

American-Indian Wars

Many elementary school students in the United States are introduced to Native Americans in the context of the First Thanksgiving. They don't reemerge until they become side notes in lesson plans on Manifest Destiny and the American West—a narrative that often ends at Wounded Knee in 1890. The term “The American-Indian Wars” groups multiple conflicts between diverse tribes and settlers spanning nearly three centuries of American History.

David Treuer, author of *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee*, writes, “Rather than a sidebar to American history proper, Native American history IS American history. You can't, for example, understand the American Revolution without considering that one of the main reasons for revolt against Britain was over the question of whether the colonists or their British masters got to reap the benefit of westward expansion; you can't understand the tension between states' rights and federal power unless you understand the removal of the 5 Civilized Tribes from the American Southeast in the 1820s and '30s and how that paved the way for the expansion of slavery...Native people have been, since the beginning, involved and implicated in the making of America.”