# 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.
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| **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 |

