

Timeline

- 1614** Pocahontas (Algonquian Indian) marries English Jamestown colonist John Rolfe in Virginia
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- 1626** Dutch colonist Peter Minuit buys Manhattan from Indians for \$24 worth of goods
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- 1758** First North American Indian reservation is established in New Jersey
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- 1776** Continental Congress fails in attempt to recruit 2,000 Indians to fight Revolutionary War
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- 1778** U.S. signs first Indian treaty, with Delaware Indians
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- 1804–1806** Sacagawea (Shoshone) accompanies Lewis and Clark on their expedition
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- 1812** Tecumseh (Shawnee) fights alongside British in the War of 1812



- 1817** Indian Country Crimes Act provides federal jurisdiction for crimes committed by or against an Indian on Indian land
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- 1824** Office of Indian Affairs (now Bureau of Indian Affairs) is established
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- 1828** The Cherokee Phoenix becomes first U.S. newspaper printed in an Indian language
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- 1830** Indian Removal Act leads to the forced relocation of thousands of Indians from the Southeastern U.S. to west of the Mississippi River. An estimated 4,000 die during the migration
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- 1834** Indian Trade and Intercourse Act of 1834 bans sale of alcohol in "Indian Territory"
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- 1851** Indian Appropriations Act of 1851 allocates funds to move tribes onto reservations
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- 1862** Homestead Act allows Americans to settle on Indian land
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- 1864** During the Long Walk of the Navajo, 8,000 Indians are forced to walk 450 miles from Arizona to a reservation in New Mexico
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- 1871** Indian Appropriations Act of 1871 dissolves the status of tribes as sovereign nations
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- 1876** Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse (Lakota) defeat George Custer at Battle of Little Bighorn
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- 1885** Major Crimes Act provides federal jurisdiction for seven crimes (including murder, rape and arson) if committed by an Indian on Indian land
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- 1886** Legendary warrior Geronimo (Apache) surrenders to U.S. troops
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- 1887** Dawes Act allows government to divide Indian land into individually owned parcels
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- 1890** About 300 Sioux are killed at Wounded Knee in last battle between U.S. troops and Indians
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- 1912** Jim Thorpe (Sac and Fox) wins Olympic gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon
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- 1916** New York becomes first state to celebrate American Indian Day
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- 1924** Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to all Indians born in the U.S.
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- 1929** Charles Curtis, whose mother is three-fourths Indian and who grew up on a Kaw reservation, becomes Vice President. Curtis was the first Indian to serve in the House (1893–1907) and the Senate (1906–1929)
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- 1934** Indian Reorganization Act decreases federal control of Indian affairs and re-establishes tribal governance
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- 1944** National Congress of American Indians is founded
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- 1946** Indian Claims Commission is established. Over the next 32 years, it awards more than \$800 million in judgments, largely for land claims
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- 1956** Indian Relocation Act establishes vocational training to encourage Indians to move off reservations
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- 1968** Indian Civil Rights Act grants Indians most of the protections of the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment
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- 1968** The first tribal college, Navajo Community College (now Diné College), is founded in Arizona
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- 1972** The American Indian Movement seizes the Bureau of Indian Affairs national headquarters and presents a 20-point list of demands

1973 Indians occupy Wounded Knee, S.D., during a 71-day armed standoff

1975 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act simplifies Indian access to federal funds and gives tribes help in meeting the educational needs of children

1978 Indian Child Welfare Act gives tribes exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction over custody proceedings involving Indian children

1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act protects Indians' right to "believe, express, and exercise" traditional religions

1979 Seminole Tribe of Florida opens first casino on Indian land



1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act affirms right of tribes to open casinos on Indian land

1990 Native American Languages Act protects right of Indians to "use, practice and develop" their native languages

1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act requires institutions that receive federal funds to return Indian remains and artifacts to tribes upon request

1992 Foxwoods Casino opens on Pequot Reservation in Connecticut

2000 U.S. Mint issues a dollar coin with the image of Sacagawea

2002 John Bennett Herrington (Chickasaw) becomes the first Indian in space

2004 National Museum of the American Indian opens in Washington, D.C.

2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association bans use of "hostile and abusive" American Indian mascots in postseason tournaments

2009 Federal government agrees to \$3.4 billion settlement with Indians who say they were swindled out of royalties overseen by the Department of the Interior since 1887

2009 President Obama signs Native American Apology Resolution

2011 New York State begins to collect sales tax on tobacco products sold on Indian reservations

2012 HEARTH Act allows tribal governments to approve leasing of tribal lands

2013 Indian Health Service's budget is cut \$220 million (5 percent) by the sequester

2014 Keith Harper is confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to United Nations Human Rights Council, becoming first American Indian ambassador

2015 Judge rules to cancel the Washington Redskins' trademark registration. However, the ruling does not stop the NFL franchise from using the name

2016 The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, along with over 300 other Indian Nations, protest the construction of the Dakota Access Tribe, calling it a threat to their sacred land should an oil spill occur

2017 Malia Obama, eldest daughter of former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama, attends an event in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline



1982 Indian Mineral Development Act allows tribes to develop and sell resources mined on their land

1984 U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, reestablished in 1976, is made a permanent committee

1985 Wilma Mankiller becomes first female Chief of the Cherokee Nation