**The History Of The American Indians**

Native Americans also known as American

Indians indigenous Americans and other

terms or the indigenous people of the

United States except Hawaii the name

Indian was given by Christopher Columbus

who mistakenly believed he had landed in

the Indies the history of Native

Americans in the u.s. began in ancient

times tens of thousands of years ago

late in the Ice Age humans journeyed

across the Bering Land Bridge that

joined Siberia to Alaska

they had gradually migrated across the

land and southward into Mexico and

beyond their descendants explored along

the west coast of North America as early

as 1000 BC they had covered nearly the

entire continent over thousands of years

as they migrated across the continents

American Indians have developed a

variety of languages and civilizations

they came from different tribes such as

in Europe Asia or Africa when the Ice

Age ended the Native Americans developed

their tribes by making wise use of

natural resources available they had

first experience with growing different

crops such as corn and squash racing

animals like turkeys llamas and guinea

pigs for food hunting deer bison sea

mammals and catching fish by using a

variety of efficient methods another

development during the period before the

European invasions was the mound

building from the present day region of

the Midwestern United States to southern

Peru in South America centers of

government were marched by enormous

mounds of Earth most of these mounds

were flat on top with palaces and

temples built on them some were burial

sites of honored leaders American Indian

cities were as big as the cities in

Europe and Asia at that time their fine

architecture is still greatly admired

after 1492 European exploration and

colonization of the Americas

revolutionized how the old and new

worlds perceive themselves many of the

first major contacts were in Florida and

the Gulf Coast by Spanish explorers from

the 16th through the 19th centuries the

population of Indians sharply declined

most mainstream scholars believe that

among the various contributing factors

epidemic disease was the overwhelming

cost of the population decline of the

Native Americans because of their lack

of immunity to new diseases brought from

Europe such as measles chicken pox

cholera yellow fever and many more

devastating diseases however these

diseases were rarely fatal among

Europeans with the meeting of two worlds

animals insects and plants were carried

from one to the other

both deliberately and by chance and what

is called the Columbian Exchange

especially horse which escaped and began

to breed and increase their numbers in

the wild native America used horses to

carry goods to hunt game and to conduct

Wars in horse rates the Europeans

started colonizing the Americas in order

to cultivate new farm lands and create

new jobs for the growing populations of

Europe the do so they often fought

Native American tribal nations for the

land during the American Revolution the

newly proclaimed United States competed

with the British for the allegiance of

Native American nations east of the

Mississippi River most Native Americans

who joined the struggle sided with the

British based both on their trading

relationships and hopes that the

colonial defeat would result in the halt

to further colonial expansion onto

Native American land the United States

was eager to expand develop farming and

settlements new areas and satisfy land

hunger of settlers from New England and

new immigrants the national government

initially sought to purchase Native

American land by treaties the states and

settlers were frequently at odds with

this policy United States policy toward

Native Americans continue to evolve

after the American Revolution George

Washington and Henry Knox believed that

Native Americans were equals but their

society was inferior Washington

formulated a policy to encourage the

civilizing process this led to the

civilization fund Act of 1819 as

American expansion continued Native

Americans resisted settlers encroachment

in several regions in the 1830s

President Andrew Jackson signed the

Indian Removal Act of 1830 a policy of

relocating Indians from their homelands

to Indian Territory and reservations and

surrounding areas to open their lands

for non-native settlements this resulted

in the Trail of Tears Native American

nations on the plains in the West

continued armed conflicts with the u.s.

throughout the 19th century through what

were called generally Indian Wars

notable conflicts in this period include

the Dakota war Great Sioux war snake war

Colorado war and Texas Indian Wars and

one of the last events during the Indian

Wars was the Wounded Knee Massacre in

1890 here

warriors women and children alike were

ferociously slaughtered by the US

Cavalry in 1919 the United States under

President Woodrow

Elson rented citizenship to all Native

Americans who had served in World War

one nearly ten thousand men had enlisted

and served a high number in relation to

their population despite this in many

areas

Native Americans faced local resistance

when they tried to vote and were

discriminated against with barriers to

voter registration On June 2nd 1924 US

President Calvin Coolidge signed the

Indian Citizenship Act which made all

Native Americans born in the United

States and its territories American

citizens prior to passage of the Act

nearly two-thirds of Native Americans

were already US citizens through

marriage military service or accepting

land allotments the Act extended

citizenship to all non citizen Indians

born within the territorial limits of

the United States under the US

Constitution American Indians today in

the u.s. have all rights to vote in

elections and run for political office

controversies however remain over how

much the federal government has

jurisdiction over tribal affairs

sovereignty and cultural practices thank

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