

Christian Storrs
11-24

Trail of Tears

In 1838 and 1839, the U.S president Andrew Jackson- forced the 5 Native American “civilized tribes”, Choctaw, Seminoles, Creek, Chickasaw and the Cherokee Nation, to give up all of its owned lands east of the Mississippi river, and to re-locate to an area in Oklahoma, where they still reside in present-day.

This event not only shows the true nature of America’s foundation of societal attitudes toward minorities, but also illustrates the way we “rid our ourselves of them, and their problems they so call “cause”. Not to mention how we as a Nation have stripped the culture and uniqueness of such a prosperous society, through forcing the natives of this land to mold to the norms of the estranged Anglo American way of life.

We did this through creating mass public opinion and hysteria of how social order should be developed, in the eyes of the Anglo-Americans. This included re-dressing the Native Americans to fit our standard and “civilized” dress code. We forced them to abandon their ancestral languages and fully submit to the English language.

And lastly, America forced the natives to recognize their Christian “God” and their religion, and to put aside their sacred, divine, and spiritual ways, and to ultimately let go of their ancient heritage. This was done through the methods of societal peer pressure, forceful prayer in the Anglo American Churches, and through the idea of marriage and ethnic mixing.

Not only did many of the Natives submit to the demands of the growing alien cultures spreading around them (fear driven), but also lived amongst them in peace for many years, only to eventually be sought out, destroyed, or re-located.

As a conclusion, this topic among many others, has greatly caught my attention throughout the semester, I have always been weary and haven't quite understood how we as a "free" nation could have such an overwhelming impact on the restricting of freedoms and liberties of others living among us.

Comparisons to this event, have been very similar and plentiful throughout history, and continue on to this day in age. The battle for equal rights among all still fights on today, and likely will continue for decades to come, for only time can tell what lies ahead in our future of equality for all Americans.

As of right now in 2014, we as a nation are still divided. This shows in all walks of life, and especially in the eyes of the Latino American cultures, Asian American cultures, LGBTQ population, etc... Discrimination is still heavy in the minds of the ignorant population's of America.

Furthermore, I believe that Rational, compassionate, and logical thinkers are our only hope in correcting the backwards ways of society, as we progress, evolve, and develop socially, as humans, so does the fading of intolerance, injustice, inequality and so on. And so, I am left with more questions and unquenchable curiosity, than I had to begin with, coming into this class. I think that means this semester was a success. "Freedom of the mind, is the greatest freedom of all"-Give Me liberty-An American History.

