Power and the Native Americans

I. Native Americans today

A. There are somewhere around 2,000,000 up from the

nadir of 200,000 to 300,000 in the late 19th century,

B. There population was so low, from 12-20 million when

White Europeans first arrived, that it was assumed

that they were going to disappear, and many of the

500 cultures have disappeared

C. Poverty rates of 33%, over 50% on most Indian

reservations, equally high unemployment rate

D. High rates of drug and alcohol abuse, highest drop

out rate of any minority, high suicide rate

E. Decline in native speakers and threat to lose cultural

traditions and therefore identity

F. The question of culture and identity

II. Power

A. The emerging order of power was in conflict with the

Native Americans,

1. essence of the economic structure of our system

of power is capitalism which demands expansion

and resources

a. expansion of population, markets

b. expansion of resources

2. we needed land for agriculture, railroads, to freely

move populations and materials

3. constantly need more and more natural resources,

minerals, timber, and, of course, gold

4. the native Americans were in our way

B. Columbus's extermination of the Taino was a foreboding

of what was to come for the Native Americans

1. 99, in 20 years they were 99% exterminated, 3+ million to 28,000

2. not long after the battle of Lexington and Concord the Americans

put a bounty on Native America scalps -- 40lbs on males, 20lbs on females and children

III. Justifications and Methods

A. Justifications - "felling trees and Indians and rounding out

their natural boundaries"

1. non- too subtle, civilization vs savages

Hugo Grotius: "most just war is against savage beasts, the next against men who are like beasts."

Washington: "the gradual extension of our settlements will as certainly cause the savage, as the wolf, to retire; both being beasts of prey, tho' they differ in shape."

Teddy Roosevelt: "the most ultimately righteous of all wars is a war with savages" "establishing the rule of the dominant races." He referred to the Sand Creek Massacre " as a righteous and beneficial deed as ever took place." Colorado 1864 (scary)

NY Times in the mid-1800s: not one foot by force or bloodshed . . ." only natural "all other races . . . must bow and fade before the great work of subjugation and conquest of the Anglo-Saxon race.

2. Manifest Destiny - white Europeans ordained by

god to rule all of America

B. Force and Violence

1862 Col Baylor asked for permission to kill every Apache man on sight and to capture and sell into slavery all women and children.

N.M. legislature tried to pass a law making all Indians slaves for Life.

1. warfare, most often directed at villages, women

and children, burning crops

2. germ warfare intentionally given small pox

contaminated blankets to the NAs

3. starvation

a. subsidize hunters to kill buffalo and other

game

i. turn of 19th century 50-125 million

ii. surveyors in 1874 reported a census

in Blackfoot country of 4 million, ten

years later all gone

iii. one herd left at turn of 20th century, around 100 animals

b. withhold promised supplies once NA became

dependent on whites massacres

4. Massacres

a. Blackfeet and the Marias River - Killing Custer

b. Sand Creek

c. Washita

d. Camp Grant San Carlos Apaches 75 women and

children

e. Wounded Knee

C. Treaties and Removal

1. Trail of broken treaties - Norwest Ordinance of 1787

a. The utmost good faith shall always be observed

toward the Indians.

b.Their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent.

c. Truth -- whites provoke Indians through lies,

deceits, invasions, resistance, military invasion,

loss of life and land

2. Indian Removal 1834

3. the Dawes Act of 1887,

a. forced assimilation

b. break up communal lands

c. loss of land in allotment procedure,

and further loss of land 25 years later

Indian Reorganization

4. Assimilation through Indian schools, destroy

the culture, no language, no religion, no clothes

5. Religious Crimes Codes, no freedom of religion,

In 1882 Interior Secretary Henry M. Teller ordered an end to all "heathenish dances" and ceremonies due to their "great hindrance to civilization - males ordered to cut braids and outlawed the Sun Dance, rite of passage and celebration to the Sun

Pueblo religion was outlawed because it involved overtly sexual practices and public nudity

6. Finally in 1978 American Indian Freedom of Religion

Act

7. Sacred lands

a. religious worship is tied to the land

b. holistic and inspirited relationship to the

world

c. land is sacred with sacred spaces, the Black

Hills of South Dakota, Black Mountain in Arizona,

San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff

d. court battles lost by Native Americans

C. Indian Removal

1.Andrew Jackson major program -- the removal of all Indians to the lands beyond the Mississippi.

2.This was called the policy of Indian Removal and it was meant ideologically to create a permanent Indian frontier. 3.

3. It was ratified in 1834 called An Act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes and to preserve peace on the frontiers

4. too late already "permanent Indian frontier to 95th Meridian

D. The Cherokee and the "trail of tears"

1. 1829 fold discovered in Cherokee territory -- thousands of whites invade The disinherited 134

2. Cherokees attempted to assimilate when they were outnumbered 17,000 to 900,00, tried to establish a society that would not oppose the dominant white society

textile manufacturing, schools, newspapers, rep

gov't

1825 report to War Department was a glowing

description, advanced republican principles

3.Gold, state limited Cherokee rights, speculators, and

miners stole land

4. Cherokee followed policy of non-violence -- appeal to justice 138

5.1834 700 Cherokee agreed to go west, 81 died, 45 children

6.1836 rest of Cherokees summoned to sign removal treaty, only a few showed up Treaty of Enkota, government agreed to pay Cherokee 9 million for their land - charged 7 million for moving

7. huge army 5 regiments and 4000 militia

8. Oct 1, 1938 "trail of tears" long march 4000 died

9. Not all, Cherokee established, a viable community in

the Indian Territory, report to government, developed

educationally, economically, culturally, and politically

10. We want your land, Dawes Act, break up land, give

to individuals, steal, swindle, cheat, lie, smaller and smaller areas

E. The Lakota and the Battle for the Black Hills

The Black Hills of what is now South Dakota were considered by the Sioux to be sacred, the center of the earth, the place of gods and holy mountains, where warriors went to speak with the Great Spirit

1.In 1868 given forever to the Sioux, oops four years later gold was discovered there

2.U.S. government in 1874 sent armed forces into black hills area despite the fact that the treaty said there must be permission, this was not asked for.

3.This was the infamous Seventh Calvary headed by Custer massacred a sleeping Cheyenne village on the Washita, mostly helpless women and children

4. Custer's army cut a road for poor whites, "Thieves road"

5.1875 U.S. decided to take the Black Hills, no we don't want to sell and in the treaty it says that 3/4th of all male Indians have to sign any change to the treaty

6. In late 1875 US decide that it would be necessary to force the sale of the Black Hills after all they weren't using it for anything.

7. Offered 6 million dollars, one mine 500 million, forced purchase, don't worry what the Indians want

8. Dec 3 1875 mandate for Indians off of the reservation to come in, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, Feb 1 time limit is up, military action

9.mandate was short of declaration of war, women and children would have frozen on way to reservation or starved there, couldn't get there in that short of time

10.July 22 of 1876 Sherman declared martial law over all the reservations and all of the Indians there as prisoners of war

11. Custer looking to provoke a confrontation, personal

and political reasons

12. demanded that the Indians give up all rights to the powder river and the Black Hills, removal of Indians to a new reservation along the Missouri river where settlers would have three roads for uninterrupted travel to the hills.

13.Resistance collapsed because of starvation, lack of ammunition, Sitting Bull to Canada, and Crazy Horse assassinated

Postcript:

14.Big Foot was moving his small band of Sioux to the Pine Ridge reservation where he thought Red cloud might protect them from the soldiers.

15. On Dec 28 Bigfoots 350 Sioux (100 men, 250women and children) ran into the Seventh.

16.Whiteside's job was to arrest Bigfoot so he attempted to disarm the small band, spent the night and wounded knee soldiers above with Hotchkiss guns, asked for weapons the next day, were unsatisfied with what they got, 300 killed women and children, 25 soldiers mostly by their own bullets. Wounded taken to church at Pine Ridge

Indian Resistance

I. AIM American Indian Movement began in 1968

A. founded in the inner city Indian ghettos, esp

Minneapolis and St. Paul

B. founders were Ojibways who were in prison

C. as it spread to reservations esp the Lakota res of

Pine Ridge and Rosebud became tied to traditional

culture and old full-blooded medicine men

1. unemployment rate of 54%, 1/3 of families

on welfare, alcoholism, and suicide rates were

high, life expectancy was 46

2. resistance involved challenging archaeologists

digging up native sites, segregation

II. Resistance

A. Alcatraz

1. Nov 9, 1969 occupation of Alcatraz, ironic statement

2. turn it into center for Native American Studies of

Ecology (518) "We will work to depollute the air and

water of the Bay area and to restore fish and animal

life."

3. 6 months later, forcefully removed

B. Trail of Broken Treaties

1. Indians from all over the country converged on

Washington, list of 20 demands

2. Cherokees from OK followed "Trail of Tears"

3. Lakota started from Wounded Knee

4. When they arrived they realized that they had been

deceived, promised places to stay were not there, put

them in rat and roach infested deserted building with

no heat or plumbing

5. They took over BIA building it was "ours"

6. Food was provided by black civil rights groups and

churches

7. The original plan had been for a dignified protest,

singing and dancing for senators and inviting them to

Indian fry bread and corn soup feast.

8. Turned into confrontation, Get out or else, compromise,

never considered the 20 demands

C. Custer

1. In the middle of the Black Hills on sacred ground, home

of the sacred thunderbirds, phony Indian village,

"See How They Live!"

2. Wesley Bad Heart Bull had been killed by a white

man who was going to be tried for "second degree

manslaughter."

3. SDSP tried to keep Sioux out of the courthouse,

a scuffle broke out, police appeared to be waiting

for this (much as Custer tried to provoke conflict

over Black Hills)

4. Beat Wesley Bad Heart Bulls mother, choked her,

arrested her and charged her with crimes that would

amount to 30 years in jail, actually she spent more time

in jail than the murderer, who spent none.

D. Wounded Knee II

1. Ogalala Sioux Civil Rights Org asked for AIM help in

Pine Ridge because of Dick Wilson

2. Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 had been an attempt by John Collier to create a New Deal for Indians

3. This involved giving the Indians the gift of democracy,

constitution and presidency

4. The problem with this is that although it was aimed

at autonomy, rather than assimilation like the Dawes Act

which had been its predecessor, it further undermined

the indigenous cultures where

political systems had been varied, Pueblo -- Zunis,

Lagunas, theocracy, religious hierarchy- to Navajo

with great deal of personal autonomy, nothing done

except by consensus

always tied to their religious and cultural practices

and their world views

5. Created a new system which had no social and cultural

bases,

6. New group - half breeds and quarter breeds- came to

power, decided on allocation of jobs and money

7. Basically puppet governments, though, BIA still had

the power, 10 major crimes handled by Federal courts

with all white juries

8. Worst was Dick Wilson on Pine Ridge, he and his goons

killed and beat hundreds of Indians

E. The occupation of Wounded Knee

1. went from Custer to Wounded Knee, no real plan, just

came up with it, women's idea. "Go ahead and make

your stand at Wounded Knee. If you men won't do it, you

can stay here and talk for all eternity and we women will

do it.

2. Feb 27, 1973 "We hold the Knee" 26 firearms

3. And the response of the powerful, armored vehicles,

automatic rifles, machine guns, grenade launchers

4. 71days of violent confrontation, 120 surrendered, govt conceded the legitimacy of the treaty of 1868 says the right of eminent domain

Who has the Black Hills Now? Canadian Mining Companie Homestake Mining Co