

and thus buy friendship. The first two posts were established in the Southeast among the Creek and Cherokee, whose attachment to the British and Spanish was close enough to cause alarm: In 1806, Thomas Jefferson proposed that United States trading posts operate at a loss, if necessary, in the Northeast in order to win over Indians from the British, whose firms were active in that area. After the War of 1812, the threat of the British was diminished, and the Spanish had by then abandoned their trading bases in Florida. With competition less keen and John Jacob Astor lobbying in Washington for private enterprise in the fur business, Congress terminated the government trading posts in 1822 (Hagan, 1961: 45, 58, 66-67).

*Bureau of Indian Affairs.*—Indian problems were still increasing at a more rapid rate than solutions for them. In order to centralize government effort, the Bureau of Indian Affairs was established in 1824 in the War Department, which up to that time had been involved with Indians more than any other federal department. As early as 1786, the administration of Indian affairs had been placed under the Secretary of War. In 1849, the Bureau of Indian Affairs was shifted to the newly created Department of the Interior, where it has remained ever since. Until 1892, when physicians and teachers were put under civil service, all employees of the Bureau were political appointees given jobs simply for helping to win elections. Such incompetents became less numerous after 1902, when all employees except the commissioner and assistant commissioner were placed under civil service (Lurie, 1968: 40). Over half of the Bureau's 16,000 employees in 1968 had Indian ancestry.

*Removal.*—After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the United States came into possession of a vast territory which President Jefferson and others thought had plenty of room for all the Indians east of the Mississippi. The Civilized Tribes of the Southeast had made such progress in their acculturation that Congress considered forming an Indian state there and admitting it to the Union. In 1821, a Cherokee named Sequoyah invented a syllabic system for writing his language, and within a few years thousands of Cherokee had learned to read and write. But the Southern states, especially Georgia, were already threatening secession from the Union if they could not get more land from Indians to expand their plantations. At first, individual chiefs were persuaded, with the aid of medals, officer's uniforms, alcoholic beverages, and gold, to cede or sell their lands to the United States.

Indians of North America

Harold Driver

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Finally, in 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act, calling for the removal of all Indians east of the Mississippi to lands farther west. Congress appropriated only \$500,000 to compensate Indians for loss of lands and the expenses of moving and getting established in the new region. Although some Indians moved out rapidly, many did not possess the transportation facilities to make the move and others resisted removal in every way they could. Whole tribes—men, women, and children—trudged along on foot, hurried on their way by soldiers of the United States army, who sometimes would not permit them to stop even to care for the sick or bury the dead. Thousands died, and the journey is still known as the Trail of Tears (Foreman, 1934). The final result was the resettlement of about 100,000 Indians, most of them in Indian Territory, in what is now Oklahoma. The campaign against the Seminole alone, who hid out in the Everglades of Florida, cost the United States the lives of 1,500 soldiers and an expenditure of about \$50,000,000 (Hagan, 1961: 66-91). The price in lives, including those of Indians, of the entire removal program was enormous. The Seminole were finally allowed to remain in Florida, and the Cherokee who had remained in North Carolina bought themselves a reservation there. Smaller remnants of other tribes managed to remain in or near their home territory east of the Mississippi.

Although the United States had promised to protect the removed tribes in their new homes west of the Mississippi, they rarely had provided enough troops to do the job, and sometimes failed to supply enough guns and ammunition for the new arrivals to protect themselves. There was no territorial vacuum in the West, and the tribes already there resented the invasion of their hunting territories by those recently removed from the East. Armed conflict was the rule, not the exception.

*Mexican War.*—The removal business was far from settled when the war between the United States and Mexico (1846-48) broke out. Mexican histories rightfully call this war the "invasion by the North Americans". In the end, the United States appropriated almost half of the territory of the Mexican nation: what is now California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and part of Colorado. There were about 150,000 Indians in this territory at that time. In order to understand the impact of the United States on these Indians it is necessary to sketch briefly their earlier contact with the Spaniards and Mexicans.

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