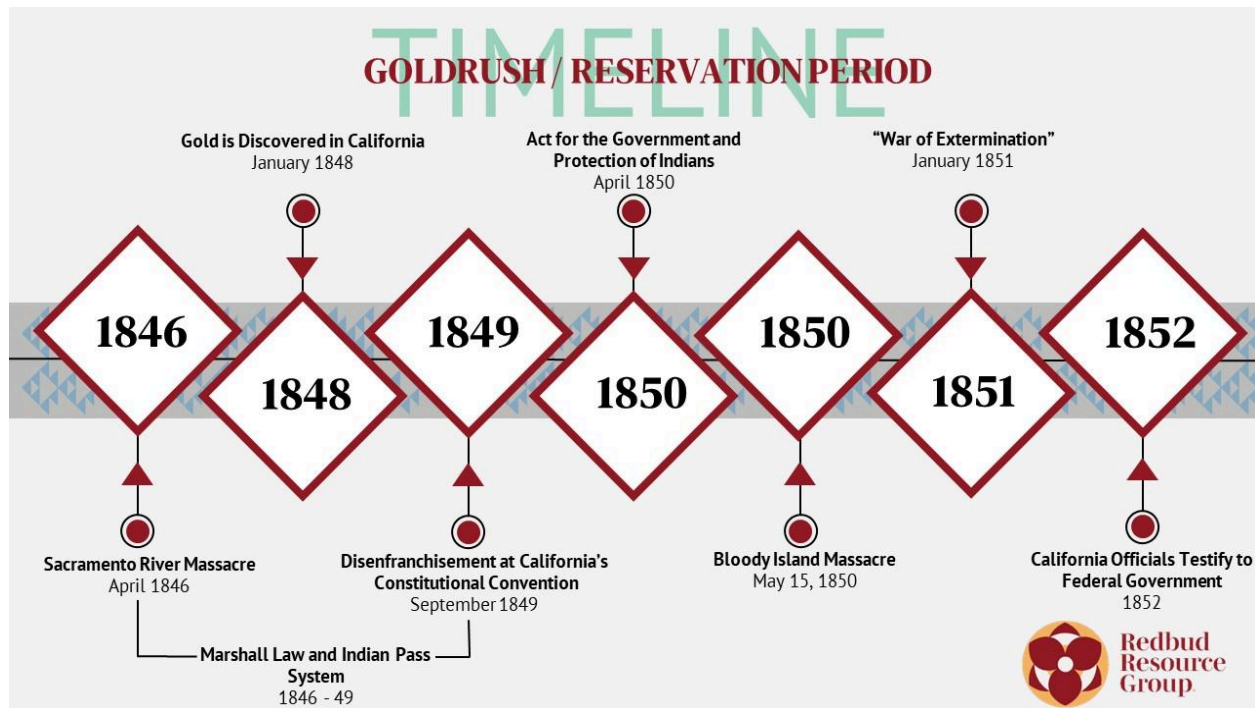


## Timeline Reference Guide

The following event descriptions offer more detail into the period of history surrounding the California Indian Genocide, which occurred in the mid-late 1800's. It is not a comprehensive event list. There is not an official start or end date to the California Indian Genocide, and many of the genocidal events sponsored by the California government continued into the 20th Century and into the present day.



### Marshall Law and Indian Pass System, 1846-49

*Following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, California becomes a U.S. territory and enters a period of Marshall Law where the military is the primary governing body. California implements an Indian Pass System, where Natives are required to carry paperwork proving identity, and may be subject to forced labor on demand. This was the first legalization of unfree Indian labor.*

### Gold is Discovered in California, January 1848

*Gold was discovered on the south fork of the American River near Sutter's Mill. Once word of the discovery reached San Francisco, the news spread across the continent and the world; bringing*



*80,000 colonizers, immigrants, and settlers to the homelands of California Natives within a few years.*

### **Disenfranchisement at California's Constitutional Convention, September 1849**

*During California's Constitutional Convention, California Indians were deprived citizenship and voting rights. California Indians were entirely excluded from taking part in the judicial system.*

### **Genocidal Massacres**

*More than 370 separate massacres and hundreds of smaller killings, homicides and executions. In total - between 1846 and 1873 - vigilantes, militiamen and soldiers killed at least 9,462 - 16,094 California Native people, likely many more. Comparatively, California Natives killed fewer than 1,500 non-Native people.*

*Examples include:*

*Sacramento River Massacre (1,000 Wintu killed) April 5, 1846*

*Bloody Island Massacre (200-1,000 Lake Pomo killed) May 15th, 1850*

*Yontocket Massacre (500-600 Tolowa) Fall, 1853*

### **An Act for the Government and Protection of Indians is enacted, April 1850**

*On April 21st, 1850 Governor Burnett signed "An Act for the Government & Protection of Indians." This act made it legal to forcibly remove California Indians from their traditional homelands, remove Native children from their families, enforce indentured servitude and more, making Natives vulnerable to violence while being forced into enslavement.*

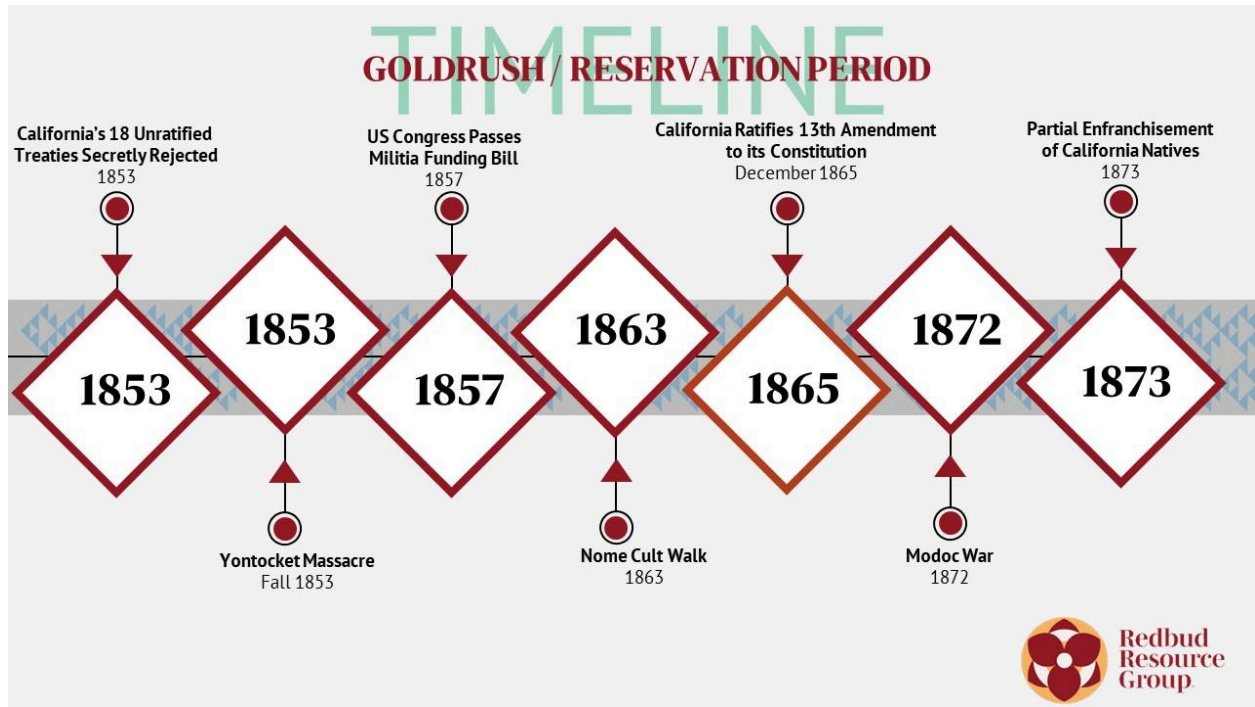
### **Declaration of War of Extermination, January 1851**

*Governor Peter Burnett, the first Governor of California, states in the State of the State address that "a war of extermination" will be carried out against California's Native people until all Native communities are eliminated. Burnett states that it is in the best interest of white settlers for Native people to be eliminated from the state.*

### **California Officials Testify to Federal Government, 1852**

*California Indian Affairs Superintendent Beale testifies to the Office of U.S. Indian Affairs about the atrocities being committed against California Indians. The U.S. Department of the Interior*

*warns President Fillmore that aggression & bloodshed will continue if nothing is done to protect Natives from murder and enslavement.*



### **California's 18 Unratified Treaties and Reservations, 1853**

*Between 1850 and 1852, California officials met with Tribal leaders to negotiate eighteen treaties, which would legally move California's Tribes from their homelands into large reservations where they would receive food and basic living supplies. On July 8th, 1853, U.S. Senators unanimously rejected all eighteen treaties, leaving California Natives landless and with no protection or aid from the California or US governments.*

### **Mass Starvation**

*Removed from traditional foods, hunting grounds, and waterways, Native people had little to no access to food. Militia and vigilante groups were known to destroy food stores with the intention of destroying Native communities. This led to mass starvation and death of over 15,000 Native Californians by March 3rd, 1853.*



### **Slave Raids & Slave Trade Markets 1850-1870's**

*Settler extremists kidnapped countless California Native people (mostly children and women), and sold them at slave markets in major cities including San Francisco and Los Angeles. Tens of thousands of Natives fell victim to slavery.*

### **US Congress Passes Militia Funding Bill of 1857**

*The federal government enacted a bill to settle California's military war debt and allocate funds for ongoing expeditions against California Indians.*

### **Nome Cult Walk, 1863**

*Hundreds of Konkow Maidu, Yuki, Nomlaki, Wailaki, Little Lake Pomo, Pit River, and more were rounded up by the U.S. Army and were forcibly taken on the Nome Cult Walk to the Nome Cult Farm, which later became known as Round Valley Reservation. Hundreds of men, women, and children were murdered during the march.*

### **California Ratifies 13th Amendment to its Constitution, December 1865**

*California's congress ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment to its constitution, abolishing slavery in the state. While this weakened California Indian servitude, leasing out California Indian convicts as laborers continued and was permitted until 1937.*

### **Modoc War, 1872**

*Kintpuash aka "Captain Jack" leads his band of Modoc off the Klamath Reservation in Oregon, returning back to their homelands in Northeastern California where they fight against the U.S. Army. The Modoc are eventually removed to a reservation in Oklahoma. This is one of the last California Indian rebellions to take place during the California Indian Genocide.*

### **Partial Enfranchisement of California Natives, 1873**

*California penal codes were changed, mandating the inclusion of California Indians into the state judicial system. This change allowed Natives to provide testimony against whites, consequently weakening the California Indian servitude system.*

## Additional Events to Consider

The California Indian Genocide has roots in the Spanish Mission Era and Mexican Rancho period, when California was under the jurisdiction of Spain and Mexico. This unit focuses on the time period under US rule.

Cultural genocide, ecocide, and physical genocide conditions continued in California after the 1870's. California's Indian Boarding Schools (1879-1933) constitutes cultural genocide. The U.S. Indian Adoption Project of the 1960's and U.S. Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of the 1970's systematically removed Native children from their families and forcibly sterilized tens of thousands of Native women. An epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives continues across the United States nearly unchecked. Forced Native removal from homelands continued into the early 1900's. With the systematic elimination of Native people came the poisoning and destruction of Indigenous ecosystems, which has ongoing consequences that California residents face today. California Native communities continue to resist.

Here is a brief overview of the general eras that make up California Native history since contact.

<b>1. Mission System</b>	<b>6. Reorganization</b>
<b>2. Rancho System</b>	<b>7. Termination</b>
<b>3. Statehood</b>	<b>8. Self-Determination</b>
<b>4. Gold Rush / Reservation Period</b>	<b>9. Sovereignty</b>
<b>5. Allotment + Assimilation</b>	<b>10. Today: Land Back + Revitalization</b>

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