



BUILDING GREATER UNDERSTANDING ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Pendle Hill
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This program would not be possible without scholarly guidance from Pastor John R. Norwood Jr. (Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape) and Donna Fann-Boyle (Cherokee/Choctaw).

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*)

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.

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"*)

1870-1930 Carlisle Indian Industrial School. Col. Henry Pratt, "Kill the Indian, Save the Man" Over 10,000 children removed from homes and abused. Boarding 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, much 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.

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; 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 WWII helped win that war.

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.”

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 Leni-Lenape
Ramapough Lenape Nation
Powhatan Renape Nation

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