

Tribal Sovereignty and Governances

Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
LIS 555

3 credit hour class

University of Washington Information School

Class schedule

- Lecture
 - 30 mins
- Break
 - 10 min
- Class discussion
 - 15 mins
- In class activity

Learning objectives:

- Explain why tribal sovereignty matters for work involving Indigenous knowledge systems.
- Recognize decision-making authority in tribal contexts.
- Identify governance structures relevant to projects involving tribal communities.

Speech of the United Indian Nations, at their confederate Council held near the mouth of the Detroit River between the 28th Nov. and 18th Dec. 1786 —

Present. The Five Nations, the Hurons, Delaware, Shawanese, Ottawas, Chippewas, Pottawatimiss, Chickitwoos, Cherokee and the Wabash Confederates

To the Congress of the United States of America

Brothers of the United States of America.

It is now more than three years since Peace was made between the King of Great Britain and you, but we the Indians, were disappointed finding ourselves not included in that Peace according to our expectations, for we thought that its conclusion would have promoted a friendship between the United States and Indians, & that we might enjoy that happiness that formerly subsisted between us and our Old Brothers. We have received two very agreeable Messages from the Thirteen United States, we also received a Message from the King, whose war we were engaged in, desiring us to remain quiet, which we accordingly complied with. — During the time of this Tranquillity

we

The Treaty Era

The American treaty era began in the 1770s, during the American Revolution and continued until 1871.



The Treaty Era

Some treaties

- Were negotiated but **never ratified** by the senate
- Consummated by methods amounting to bribery or signed by representatives of only small parts of the signatory tribe

The capacity of Indian tribes to make war was recognized

- Thus, early treaties were of peace and friendship



The Indian Wars (1775-1890)

The Indian Wars describe the countless conflicts between American Settlers and the Government who were seeking further settlements and westward expansion. According to the U.S. Census Bureau of 1894, there were more than 40 Indian wars, and 19,000 white men, women and children and 30,000 Indians were killed.

Why make treaties?

- The underlying goal of the US during treaty-making was to obtain Native Lands.
 - Seize land from tribes to the US
 - US reserved right to pass through Indian territory or purchase rights-of-way
 - *Persuade* the US to allot land to individual Indians





Why make treaties?

- In response to the insistence of tribal negotiators, tribes were often guaranteed special rights in ceded lands, such as the right to take fish or game.
- Goods and services
 - e.g., cattle, hogs, iron, steel, wagon, plows, and other farming tools
 - Provisions for Health and education services

Examples

To understand the reserved rights of fish see:

- Treaty with Nez Perces 1855
- Treaty of Medicine Creek, 1854
- Treaty with the Chippeways

To understand reserved rights of game see:

- Treaty with the Chippewas
- Treaty with the Wyandots, Senecas, Delawares, Shawanese, Potawatomees, Ottawas, and Chippewaya, 1817


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TREATIES - EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

NATION to NATION

Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations
September 21, 2014–Through 2021 | Washington, DC

Treaties—solemn agreements between sovereign nations—lie at the heart of the relationship between Indian Nations and the United States. Native Nations made treaties with one another long before Europeans came to the Western Hemisphere. The United States began making treaties with Native Peoples because they were independent nations. Often broken, sometimes coerced, treaties still define mutual obligations between the United States and Indian Nations. The eight treaties featured in *Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations*, on loan from the National Archives and Records Administration, are representative of the approximately 374 that were ratified between the United States and Native Nations.



TREATY WITH THE DELAWARES, 1763

TREATY OF FORT STANWYX, 1764

MUSCOGEE TREATY, 1790

TREATY OF CANANDAIGUA, 1794

men and delegates of the Nisqually, Puyallup, Steilacoom, Squawksin, N. Homamish, M'ch. chass, T'puk-sin, Squi-wit and So-hi-h-wamish tribes and bands of Indians, occupying the lands lying round the head of Puget's Sound and the adjacent inlets, who for the purpose of this treaty are to be regarded as one nation, on behalf of said tribes and bands, and duly authorized by them.

Art. I The said tribes and bands of Indians hereby cede, relinquish and convey to the United States all their right, title and interest in and to the lands and country occupied by them, bounded and described as follows, to wit:

Commencing at the point on the eastern side of Admiralty Inlet, known as Point Pully, about midway between Commencement and Elliott Bays; thence running in a South easterly direction, following the divide between the waters of the Puyallup and Duwamish or White rivers to the summit of the Cascade Mountains, thence southerly along the summit of said range to a point opposite the main source of the Skookum Chuck Creek, thence to and down said Creek to the coal mine, thence Northwesterly to the summit of the Black Hills, thence northwesterly to the upper forks of the Tot-sop river, thence Northwesterly through the passage known as Wilkes' passage to Point Southwath on the western side of Admiralty Inlet, thence around the foot of Vashon's Island easterly and south easterly to the place of beginning.

Art. II There is however reserved for the present use and occupation of the said tribes and bands, the following tracts of land, viz:

The small island called Klah-che-min, situated opposite the mouth of Hammsley's and Potters' inlets, and separated from Hartstone island by Peals' passage, containing about two sections of land by estimation; A square tract containing two sections or twelve hundred and eighty acres in Puget's Sound near the mouth of the She-nah-nam creek, one mile west of the meridian line of the United States land Survey, and a square tract containing two sections or twelve hundred and eighty acres lying on the south side of Commencement Bay; All which tracts shall be set apart, and so far as necessary surveyed and marked out for their exclusive use, nor shall any white man be permitted to reside upon the same without permission of the tribe and the determination of the Court. And no white man shall be permitted

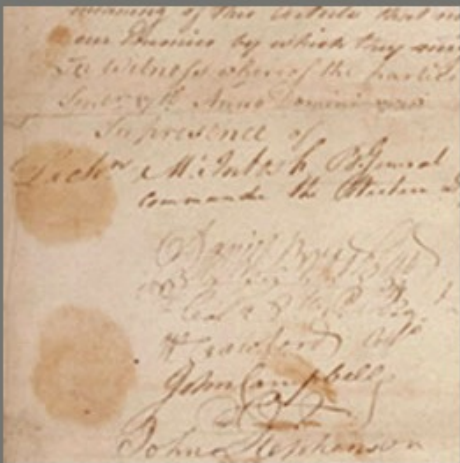


Nearly 400 treaties were signed between Indian tribes and the U.S. until 1871 when Congress passed a law (25 U.S.C. 71) that prohibited the federal government from entering into additional treaties with tribes.



So, why does tribal sovereignty matter for work involving Indigenous knowledge systems?

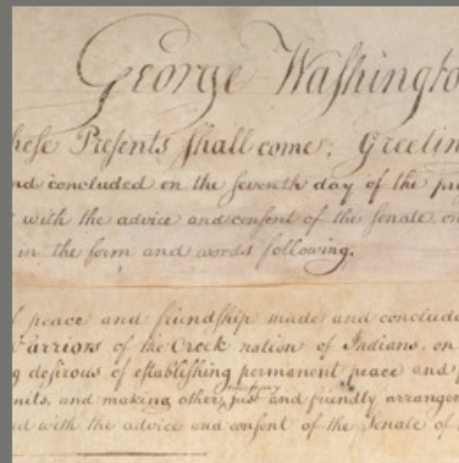
- Think, pair share
- Find a partner or two
- Take 5 mins to discuss
- Bring back to class



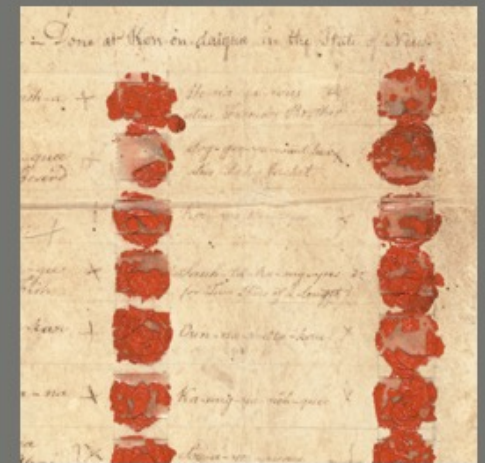
TREATY WITH THE DELAWARES, 1778



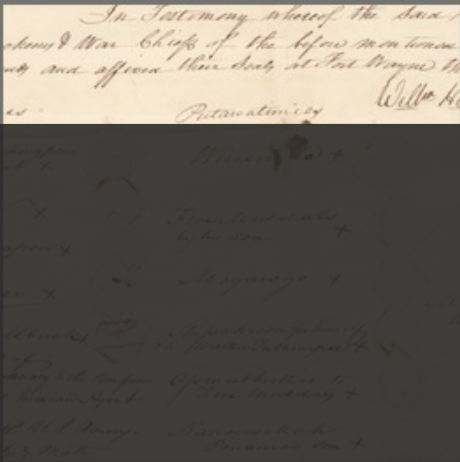
TREATY OF FORT STANWIX, 1784



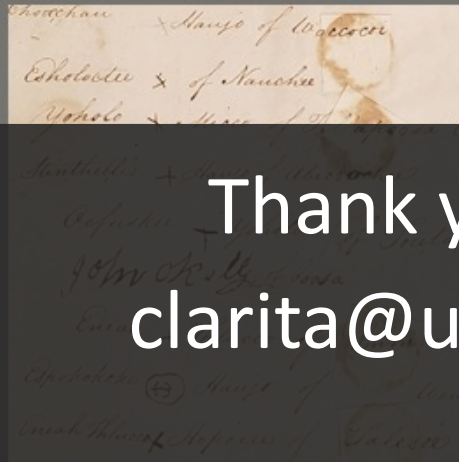
MUSCOGEE TREATY, 1790



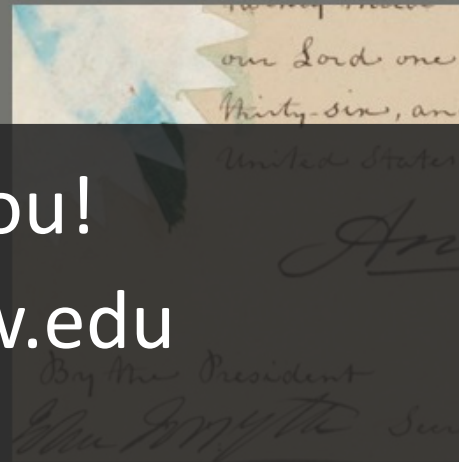
TREATY OF CANANDAIGUA, 1794



TREATY OF FORT WAYNE, 1809



TREATY OF FORT JACKSON, 1814



TREATY OF NEW ECHOTA, 1835



TREATY WITH THE POTAWATOMI, 1836

Thank you!
clarita@uw.edu

Clarita Lefthand-Begay | University of Washington | clarita@uw.edu