

# **INDIANS OF ILLINOIS**

## **and the Central Woodlands - a History**

Today, the relatively few Native Americans still living in the Central Woodlands region of the United States and Canada belie their former importance in the shaping of the national experience and anthropological development in each country.

Most systematic research of the Central Woodlands Indians began with first European explorations in the sixteenth century. However, ancestors of historic tribes inhabited the region from about 10,500 BC. Studies of prehistoric and historic natives became more extensive during the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Yet even into the present, archaeologists have often disagreed on how the Central Woodlands Indians evolved from prehistoric times to the present.

### **PALEO INDIANS**

Initial penetration and settlement of the Central Woodlands region began about 10,500 BC - 6000 BC. Paleo Indians at that time were hunters, and their environment encompassed the tundra or park-tundra that adjoined the southern edge of the Wisconsin ice sheet. When ice began to withdraw from the terminal moraine, the tundra and spruce woodlands followed it northward. In 6000 BC, after the last of the Canadian ice disappeared, floral and faunal zones stabilized.

Some writers speculate that there were actually two stages of Paleo Indians: Early and Late. Excavation sites, tools, and implements from each stage have been studied to determine subsistence patterns and climatic changes for the region in which they were used.

### **Early Paleo - 10,500 - 8000 BC**

Scattered evidence for Early Paleo Indians was discovered in several sites in Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio. Tool forms, especially fluted points, exhibited consistency through most areas. Biface knives, biface preforms, end scrapers, side scrapers, flake knives, and other unifaces were also used. Very few known sites have

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Eastern Archaic Indians have been divided into three sub- periods, which include Early Archaic (8000-6000 BC), Middle Archaic (6000-4000 BC), and Late Archaic (4000-1500 BC)

On the southern border of the Northeast culture area, the environment supported a number of small but widely distributed population groups. For example, the Modoc Rockshelter in southern Illinois contains 28 feet of stratified deposits and remains that were radiocarbon dated to about 8000 BC. Deposits from another site, the Koster, located on the Illinois River, have been dated as far back as 5100 BC

In New England, New York, and adjoining areas of this region, however, there are few Early or Middle Archaic remains. Some discoveries have been noted in Staten Island that date between 5310 and 7410 BC. But since they occurred together on one level, there is speculation about a mixture of components. Other sites have included Harry's Farm on the Delaware River in New Jersey, and areas in Pennsylvania and New Hampshire.

Despite new data on artifact assemblages and radiocarbon dates, most information on Early and Middle Archaic cultures comes from the southern and coastal parts of the Northeast.

Following 3000 BC, several Late Archaic phases have been defined in New England, New York, and other sections of the Northeast. Occupancy has been determined by the size and number of sites and by the amount of refuse.

Some scientists speculate that an "explosion" in population and/or stability of occupation took place. It is possible that these changes occurred in response to further environmental changes, although the Northeast had evolved to an essentially modern environment at least one or two thousand years earlier.

### **CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS - 3000-300 BC**

More than a century of excavations revealed important artifacts to support theories about technology and subsistence patterns of Northeast Indians from the late Archaic and Early Woodland periods (and in some areas, transitional periods between these eras). Cultural patterns were probably determined by environmental differences as well as by communication and exchange networks, which followed a number of natural features including drainage patterns and ecological zones.

## **French-Huron Alliance**

The first contact between Hurons and French was through Arendaron warriors who accompanied the expedition by Champlain against the Mohawks in 1609. Two years later, Huron council chiefs sent an expensive present to Champlain and expressed their desire to have a trade alliance that was independent of their alliance with the Algonquians. The Algonquians naturally protested this threat to their role as middlemen, and Champlain was prevented from further visits with the Huron for several years.

In 1615, Champlain offered to assist the Hurons and Algonquians in raiding central tribes of the enemy Iroquois confederacy. Although the raid was a failure, it opened the door for Champlain to meet Huron headmen and create an alliance with them. The Algonquians were too few in number and too dependent on the Huron for corn and military assistance to prevent this trade alliance.

From 1615 to 1629, the Hurons traded with the French, and also traded with the Nipissings and Ottawas to obtain additional furs for the French. Hurons also traded with Algonquians in Ottawa Valley to obtain corn that was traded for furs, as the expanding fur trade required that Hurons have corn to exchange. The wealth from trade activities did not cripple the social system of the Hurons, but instead continued to strengthen it.

Because the lands of the Huron were remote from areas of European settlement, the number of Europeans who visited their region was small. Jesuit missionaries began their work in the area sometime after 1629, and their attempts at conversion of the Indians had enormous impact. One proof of this was in 1627, when a Huron trader allowed his son Amantacha to travel to France, where he remained for two years and learned to speak, write, and read French. After his return to Huron country, he became important as an intermediary between the Huron people and French.

Jesuits gained more strength in Huron country after 1634. Their goal was to convert whole communities rather than individuals, and ultimately to convert the entire confederacy. Although they did not succeed in their quest, they were eventually successful in upsetting the balance of the Huron social culture. After 1640, about 100 Hurons per year were converted. However, it is important to remember that the

moved down the river to and below the Forks of the Ohio; by 1751, their farthest boundary was a town on the Scioto a few miles above its mouth. These Delaware became part of the Logstown trading complex. Lacking any unified tribal organization, they accommodated themselves to the French military occupation of 1753-1759 in a variety of ways that ranged from retirement to attacks on English settlements.

The war and subsequent British occupation accelerated the western movement of the Indians. Scattered Delaware groups contributed in the 1760s to a resurgence of the "Delaware nation" under leadership of King Netawatwees. Although he did not succeed in uniting all the Delaware, his influence survived his death in 1776.

Shawnee bands around the Scioto River were less successful. The fugitive band in Alabama returned from the south and moved to Illinois. They may have rejoined those living on the Scioto River after the French defeat in 1760. A group was involved in hostilities with Virginia in 1774.

## **American Revolution**

At the onset of the American Revolution, the Delaware underwent a difficult time; along with their western neighbors, the Miami, they shifted their settlements westward; some small parties broke away and crossed the Mississippi.

The second dispersal of Indians from the Ohio Valley was final. Pontiac's War in 1783-1784 was a somewhat planned but partly spontaneous uprising. It involved most British groups of the area but failed in its attempt to end British occupation and halt English settlement. At the first Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768, the Iroquois surrendered claims to lands south of the Ohio to the Kittanning. The eastern section of this area was the first part of the Ohio Valley that the Indians lost to white settlement.

After the American Revolution, the new nation handled the claims of the Indians of Ohio in two treaties. The first was with the Iroquois at Fort Stanwix in 1784, and the second was with the western tribes at Fort McIntosh in 1785. The Iroquois surrendered to the United States all their claims to lands west of New York and Pennsylvania. In separate negotiations, they released to Pennsylvania all land claims within that state. The settlement at Fort McIntosh was repudiated by the In-

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furs. The Iroquois were forced to enter into a new era, one in which they would have more direct involvement with European powers now establishing themselves in North America.

Rising mortality rates among Iroquois males due to war brought about social changes as well. Women had begun to play a greater role in village management and political activities than ever before. In a generally sense, women's political importance rose dramatically during this period.

### **GREAT LAKES-RIVERINE REGION PATTERNS**

The societies that were established in the upper Great Lakes and in the valleys of Ohio and upper Mississippi were mostly Algonquian, along with some Siouan-speaking Winnebagos. Native Americans in this region were organized into two primary types of social and political organization.

The first type included the Shawnee, Illinois and Miami tribes, Sauk, Menominee, and Potawatomi; the Winnebagos reflected strong post-European Algonquian influence. All shared a maize agriculture economic base, and all tribes did seasonal hunting and gathering. Settlement patterns alternated between semi-permanent riverine villages in the summer months, and large camps during the winter. In spring and fall, camps would disperse.

Each tribe had a system of patrilineal clans that emphasized rituals and extended into political organization. Outsiders were integrated into the society. Each group was organized as tribes, and had a dual political structure that consisted of organizations for peace and war, and different officials associated with each.

The second type included the Ottawa and Chippewa who lived along the northern fringe of the region. Their settlement patterns were not primarily agricultural, but instead included fishing sites in the summer and dispersal the remainder of the year. Settlements were generally small. Patrilineal clans were present but weak. Political organization was of the band type, with some sporadic tendencies toward integration.

For the the Potawatomi tribe, most members fell into Type 1, but some northern groups fell into Type 2. Several features suggest that this tribe was unique in that it shifted from the second type to the first at a relatively late date, probably during early historical time.

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dians, but eventually the Delaware and Wyandot also released their holdings. The Treaty of Greenville in 1795 was a further loss of Indian lands that included almost all of the Ohio Valley in the present state of Ohio. Other tribal cessions, both individual and collective, followed, and by 1818, the Indians had released almost all of Ohio and most of Indiana south of the Wabash.

The government sought to expedite white settlement and began to move the tribes to reservation lands beyond the Mississippi River. However, the final cessions of Ohio Valley lands were delayed until 1840, at which time the Miami surrendered their tract around Kokomo, Indiana. In 1842, the Wyandot released their land at Upper Sandusky in Ohio.

### **History of Illinois Region**

The Illinois region was early occupied by a group of 12 related villages or tribes that were later referred to as the Illinois Confederacy. Included were the Kaskaskia, Maroa, Cahokia, Tamaroa, Peoria, Tapouaro, Coiracoentanon, Moingwea, Chinkoa, Espeminkia, Michigamea, and Chepoussa. This confederacy was never as politically organized as the Iroquois Confederacy.

In about 1673, when Europeans first extended into the Illinois region, the Illinois occupied a roughly triangle section; the base extended from the Chicago River westward into western Iowa, the eastern boundary extended southward through eastern Illinois along the Mississippi-Wabash watershed, and the apex was located in north-eastern Arkansas. The French referred to this area as the "Illinois country." Until 1717, it was under the authority of New France, and afterward the portion south of a line eastward from the mouth of the Illinois River became part of Louisiana.

During the late prehistoric period, the Miami lived immediately to the east of the Illinois; this group included the Wea and Piankashaw, who later were regarded as distinct groups. The Shawnee were further to the east. The Sauk, Kickapoo, Fox, and Mascouten lived on the lower Michigan peninsula, and to the north of them were the Potawatomi. All groups were linguistically related to the Illinois. However, traditional mistrust and inherent differences discouraged any close or lasting alliances. All took up residence in Illinois country at different times throughout the historic period.

# INDIANS OF ILLINOIS

## A to Z

### **ADARIO**

Adario (Tionontati, ? - August 1, 1701), was a chief whose sabotage of a peace effort between the French and the Iroquois Confederacy led to a massive Iroquois attack on settlements in New France, now Canada.

In 1688, the French enlisted Adario's support against his hereditary enemies, the Iroquois. Early in his mission against the Iroquois, Adario stopped at Cataracuoy, now Kingston, Ontario, Canada, where the French Commandant told him to halt his expedition because an Iroquois embassy soon was expected in Montreal to negotiate a peace. However, Adario, fearing that his people would be abandoned to the Iroquois for the sake of French self-interest, ambushed the Iroquois delegation.

Adario told the Iroquois that the French had commissioned him to kill the party. When the Iroquois stated their mission, Adario feigned surprise and outrage at the alleged French treachery. He released all but one of the Iroquois, the one remaining to replace one of his own men who had been killed in the ambush, and urged them to take revenge on the French.

Adario took his single captive to the French at Michilimackinac, who had not yet heard of the plans for peace with the Iroquois, and who therefore put the prisoner to death. To be certain that the confederacy learned of his act, Adario released a long-held Iroquois prisoner from his own village and bade him tell the confederacy that Adario had been unable to save the man.

The Iroquois, believing Adario's representations, were enraged. On August 25, 1689, some 1,200 Iroquois attacked Montreal, where they killed hundreds of French and burned their houses. They also raided other settlements on the Saint Lawrence River. The French were saved from extinction only by their strong forts.

Adario was later converted to Christianity and became a friend of the French. In 1701, while part of a delegation concluding a peace treaty at Montreal, Adario became ill and died. The French buried him with military honors.

# TREATY COMMITMENTS

## --a History of Broken Promises

The classic book, *A Century of Dishonor*, by Helen Jackson, was published in 1880. Subtitled "A Sketch of the United States Government's Dealings With Some of The Indian Tribes," it remains a vivid and compelling narrative of the incredibly unjust treatment of America's natives, focusing mainly on the hundred years ending in the late 1870s, the first century of the United States as a nation.

It is highly recommended in its entirety, and with apologies this brief outline of her work is included, using Helen Jackson's words as much as possible. This is the essence of her work, minus many vivid and fascinating details.

The question of whether the United States dealt honorably with the Indians turns on a much disputed and little understood point. Some sentimentalists say that the Indians were the real owners of the land, while some politicians hold that they had no right of ownership whatever. Between these views lay innumerable grades and confusions of opinion.

The Indians "right of occupancy" was recognized by all the great discovering Powers. Did the United States, on taking its place among the Nations, also recognize the Indian "right of occupancy"? On this point there is no doubt.

Stealing is everywhere held to be dishonorable, as is lying, in all its forms. Breaking of promises and betrayals of trust are scorned even among the most ignorant of people. However, when the acts of nations are discussed, there seems to be a less clear conception, a less uniform standard of right and wrong, honor and dishonor.

In charging a government or nation with dishonorable conduct, it should merely be shown that its moral standard ought not differ from the moral standard of an individual. What is cowardly, cruel, and base in a man, is cowardly, cruel, and base in a government or nation.

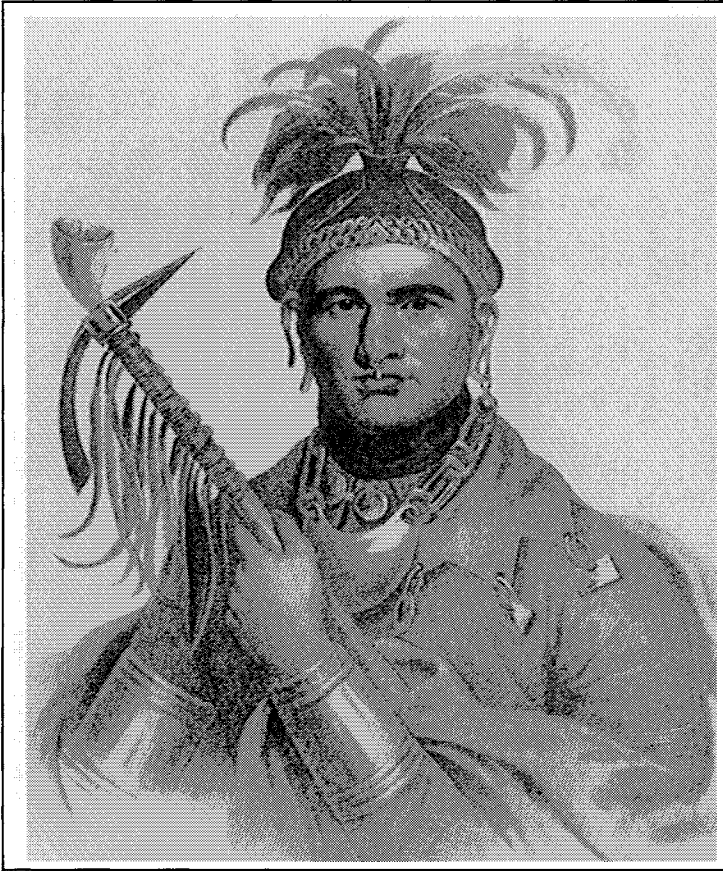
The right of refusing to submit to injustice, of resisting injustice by force if necessary, is part of the law of nature, and as such is recognized by the law of nations. From this arises the right to a just defense, which belongs to every nation and to every individual. Men pledge justice to each other by promises or contracts, while between nations, treaties are made. Na-



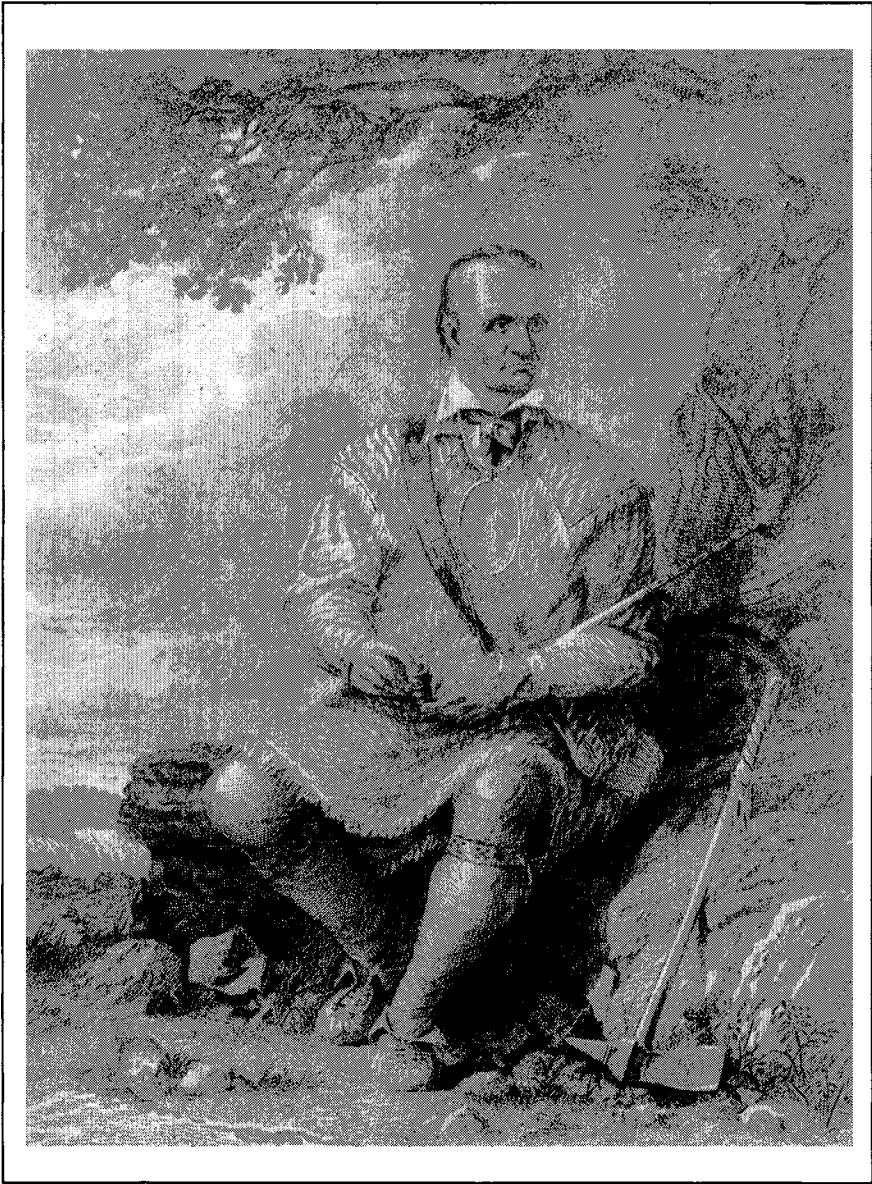
Billy Bowlegs



Pocahontas



Cornplanter



Red Jacket

# INDIAN TREATIES

## of the American woodlands nations

### TREATY WITH THE DELAWARES {1778, Sept. 17}

Articles of agreement and confederation, made and entered into by Andrew and Thomas Lewis, Esquires, Commissioners for, and in Behalf of the United States of North-America of the one Part, and Capt. White Eyes, Capt. John Kill Buck, Junior, and Capt. Pipe, Deputies and Chief Men of the Delaware Nation of the other Part.

ARTICLE 1. That all offences or acts of hostilities by one, or either of the contracting parties against the other, be mutually forgiven, and buried in the depth of oblivion, never more to be had in remembrance.

ARTICLE 2. That a perpetual peace and friendship shall from henceforth take place, and subsist between the contracting parties aforesaid, through all succeeding generations: and if either of the parties are engaged in a just and necessary war with any other nation or nations, that then each shall assist the other in due proportion to their abilities, till their enemies are brought to reasonable terms of accommodation: and that if either of them shall discover any hostile designs forming against the other, they shall give the earliest notice thereof that timeous measures may be taken to prevent their ill effect.

ARTICLE 3. And whereas the United States are engaged in a just and necessary war, in defence and support of life, liberty and independence, against the King of England and his adherents, and as said King is yet possessed of several posts and forts on the lakes and other places, the reduction of which is of great importance to the peace and security of the contracting parties, and as the most practicable way for the troops of the United States to some of the posts and forts is by passing through the country of the Delaware nation, the aforesaid deputies, on behalf of themselves and their nation, do hereby stipulate and agree to give a free passage through their country to the troops aforesaid, and the same to conduct by the nearest and best ways to the posts, forts or towns of the enemies of the United States, affording to said troops such supplies of corn, meat, horses, or whatever may be in their power for the accommodation of such troops, on the commanding officer's, &c. paying, or engaging to pay, the full value of whatever they can supply them with.

And the said deputies, on the behalf of their nation, engage to join the troops of the United States aforesaid, with such a number of their best and most expert warriors as they can spare, consistent with their own safety, and act in concert