**Native Americans in the USA**

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| **Time** | **Negative features of period or lack of progress** | **Improvements** |
| **1900-33** | The death rate of Native Americans exceeded the birth rate.  1928 Federal Government report: disease, discontent & great poverty.  1929 Great Depression made situation worse. | 1924 – Native Americans are granted US citizenship  **1944: The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established.** |
| **1933-45**  President Roosevelt |  | 1934 Indian Reorganisation Act: Restored some tribal control over reservation land and facilitated federal loans to struggling tribes.  Commisioner for Indian Affairs (John Collier) persuaded Congress that NA children should not be forced to go to Christian services and should be allowed to practice own beliefs.  BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) employed more Native Americans, tribes gained more land, better medical services, larger federal grants and renewed pride. |
| **1945-53**  President Truman | 1950 – Pueblo trial land sold without consent.  Relocation programme aimed to get many NA jobs in cities, but many ended up on welfare and 1/3 returned to reservations. | Created the Indian Claims Commission – Compensated NA for previous unjust land loss. 1946-68 distributed $400 million. |
| **1953-61**  President Eisenhower ‘back to the bad old days’ | 1953 – state jurisdiction over reservations increased. Congress terminated some reservations. E.g. illiterate Utah Paiutes were ‘terminated’, oil was believed to be on the land.  The Cold War retarded progress for NA. It generated a desire for all to conform and it promoted assimilation to US culture. |  |
| **1961-63**  President Kennedy | Half of the 700,000 Native American population lived short, hard lives on reservations.  Unemployment ranged from 20 – 80%  High rates of suicide and alcoholism. | Kennedy promises more jobs on reservations.  **1961 the National Indian Youth Council (NIYC) was established.** National conference in Chicago. |
| **1963-69**  President Johnson | 1968 Life expectancy 44 (national average 64)  Reservation were not attractive for private companies so NA still relied on the government for job creation schemes. | 1964 – ‘Fish-ins’ Washington State (NIYC). 1968 Supreme Court ruled in the favour of NA. Washington State ignored the ruling and continued to arrest NA fishermen. Protests continued into the 1970s.  1966 – Native American appointed to head the BIA.  1968 – Civil Rights Bill contained an ‘Indian Bill of Rights’ for better access to health services, housing, education, welfare & poverty benefits.  1968 – AIM developed. Linked to the ‘Red Power’ movement. Worked to improve ghetto housing, education and unemployment.  1969 – Vine Deloria wrote, ‘Custer Died for your Sins: An Indian Manifesto’ – talks about US broken treaties. |
| **1969-74**  President Nixon | 1973-6 3406 women were sterilized without their permission in Abenaki tribe. Racism still existed in Vermont, seen as ‘immoral’, ‘criminal’, ‘suspected feeble-minded’.  1973 – 50% unemployment high suicide and alcoholism rate Pine Ridge Reservation. Life expectancy 46 | **Nov. 1969- July. 1971 – IAT occupation of Alcatraz**  Loss of San Francisco Indian Center led to 14 members of the Indian All Tribes occupying the island making headlines. Within a month 600 NA from 50 different tribes joined them. Eventually federal forces invaded and evicted the NA.  1972 – AIM created Heart of the Earth school in Minneapolis. March from San Francisco to Washington DC along the ‘Trail of Broken Treaties’.  1973 – Wounded Knee was occupied by around 300 Sioux to publicise the reservation’s problems. 2 natives killed after 71 days of protests. Federal government did become more sensitive to needs to NA.  1973 – federal court case. Northern Cheyenne allowed to renegotiate mineral contracts. |
| **1974-2005** |  | 1975 – Indian Self-Determination Act: Restored the special legal status of Native American tribes. Gave increased control over reservation projects & education.  1978 US v. Wheeler: recognized the ‘unique & limited’ sovereignty of Native American tribes.  1979 court cases: 1800 acres restored to Narrangansetts. $100 million compensation for Sioux for land taken in Black Hills. (The Sioux rejected the money and demanded the land back).  2005 – Peabody Coal Company had to stop mining on Navajo & Hopi reservation lands after 50 years of protests & litigation. |