

# AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

## Chapter Seven: Sea to Shining Sea (pages 122-136)

**Summary:** Manifest Destiny is key to US displacement of more Indigenous peoples as it reaches the Pacific Ocean. Chapter 7 presents western and southwestern parts of the United States and further invasion of Indigenous spaces, including Mexico. Indigenous experiences with Europeans encroaching from Latin America, as well as a discussion of the expanding origin myth based on intensified vilification of Indigenous peoples in the West, are included.

### Questions

- How was the taking of Indigenous homelands in the West similar and different compared to the taking of lands along the Atlantic seaboard?
- How does popular culture in the form of literary heroes and tall tales perpetuate stereotypes of Indigenous peoples? How much influence does popular culture have on opinions? What contemporary examples can you list of how pop culture influences the way we perceive Indigenous peoples?

### Learning & Exploration Activities

- Read the “Introduction” and “The Pueblo Revolt” chapters by Joe Sando in *Po’pay: Leader of the First American Revolution* (2005) and compare the American Revolution to the Pueblo Revolution. Analyze the reasons that justified revolution and compare the unfolding of both revolutions and the results of each.
- Identify on a current map the borders created by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and mark the areas of Indigenous lands in the newly taken territory all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Compare the settlement areas of the West and Southwest with those of the East, Southeast, and Great Lakes region.

## Chapter Eight: Indigenous Lands Become “Indian Country” (pages 137-156)

**Summary:** Chapter 8 spans the period prior to the US Civil War through the allotment era that ends at the turn of the twentieth century. Land continues to be the major point of contention in the US, and the changing political climate with a nation at war with itself provides for different experiences for Indigenous people, ranging from support of the Confederacy to being hunted down by Black soldiers and the near extinction of the sacred buffalo on the plains. Resistance, capture, and enslavement are running themes through this era, as well.

## Questions

- As a president, how did Abraham Lincoln consider Indigenous peoples and what kinds of policies did his administration enact against Indigenous peoples?
- In what ways have Indigenous peoples used knowledge and skills to actively resist terrorism throughout the centuries? How have these practices helped with resilience and survival?

## Learning & Exploration Activities

- Create a foldable comparison chart with details about allotment era policies and how each policy impacted Indigenous people.

## Chapter Nine: The Persistence of Sovereignty (pages 157-175)

**Summary:** This chapter dismantles the Turner thesis on democratic civilization as a racist structure to frame “the Indian problem” and US policy based on assimilation or extinction of Indigenous identities and lifeways. A background of Indian education and an overview of the continued US quest for empire with taking Hawaii and Alaska are included. Chapter 9 also looks at case studies of Indigenous exercise of sovereignty over illegal land claims using the same policies and court systems that stripped lands, including the resistance to termination- and relocation-era policies. The chapter spans the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries.

## Questions

- What are some considerations a person would need if they were forced to make a choice between assimilation or extinction? How would that choice impact their identity?
- How does the process and designation of public lands for national parks and monuments serve to further strip essential rights from Indigenous people?

## Learning & Exploration Activities

- Using the US National Parks Service website ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)) and the Native Land app or website ([Native-Land.ca](https://www.Native-Land.ca)), select a national park and learn about its land and history of its people. Research how it came to be a national park and find out whose Indigenous lands it occupies. Create a poster or slideshow to present to your peers.

