



Coalition of Natives and Allies Cultivating Unity to End Racism

www.coalitionofnativesandallies.org

IMPORTANT HISTORIC FACTS –

1452- Pope Nicolas V issues one of many Papal Bulls that are together known as the Doctrine of Christian Discovery. “Capture, vanquish, and subdue the Saracens, pagans, and other enemies of Christ, put them in perpetual slavery, take all their possessions and property” (*Cited in Sherrill vs. The Oneida Nation in 2005*)

1492- Christopher Columbus never reached the mainland, did not discover America and was responsible for the torture, rape and slaughter of the Indigenous peoples of the islands documented in the dairies of Bartolome de Las Casas.

BOUNTIES PLACED ON THE HEADS OF NATIVE AMERICANS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

1755—Spencer Phips Proclamation, placed a bounty on Penobscot peoples, 50 pounds for a man (a year’s salary for clergy at the time), Female and children under 12, receive 20 pounds.

1763-Act of Maryland General Assembly: 50 pounds for scalp of “hostile Indian” based only on testimony. Bloody scalp of Native person is called a REDSKIN.

1880’S – US GOV reimbursed the state of California \$924,259 in scalp bounty fees. CA Native population was reduced by 2/3rds in one decade.

2 Tactics used against Native Americans - Blankets and clothing infused with small pox (*letter from Lord Amherst*) Alcohol (*Quote from Benjamin Franklin-“If it be the design of Providence to extirpate the savages....rum may be the appointed means”*)

1862 – 38 Dakota men (+ 2 hung the next day) were hanged under the order of President Abraham Lincoln – in Mankato, MN. Many didn’t speak English and didn’t know what the charges were or have any representation. The largest mass execution in US history.

1870-1930 Carlisle Indian Industrial School. Col. Henry Pratt, “Kill the Indian, Save the Man.” Children removed from homes and abused. Residential schools peaked in 1970’s. 100’s of thousands native people attended these schools. As young as 4, many never returned until 18, 19. No parenting, wide spread abuse.

1948- Definition by United Nations of crime of 'Genocide'. We must recognize our government has engaged in all elements of definition. Maine TRC addresses- Article II, Sec. E “*Forcible transfer of children.....*”

1956- Indian Relocation Act – moved 30,000 Indians into cities with empty promise of jobs, housing and education. Huge rise in poverty and alcoholism rates.

60’s and 70’s - 90,000 more moved into cities.

1978 –The Longest Walk was a protest walk from Alcatraz to DC to draw attention to 11 pieces of anti-native legislation. Resulted in Native American Religious Freedom Act and ICWA- Indian Child Welfare Act. Organized by AIM (American Indian Movement)

1958-67 Indian Adoption Project. BIA and Child Welfare League conducted an “experiment” to see if Indian children were better off in white homes. 1950 35% native children being taken nationwide. Between 1941-1978, 68% of Indian children taken for adoption, or foster care in white homes. EXAMPLE of Disproportional REMOVAL : 1984 Maine’s removal rate was 19 times higher than other states. By 1990’s 16% of all Maliseet tribe children out of home placement majority in white homes. In South Dakota, native children are 13.8% of the population, but represent 56.3% of foster children in 2013. 87% placed in White homes. In Canada the

“Sixties Scoop” removed thousands of Indigenous children from their families and adopted them into white families in both Canada and the US.

4 Congressional Acts:

*Civilization Fund Act- provided funding for forced assimilation through boarding schools

*1830 Indian Removal Act -46,000 natives forced westward on foot, 25 million acres taken for white settlement, over half didn't survive the journey to cull numbers a.k.a. **Trail of Tears**

*1887 Dawes Act 93 million acres taken out of native control. *Theodore Roosevelt – “Dawes Act is the mighty pulverizing engine to destroy the tribal mass.”*

*Native Spirituality and Ceremony- Congress outlawed all Native spiritual practices until 1978 “American Indian Religious Freedom Act” was passed. (*our nation founded on religious freedom*)

VOTING RIGHTS- 1870- Black males (*Jim Crow laws-1965 voting rights act*); 1920- Women; 1954 Native Americans in federal elections. Wabanaki in Maine got the right to vote in state elections in 1967. Yet native people served and died in every military conflict in this country in disproportionate numbers. **Code Talkers** of WWI and WWII helped win those wars.

FOR OVER 200 YEARS- federal gov't policies were based on the assumption that annihilation or assimilation of tribes would be solution to the “Indian Problem.”

What do allies do?

- educate, support and take action under Native leadership
- leverage privilege under Native leadership
- see how we benefit from Native peoples being targeted for destruction
- join movements that are working to tell the truth, move toward justice
- be an upstander and identify opportunities to tell the truth

PITS – Perpetrator Initiated Trauma Syndrome. Both the victim and the perpetrator suffer from triggers; for the one causing trauma, it is also a form of trauma. Our country was built on the annihilation and slavery of people of color. Healing requires we have a common understanding of our shared history.

STERILIZATION- The Family Planning Services and Population Research Act in 1970 enabled the sterilization of over 70,000 Native women. They were coerced, lied to or deceived.

Dr. Rebecca Sockbeson: **“Native communities are the most socio-economically distressed by far.”**

Statistics for native communities are similar to Third World Countries.

Three New Jersey Tribes: Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape
Ramapough Lenape Nation
Powhatan Renape Nation

Five Lenape Tribes in Diaspora: Delaware Nation, Anadarko, OK
Delaware Tribe of Indians, Bartlesville, OK
Stockbridge-Munee Community, Bowler, WI
Munsee Delaware Nation, Muncey, Ontario
Moravian of the Thames First Nation, Thamesville, Ontario

For more information on the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission
www.mainewabanakireach.org

To join the mailing list for the Coalition of Natives and Allies please go to:
www.coalitionofnativesandallies.org