# A Short History of the U.S. Government’s

# Relationship with Native Americans

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| **How did Natives feel about Europeans when they first came?**  **Were Natives right to be worried?**  **Define "treaty."** | Relations between Native and U.S. - been full of tension  * began - uneasy welcome to first European * worried would take land   U.S. signed treaties with Natives   * defined boundaries of tribal lands. * stated how much government would pay for taking Native land | **Treaty - an agreement between two governments** |
| **Give two reasons treaties were meaningless.** | **Meaningless Treaties**  Sometimes, representatives of Native who signed treaty not authorized   * Example - William McIntosh - the chief of the Muskogee-Creek,   + gave away nearly all of tribe's land in Georgia   + not authorized - later killed him.   Supreme Court ruled Congress override treaties - but many remained in force.  Example - U.S. signed treaty with Sioux   * + 1868   + gave Great Sioux Reservation for "undisturbed use" of the tribe   + land included area that is holy   Neither side obeyed  treaty   * gold was discovered * United States tried to buy back * Sioux rejected * the Black Hills War.   + Battle of Little Bighorn River   + General George A. Custer led soldiers against Sioux.   + Custer and his men were killed - later known as Custer's Last Stand.   United States continued battle until reclaimed Black Hills   * 1877 * 1923 - Sioux sued * 60 years later - Supreme Court ruled government had to pay for the land. * As of 2018 - bill for land at around $1 billion   + tribe has refused the money - seeks return of the land. |  |
| **Describe the Indian Removal Act.**  **Describe the General Allotment Act.**  **When did things begin to change?**  **Describe four steps in this change.** | **Gov't Laws controlling Natives**  Indian Removal Act, allowed gov't to remove Native from their land and settle them elsewhere   * 1830 * main targets - tribes in Southeast, especially Cherokee * gold discovered on Cherokee land * supposed to be voluntary. - actually thousands forced * sent west of the Mississippi River. * known as the Trail of Tears.   General Allotment Act. let gov't divide Native land into small lots for members   * 1887 * goal - pressure Natives into becoming farmers or ranchers   + "help" them to fit in * bought back land not used - sold it whites   Indian Reorganization Act   * 1934 * stopped dividing and sale of Native land. * However - After World War II - some favored closing reservations   + number were closed   Indian Self-Determination Act. allowed tribes self-govern   * 1975 * influenced to do so by civil rights movement   Supreme Court ruled casinos could operate on tribal land   * 1987 * only federal law can govern not states   + but can't prevent them | Cherokee had assimilated   * Alphabet - written language * Schools * Newspaper * European-style clothing * Divided land * Farmed and ranched - championship cattle breeders * did not protect them at all   thousands died on forced marches |

