



NATIVE AMERICANS

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To what extent were the lives of Native Americans disrupted by the British landing in America ?

I. WHITE EXPANSIONISM : THE COLONIZATION OF THE NATIVES' TERRITORIES BY THE EUROPEANS

A) Before the colons' arrival : the way of life of the Native Americans.

- Between 40 and 60 million people were living in the Americas.
- Their presence dates back to the Paleolithic era.
- An ancestral way of life based on spirituality and communion with nature.
- Hunting-and-gathering cultures & agricultural people.
- => Plants and animals domestication
- => Buffalo hunting



B) The arrival of the colonists in the American lands : their impact on the Native Americans' lives.

- 1774 : the battle of Fallen Timbers.
- 1830: the discovery of gold in Cherokee territory
- =>1831-1838: Indian Removal Act

TRAIL OF TEARS
25% of Cherokee died

- 1848: the California Gold Rush: the massacre of many of the tribes.
- 1860s: construction of transcontinental Railroad : monopolization of Native lands.
- Disappearance of buffalo (intensive hunting by the US army).
- 1890: the Wounded Knee

WEAKENING OF NATIVE AMERICANS

C) The point of view of the colons : the "Indian problem" "The only good Indian is a dead Indian."

THE DESIRE TO SEE THE IDENTITY AND THE CULTURE OF NATIVE AMERICANS DISAPPEAR: ASSIMILATION

- 1851 : Indian Appropriations Act
- => the creation of reservations

- The Indian termination policy (1940-1960s) in the US: => Public Law 280 in 1956
- The assimilation in Canada: => 1876: Indian Act
- => 1920: control of children education by government

II. TODAY'S SITUATION

A) Hard living conditions

- 310 reservations in the US:
- => Commercial fishing and hunting bans
- => Between 50% and 70% of unemployment
- => The poorest communities in the US
- => The highest mortality, suicide, unemployment and addiction rates.
- Example : Pine Ridge Reservation



In this Monday, March 25, 2019 photo, water from White Clay Creek pools near the ranch of Ernie Little on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, near Pine Ridge, S.D. (Ryan Hermens/Rapid City Journal via AP)

B) A delicate position in American society

- A DESIRE TO INCLUDE NATIVE AMERICANS / TO RESPECT THEIR RIGHTS:
- => The Indian citizenship act
- => The Indian reorganization act
- => Use of tribal names in sports
- BUT:
- => Discrimination, racism and issues with voting rights
- => The issue of cultural appropriation

Some historians talk about an "ethnocide".

C) The Native Americans' fight for recognition and an end to discrimination

- THE DEMANDS OF NATIVE AMERICANS:
- => Recognition of the crimes committed by the settlers
- => More equality and rights
- => Memory of their history
- The Red Power association
- => Demonstrations
- => Alcatraz Bay
- The American Indian Movement
- => The Longest Walk in 1978