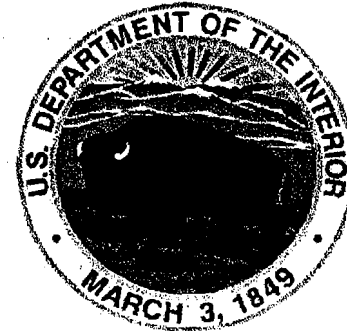


- 1954 First of several acts calling for termination of federal trust status over Indian lands.
- 1954 Congress passed an act transferring Indian Health from BIA to the Public Health Service. Transfer made in 1955.
- 1964 Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act providing Indians opportunity to participate in and control their own programs.
- 1966 Appointment of Robert L. Bennett, an Oneida Indian, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
- 1968 President Johnson's special message dealing exclusively with American Indians and Alaskan Natives, a historic first.
- 1968 Congress passed the Indian Civil Rights Act.
- 1970 President Nixon's special message (Indian policy statement) dealing exclusively with American Indians and Alaskan Natives set forth a legislative program and expresses the idea of self-determination without the threat of termination.
- 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act — the largest cession of land to a group of Native Americans in the history of the United States.
- 1973 Congress passed an act "Repealing the Act Terminating Federal Supervision over Property and Members of the Menominee Indian Tribe."
- 1974 U.S. Supreme Court decision on Morton v. Mancari affirmed Indian preference in hiring.
- 1975 Congress passed P.L. 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act mandating the Federal Government enter into contracts and/or cooperative agreements with Tribal governments.
- 1977 Forrest Gerard, member of the Blackfeet Nation, was appointed the first Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.
- 1978 Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act, recognized decisions of tribal courts in Indian child custody matters.
- 1978 U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Santa Clara Pueblo v. Martinez case reversed the Tenth Circuit decision which invalidated Santa Clara Pueblo membership ordinance.
- 1978 U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Oliphant v. Suquamish case held that tribal courts did not have criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians.
- 1982 Felix Cohen's "Handbook of Federal Indian Law" was published.
- 1988 Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
- 1989 Secretarial Order No. 3137, established the Office of Trust Funds Management within the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- 1994 Congress passed H.R.4833, "American Indian Trust Fund Reform Act of 1994" which established the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.
- 1995 Secretary of the Interior signed Secretarial Order 3197 authorizing the transfer of IIM trust funds program and staff to the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.
- 1996 Cobell et al v. Babbit was filed in U.S. District Court on behalf of 300,000 Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders.
- 1997 U.S. Supreme Court decision on Babbit v. Youpee, January 21, 1997, struck down section 207 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act, 96 Stat. 2519, as amended. Section 207 authorized the escheat of certain fractional interests to the Tribes.
- 1999 Secretary of the Interior signed Secretarial Order 3208 on January 5, 1999, reorganized the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians and established the Office of Trust Litigation Support and Records.
- 2000 U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of Thomas Sionaker as the Special Trustee for American Indians.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



HISTORICAL DATES REGARDING INDIAN TRIBES IN UNITED STATES

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**Important Historical Dates
Affecting
Indian Tribes in the United States**

for the benefit of individual Indians and Indian Tribes was first and most importantly established by treaties.

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|------|---|------|---|------|---|
| 1633 | First land allotment policy established — by General Court of Massachusetts Colony, to provide land allotments among Indians. | 1834 | Congress passed the Trade and Intercourse Act of 1834 restricting tribal rights to enforce laws not just by territory, but by citizenship or race. 1840 Indian Tribes had written constitutions. | 1924 | Congress passed the Act establishing the Indian Health Division within the Bureau of Indian Affairs. |
| 1754 | English colonies met at Albany Congress to discuss unified colonial Indian policy. | 1849 | The Office of Indian Affairs was transferred to the new Department of the Interior. | 1928 | The Meriam Report was issued. This was a special governmental study of the conditions of Indians on reservations. |
| 1763 | King George III proclamation setting aside "reserved lands" for Indians. | 1858 | Tribal lands were in demand by white settlers. There was nowhere to "remove" tribes to that would keep them truly isolated. Tribes were removed and located permanently and confined to reservations. | 1929 | Congress authorized the payment of interest on certain funds held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes. |
| 1764 | Plan to set up Imperial Department of Indian Affairs. | 1868 | Indian Peace Commission negotiates final treaties with Indians. The last of 370 Indian treaties was signed on August 13, 1868 with the Nez Perce. | 1933 | John Collier became Commissioner of Indian Affairs. |
| 1777 | Continental Congress agrees to Articles of Confederation | 1871 | Treaty making with Indian Tribes ceased. Congress passed an act abolishing all Indian treaty making, however, the Congress, acting within the scope of its constitutional powers continues to control and manage Tribal and individual Indian funds through legislation. | 1934 | Congress passed several acts including the Indian Reorganization Act (Wheeler-Howard Act) which brought a halt to the allotment system, prohibited unrestricted sales of Indian land, and provided for acquisition of additional lands by tribes and individuals, and provided for self-government, and launched the Indian credit program |
| 1778 | First Indian treaty signed with United States Continental Congress. | 1885 | U.S. Supreme Court affirmed tribal rights to self-government. | 1934 | Congress passed the Johnson-O'Malley Act, spreading out Federal Indian administration to many agencies. |
| 1787 | United States Constitution adopted by Convention of States; ratification completed June 1788. (Note: The Constitution contained the most democratic principles of any written constitution up to that time. This was not new to tribal governments as they embodied and practiced the principle that government is controlled by all the people and is based on their consent to it.) | 1885 | Congress enacted the Major Crimes Act which weakened tribal authority over members. | 1936 | Congress passed the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act extending the Indian Reorganization Act to Indian tribes and Indian people of Oklahoma. |
| 1789 | Congress gives Indian authority to the War Department; passes first appropriations for Indian Affairs. | 1887 | The Congress passed the General Allotment Act a.k.a. Dawes Act; ended in 1934. | 1936 | Congress passed the Alaska Native Welfare Act extending the Indian Reorganization Act to Native Villages of Alaska. |
| 1790 | Congress passed the Non-Intercourse Act placing certain restrictions on trade with Indians, sale of tribal property and limited jurisdiction over non-Indians | 1896 | The Supreme Court decision on <i>Talton v. Mayes</i> held that tribal powers of self-government are inherent. This is the leading case interpreting Indian tribes relationship with the Constitution. The Court held that because tribal powers of self-government are inherent, and did not arise from the Constitution, the restrictions placed on the Federal Government under the Fifth amendment to the Constitution do not apply to tribes. | 1938 | Congress authorized the deposit and investment of Indian monies. |
| 1803 | Louisiana Purchase from France (affected Indian people and vast Indian lands). | 1906 | Congress passed the "Burke Act", amending the Dawes Act on allotment, describing Indian "competency." | 1946 | The Indian Claims Commission was created and permitted Indians to file suits against the Government. The Commission received 852 claims in 370 petitions during the five-year period allowed for filing. (By 1969, about one-half of the claims had been adjudicated, and settlements exceeding \$305 million made. Although in some instances the judgments resulted in per capita distribution of funds, many tribal awards have remained intact with the funds programmed for community and economic development. Congress directed the Commission to complete hearings and determine claims by April 10, 1972.) |
| 1820 | Federal Government authorized to hold funds in trust for Indian tribes and American Indians | 1920 | The practice of issuing "certifications of competency" was established and a network of "competency commissions" was created. (This policy worked toward termination and the discontinuance of federal guardianship). | 1947 | Bureau of Indian Affairs was officially established. |
| 1824 | The Secretary of War creates Bureau of Indian Affairs within the War Department. | 1921 | Congress passed the Snyder Act: allowed the expenditure of appropriated funds for Indians without regard to degree of Indian blood, to membership in a federally recognized tribe, or to residence as long as it is in the United States. | 1953 | Congress passed P.L. 83-280 which gave certain states civil and criminal jurisdiction over Indian communities (Alaska, California, Minnesota, Nebraska Oregon and Wisconsin). |
| 1830 | United States began its policy of isolation and removal of Indian Tribes and people confining them to specific locations in the west | 1924 | Congress passed the Indian Citizen Act giving Indians citizenship and right to vote. | 1953 | House Concurrent Resolution 108 called for termination of Federal trusteeship over the affairs and property of Indian tribes and groups. |
| 1832 | Congress appointed the first Commissioner of Indian Affairs. | | | | |
| 1832 | Decision on <i>Worcester v. George</i> case by John Marshall, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court addressed the status of Indian Tribes and is the cornerstone of tribal governmental authority. | | | | |
| 1834 | The Congress, passed legislation to address the management of Indian trust funds. The responsibility, or trusteeship, for the holding of funds by the United States | | | | |