

Document A: Excerpts from the Treaty of New Echota.

Source: This was the treaty between the Cherokee Nation and the US Government. It was signed in New Echota, Georgia December 29, 1835.

Article 1. “The Cherokee nation hereby cede relinquish and convey to the United States all the lands owned and claimed or possessed by them east of the Mississippi River...”

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...”

Article 6. “...The United States agree to protect the Cherokee nation from domestic strife and foreign enemies and against the intestine wars between the several tribes...”

Article 7. “The Cherokee nation...it is stipulated that they shall be entitled to a delegate in the House of Representatives of the United States whenever Congress shall make provision for the same.”

Article 16. “It is hereby stipulated that they shall remove their new homes within two years from the ratification of this treaty...”

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| Glossary | intestine - inner |
| cede – give up | delegate - representative |
| convey – deliver | provision – possible |
| strife – fights | ratification – agree to be law |

Document B: Andrew Jackson (Modified)

Source: Andrew Jackson, State of the Union speech. December 30, 1830

It gives me great pleasure to announce to Congress that the Government’s **benevolent** policy of Indian removal has almost been achieved.

We have wept over the fate of the natives of this country, as one by one many tribes have disappeared from the earth. However, we must accept this the way we accept when an older generation dies and makes room for the younger.

We would not want to see this continent restored to the condition in which our forefathers found it. What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and occupied by a few thousand savages to our great Republic, studded with cities, towns, and **prosperous** farms, decorated with art and industry, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization, and religion?

The United States will pay to send the natives to a land where they may live longer and possibly survive as a people.

Can it be cruel when this Government offers to purchase the Indian’s land, give him new and extensive territory, pay the expense of his removal, and support him for the first year in his new home? How many thousands of our own people would gladly embrace the opportunity of moving West under such conditions!

The policy of the Government towards the red man is generous. The Indian is unwilling to follow the laws of the States and mingle with the population. To save him from utter **annihilation**, the Government kindly offers him a new home, and proposes to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement.

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| Glossary | prosperous - successful |
| benevolent—kind | annihilation – destruction |

Date: _____

Name: _____ C: _____

Document C: Letter by Elias Boudinot (Modified)

Source: The letter above was written in 1837 by Elias Boudinot, a Cherokee who supported Indian Removal (and who signed the Treaty of New Echota that gave away Cherokee land). The letter is to Chief John Ross, leader of the Cherokees who opposed Indian Removal.

Look at our people! They are **wretched!** Look, my dear sir, around you, and see the progress that **vice** and immorality have already made! See the misery!

If the darker picture which I have described here is a true one, can we see a brighter possibility ahead? In another country, and under other circumstances, there is a **better prospect**. Removal, then, is the only remedy, the only practical remedy. Our people may finally rise from their very ashes, to become prosperous and happy, and a credit to our race. I would say to my countrymen, fly from your life here that is destroying our nation.

What is *your* (John Ross) plan of relief? It is dark and gloomy beyond description. You want the Cherokee to live according the laws of Georgia, no matter how unfair they are? Instead of fix the evil, you would tie our people down in the chains of slavery. The final destiny of our race, under such circumstances is too revolting to think of. Take my word, it is the sure end of our race if you succeed in preventing the removal of your people. There will come a time when there will be few of us left as reminders of this brave and noble race. May God protect us from such a destiny.

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| Glossary | vice – sin |
| wretched - miserable | prospect - possibility |

Document D: An excerpt from *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Toqueville. (Modified)

Source: Toqueville was a French citizen who studied and wrote about the United States in the 1830s. His study of the United States, Democracy in America, was published in 1840.

In the whole scene there was an air of ruin and destruction, something which betrayed a final and **irrevocable adieu**; one couldn't watch without feeling one's heart wrung. The Indians were **tranquil**, but **sombre** and **taciturn**. There was one who could speak English and of whom I asked why the **Chactas** were leaving their country. "To be free," he answered, could never get any other reason out of him. We ... watch the **expulsion** ... of one of the most celebrated and ancient American peoples.

Glossary

- Irrevocable – not able to be reversed
- Adieu – goodbye
- Wrung – twisted
- Tranquil – calm,
- Somber - gloomy
- Taciturn – silent
- Chactas – The Choctaw
- expulsion – removal

**Document E: Excerpts from Cherokee Chief John Ross's
Thoughts on the Indian Removal**

Context: John Ross was a Cherokee Chief who was a chief leader of the Cherokee Nation from 1828-1866.

“Brother: ...this great and extensive Continent was once the sole and exclusive **abode** of our race...Ever since [the whites game] we have 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 up on nation [until] we find ourselves **fugitives, vagrants** and strangers in our own country...”

“The existence of the Indian Nations as distinct Independent Communities within the limits of the Unites 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** of their country to the United States and that a portion of our own Tribe have also **emigrated** West of the Mississippi.”

Glossary

abode – home

fugitive – person on the run

vagrants – homeless

disposed – given up

emigrated – moved