

THE BLANKET EXERCISE ©

*PowerPoint Prepared by Menomonie First Congregational United
Church of Christ and the Ho-Chunk Community of Black River Falls,
Wisconsin – October 2019*

Four points to the Doctrine of Discovery:

- The Church possessed the authority to grant Christian kings title and sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and their lands;
 - European exploration, conquest, and colonization was designed to assist the papacy in exercising its guardianship over the entire earthly flock;
-

Four points to the Doctrine of Discovery:

- Portugal and Spain held exclusive rights over other European countries to colonize the world;
 - The mere discovery of lands by Portugal or Spain in their respective spheres of influence, and engagement in symbolic acts of possession on these lands, was sufficient to establish their ownership rights.
-

1492-1787: Tribal Independence (295 Years)

- Peaceful relations when it suited the interests of Europeans
 - Violence between Indians and settlers increased over time
 - Disease, introduced by Europeans, decimated Indian population
 - European population increased at a great rate and a pattern of invading Indian territory and taking possession began
 - After Revolutionary War, Americans began the quest for more land
-

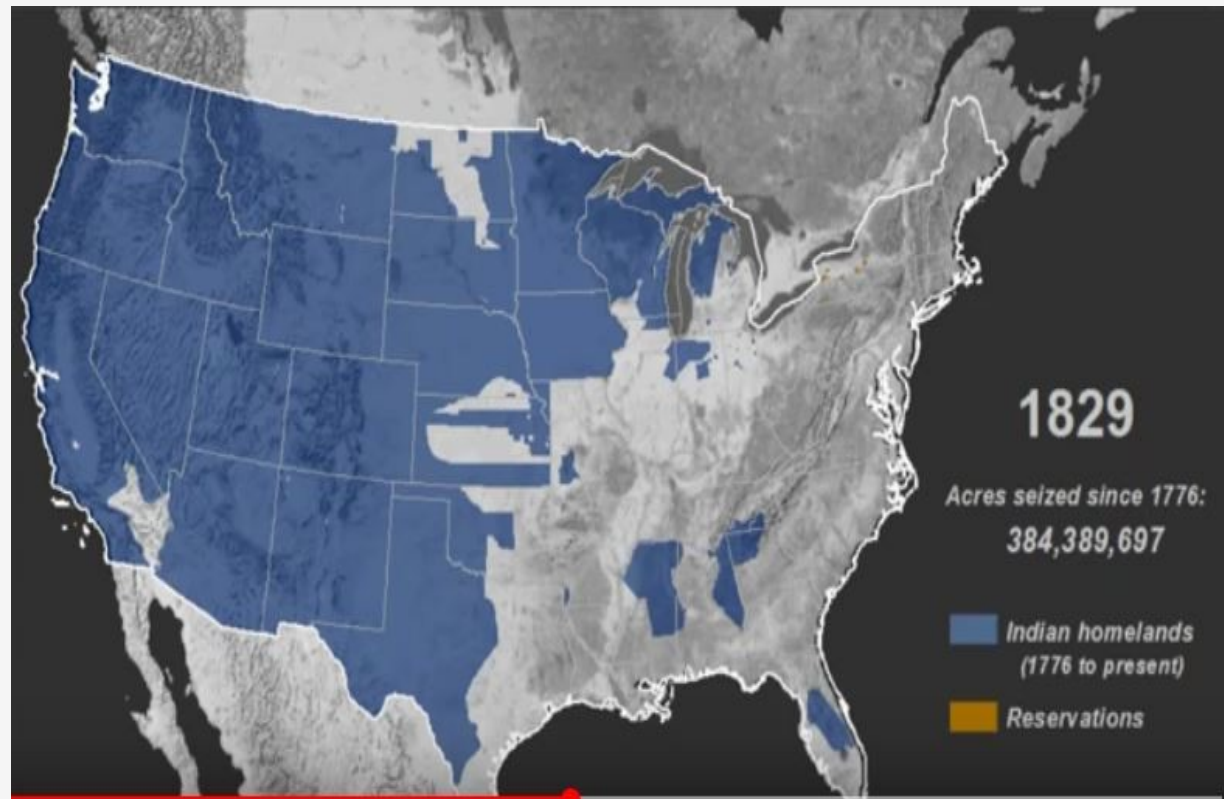
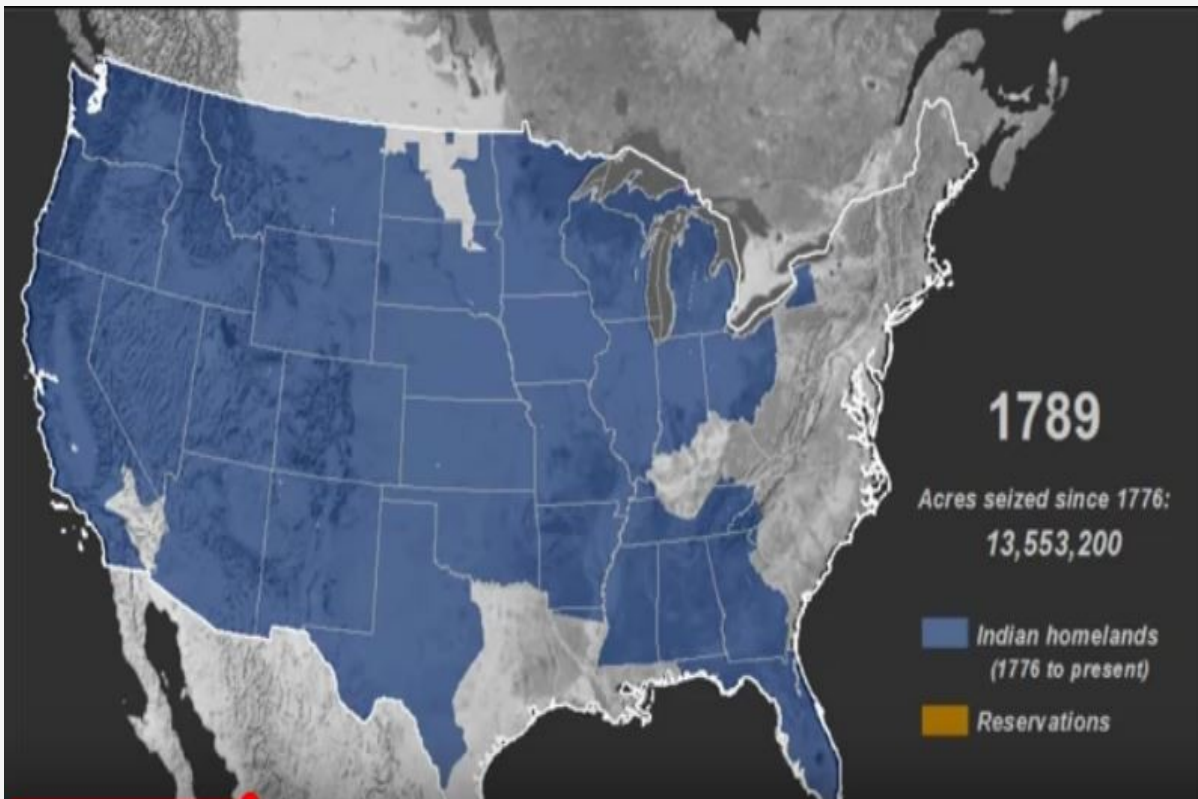
Sovereign Nations

*“THE CONGRESS SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO...
REGULATE COMMERCE WITH FOREIGN NATIONS, AND
AMONG THE SEVERAL STATES, AND WITH THE INDIAN
TRIBES.”*

- ARTICLE 1, SECTION 8, UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Native lands at the start of the Treaty Era

Native lands at the end of the Treaty Era



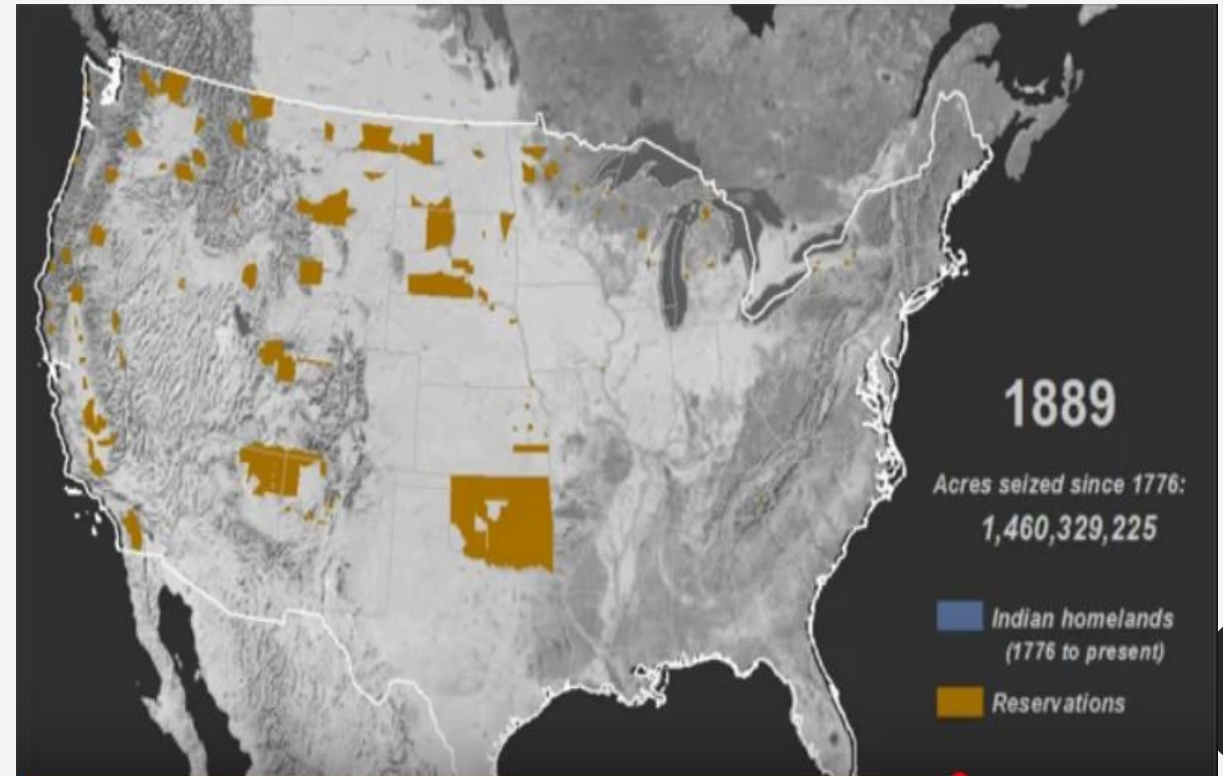
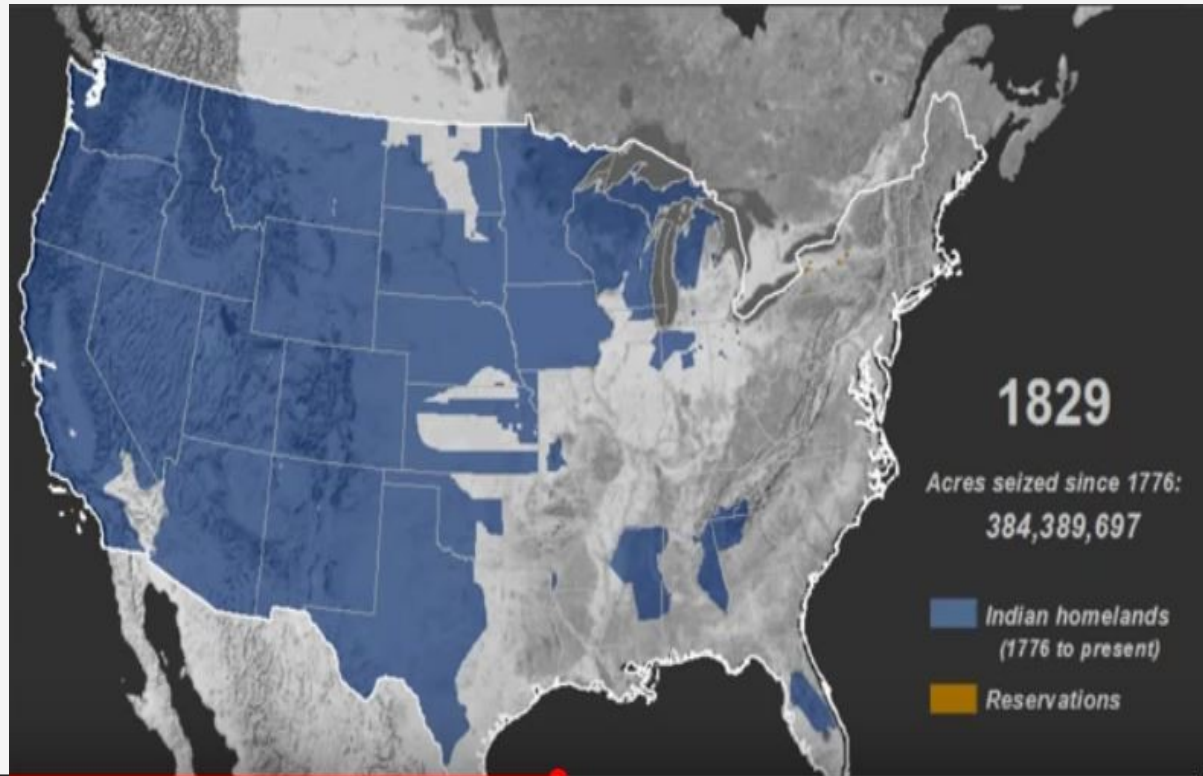
eHistory.org mapped every treaty and executive order from that period to demonstrate the lands seized

Manifest Destiny

- **Manifest Destiny** grows out of the Doctrine of Discovery.
 - Euro-Americans thought that God had directed them to bring civilized ways and education and religion to Indigenous peoples and often to exercise paternalism and guardianship powers over them.
-

Native lands at the start of the Relocation & Removal Era

Native lands at the end of the Relocation & Removal Era





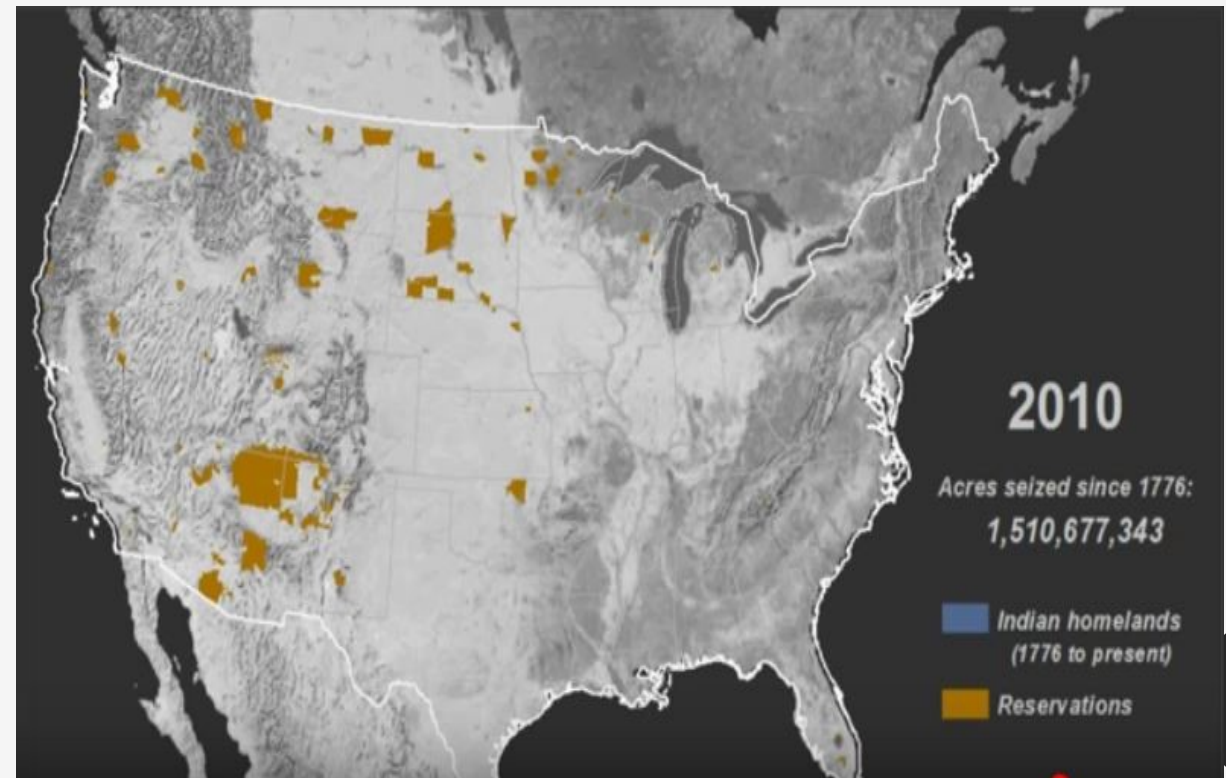
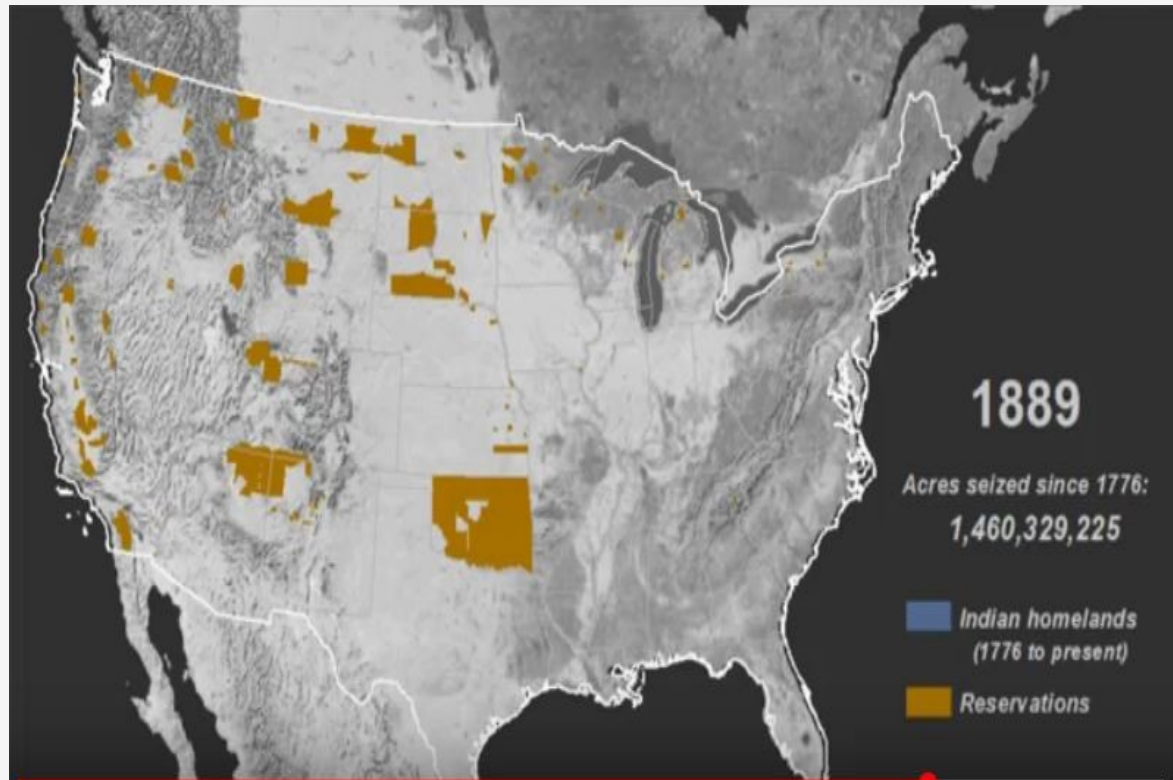
Gary Shackelford

1887-1934: Allotment & Assimilation (47 Years)

- In Wisconsin, up to 1935: 4,789 allotments were made, totaling 307,287 acres.
 - 174,785 acres were alienated – sold to non-Indigenous people.
 - In 2000 there were 3,826 total allotments of Ho-Chunk land in Wisconsin.
-

Native lands at the start of Allotment & Assimilation Era

Native lands Today



1934-1953: Indian Reorganization (19 Years)

- The trust system kept decision-making authority over the land in the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a distant and paternalistic landlord
- Large percentages of reservation land were now held by non-Indians
- Increasingly fractionated ownership of Indian land title, checkerboard ownership patterns on many reservations and loss of access to important sacred sites continued to be problematic for Indigenous people.

1953-1968: Termination (15 Years)

- Termination of the federal government's trust relationship with Indian tribes became the new policy with the goal of assimilation (again)
- Federal benefits and support services were eliminated
- 1956 Relocation program offered job training and housing assistance to Indians who would leave the reservation for urban areas
- Many tribal governments were disbanded, and reservations abolished, including the Menomonee Nation in Wisconsin

1968-Present: Tribal Self-Determination (51 Years)



BODYPAIN

WARRIOR

CIVILIZATION
TEARS DISEASE
MASSACRE
ASSIMILATION

STARVATION

SCHOOL

COLONIZATION
TERMINATION

TRAIL

ALLOTMENT

LOSS

RELOCATION

GENOCIDE

ALCOHOL SAVAGES

CHRISTIANITY

REMOVAL

RED ORGANIZATION

Indigenous People Today

- Pre-European contact - Scholarly estimates range from 1.5 million–20 million Indigenous peoples in North America.
- 1890 - 1910 - fewer than 250,000
- In the 2010 Census, 5.2 million (1.7%) people identified as American Indian
- Today there are approximately 2.6 million tribal citizens who belong to 573 federally recognized tribal nations in 37 states.

Indigenous People Today - Survival

- Historical Trauma:

“The collective emotional and psychological injury both over the life span and across generations, resulting from a cataclysmic history of genocide”

“It’s the cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma.”

-Dr. Maria Yellowhorse-Braveheart

Three Phases of Historical Trauma

Dominant culture perpetrates mass trauma on a population

Original population responds

Initial responses to trauma are conveyed to successive generations

Violence Against Native Women

The landscape of the late twentieth century is littered with bodies of our relatives. Native peoples in this country were 100 percent of the population a few hundred years ago. We are now 1.7 percent of the total U.S. population. Violence is a prevalent theme in the history of this land

- 506** MMIWG cases were identified across 71 selected urban cities
- 128** were cases of missing Indigenous women
- 280** were cases of murdered Indigenous women
- 98** were cases with an "unknown status"
- 29** The median age of MMIWG victims



ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM EXAMPLES

- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians is targeted as the site for a high-level nuclear waste dumping ground. (2001)
- The Western Shoshone's Yucca Mountain area has been pursued by mining companies for its rich uranium stores. (2004)
- In the "four corners" area where Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico meet, a group of Hopi and Navajo families have been forcibly removed from their homes so the land could be mined by the Peabody Mining Company for coal valued at \$10 billion. (2009)

“Historically speaking, we went from being Indians to pagans to savages to hostiles to militants to activists to Native Americans. It’s five hundred years later and they still can’t see us. We are still
invisible.”

- John Trudell, Lakota Poet/Activist

Redskin

“It needs to be said that an Indian from the State of Montana created the Redskins logo, and did it the right way. It represents the Red Nation, and it's something to be proud of.”

- Son of Indian from the State of Montana

Washington



Is it the logo, or the name that honors? Who gets to decide?

Indigenous People Today - Identity

***Colonization, Decolonization,
Indigenization***

Decolonization

Decolonization requires non-Indigenous individuals, governments, institutions and organizations to create the space and support for Indigenous Peoples to reclaim all that was taken from them.

Indigenization

Indigenization requires non-Indigenous people to be aware of Indigenous worldviews and to respect that those worldviews are equal to other views.

Sovereignty

- the quality or state of having supreme power or authority
- supreme and independent power or authority in government as possessed or claimed by a state or community
- a sovereign or independent state, community, or political unit

***Indigenous People Today -
Sovereignty & Development of Tribal
Land***

***What Allotment Did to Native
Lands***

What Allotment Did to Native Lands

1

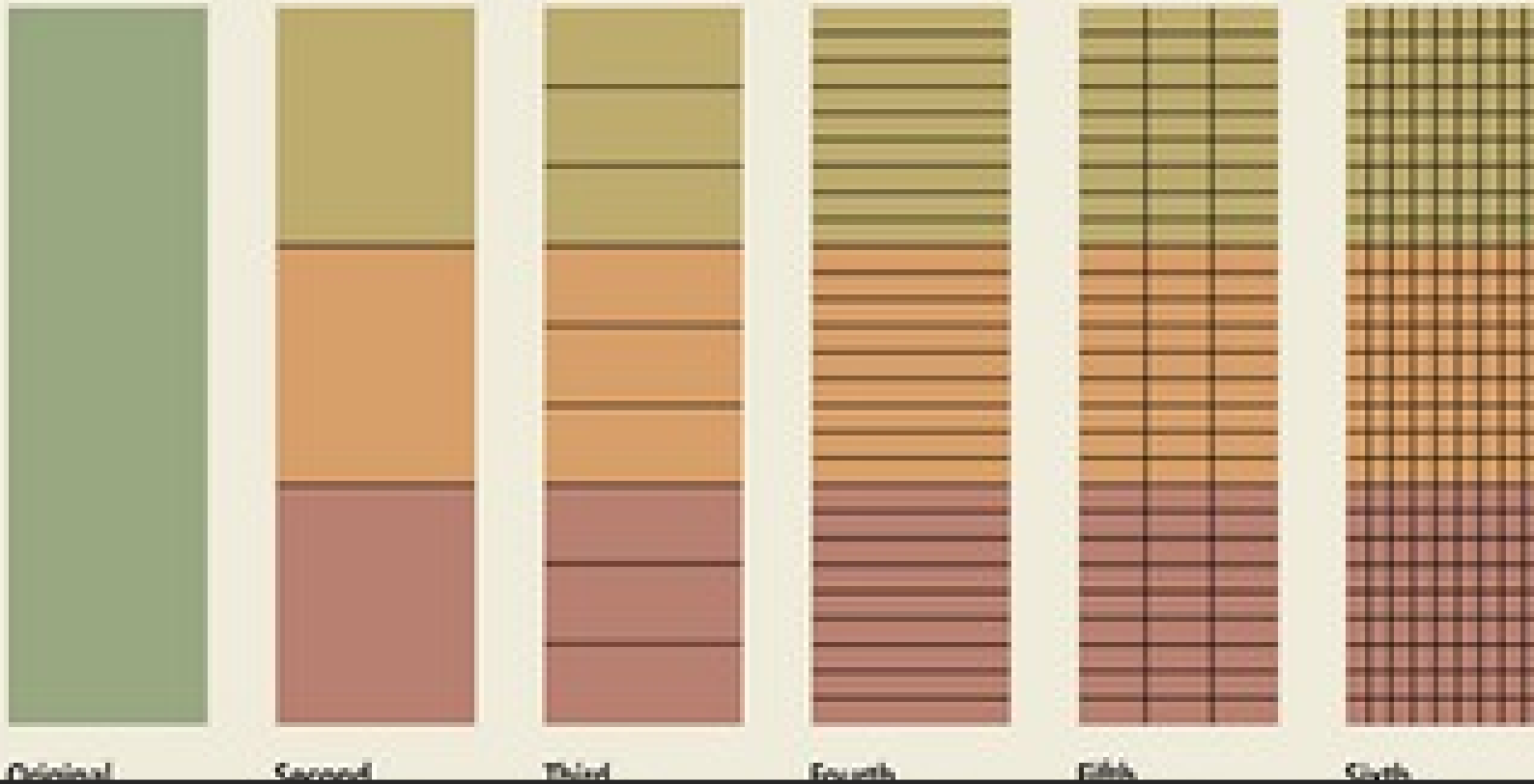
Whites acquired nearly half of all the former Indian lands in the United States.

2

In Wisconsin, allotment resulted in the transfer to whites of 174,785 acres of land formerly owned by the tribes.

A Simplified Six-Generation Example of Undivided Heirship

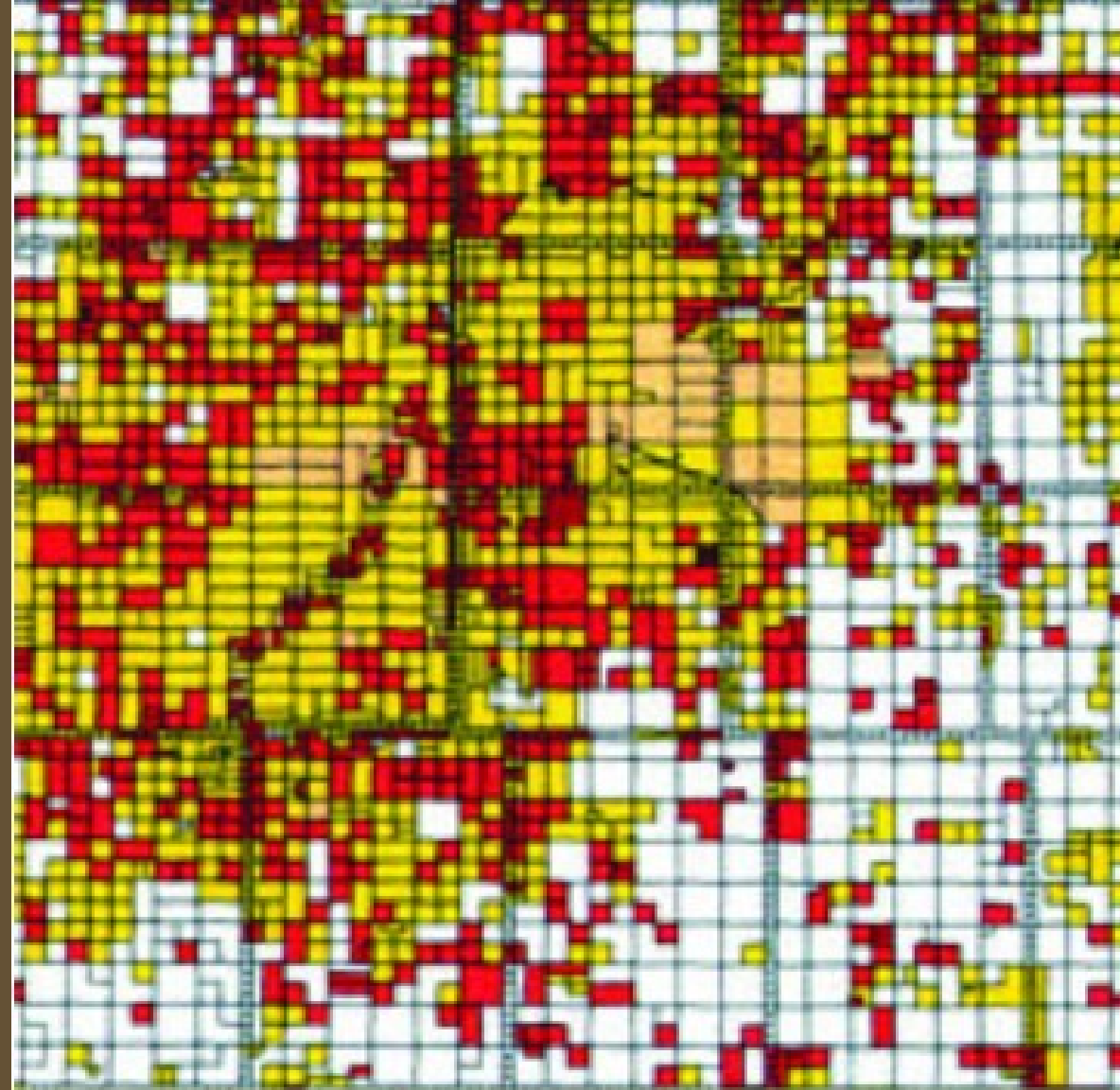
*Fractionated Values and Lease Payment Values of Undivided Interest**



As each generation passed on, the number of owners grew exponentially, which resulted in the highly fractionated ownership of much Indian land today.

***Fractionated
Ownership***

Allotment & Checkerboardin g



Religious Freedom Protections



ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Indian Land Tenure Foundation** at: <https://iltf.org/land-issues/history/>
 - **The Blanket Exercise.** A teaching tool by KAIROS to raise awareness and understanding of the nation to nation relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Canada. Two versions included: Grades 4-8 and Grades 9-12/Adult.
https://teacherlauragroome.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/kairos_blanketexercise_afn_version-revised_aug2012_lowresolution.pdf
 - **National Congress of American Indians** at www.ncai.org. NCAI was established in 1944 in response to the termination and assimilation policies the US government forced upon tribal governments in contradiction of their treaty rights and status as sovereign nations. To this day, protecting these inherent and legal rights remains the primary focus of NCAI.
-

ONLINE RESOURCES

- National Congress of American Indians PDF download at:
http://www.ncai.org/tribalnations/introduction/Tribal_Nations_and_the_United_States_An_Introduction-web-.pdf
 - **Native American Rights Fund** at: <https://www.narf.org/> Native American Rights Fund (NARF) is the oldest, largest nonprofit law firm defending the rights of Indian tribes, organizations, and people nationwide.
 - <https://www.eHistory.org> Center for Geospatial Research. The University of Georgia.
 - https://www.ucc.org/justice_just-peace United Church of Christ, Just Peace Mission.
 - <http://caimucc.com/> Council for American Indian Ministry: The United Church of Christ.
-

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Urban Indian Health Institute, Seattle Indian Health Board (2018). Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report. <http://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf>
 - *Native American journalists make up fewer than 1 percent of newsroom employees.* MPR News with Angela Davis and Karen Zamora. September 17, 2019. Three Native American journalists talk about how indigenous people are portrayed by the mainstream media. At: https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2019/09/17/davis-native-american-journalists?utm_campaign=Updated_PM+Update_Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sfmc_&utm_content=
-

ONLINE RESOURCES

- America's native prisoners of war. Life on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Aaron Huey/TEDx 2010 at: https://www.ted.com/talks/aaron_huey#t-908408
 - Indian Health Services, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Indian Health Service's "Fact Sheets" contain general overview information on the IHS and on specific healthcare topics concerning American Indian and Alaska Native people. At: <https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/factsheets/>
 - Northwest Wisconsin Flood Impact Study November, 2018. Northwest Regional Planning Commission at: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6283282-Northwest-Wisconsin-Flood-Impact-Study-November.html>
-

Reading Resources

- Mormon, Todd A. *Many Nations under Many Gods: Public Land Management and American Indian Sacred Sites*. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press. 2018
- Newcomb, Steven T. *Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 2008.
- Deloria Jr., Vine. *God is Red. A Native View of Religion*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum. 2003.
- Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston. 1970.
- Deloria Jr., Vine. *Custer Died for Your Sins*. New York: Macmillan. 1969

Reading Resources

- *Mountain Wolf Woman: Sister of Crashing Thunder. The Autobiography of a Winnebago Indian.* Edited by Nancy Oestreich Lurie. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 1961.
-
- 