



Legislative Acts

Native American-related bills in the U.S. Congress



Dawes General Allotment Act

February 8, 1887

- Named after Senator Henry L. Dawes of Massachusetts
- Authorized the President of the United States to subdivide Native American tribal communal landholdings (reservations) into allotments for Native American heads of families and individuals (1)
- The leftover land on the Reservation would be sold to settlers for a price of \$1.10 an acre.
- The act states that the allotments given to the Indians would be held in trust for 25 years (meaning that the U.S. Government would continue to hold ownership and “protect” the land) for 25 years After that time, the allotment would be discharged to the Native American. (2)
- Within the Grand Ronde Reservation, 33,468 acres were allotted to 274 Native Americans.
- This left 25,791 acres left over as “surplus” to be sold to settlers.
- The money received from the surplus land sales was to go towards the funding of education and civilization of Indians (3)

“Kill the Indian, and Save the Man”

-Capt. Richard H. Pratt on the Education of Native Americans

Stop & Think

Look at the quote and the image on this slide:

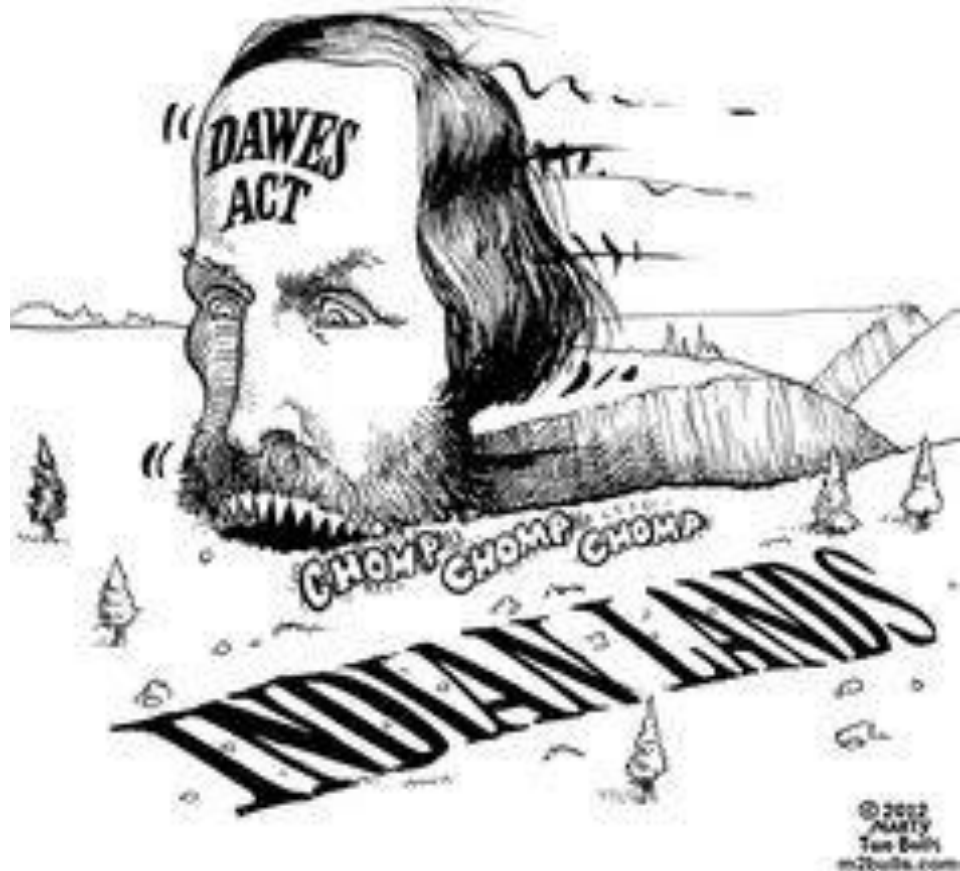
What do you think this quote means?



Stop & Think

Look at the image on this slide:

What message do you think the artist was trying to convey in this drawing?





Review Questions

1. In your own words, summarize this Act in 1-2 sentences.
2. What were the effects of this Act on Native American peoples?
3. What were two other events happening in U.S. history during this time?
4. Did these events have any impact on the passing of this Act? If so, explain why.



“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter no land of any Indian reservation, created or set apart by treaty or agreement with the Indians, Act of Congress, Executive order, purchase, or otherwise, shall be allotted in severalty to any Indian.”

Indian Reorganization Act

Indian Reorganization Act

June 18, 1934

- Often called the “Indian New Deal” and the “Wheeler-Howard Act”
- Congress and the Executive Branch support Tribal Governments and Sovereignty
- Goals:
 - reverse the traditional goal of cultural assimilation
 - strengthen, encourage and perpetuate the tribes and their historic Native American cultures
 - conserve and develop Indian lands and resources
 - extend to Indians the right to form business
 - establish a credit system for Indians
 - grant certain rights of home rule to Indians
 - provide for vocational education for Indians
- Negative Effect: The IRA forced Tribal governments to organize themselves under constitutions
 - Essentially this says, “you need to look like “us” if we are going to work with you”



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"the purpose of this Act is to provide for the termination of Federal supervision over the trust and restricted property of certain tribes and bands of Indians located in western Oregon and the individual members thereof, for the disposition of federally owned property acquired or withdrawn for the administration of the affairs of such Indians, and for a termination of Federal services furnished such Indians because of their status as Indians"

Western Oregon Indian Termination Act

Western Oregon Indian Termination Act

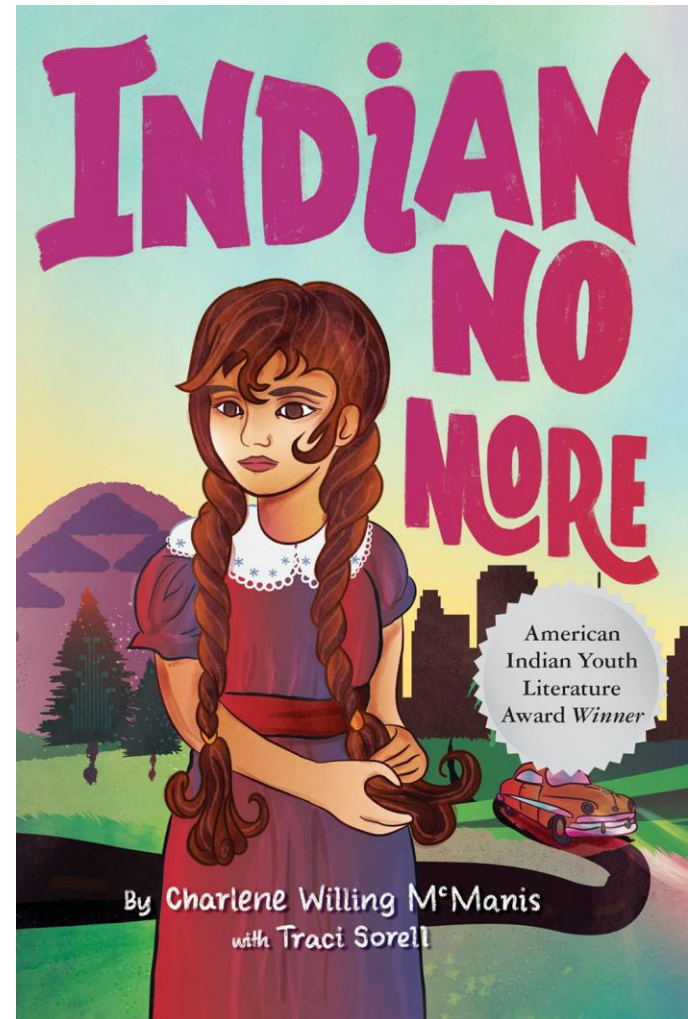
August 1954

- Also called Public Law 588, signed by President Eisenhower
- Called for the termination of federal supervision over the trust and restricted property of numerous Native American bands and small tribes
- Oral accounts from Grand Ronde Elders stated that the Tribe did not give consent for termination.
- 61 tribes in Western Oregon were terminated, more than the total tribes terminated under all other individual acts
- The Termination Act terminated the tribes' federal recognition status, stripping their identity as a sovereign nation.
- The tribes lost all their treaty rights and land.
- The Termination Act removed all obligations that had been negotiated through treaties between the United States Government and the tribes

Stop & Think

The image on this slide is the cover of a young adult novel written about a young tribal girl's experience during the Termination Era.

Based on the title and the artwork, what do you predict the story discusses?





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That in order to help adult Indians who reside on or near Indian reservations to obtain reasonable and satisfactory employment...

The Indian Relocation Act

The Indian Relocation Act



August 3, 1956

- Public Law 959 or the Adult Vocational Training Program
- Intended to:
 - encourage Native Americans in the United States to leave Indian reservations and their traditional lands
 - assimilate into the general population in urban areas
 - weaken community and tribal ties
- offered to pay moving expenses and provide some vocational training for those who were willing to move from the reservations to certain government-designated cities
- Types of assistance offered included:
 - relocation transportation and transportation of household goods
 - subsistence per diem for both the time of relocation and up to four weeks after arrival
 - medical insurance for workers and their dependents
 - grants to purchase work clothing, household goods and furniture

However, not all who accepted these offers actually received these benefits once they arrived in the cities, leading to some cases of poverty, culture shock, joblessness and homelessness among this population in the new, urban environment

Stop & Think

Take a look at the flyer on this slide. It was used to entice Native Americans to move to Colorado during the Indian Relocation Act.

What tactics were used to motivate the Tribal Members to move?

COME TO DENVER,

THE CHANCE OF YOUR LIFETIME !

Good Jobs

Retail Trade
Manufacturing
Government-Federal, State, Local
Wholesale Trade
Construction of Buildings, Etc



Happy Homes

Beautiful Houses
Many Churches
Exciting Community Life
Over Half of Homes Owned by Residents
Convenient Stores-Shopping Centers

Training

Vocational Training
AutoMech, Beauty Shop, Drafting,
Nursing, Office Work, Watchmaking
Adult Education
Evening High School, Arts and Crafts
Job Improvement, Home-making



Beautiful Colorado

Tallest State, 48 Mt. Peaks Over 14,000 Ft.
350 Days Sunshine, Mild Winters
Zoos, Museums, Mountain Parks, Drives
Picnic Areas, Lakes, Amusement Parks
Big Game Hunting, Trout Fishing, Camping



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"The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon shall be considered as one tribal unit for purposes of Federal recognition and eligibility for Federal benefits..."

The Grand Ronde Restoration Act

The Grand Ronde Restoration Act



November 22, 1983

- President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law on November 22, 1983.
- Marvin Kimsey, Jackie Whistler, Kathryn Harrison, Frank Harrison, and Karen Harrison travelled to Washington D.C. to testify in front of the House of Representatives
- When they testified, they focused on the issue of justice. They explained their desire to become part of Indian Nation once again.
- Despite oppositional pressure from the regional fishing and hunting lobbies, Congress passed the Grand Ronde Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 713 et seq.)
- Once federal recognition was regained, tribes were able to fight for and buy pieces of their traditional lands, lobby for treaty rights, and make decisions that would best support their memberships.

Stop & Think

The building shown in the image on this slide is the Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center which opened in 1997.

How does this building contrast the stereotypes that often exist surrounding Native Americans?





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