

THE CHEROKEE NATION AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS

THE CHEROKEE NATION AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS: A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE AND REMEMBRANCE

THE CHEROKEE NATION AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS REPRESENT ONE OF THE MOST POIGNANT AND TRAGIC CHAPTERS IN AMERICAN HISTORY. THIS STORY IS NOT JUST ABOUT FORCED RELOCATION BUT ALSO ABOUT THE RESILIENCE, CULTURE, AND ENDURING SPIRIT OF THE CHEROKEE PEOPLE. EXPLORING THIS HISTORY OFFERS US A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRUGGLES INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES FACED AND CONTINUE TO FACE, AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE OF HONORING THEIR LEGACY TODAY.

THE CHEROKEE NATION: A RICH HISTORY AND CULTURE

BEFORE DIVING INTO THE EVENTS OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO APPRECIATE WHO THE CHEROKEE NATION IS. THE CHEROKEE PEOPLE ORIGINALLY INHABITED THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES, INCLUDING PARTS OF PRESENT-DAY GEORGIA, TENNESSEE, NORTH CAROLINA, AND ALABAMA. THEY WERE ONE OF THE "FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES," A TERM USED HISTORICALLY TO DESCRIBE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES THAT ADOPTED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN-AMERICAN CULTURE, SUCH AS WRITTEN LANGUAGE, FARMING TECHNIQUES, AND LEGAL SYSTEMS.

A SOPHISTICATED SOCIETY

THE CHEROKEE DEVELOPED A WRITTEN SYLLABARY CREATED BY SEQUOYAH IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO PRODUCE NEWSPAPERS, LEGAL DOCUMENTS, AND BOOKS IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE. THIS INNOVATION MARKED A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IN NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY AND HELPED TO UNIFY THE CHEROKEE NATION CULTURALLY AND POLITICALLY.

ALONGSIDE THIS, THE CHEROKEE HAD A WELL-ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT WITH A CONSTITUTION, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND A JUDICIAL SYSTEM MODELED SOMEWHAT AFTER THE UNITED STATES. THEIR AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, TRADE SYSTEMS, AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES REVEALED A COMPLEX SOCIETY THAT THRIVED LONG BEFORE EUROPEAN SETTLERS ARRIVED.

THE TRAIL OF TEARS: FORCED REMOVAL AND ITS IMPACT

THE TRAIL OF TEARS REFERS TO THE FORCED RELOCATION OF THE CHEROKEE NATION FROM THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS TO DESIGNATED INDIAN TERRITORY WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, PRIMARILY IN PRESENT-DAY OKLAHOMA. THIS TRAGIC EVENT OCCURRED BETWEEN 1838 AND 1839, UNDER THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT SIGNED BY PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON IN 1830.

ROOTS OF THE REMOVAL

TENSIONS BETWEEN THE CHEROKEE AND THE EXPANDING UNITED STATES GREW AS SETTLERS COVETED THE FERTILE LANDS IN THE SOUTHEAST. DESPITE THE CHEROKEE NATION'S EFFORTS TO COEXIST AND ASSIMILATE, PRESSURES MOUNTED FROM STATE GOVERNMENTS AND SETTLERS WHO SOUGHT TO CLAIM CHEROKEE LANDS FOR AGRICULTURE, ESPECIALLY FOR COTTON PLANTATIONS.

THE LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASE *WORCESTER V. GEORGIA* (1832) RULED IN FAVOR OF THE CHEROKEE, RECOGNIZING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND INVALIDATING GEORGIA'S LAWS OVER CHEROKEE TERRITORY. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT JACKSON REPORTEDLY IGNORED THE DECISION, FAMOUSLY SAYING, "JOHN MARSHALL HAS MADE HIS DECISION; NOW LET HIM ENFORCE IT." THIS DEFIANCE PAVED THE WAY FOR THE REMOVAL POLICIES THAT FOLLOWED.

THE HARSH JOURNEY WESTWARD

IN 1838, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BEGAN FORCIBLY REMOVING THE CHEROKEE FROM THEIR HOMES. MORE THAN 16,000 CHEROKEE WERE ROUNDED UP AND MADE TO MARCH APPROXIMATELY 1,000 MILES TO INDIAN TERRITORY. THE JOURNEY WAS GRUELING AND DEVASTATING, ESPECIALLY DURING THE HARSH WINTER MONTHS.

MANY CHEROKEE SUFFERED FROM EXPOSURE, DISEASE, AND STARVATION. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AROUND 4,000 OUT OF THE 16,000 CHEROKEE DIED DURING THE RELOCATION, MAKING THE TRAIL OF TEARS A SOMBER SYMBOL OF SUFFERING AND INJUSTICE.

LEGACY AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS

THE TRAIL OF TEARS REMAINS A DEFINING MOMENT IN NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY AND SERVES AS A REMINDER OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES DRIVEN BY GREED AND DISREGARD FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS.

PRESERVING CHEROKEE HERITAGE

TODAY, THE CHEROKEE NATION CONTINUES TO THRIVE AS A SOVEREIGN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT LOCATED IN NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA. THEY MAINTAIN A VIBRANT CULTURAL IDENTITY, WITH MUSEUMS, LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS, AND ANNUAL EVENTS THAT CELEBRATE THEIR HISTORY AND TRADITIONS.

THE CHEROKEE NATION ALSO PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE TRAIL OF TEARS, ENSURING THAT THIS PAINFUL HISTORY IS NOT FORGOTTEN. MEMORIALS AND HISTORICAL SITES ALONG THE TRAIL PROVIDE PLACES FOR REFLECTION AND LEARNING.

LESSONS FROM HISTORY

UNDERSTANDING THE TRAIL OF TEARS HELPS HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY AND RIGHTS. IT ALSO REMINDS US OF THE RESILIENCE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE SHOWN IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THIS HISTORY FURTHER, VISITING THE TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL OR ENGAGING WITH CHEROKEE CULTURAL CENTERS OFFERS VALUABLE INSIGHTS. THESE EXPERIENCES FOSTER EMPATHY AND A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION'S ENDURING SPIRIT.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE CHEROKEE NATION AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS

THE STORY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS IS A TESTAMENT TO THE STRENGTH OF COMMUNITY AND THE WILL TO SURVIVE DESPITE UNIMAGINABLE HARDSHIPS. HERE ARE A FEW REFLECTIONS THAT CAN ENRICH OUR UNDERSTANDING:

- **THE VALUE OF CULTURAL PRESERVATION:** THE CHEROKEE'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THEIR LANGUAGE AND TRADITIONS EVEN AFTER DISPLACEMENT IS INSPIRING.
- **THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL RECOGNITION:** THE WORCESTER V. GEORGIA CASE, THOUGH IGNORED AT THE TIME, SET PRECEDENTS FOR TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY THAT ARE STILL RELEVANT.
- **THE HUMAN COST OF DISPLACEMENT:** RECOGNIZING THE SUFFERING ENDURED HELPS FOSTER COMPASSION AND RESPECT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TODAY.

- **THE POWER OF EDUCATION:** LEARNING ABOUT THESE HISTORIES COUNTERS MISINFORMATION AND PROMOTES RECONCILIATION.

BY EMBRACING THESE LESSONS, WE HONOR THE CHEROKEE NATION'S LEGACY AND CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE INCLUSIVE AND TRUTHFUL NARRATIVE OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

THE JOURNEY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION THROUGH THE TRAIL OF TEARS IS A PROFOUND STORY OF LOSS, ENDURANCE, AND HOPE. IT INVITES US TO REMEMBER THE PAST HONESTLY, RECOGNIZE THE ONGOING CHALLENGES INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES FACE, AND CELEBRATE THE REMARKABLE CULTURE THAT CONTINUES TO THRIVE DESPITE ADVERSITY. THROUGH AWARENESS AND RESPECT, THE LEGACY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS CAN INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BUILD A MORE JUST AND UNDERSTANDING WORLD.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT WAS THE TRAIL OF TEARS IN RELATION TO THE CHEROKEE NATION?

THE TRAIL OF TEARS REFERS TO THE FORCED RELOCATION OF THE CHEROKEE NATION AND OTHER NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES FROM THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES TO DESIGNATED INDIAN TERRITORY WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DURING THE 1830S, RESULTING IN GREAT SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE.

WHY WAS THE CHEROKEE NATION FORCED TO MOVE DURING THE TRAIL OF TEARS?

THE CHEROKEE NATION WAS FORCED TO MOVE DUE TO THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT OF 1830, ENACTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHICH AIMED TO OPEN NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS IN THE SOUTHEAST FOR WHITE SETTLERS AND DEVELOPMENT.

HOW DID THE CHEROKEE NATION RESPOND TO THE FORCED REMOVAL?

THE CHEROKEE NATION LEGALLY RESISTED REMOVAL BY ADOPTING A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION, ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT, AND APPEALING TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, WHICH RULED IN THEIR FAVOR; HOWEVER, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IGNORED THE RULING AND PROCEEDED WITH THE REMOVAL.

WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS FOR THE CHEROKEE PEOPLE?

THE TRAIL OF TEARS CAUSED THE DEATHS OF APPROXIMATELY 4,000 CHEROKEE DUE TO DISEASE, EXPOSURE, AND STARVATION DURING THE HARSH JOURNEY. IT ALSO RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS AND SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DISRUPTION.

HOW IS THE TRAIL OF TEARS REMEMBERED TODAY BY THE CHEROKEE NATION?

THE CHEROKEE NATION COMMEMORATES THE TRAIL OF TEARS THROUGH MEMORIALS, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND ANNUAL EVENTS TO HONOR THE RESILIENCE AND HISTORY OF THEIR ANCESTORS, PRESERVING THEIR HERITAGE AND RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THIS TRAGIC CHAPTER IN THEIR HISTORY.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

THE CHEROKEE NATION AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS: AN UNFOLDING TRAGEDY IN AMERICAN HISTORY

THE CHEROKEE NATION AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS REPRESENT ONE OF THE MOST PROFOUND AND TRAGIC CHAPTERS IN THE HISTORY OF NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THIS DARK PERIOD ENCAPSULATES FORCED DISPLACEMENT,

CULTURAL UPEHAVAL, AND THE RESILIENCE OF A PEOPLE SUBJECTED TO UNIMAGINABLE HARDSHIPS. UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITIES SURROUNDING THE CHEROKEE NATION AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS REQUIRES A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS, LEGAL BATTLES, AND THE SOCIO-POLITICAL CONTEXT OF 19TH-CENTURY AMERICA.

THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS, THE CHEROKEE NATION WAS A THRIVING SOCIETY WITH A SOPHISTICATED POLITICAL STRUCTURE, WRITTEN LANGUAGE, AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY. OCCUPYING REGIONS PRIMARILY IN PRESENT-DAY GEORGIA, NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, AND ALABAMA, THE CHEROKEE PEOPLE HAD DEVELOPED AN INTRICATE SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE MODELED IN PART ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. THIS INCLUDED A WRITTEN LANGUAGE, DEVELOPED BY SEQUOYAH, WHICH GREATLY ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND CULTURAL COHESION.

DESPITE THEIR EFFORTS TO ASSIMILATE CERTAIN EURO-AMERICAN CUSTOMS—including adopting Christianity, establishing schools, and engaging in farming—the Cherokee Nation remained sovereign on their ancestral lands. THIS SOVEREIGNTY, HOWEVER, WAS PERSISTENTLY CHALLENGED BY THE EXPANSIONIST POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE ENCROACHMENT OF SETTLERS EAGER FOR FERTILE LAND.

LEGAL STRUGGLES AND SOVEREIGNTY

THE CHEROKEE NATION'S SOVEREIGNTY WAS FIERCELY DEFENDED THROUGH LEGAL MEANS, MOST NOTABLY IN THE LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASES CHEROKEE NATION V. GEORGIA (1831) AND WORCESTER V. GEORGIA (1832). IN THE LATTER, THE SUPREME COURT RULED THAT THE CHEROKEE NATION WAS A DISTINCT COMMUNITY IN WHICH STATE LAWS HAD NO FORCE, AFFIRMING THEIR RIGHTS TO SELF-GOVERNANCE AND LAND OWNERSHIP.

DESPITE THIS LEGAL VICTORY, PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON'S ADMINISTRATION NOTORIOUSLY IGNORED THE COURT'S DECISION. JACKSON'S SUPPORT FOR INDIAN REMOVAL POLICIES, EMBODIED IN THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT OF 1830, SET THE STAGE FOR THE FORCED RELOCATION OF THE CHEROKEE PEOPLE. THIS LEGISLATIVE ACT AUTHORIZED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE REMOVAL TREATIES, OFTEN UNDER COERCION OR DECEPTION, THAT DISPLACED NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES FROM THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS TO DESIGNATED INDIAN TERRITORY WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

THE TRAIL OF TEARS: FORCED RELOCATION AND ITS DEVASTATING IMPACT

THE TRAIL OF TEARS REFERS TO THE SERIES OF FORCED RELOCATIONS OF NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES, MOST NOTABLY THE CHEROKEE, BETWEEN 1838 AND 1839. THE FORCED MARCH COVERED ROUGHLY 1,000 MILES UNDER HARSH CONDITIONS, RESULTING IN TREMENDOUS SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE.

SCALE AND HUMAN COST

AN ESTIMATED 16,000 CHEROKEE WERE REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMELANDS DURING THIS PERIOD. THE JOURNEY WAS MARKED BY INADEQUATE SUPPLIES, INCLEMENT WEATHER, DISEASE, AND EXHAUSTION. HISTORICAL RECORDS ESTIMATE THAT APPROXIMATELY 4,000 CHEROKEE PERISHED ALONG THE ROUTE, SUCCUMBING TO STARVATION, EXPOSURE, AND ILLNESS SUCH AS DYSENTERY AND CHOLERA.

THIS MORTALITY RATE HIGHLIGHTS BOTH THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TOLL OF THE REMOVAL. FAMILIES WERE TORN APART, TRADITIONAL WAYS OF LIFE WERE DISRUPTED

The Cherokee Nation And The Trail Of Tears

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *The Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears* Theda Perdue, Michael D. Green, 2007-07-05 Today, a fraction of the Cherokee people remains in their traditional homeland in the southern Appalachians. Most Cherokees were forcibly relocated to eastern Oklahoma in the early nineteenth century. In 1830 the U.S. government shifted its policy from one of trying to assimilate American Indians to one of relocating them and proceeded to drive seventeen thousand Cherokee people west of the Mississippi. The Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears recounts this moment in American history and considers its impact on the Cherokee, on U.S.-Indian relations, and on contemporary society. Guggenheim Fellowship-winning historian Theda Perdue and coauthor Michael D. Green explain the various and sometimes competing interests that resulted in the Cherokee's expulsion, follow the exiles along the Trail of Tears, and chronicle their difficult years in the West after removal.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *Trail of Tears* John Ehle, 2011-06-08 A sixth-generation North Carolinian, highly-acclaimed author John Ehle grew up on former Cherokee hunting grounds. His experience as an accomplished novelist, combined with his extensive, meticulous research, culminates in this moving tragedy rich with historical detail. The Cherokee are a proud, ancient civilization. For hundreds of years they believed themselves to be the Principle People residing at the center of the earth. But by the 18th century, some of their leaders believed it was necessary to adapt to European ways in order to survive. Those chiefs sealed the fate of their tribes in 1875 when they signed a treaty relinquishing their land east of the Mississippi in return for promises of wealth and better land. The U.S. government used the treaty to justify the eviction of the Cherokee nation in an exodus that the Cherokee will forever remember as the "trail where they cried." The heroism and nobility of the Cherokee shine through this intricate story of American politics, ambition, and greed. B & W photographs

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War* Clarissa W. Confer, 2012-03-01 No one questions the horrific impact of the Civil War on America, but few realize its effect on American Indians. Residents of Indian Territory found the war especially devastating. Their homeland was beset not only by regular army operations but also by guerillas and bushwhackers. Complicating the situation even further, Cherokee men fought for the Union as well as the Confederacy and created their own "brothers' war." This book offers a broad overview of the war as it affected the Cherokees—a social history of a people plunged into crisis. The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War shows how the Cherokee people, who had only just begun to recover from the ordeal of removal, faced an equally devastating upheaval in the Civil War. Clarissa W. Confer illustrates how the Cherokee Nation, with its sovereign status and distinct culture, had a wartime experience unlike that of any other group of people—and suffered perhaps the greatest losses of land, population, and sovereignty. Confer examines decision-making and leadership within the tribe, campaigns and soldiering among participants on both sides, and elements of civilian life and reconstruction. She reveals how a centuries-old culture informed the Cherokees' choices, with influences as varied as matrilineal descent, clan affiliations, economic distribution, and decentralized government combining to distinguish the Native reaction to the war. The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War recalls a people enduring years of hardship while also struggling for their future as the white man's war encroached on the physical and political integrity of their nation.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *African Americans and Native Americans in the Creek and Cherokee Nations, 1830s to 1920s* Katja May, 1996 A study of interracial relations among African Americans and the Creek and Cherokee Native Americans, relying on oral accounts of the impact of Indian removal on Black-Indian relations, and Black-Indian alliances during the Green Peach War and the Crazy Snake Uprising. Contains SPSS analyses of samples from federal manuscript census schedules of 1900 and 1910, describing demographics, intermarriage patterns, and education. Includes a detailed bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

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the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: The Cherokee Diaspora Gregory D. Smithers, 2015-09-29 The Cherokee are one of the largest Native American tribes in the United States, with more than three hundred thousand people across the country claiming tribal membership and nearly one million people internationally professing to have at least one Cherokee Indian ancestor. In this revealing history of Cherokee migration and resettlement, Gregory Smithers uncovers the origins of the Cherokee diaspora and explores how communities and individuals have negotiated their Cherokee identities, even when geographically removed from the Cherokee Nation headquartered in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Beginning in the eighteenth century, the author transports the reader back in time to tell the poignant story of the Cherokee people migrating throughout North America, including their forced exile along the infamous Trail of Tears (1838-39). Smithers tells a remarkable story of courage, cultural innovation, and resilience, exploring the importance of migration and removal, land and tradition, culture and language in defining what it has meant to be Cherokee for a widely scattered people.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: The Cherokee Nation and Tahlequah Deborah L. Duvall, 1999 The Cherokee Nation, world-famous for its turbulent and colorful past, is home to the second-largest American Indian tribe in the United States. This fascinating visual history spans 14 counties of northeast Oklahoma, from the Arkansas River to the Kansas border, and features the capital, Tahlequah. The U.S. government's harsh treatment of the Cherokees culminating in the notorious Trail of Tears is documented here. In Indian Territory, the Cherokees quickly established systems of democratic government, education, and communication. Many lived in the same manner as their white counterparts of the time, as wealthy plantation owners and ranchers. They were completely literate in their own written language, printing newspapers, magazines, and books. Devastation struck as the Civil War split the Cherokees into factions, dividing families and neighbors and destroying communities and homes. Again, the resilient Cherokees rebuilt their nation, enjoying growth and renewed prosperity until land allotment and statehood stripped away their self-governance. The progressive, accomplished character of the Cherokees is evidenced by the pictures and stories in this book. Here you will meet the leaders who helped rebuild the great Cherokee Nation, legendary figures like Sequoyah and Will Rogers, and the patriots and artisans who have kept the tribe's culture and tradition alive throughout history.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: The Trail of Tears Michael Burgan, 2001 Recounts how the Cherokees were forced to leave their land and travel to a new settlement in Oklahoma, a terrible journey known as the Trail of Tears.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: An Oral History of Tahlequah and The Cherokee Nation Deborah L. Duvall, 2000-11-09 These pages are filled with memories and favorite tales that capture the essence of life in the Cherokee Nation. Ms. Duvall invites the reader to follow the tribe from its pre-historic days in the southeast, to early 20th century life in the Cookson Hills of Oklahoma. Learn about Pretty Woman, who had the power over life and death, or the mystical healing springs of Tahlequah. Spend some time with U.S. Deputy Marshals as they roam the old Cherokee Nation in pursuit of Indian Territory outlaws like Zeke Proctor and Charlie Wickliffe, or wander the famous haunted places where ghost horses still travel an ancient trail and the spirits of long-dead Spaniards still search for gold.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: The Cherokee Nation Robert J. Conley, 2005-09-06 The Cherokee Nation is one of the largest and most important of all the American Indian tribes. The first history of the Cherokees to appear in over four decades, this is also the first to be endorsed by the tribe and the first to be written by a Cherokee. Robert Conley begins his survey with Cherokee origin myths and legends. He then explores their relations with neighboring Indian groups and European missionaries and settlers. He traces their forced migrations west, relates their participations on both sides of the Civil War and the wars of the twentieth century, and concludes with an examination of Cherokee life today. Conley provides analyses for general readers of all ages to learn the significance of tribal lore and Cherokee tribal law. Following the history is a listing of

the Principal Chiefs of the Cherokees with a brief biography of each and separate listings of the chiefs of the Eastern Cherokees and the Western Cherokees. For those who want to know more about Cherokee heritage and history, Conley offers additional reading lists at the end of each chapter.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *The Civil War and the West* Carol L. Higham, 2013-10-01 Between 1800 and the Civil War, the American West evolved from a region to territories to states. This book depicts the development of the antebellum West from the perspective of a resident of the Western frontier. What happened in the West in the lead-up to and during the American Civil War? *The Civil War and the West: The Frontier Transformed* provides a clear and complete answer to this question. The work succinctly overviews the West during the antebellum period from 1800 to 1862, supplying thematic chapters that explain how key elements and characteristics of the West created conflict and division that differed from those in the East during the Civil War. It looks at how these issues influenced the military, settlement, and internal territorial conflicts about statehood in each region, and treats the Cherokee and other Indian nations as important actors in the development of a national narrative.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *From Bureaucracy to Bullets* Bree Akesson, Andrew R. Basso, 2022-02-11 *From Bureaucracy to Bullets* uses eight compelling case studies--from five continents and spanning the 20th and 21st centuries--to explore the concept of extreme domicile, or the intentional destruction of home as a result of political violence. Moving beyond mere description, *From Bureaucracy to Bullets* identifies common factors that contribute to extreme domicile, thereby providing human rights actors with a framework to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *The Trail of Tears and Indian Removal* Amy H. Sturgis, 2006-11-30 In 1838, the U.S. Government began to forcibly relocate thousands of Cherokees from their homelands in Georgia to the Western territories. The event the Cherokees called The Trail Where They Cried meant their own loss of life, sovereignty, and property. Moreover, it allowed visions of Manifest Destiny to contradict the government's previous civilization campaign policy toward American Indians. The tortuous journey West was one of the final blows causing a division within the Cherokee nation itself, over civilization and identity, tradition and progress, east and west. The Trail of Tears also introduced an era of Indian removal that reshaped the face of Native America geographically, politically, economically, and socially. Engaging thematic chapters explore the events surrounding the Trail of Tears and the era of Indian removal, including the invention of the Cherokee alphabet, the conflict between the preservation of Cherokee culture and the call to assimilate, Andrew Jackson's imperial presidency, and the negotiation of legislation and land treaties. Biographies of key figures, an annotated bibliography, and an extensive selection of primary documents round out the work.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *Demanding the Cherokee Nation* Andrew Denson, 2015-11-01 *Demanding the Cherokee Nation* examines nineteenth-century Cherokee political rhetoric in reassessing an enigma in American Indian history: the contradiction between the sovereignty of Indian nations and the political weakness of Indian communities. Drawing from a rich collection of petitions, appeals, newspaper editorials, and other public records, Andrew Denson describes the ways in which Cherokees represented their people and their nation to non-Indians after their forced removal to Indian Territory in the 1830s. He argues that Cherokee writings on nationhood document a decades-long effort by tribal leaders to find a new model for American Indian relations in which Indian nations could coexist with a modernizing United States. Most non-Natives in the nineteenth century assumed that American development and progress necessitated the end of tribal autonomy, and that at best the Indian nation was a transitional state for Native people on the path to assimilation. As Denson shows, however, Cherokee leaders articulated a variety of ways in which the Indian nation, as they defined it, belonged in the modern world. Tribal leaders responded to developments in the United States and adapted their defense of Indian autonomy to the great changes transforming American life in the middle and late nineteenth

century, notably also providing cogent new justification for Indian nationhood within the context of emergent American industrialization.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: Slavery in the Cherokee Nation Patrick Neal Mingos, 2004-06 Exploring the dynamic issues of race and religion within the Cherokee Nation, this text looks at the role of secret societies in shaping these forces during the 19th century.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *The Trail of Tears* Kristen Rajczak Nelson, 2017-07-15 The Trail of Tears is the name used to describe the forced migration of the Cherokee people in the 1830s from their homelands in the southeastern United States to land in what's now Oklahoma. This devastating journey took the lives of thousands of Native Americans, and it's one of the most shameful chapters in American history. Detailed main text—supported by enlightening sidebars and primary sources—gives readers a clear picture of the reasons the Cherokee people were forced from their homes and what happened to them on the difficult journey west.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: Trail of Tears Sue Vander Hook, 2010 Presents a brief history of the Cherokee Indians and describes their forced migration, which came to be known as the Trail of Tears, following the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: The Dawes Commission and the Allotment of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1893-1914 Kent Carter, 1999 Given by Eugene Edge III.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: Townsite Settlement and Dispossession in the Cherokee Nation, 1866-1907 Brad A. Bays, 2018-10-24 In response to the influx of white settlement after the Civil War, the Cherokee nation devised a regional development plan which allowed whites to establish farms and build towns while reinforcing Cherokee tribal sovereignty over the territory. The presence of sizeable towns and numerous villages presented a legal conundrum for Congress when it legislated away Cherokee sovereignty at the turn of the century. By 1898, tens of thousands of whites owned residential and commercial properties worth millions of dollars in Cherokee Nation towns, but every lot was owned by the Cherokee people. The federal government created a program to transfer legal ownership of town lots to white occupants, but poor implementation of the program allowed individuals to subvert the law for their own gain. The author explores the subject using primary documentation of such diverse sources as traveler's reports, land records, tribal and federal correspondence, and accounts of Cherokee and white settlers. Descriptive statistics and analytical mapping of historical data provide additional facets to the analysis. Also includes 50 maps. (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1996; revised with new preface, introduction, afterword) Index. Bibliography.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *A Timeline History of the Trail of Tears* Alison Behnke, 2015-08-01 In the early nineteenth century, the United States was growing quickly, and many people wanted to set up homes and farms in new areas. For centuries, American Indian nations—including the Cherokee—had been living on the land that white settlers wanted. The US government often stepped in to resolve conflicts between the groups with treaties. Many of these treaties called upon American Indians to give up some of their territory. The conflicts continued as more and more white settlers moved onto American Indian land. Finally, the US government passed the Indian Removal Act of 1830. This law ordered many American Indians to leave their homes. In 1838 military officials forced the Cherokee on a dangerous and heartbreaking journey from their homeland in the southeast region of the United States to territory 800 miles away in what is now the state of Oklahoma. Their journey became known as the Trail of Tears. Learn about the Cherokee Nation's forced removal from their ancestral homeland. Track the events and turning points that led to this dark and tragic time period in US history.

the cherokee nation and the trail of tears: *Compiled Laws of the Cherokee Nation* Cherokee Nation, 1998 Contained in this volume are the Cherokees' 1839 constitution along with amendments to its necessitated by the 1866 treaty between the Cherokee Nation and the United States; the 1838 Act of Union between the Cherokee Nation and the United States; the 1838 Act of Union between Eastern and Western Cherokees; numerous basic laws and miscellaneous Acts covering a huge variety of subjects.

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