

## European Worldviews in Colonial Era

*(main idea: divergent worldviews among peoples caused conflict)*

Indians were uncivilized. Some were welcomed as "noble savages" and others were feared as vicious barbarians. African slaves were uncivilized. Slavery was a reality in this era and very few challenged it. Europeans saw African and Indian religions as inferior and incorrect, and sought to Christianize them. Some slaves were able to earn their freedom after becoming Christian (before tighter slave codes ended that). Land use and land ownership beliefs differed greatly with the Indian views. The fact that Africans and Indians had lower literacy rates, lack of written language in many cases, primitive weapons and architecture, etc. was "proof" to the Europeans that their views and their society was superior. Because their views and society's superiority coincidentally was from people of a different color... fueled development of the view of white superiority. The Indian susceptibility to European diseases also "proved" to Europeans that they were superior and/or that God was on their side. European culture was impacted by Indian and African culture, although Anglicization paved the way for European cultural dominance. Gender roles were strict with few rights and freedoms for women.

## MAIN EVENTS CONCERNING AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY

### Pre-Contact – development of complex societies

**Maize cultivation** – spread into North America from Mexico, and supported economic development, settlement, irrigation, and other means of complex societal development

**American Southwest** – agricultural societies, irrigation, cliff dwellers (Anasazi), Pueblo are descendants, large communities, mud/clay houses

**Great Basin** – arid climate, mobile lifestyles, small fluid groups such as the Ute

**Great Plains** – mobile to semi-permanent lifestyle, American bison, such as Sioux, tepees for ease of movement

**Northeast, Mississippi River Valley, and Atlantic Seaboard** – mixed agricultural and hunter-gather communities with permanent villages, forests, large communities with complex religion and political systems, some matrilineal

**Northwest and California** – hunting and gathering, some settled communities in coastal areas with fishing/hunting, such as the Chinook, spears and nets for fishing

## American Indian Worldviews in Colonial Era

*(main idea: divergent worldviews among peoples caused conflict)*

Indians generally thought the Europeans were less intelligent as they struggled to adapt to the new environment and had strange beliefs and practices. Indians were able to identify useful resources while avoiding poison or harmful resources, and the Europeans did not have this knowledge. Many Indians saw the Europeans as lazy and ignorant. Slavery was not a foreign idea to many Indians, so the view on African slaves was not dramatic, however some did welcome runaway slaves into their tribes. Some Indian groups assimilated to varying degrees, including becoming owners of African slaves. Indians enjoyed European goods such as guns, cloth, and metal and traded for them. However many saw manufactured goods as a poor use of time and intelligence as it was disconnected with nature. Indians were highly spiritual with connections to the environment and other elements. Their beliefs on the importance of respecting and connecting to nature contrasted with European beliefs in praying and miracles. Some Indian groups were matrilineal, but most were patrilineal with similar gender roles as the Europeans.

## MAIN EVENTS CONCERNING AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY

### Post-Contact-Columbian Exchange

**Exchange of crops, animals, disease**

**From America to Europe and Africa:** examples include tobacco, turkey, pineapple, potatoes, peppers, tomato, corn, beans, vanilla, chocolate, peanuts resulting in longer life expectancy and healthier diets, syphilis, gold, silver, and other mineral wealth led to end of feudalism and development of capitalism

**From Europe, Africa, and Asia to Americas:** grapes, onions, sugar cane, bananas, olives, coffee, peach, pear, citrus, wheat, rice, barley, oats, cattle, sheep, pigs, horse, smallpox, influenza; disease decimated majority of native population, the horse transformed Plains Indian culture

*[This is different from Triangular Trade...]*

*The Columbian Exchange is just the introduction of new things to the environments, ecosystems, and cultures.]*

## African Slaves' World Views in Colonial Era

*(main idea: divergent worldviews among peoples caused conflict)*

Slavery had existed in Africa for centuries, and it was an accepted reality. However, the slave systems in Africa included more ability to earn freedom than the African slave system that developed in the Americas which became a chattel system with permanent status in many areas. Most slaves converted to Christianity, but they also blended it with their culture. Music, farming techniques, language, and beliefs all mixed with European beliefs, creating a unique slave culture. Christian beliefs became a core value for slaves and after emancipation the Black Church movement led the way to Civil Rights. In some areas, European, African, and Indian beliefs all mixed together to form a new culture. Africans who were able to separate from Europeans established cultural autonomy such as the maroon communities in Brazil and the Caribbean. Gender roles were similar to the group they most assimilated into, however slave codes often prevented marriage and family ties from being permanent as a spouse or child could be sold to another family. Despite being treated as property, slaves maintained familial roles.

## MAIN EVENTS CONCERNING AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY

### Spanish – Southwest, California, Florida

Encomienda – system of enslaving and converting Natives

Caste System – social hierarchy

African slave trade – established by traders

Missions – to spread Christianity and establish dominance in California

Haciendas – large farms

Pueblo Revolt – Indian revolt against Spanish, temporarily pushing Spanish out of New Mexico

### French and Dutch – Montreal, Louisiana, New Amsterdam

Fur trade – relationships with tribes & relatively few colonists

Allied with Huron and others in French and Indian War

### English – Atlantic Coast

Encroachment, conflict and competition for resources

Metacom's War (King Philip's War) – Puritans push them out of New England

Allied with Iroquois and others in French and Indian War

## **MAIN EVENTS CONCERNING AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY**

### **Colonial Era**

#### **Triangular Trade / Transatlantic Exchange**

Commercial ties and exchange of goods and peoples, religions spread, philosophical ideas spread, and political systems spread

From America to Europe: rum, sugar, raw materials

From Europe to Africa and America: guns, textiles, manufactured goods

From Africa to the Americas: slaves (Middle Passage)

#### **French and Indian War**

Most Indians sided with the French because they were less threatening, less present; this was a war between France and Britain for land and resources but had large impact on both colonists and American Indians. American Indian autonomy reduced with the expansion of British power and territory, followed by resentment against the Proclamation Line colonists declare independent and **encroachment** and conflict increases for Indians again

### **Early Republic**

**Treaties** and conflict between Indians and U.S. government continued... encroachment into Ohio Valley

**Indians allied with Britain** strained **relations with U.S/Britain** in Ohio Valley and was a cause of War of 1812, Northwest Territory-Northwest Indian Wars linked to War of 1812 and continued encroachment

Louisiana Purchase-U.S. expanding

## **MAIN EVENTS CONCERNING AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY**

### **Era of Good Feelings to Jackson Era**

Indian Wars in Florida (Seminoles) and Florida acquired from Spain, **Indian Removal Act** and Trail of Tears, beginning of reservation system

Manifest Destiny – continued migration and encroachment

Texas annexed, Mexican-American War, Mexican Cession, more Indian lands now under U.S. – continued encroachment

### **Civil War Era through the Gilded Age**

Pacific Railway Act – **transcontinental railroad** cuts through Indian territory, Homestead Act – mass migration, barbed wire-**enclosure**, Destruction of buffalo(**American bison**)

#### **Indian wars**

**Reservation system** complete by 1890

Dawes Act – Americanization/forced assimilation

### **20<sup>th</sup> Century**

*Population starts increasing for the first time in 400 years*

1924 Indian Citizenship Act

1930s Indian New Deal, more autonomy

1970s AIM-more autonomy