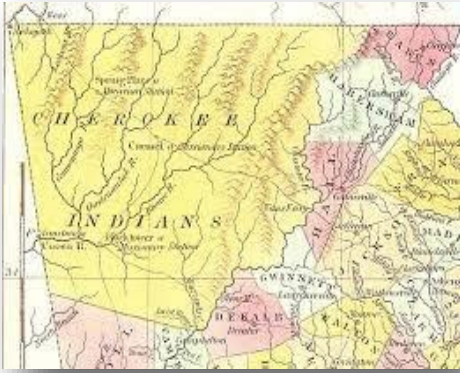


Indian Removal



The **Treaty of New Echota** was a treaty (**political agreement**) signed on December 29, 1835, in New Echota, Georgia by officials of the U.S. government and representatives of the Treaty Party, a Cherokee minority political faction (**a small group within the tribe**). The effort to pass the law was spearheaded (**led**) by **President Andrew Jackson**, a democrat and ardent (**strong**) supporter of Indian removal, who was elected in 1828. Many Cherokees viewed the document as invalid since it was rejected by both the Cherokee National Council and **Principal Chief John Ross**. He held this position longer than any other chief, and was revered (**respected**) as the “Moses” of his people.

The treaty was amended and ratified (**passed**) by the U.S. Senate in March 1836. It established conditions under which the entire Cherokee Nation was expected to cede (**give up**) its territory in the Southeast of the U.S. and move west. The territory of the Cherokee nation lay almost entirely in northwestern Georgia, with small parts in Tennessee, Alabama and North Carolina. An estimated 16,000 Cherokee people lived in this territory.

The Treaty of New Echota became the legal basis (**allowance**) for the forcible removal of Indians from their land in what eventually became known as the Trail of Tears. This exodus (**mass exit**) killed roughly 1 out of 4 Cherokees, including the wife of Chief John Ross.

Was it Fair? You Decide.

FAIR

Excerpts from The Treaty of New Echota

UNFAIR

1. **ARTICLE 1.** “The Cherokee nation hereby cede (**give up**) relinquish and convey (**deliver**) to the United States all the lands owned claimed or possessed by them east of the Mississippi river....”

2. **ARTICLE 3.** “...The United States shall always have the right to make and establish such post and military roads and forts in any part of the Cherokee country...”

3. **ARTICLE 6.** “...The United States agree to protect the Cherokee nation from domestic strife (**fights**) and foreign enemies and against intestine (**inner**) wars between the several tribes...”

4. **ARTICLE 7.** “The Cherokee nation...it is stipulated that they shall be entitled to a delegate (**representative**) in the House of Representatives of the United States whenever Congress shall make provision (**possible**) for the same.”

5. **ARTICLE 16.** “It is hereby stipulated and agreed by the Cherokees that they shall remove to their new homes within two years from the ratification (**passing**) of this treaty...”

Excerpt from John Ross's words to delegates of the Iroquois League:



"Brothers: ...this great and extensive Continent was once the sole and exclusive abode (**home**) of our race Ever since [the whites came] we have been made to drink of the bitter cup of humiliation; treated like dogs . . . our country and the graves of our Fathers torn from us . . . through a period of upwards of 200 years, rolled back, nation upon nation [until] we find ourselves fugitives, vagrants (**homeless**) and strangers in our own country. "

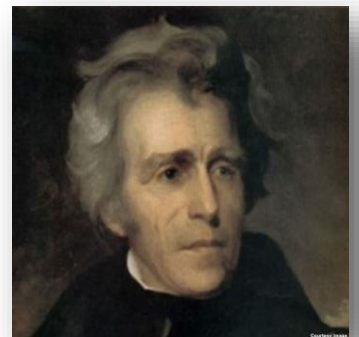
"The existence of the Indian Nations as distinct Independent Communities within the limits of the United States seems to be drawing to a close. . . . You are aware that our Brethren, the Choctaws, Chickasaws and Creeks of the South have severally disposed (**given up**) of their country to the United States and that a portion of our own Tribe have also emigrated (**moved**) West of the Mississippi."

Excerpt from Andrew Jackson's Seventh Annual Message to Congress December 7, 1835

"All preceding (**prior**) experiments for the improvement of the Indians have failed. It seems now to be an established fact they can not live in contact with a civilized community and prosper. "

"A country west of Missouri and Arkansas has been assigned to them, into which the white settlements are not to be pushed. No political communities can be formed in that extensive (**large**) region, except those which are established by the Indians themselves or by the United States for them and with their concurrence (**agreement**).

"A barrier has thus been raised for their protection against the encroachment (**moving upon**) of our citizens, and guarding the Indians as far as possible from those evils which have brought them to their present condition."



Who was right - Ross (Cherokee) or Jackson (U.S.)?

Use excerpts and primary source documents as evidence to support your evaluation of the two points of view.

Whose point of view do you support? Write a topic sentence below that details your opinion.

Supporting Fact#1

Write a portion of an excerpt that supports your opinion or topic sentence below. Remember you can use ellipses (...) to replace text that is unnecessary to support your answer.

“ _____

_____.”

Translation in your words: _____

This quote demonstrates that _____ was more justified because _____
_____.

Supporting Fact#2

Write a portion of an excerpt that supports your opinion or topic sentence below. Remember you can use ellipses (...) to replace text that is unnecessary to support your answer.

“ _____

_____.”

Translation in your words: _____

This quote demonstrates that _____ was more justified because _____
_____.

Opposing Fact:

Write a portion of an excerpt below that supports the opposing opinion. Remember you can use ellipses (...) to replace text that is unnecessary to support your answer.

“ _____

_____.”

Translation in your words: _____

I disagree with the position of _____ because _____
_____.

Conclusion:

Write a two sentence conclusion below that best summarizes your opinion about what you have learned. Your conclusion should reflect your topic sentence/opinion, but have more detail.

_____.

Make Connections

How are race relations in our country different today? Give a specific example.
