west.

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- After 1842, only a few scattered groups of Native Americans lived east of the Mississippi while most had moved west.
- Native Americans had given up over 100 million acres of Eastern land to the federal government.
- In return, they received \$68 million and 32 million acres of land west of the Mississippi. There they lived, organized by tribes, on reservations.
- Eventually, settlers would extend their settlements into these areas as well.
- The Five Civilized Tribes were relocated onto other tribes' land. The tribes let them live there in peace and they were able to develop governments, built farms and schools.
- They also created a police force called the Lighthorsemen for safety.