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Indian Removal Arguments

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Introduction

In 1830, there was a heated debate concerning the relationships between the Indian communities and the United States of America. There were two contradicting principles; those that called for democracy and equal rights of the American people, and there were colonial principles that helped by European empires who were attacking North America back in the 1400s. There were communities that had resisted British Rule by the end of the 1700s and were rapidly expanding, among them being the Cherokee people and other Indian communities. The proposal to remove Indian communities from America was a response to that expansion. (Celano, 2017).

Arguments Defending Indian Removal

If I was to defend the Cherokee and Indian communities in the court, I could base my defense on the following arguments:

First, the proposal to remove the Cherokee was a destructive assault to the Indian communities. This was also a threat to destroy social life that had grown as a result of continued infringements of white settlers and state as well as federal policies. Indian removal would be a show of breaching international agreements and trying to benefit America by overpowering the weaker communities.

Secondly, this move would expose America to great destruction. Besides, the removal proposal was against the American responsibility to protect the Indian communities. Removal of Indians was therefore against the treaty commitments such as protecting the Indians from the settlers. Approving the removal act would not only bring dishonor to America but also lead to the destruction of the Indian nations.

The Indian communities and Cherokee people were part of the nation and should have been allowed to enjoy their right of living in their homeland. As a result, there was no good reason to expel people from their land. They had equal rights to live in America just like the rest of Americans.

Arguments for Indian Removal

If I was arguing for the removal of the Cherokee people and, the following are some of the arguments upon which I would base my stand:

The existence of the Indian communities was an obstacle that made it hard for the execution of development efforts. Indians' existence also led to a rise in conflicts and tension between the federal government and the states. The treaty commitments to protect the Indians were the source of confusion that restricted the sovereignty of the state and blocked the progress of the country. To solve this problem, the US had to adopt the removal of Indians, displace them and scrap all the treaty agreements. The removal of Indians would create a more secure country with the ability to develop and create a secure society. This would also provide the US to create more economic developments in the region that they occupied as well as the entire country. Relocating the Indians would give the US a chance to provide protection and assistance that they were being denied in the southeast region.

Social-cultural beliefs that influenced Indian removal in Jackson's age.

¹ During the era of President Andrew Jackson, the Indian Removal Act was formulated, which led to the successful removal of the Indian communities from the United States. This act led to numerous migrations, which are also ² referred to as the "Trail of Tears". During this Jackson's age, the removal of Indians was based on various social-cultural beliefs (Rogin, 2017). For instance, it was argued that the Indian's existence was devastating to the native people of

America, their way of life as well as their culture. Jackson also wanted to protect the white settlers and remove the Indians and Cherokee and Creek people from the land that the settlers wanted to occupy.

Jackson had a bad attitude and believed that the Indians were an inferior community to the whites and white settlers. Jackson also had a paternalistic attitude towards the Indians and only viewed the Indians as children who needed to be guided. As a result of such thinking, it could be argued that Jacksons' urge to move the Indians towards the west was part of his guidance and was to mean good to the Indians, who could not fit in the white society (Cave, 2017).

Some of the attitudes that Jackson had against native rights can be observed in the government of America today. According to Stratton (2017), President Donald Trump has directed criticisms against the 1990s Indian casinos, and insulted senator Elizabeth Warren calling her "Pocahontas". Some of the statements by Trump's advisors calling for native land privatization can be seen as a renewal of native rights uncertainties and echoing the policies that were oppressive to native Indians in the 1830s.

The white male democracy had a counter effect to the ideals of the founders in various ways. The founders had a belief that the government had to rest on the consensus of the subjects and as a result, they focused on protecting political power from getting excessive influence from commoners. On the contrary, this led to persistent pressure which eventually resulted in the democratic triumph of the white males who had been kept away from political participation. Another influence is Manifest Destiny which was the American belief of the 19th century that the US was fated to grow across the North American continent, from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific Ocean. The founders also had the belief that voters would be good American Men.

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