**PRESIDENT JACKSON, THE INDIAN REMOVAL, AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS**

*If it is thus that the laws of Georgia are to be extended and executed over the Cherokees, it is obvious that justice and humanity are not to be respected…The Cherokees will patiently wait for justice through the proper tribunals”* John Ross Cherokee Chief

*“*[*Indian nations*](https://www.bing.com/search?q=Indigenous+peoples+of+the+Americas&filters=sid%3ad197c222-825f-311a-ecf3-190576df138e&form=ENTLNK) *were distinct, independent political communities retaining their original natural rights…Georgia Law was consequently void and the judgement a nullity…repugnant to the constitution, laws, and treaties , of the United States*” Chief Justice John Marshall, *Worcester v. Georgia* 1832

*“Justice Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it.”* President Andrew Jackson*.*

*“Brothers listen you must submit”* President Andrew Jackson to Chickasaw Delegation at treaty signing

**TWO MAPS OF 1812 US: THE WHITE MANS AND THE RED MANS**

* Two different & mutually exclusive maps-white man map power with States which have government power within their borders, red man map Tribal lands protected by treaties with Federal Government (GW Indian Intercourse Acts 1791) and they have government power within their borders
* War of 1812 between English and US, Red man must choose sides – Five tribes: Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole (part of Spanish Florida until 1819)

**BATTLE OF HORSESHOE BEND 1814**

* Tecumseh, Shawnee Chief angered at unjust land treaties beaten by William Henry Harrison Battle of Tippecanoe 1811, goes south influenced some Creek called Red Sticks (Red Clubs) Tecumseh killed at Battle of Thames fighting with British
* Red Sticks **Massacre at Fort Mims** August 30, 1813 (near Mobile Bay) 202 red Sticks killed, 265 Georgia Militia soldiers and 252 civilians (Creek, White men women children), all whites scalped, all females of every age butchered in a manner “which neither decency nor language will permit me to describe”
* Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) leads Tennessee militia including Cherokee allies, his force includes Sam Houston (1793-1863), Davy Crockett (1786-1836) (burning Red Stick village eating potatoes covered in “oil” burnt Indians, never again eats potatoes), Cherokee young John Ross (1790-1866) and the Ridge, Major Ridge a Chief (1771-1839)
* Red Sticks fortify curve in Tallapoosa River (Horseshoe Bend) March 27, 1814 battle 857 Creek Red Sticks killed, 26 white and 18 Cherokee
* AJ demands Creek’s sign Treaty of Fort Jackson August 9, 1814, giving up land to Whites, AJ buys some of the land “bought” from Creeks, 45000 acres along Tennessee River Valley, land office in Huntsville sells land for $2/acre increases to $78/acre
* AJ then goes to Battle of New Orleans against English January 8-26, 1815

**CHEROKEE CHOOSE LAW NOT WAR TO FIGHT LOSS OF LAND**

* John Ross is son, grandson, great grandson of white traders marrying Cherokee women, he is wealthy, Cherokee name is Koo-wi-s-gu-wi *”* meaning***mysterious Little White Bird***
* Missionaries are spreading Christianity to Cherokees
* Ross has command of Cherokee Light Horse to remove “intruders” off Indian land in 1820 because General AJ refuses to protect as US is required
* State of Georgia was last of 13 original colonies set up as debtors colony, now Slave state with as many slaves as free-British decreed its north and south borders, Atlantic & SC on east border, in theory west border could be Pacific, so in 1802 Georgia defines West border for Mississippi Territory (future states of Alabama and Mississippi) **BUT in the compact with the Federal Government there is a special provision that the Federals would help remove Indians from Georgia, Indians could be removed by treaties selling their land and moved to Oklahoma Territory**
* 1824 Federal try to buy Cherokee land but they refuse, Georgia says they will evict them
* “Civilization” is used by Whites to remove “uncivilized”, barbaric Indians, Ross decides to use that argument against them
* Cherokee draft a new Constitution like US on July 4, 1824, Ross is the President of the Constitutional Convention (just like GW for US), Ross then becomes the main Chief, the Constitution makes it illegal to sell Indian lands
* Strong ally of Ross is Major Ridge, Indian name Nung-no-hut-tar hee meaning ‘***He who slays his enemy****”-*when Chief Doublehead sold land in 1805 &06 the Ridge shot him to death
* New national capital is New Echora (Echora lost to land sold to whites)
* Sequoyah (1770-1843) creates a language for the Cherokee to read and write
* Ross gets printing press and creates newspaper Cherokee Phoenix-**sounds civilized**
* 1824 Election AJ vs JQA vs Henry Clay vs William Crawford – HC from Kentucky no Indian supporter (they are “*inferior and not improvable*”) but JQA is sympathetic to Indian cause, JQA wins election in house due to HC, AJ screams corrupt bargain
* Treaty of Indian Springs 1825 Creeks sell land in fraudulent deal to Georgia, JQA voids it, Gov Troup of Georgia threatens secession, new more fair Treaty made

**INDIAN REMOVAL ACT**

* 1828 Election AJ defeats JQA, his first legislation is Indian Removal Act, Georgia says their laws are over Cherokee laws - ALTERNATIVE? Make Indian lands States by reducing GA, TN
* Jeremiah Evarts (1781-1831**) Christian missionary, reformer, and activist for the rights of American Indians** defends Indians in newspapers as “William Penn”
* Catherine Beecher (1800-1878) educator ran school for girls including her sister Harriet (Harriet Beecher Stowe Uncle Tom’s Cabin 1852) organized first mass involvement in US politics by women, done in secret (no names) the “Ladies Circular” letter writing and petitions to Congress to stop the Removal Act (before Seneca Falls Convention 1848)
* William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879) Abolitionist opposes Indian Removal, wants freed slaves removed to Africa-Epiphany {Ah ha) realizes it is wrong to remove both
* **INDIAN REMOVAL DIRECTLY LINKED TO SLAVERY – LAND TAKEN FROM INDIANS CREATES LARGEST EXPANSION OF SLAVERY IN US HISTORY – NO LONGER VIEWED AS PECULIAR AND DYING, NOW SLAVERY IS GROWING AND DEFENDED AS A POSITIVE GOOD** -John C Calhoun, should we be surprised the first Capital of the Confederacy is Montgomery, AL
* House votes 101-97 (Davy Crockett of TN votes against), Senate 28-19 1830
* Georgia Guard enforces Georgia law arresting missionary Sam Worcester as illegal white in Cherokee land, he is postmaster they release him, AJ fires him, arrested again
* John Marshall (1755-1835) Supreme Court rules Georgia law doesn’t apply to Cherokee nation
* AJ says Marshall has ruled let him enforce it (but the responsibility of the Executive Branch, him)
* Major Ridge signs Treaty of New Echota 1836, Cherokee must leave in two years by May 1838
* 23 Detention Centers set up, poor food, sanitation, water: more die in camps than Trail of Tears
* Trail of Tears Journey plan 80 days, actual 150 in cold weather: 4000/16000 die

**EPILOUGE**

* AJ dies in 1845 (on $20 bill), Ross dies 1866 in Oklahoma, Major Ridge assassinate 1839
* Indians finally receive US citizenship 1924

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