

Response to Readings: Saturday, March 31, 2007

Indian Removal and Revival

Core theme: Histories of the West: Native American and Borderlands History

Dr. Clara Sue Kidwell from the University of Oklahoma will discuss the history of Indian removal and the subsequent revival of removed tribes, especially the Cherokee and the Choctaw.

Readings:

The readings are a mixture of historical accounts and primary sources.

Theca Perdue and Michael D. Green. *The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents*. 2nd ed. (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005)

Retrieving the American Past (Pearson, 2006)

M. L. Chaatsmith, ed. "American Prehistory: North America Before European Contact," 1-30.

M. E. Newell, ed. "The Indians' New World: Native Americans after the European Invasion, 1585-1783," 34-52.

J. Davis and W. Van Tine, eds. "Transformation, Endurance, and Rejuvenation of American Indian Societies, 1870-1995," 282-322.

Questions to write about

Choose ONE of the following questions and answer it in one to two typed pages:

Cherokee Removal: What were the arguments the Cherokees made for and against removal?

"American Prehistory": Trace the changing interpretation of the mounds from early commentators to modern observers, including Native Americans. What conclusions can you draw about attitudes toward the mound builders over time?

"The Indians' New World": What strategies did the Indians use to preserve their power? Which were the most successful, and why? What did the European and Indians have to offer one another?

"Transformation, Endurance, and Rejuvenation": Discuss the key issues in the debate between assimilation or tradition. Are the two points of view irreconcilable or are their points of connection?