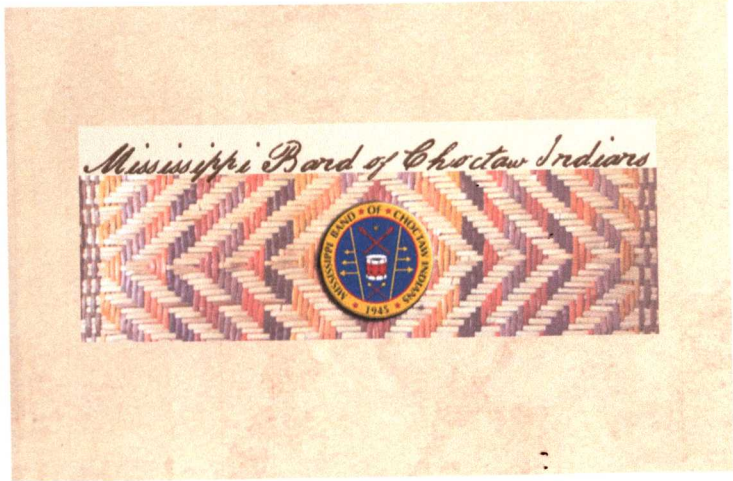


# THE MARCH OF THE CHOCTAWS



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## Who are the Choctaw Indians?

The Choctaw Indians inhabited the southeastern Mississippi before the settlement of Europeans. They survived by hunting and gathering.

The Choctaws signed many treaties with the Americans.

These treaties **forced** the Choctaw Indians from their land into smaller designated regions.

1

**Native  
American  
lands in 1830**



**Choctaw  
Reservation  
Today**



2

## 1786 Treaty

*The 1786 Treaty with the Choctaws was the first treaty between the Choctaw Indians and the United States government.*

**The Treaty of Hopewell ceded 69, 120 acres from the Choctaw Indians. The Choctaws were persuaded into signing this treaty 'for protection' from the United States government. This ceding of land was significant because they used land for hunting and gathering.**

## 1805 Treaty

*The Treaty of Mount Dexter*

ART. II. For and in consideration of the foregoing cession on the part of the Chaktaw nation, and in full satisfaction for the same, the commissioners of the United States, do hereby covenant, and agree with the said nation in behalf of the United States, that the said States shall pay to the said nation fifty thousand five hundred dollars, for the following purposes, to wit: Forty eight thousand dollars to enable the Mingoes to discharge the debt due to their merchants and traders; and also to pay for the depredations committed on stock, and other property by evil disposed persons of the said Chaktaw nation; two thousand five hundred dollars to be paid to John Pitchlynn, to compensate him for certain losses sustained in the Chaktaw country, and as a grateful testimonial of the nation's esteem. And the said States shall also pay annually to the said Chaktaws, for the use of the nation, three thousand dollars in such goods as the Mingoes may choose, they giving at least one year's notice of such choice.

This article is from the 1805 treaty between the Choctaw Indians and the US government. This was taken from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian website. The audience for this close reading are my peers, who have not learned about the Native Americans in Mississippi.

This article from the 1805 treaty is forcing Choctaw Indians to pay their debt with the land they own. The United States applied their own legal language to a nation who already had an idea of trading. This led to the exploitation of the Choctaw people.

The Americans took advantage of the Natives when trading, which led them into a major debt. This article is stating the Choctaw Indians must pay their debt with land. The Choctaws lived purely off the land until the Americans invaded their land. When trading and hunting became easier with American ways, the Choctaw Indians pursued a new, easier way of survival. Since the Choctaws were open-minded to new trade, the Americans tricked them with debt and land through trading.

Notice the sophisticated language used in this treaty. The Choctaw people had their own language, and when signing treaties they could not fully understand what was happening. Interpreting detailed language such as this without knowing the full extent of a word's meaning could be detrimental for the Choctaws.

They list large amounts of money, almost in a threatening way, to scare the Choctaw people into giving up land rather than paying the sum in money. This threatening language worked for some time. The Choctaws lost thousands of acres because of signing treaties they could not fully understand because of the language barrier,

## Treaty with the Choctaws, 1830

At this point in 1830, the Choctaw Indians were determined not to sign anymore treaties. They were tired of being deceived into giving up their land.


President Andrew Jackson sent two commissioners to negotiate with the Choctaw Indians. The two commissioners arrived to a line of 60 Choctaw councilmen ready for a heated negotiation.

The Choctaw Indians would not have signed without the mocking and threat of the commissioner sent by the President. The commissioner stated they would have no protection from the US government if this treaty was not signed.

After 3 days of discussion and negative votes from the Choctaw councilmen, the Choctaws agreed to sign one last treaty.

## **Indian Removal Act in 1830**

The Choctaws, Mississippi's largest Indian group, were the first southeastern Indians to accept removal with the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in September 1830. The treaty provided that the Choctaws would receive land west of the Mississippi River in exchange for the remaining Choctaw lands in Mississippi. The Choctaws were given three years to leave Mississippi.



The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians are the Choctaws that refused to be removed to Oklahoma in the 1930s.

## **Trail of Tears**

**1831-1833**

When removing the Choctaw Indians, thousands died. Death was caused by starvation, exposure, and new diseases brought by Europeans.

The Choctaw Indians did not have time to say gather clothes for winter or hunt food for rations.



## Where They are Today

The Choctaw Indians strive today in Mississippi. They carry on their traditions through activities such as basket weaving, festivals, dancing, stickball, clothing, and arts. They still elect a chief for their tribe to this day. The chief holds the power and balances the tribe with the US government.



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\*when looking for pictures of the Choctaw Indians, it was very difficult. During the 1800s, the Choctaws did not have many paintings or pictures to depict their emotions.