

Glossary/Appendix

American Indian (when used politically/legally): a person who has family ties to a federally recognized Tribe, often confirmed by enrollment (or membership). The United States government promises certain rights, protections, and services to Tribal members. Recognized Tribes have a *government-to-government relationship* with the United States. These relationships involve legal obligations and responsibilities.

annihilation: complete destruction or obliteration.

Bear Flag Republic: a short-lived, unrecognized state that became California, where American rebels declared independence from Mexico.

bias: prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair.

Bloody Island Massacre: On May 15, 1850, U.S. Army soldiers attacked a group of Pomo Indians on Bo-no-po-tī (Old Island, Eastern Pomo) in Lake County. The Pomo people had gathered there to fish, collect medicine, and gather plants. During the attack, U.S. soldiers killed hundreds of men, women, and children. Lucy Moore, a 6-year-old girl, used to play hide-and-seek with her friends by hiding underwater and breathing through a tule reed. She used this tactic to survive the violence. She stayed submerged for hours, witnessing the tragic scene of her relatives lying dead in the water. Bo-no-po-tī (Bloody Island) is now recognized as a California Registered Historical Landmark. It is a sad and brutal part of history. It reflects the unjust treatment of Native American communities during westward expansion.

bounties: rewards or payments, often for capturing or killing a person.

bribery: the act of giving someone money or something else of value to persuade them to do something, often something dishonest or illegal.

Clear Lake Wappo: the first inhabitants of the southern shores of Clear Lake, extending into the area now known as Calistoga, California. Today, the Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley is an unrecognized Tribe based in Sonoma and Napa counties.

climate change: long-term changes in the average weather patterns that cause either a warming or cooling of the Earth's atmosphere.

Coast Miwok: the first inhabitants of Marin county and southern parts of Sonoma County. Today, the Coast Miwok make up members of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and the Coast Miwok Tribal Council of Marin.

collective punishment: when an entire group of people is penalized or suffers consequences for the actions of a few individuals within that group.

colonize: to settle among and establish political, economic, or other types of control over Indigenous people and Indigenous landscapes and natural resources.

corporal punishment: physical punishment, such as whipping or spanking.

cultural assimilation: the process in which individuals or groups adopt the customs, traditions, and ways of life of another culture, either by choice, force, or coercion.

decimate: destroy or kill a large part of a group, species, place, or thing.

dehumanize: to treat someone as less than human.

dialects: variations of a language spoken in a particular region or by a particular group.

Doctrine of Discovery: a set of legal principles created by the Catholic Church that dates back to the mid-15th century, which European monarchies used to assert that they had the right to claim lands they "discovered," even if those lands were already inhabited by non-Christian Indigenous peoples. It often led to the displacement and mistreatment of Indigenous communities, as their rights and connections to their ancestral lands were disregarded.

domestic livestock: animals kept by humans for use or profit, such as cows and pigs.

Eastern Pomo: the first inhabitants of the eastern portions of Clear Lake around Mt. Konocti. Today, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and Robinson Rancheria Pomo Indians of California are federally recognized tribes of Eastern Pomo people in Lake County, California.

ethnic cleansing: Forcibly and [often] violently removing a particular ethnic group from an area. While genocide involves a more extreme and intentional effort to eradicate entire groups, both are grave violations of human rights and international law.

excavate: to dig up or remove from the ground, as in mining or archaeological exploration.

expedition: a journey or voyage undertaken for a specific purpose.

exploit: to use selfishly or unfairly for one's own advantage.

Federally Recognized Tribes: Tribal governments that are formally recognized by the U.S. Federal Government, entitled to specific rights and benefits. These tribal governments are entitled to engage in diplomatic, government to government relations and negotiations with the U.S. Federal Government.

fertility: the ability to conceive and bear children.

Fort Ross: a California State Historic Park showcasing a historic Russian-era trading post established by the Russian-American Company on Kashia Pomo land.

Franciscan padres: Catholic priests from the Franciscan order who came to California to establish and run missions to spread Christianity across the land, typically by force.

Immunity: protection or resistance against a particular disease.

indentured servitude: a form of slavery in which people are forced to sign a contract to work in exchange for something, such as food, clothing and shelter.

Indian: Early European explorers believed they had reached India when they landed on what is now the East Coast of the United States, using the term "Indian" to refer to the land's Indigenous people. Today, the term "Indian" holds significant legal and political meaning concerning the relationship between Native American Tribes and the state and federal governments of the United States (see "American Indian" for further explanation).

Indian Territory: a region set aside by the U.S. government for the relocation of Native American Tribes from their ancestral lands. The goal was to concentrate various Tribes in one area to make room for white settlers moving westward.

Indigenous: *When referring to a person or specific group of people, this term is always capitalized, and denotes a person whose ancestral roots are tied to a specified place. They have origin stories, distinct languages, cultures, and traditions that are often closely tied to their ancestral territories.*

inevitable: certain to happen; unavoidable.

inhospitable: not welcoming, or difficult to live in, often referring to harsh environmental conditions.

inhumane: lacking compassion or empathy; cruel.

intimidation: the act of frightening or threatening someone, often to make them do what you want.

Kashia: the first inhabitants of coastal Sonoma County around the area now known as Fort Ross, California. Today, the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria is a Federally Recognized Tribe located in Sonoma County, California.

Klamath Reservation: a place where the government made many California Native American groups live together. It was used like a concentration camp, where people were forced to stay and couldn't live in their original homes.

Konkow Tribes: the original inhabitants of Plumas, Butte and southern Lassen counties in Northeastern California. Today, the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians are not federally recognized and are based in Oroville, California.

Kumeyaay: the first inhabitants of San Diego and Imperial counties of southern California and the northern parts of Baja California, Mexico. Today, the Kumeyaay make up several bands of Tribal Nations in southern California.

legislation: laws enacted by a governing body.

life expectancy: the average number of years that a person can expect to live.

lifeways: the customs and practices that make up the lifestyle of a people or culture.

malnutrition: lack of proper nutrition caused by not having enough food or not eating enough healthy food.

Maidu: a large and diverse language group and the first inhabitants of Plumas, Lassen, Butte, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, and El Dorado counties of northern California. Today, the Maidu people make up several Tribal Nations along the Feather and Sacramento Rivers.

massacre: an unnecessary, indiscriminate slaughter of a large number of people.

merchant: a person or business that is involved in buying and selling goods.

mercury: a toxic metal often used in gold extraction, harmful to both humans and the environment.

Mexican War of Independence: an armed conflict between the people of Mexico and Spanish colonial authorities that led to Mexico's independence from Spain.

military forts: strongholds or fortified places often used by the military.

militia: a military force that is raised from the civil population to supplement a regular army in an emergency.

Mission Indians: a term used to describe Indigenous peoples who were brought to missions to become slaves.

Missions: religious settlements established to convert people to Christianity.

Modoc: the first inhabitants of Modoc county along the California-Oregon border. Today, the Modoc Nation is a federally recognized Tribe based in Oklahoma, far from their traditional homelands due to the forced relocation of the Modoc following the Modoc War of 1872-73. Many Modoc descendants still remain in Oregon and California.

motivation: the reason or reasons one has for acting or behaving in a particular way.

Native American: a term referring to individuals and communities who have ancestral and cultural identities connected to specific Indigenous communities within the United States and/or Americas.

narratives: stories or accounts that describe a series of events.

non-Indigenous: not native to a particular place; refers to people who have come from outside the local area.

otter pelts: the skins of otters, often used for trade or clothing.

Ohlone: a diverse group of many distinct Tribes, and the first inhabitants of the San Francisco Bay Area and nearby areas of central & coastal California. Today, there are several Ohlone Tribal groups still working to gain federal recognition, yet are recognized by the State of California.

perpetrator: individual who commits harmful or illegal acts.

Pomo: a diverse language group Indigenous to Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino counties of northern California. Today, there are many federally recognized Pomo Tribal Nations, such as the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, and Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians, to name a few.

prejudice: a preconceived opinion or feeling without knowledge, thought, or reason.

propaganda: information, often biased or misleading, used to promote a political cause or viewpoint.

punitive expeditions: aggressive actions and military campaigns by the State of California against California Native communities. They did this to punish alleged wrongdoings by Native Americans. Often these wrongdoings were exaggerated or unfounded.

rampages: wild or violent acts, often causing damage or harm.

rancheros: owners or workers of a rancho or ranch.

rancho: a large estate or ranch established during the Mexican colonial period of Alta California.

relocation: the act of moving people from one place to another, often forcefully.

repercussions: unintended consequences resulting from an action or event.

reservation/rancheria: an area of land held in trust by the US federal government, and governed by a federally recognized Tribal Nation.

retaliation: taking revenge or responding to a wrong with a similar action.

Russian-American Company: A trading company in Russian North America that managed Russian exploration, sales and trade, and settlement activities.

savage: wild, untamed, often used in a derogatory way to describe Native people.

seize: to take possession forcibly or suddenly.

settler: a person who has established permanent residency on someone else's indigenous ancestral lands.

Smallpox, Measles, Syphilis: European-introduced diseases, like these, had devastating effects on Native communities. Lacking prior exposure, Native populations were especially vulnerable and struggled to fight the deadly outbreaks.

sovereignty: having supreme power or authority over oneself or one's own people and resources without outside interference.

statehood: when an independent region becomes a recognized part of a country.

stewards: people who manage or look after something, such as land or property.

suppress: to forcefully put an end to.

symbolic distinctions: the use of symbols or imagery to represent or categorize different groups or ideas.

Tongva: the first inhabitants of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties of southern California. Today, the Gabrielino-Tongva Indian Tribe are not federally recognized but are recognized by the State of California.

torture: causing someone strong physical pain on purpose, usually to punish them or force them to do or say something.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge: cultural and scientific knowledge used by Indigenous communities to care for their ecosystems. This knowledge has been passed down within Indigenous communities over hundreds or thousands of years through story, song, ceremony, and stewardship.

treaty: a formal political agreement between two or more sovereign Nations in reference to peace, alliance, commerce, or other international relations.

trough: long, shallow containers for eating or drinking, usually used for animals like pigs.

usher: to introduce or precede; often used to describe the beginning of a new era or phase.

vigilante: a person or persons who take punishment or revenge into their own hands, without rule of law.

vulnerable: being in a situation where you are easily hurt or challenged physically, emotionally, or socially.

Wailaki: the first inhabitants of Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt counties of northern California. Most were marched to the Round Valley Reservation, where many still live today.

war bonds: During times of war, people can buy war bonds to financially support their government. When individuals purchase war bonds, they lend money to their government to fund military efforts. In return, the government promises to pay back the bondholders with interest once the war is over.

Wintu: the first inhabitants of Shasta, Trinity, and Tehama counties of Northern California. Today, there are several Wintu-affiliated Tribes, such as Redding Rancheria, Winnemem Wintu Tribe, and Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki, to name a few.

Yuki (A'tat): the first inhabitants of Mendocino county of northern California, stretching from Humboldt Bay to the upper Russian River area. The Round Valley Indian Reservation, although made up of six Tribes, has been on Yuki territory since time immemorial and is a federally-recognized Sovereign Nation of Confederated Tribes.

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