

**“Australia – New Country, Old History”**  
2005 Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad

**Comparative Genocide**

**Dr. Allan Cooper**

**Otterbein College**

**One Otterbein**

**Westville, Ohio 430814**

**(614) 823-1411**

**FAX (614) 823-1315**

[acooper@otterbein.edu](mailto:acooper@otterbein.edu)



## COMPARATIVE GENOCIDE



This website is intended as an educational tool for students enrolled in Dr. Allan Cooper's "Terrorism and Genocide" course at Otterbein College. Dr. Cooper extends his gratitude to the Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar program that provided him a grant to visit Australia in July 2005 that helped him to gather data for this website.

There are different typologies of genocide, and this website offers some comparative aspects of the genocides directed against indigenous peoples from invading European settlers. Both in Australia and North America, white settlers eliminated indigenous peoples in order to confiscate their land. As the comparative chart below indicates, aboriginal communities in Australia were organized into smaller democratic units that made their decimation easier to achieve; North American indigenous nations were larger in number, under more centralized authorities, and thus necessitated greater state intervention by the national and state governments created by white settlers. The genocide in Australia began more recently, however both genocides continue today.

The Genocide Convention of 1948 defines "genocide" as any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- Killing members of the group;
- Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

This website is not intended to be an authoritative history of the genocides of indigenous peoples in Australia and North America. It is merely a resource tool for students wishing to explore some of the similarities and differences between these two genocidal events. While some information on North America is based on communities residing in current-day Mexico and Canada, for purposes of this comparison the focus is on Native American communities under the control of the United States Government.

	<b>ABORIGINALS</b>	<b>NATIVE AMERICANS</b>
Initial European contact	1606	1492
Initial European settlement	1788 Sydney	1607 Jamestown
Largest pre-colonial city	No record of a city of 1000 or more	Cahokia - 10,000 pop. (near current-day St. Louis); Pueblo Bonito – 1500 people living in 5 story buildings (near Chaco Canyon, NM); Teotihuacan – 150,000 in 500 A.D. (near Mexico City); <sup>1</sup> Tenochtitlan – 250,000 in 15 <sup>th</sup> century (near Mexico City) with regional army of 200,000 (largest army in world at time).
Primary nationality of invaders	British	Spanish, British
Justification for settlement	Penal colony	Religious freedom; economic profit
Number of indigenous nations	50-600	550-600
Map of Indigenous boundaries	<a href="http://www.dete.sa.gov.au/corporate/a8_publish/modules/public/content.asp?navgrp=default&amp;id=aboriginalaustralia">http://www.dete.sa.gov.au/corporate/a8_publish/modules/public/content.asp?navgrp=default&amp;id=aboriginalaustralia</a>	<a href="http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/aian_wall_map/US_wall100.htm">http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/aian_wall_map/US_wall100.htm</a>
Age of indigenous culture	40,000-65,000 years	12,000-35,000 years
Indigenous population at time of European contact	750,000	40 million in North America; 7-8 million on Hispanola (all extinct by 1552)
Indigenous population today	458,500	4,119,301 (40% live on reservations)
Advanced indigenous urban life	Stone houses with wood roofs with internal fireplaces; extensive canal systems with stone weirs up to 400 yards in length. <sup>2</sup>	Five-story apartment buildings in North America
Primary strategy for confiscating land	Theft <sup>3</sup>	Treaty
Legal rationalization for confiscation	terra nullius (empty land)	vacuum domicilium (empty domicile)

	<b>ABORIGINALS</b>	<b>NATIVE AMERICANS</b>
Last major battle of resistance	Kimberly 1940	Wounded Knee 1890
Agents of biological warfare	Smallpox, venereal disease, influenza, TB, measles, syphilis	Smallpox, venereal disease, influenza, TB, measles, syphilis
Major resistance leaders	Pemulway Windradryne Tongerlongter	Cuitlauac Toypurina Manuelito Barboncito Plenty Coups Santana Big Tree Lone Wolf Satank Quanah Parker Red Cloud Sinte Gleshka Swift Bear Crazy Horse Sitting Bull Pecks His Drum Man Afraid of His Horse Wanigi Ska (White Ghost) Wooden Leg Gall Two Moons Tuekakas (Joseph) Hin-mah-too-yat-lat-kekht (Young Joseph) Toohoolhoolzote Cochise Goyathley (Geronimo) Naiche Sitanka (Big Foot) Logan Pontiac

	<b>ABORIGINALS</b>	<b>NATIVE AMERICANS</b>
		Red Jacket Little Turtle Tecumseh Osceola American Horse Roman Nose Winnemucca Captain Jack Black Hawk
Method of body count	Beheading, boiled skull sent to officials	Body parts kept as souvenirs
Famous indigenous military victories	Destruction of Fort Dundas, 1823 Pangerang defense of Wangaratta, 1838 Mara defense at Grange Station, 1840-42	Aztec defense of Tenochtitlan, 1520
Terms to Disparage Indigenous	Niggers, savages, gins, Indians, Blacks	Savages, injuns (Andrew Johnson: "savage dogs") <sup>4</sup>
Terrorism against women	Rape, mutilation of vaginas, enslavement	Rape
Terrorism against children	Forced separation from parents, "stolen generation" raised in gov't schools from 1869-1972	Separation from parents, raised in church schools from 1869 to present
Terms to Disparage Indigenous	Niggers, savages, gins, Indians, Blacks	Savages, injuns, squaws (Andrew Johnson: "savage dogs") <sup>5</sup>
Terrorism against men	Castration of penis and testes	The testicles of indigenous men were used to make tobacco pouches
Judicial opportunities	Evidence from non-whites not accepted	Native Americans could not testify in court

	<b>ABORIGINALS</b>	<b>NATIVE AMERICANS</b>
Famous massacres of Indigenous Peoples <sup>6</sup>	<p>Massacre at Forrest River kills 20-100 in 1926</p> <p>Massacre at Coniston kills 17-70 in 1928</p> <p>Massacre at Oyster Bay (Tasmania) kills 50-60 in 1830</p> <p>Massacre at Pinjarra kills 35-80 in 1834</p> <p>Massacre at Waterloo Creek kills 50-300 in 1838</p>	<p>Massacre of 6000 Cholulan citizens by Spanish in 1519</p> <p>Massacre of 25,000 Mobiles in 1540</p> <p>Massacre of 700 at Mystic (CT) in 1637</p> <p>Massacre of 100 Delaware (Lenape) women &amp; children (killed one at a time with a hammer to head) at Gnadenhutten (PA) in 1782</p> <p>Massacre of 50 Seminoles at Chehaw Affair in 1818</p> <p>Massacre of 850 at Bad Ax, (WI) in 1832</p> <p>Massacre of 130 Pomo at Clear Lake (CA) in 1850</p> <p>Massacre of 42 Winnemem Wintu at Kaibai Creek, (CA) in 1854</p> <p>Massacre of 188 Wiyot in Humboldt County (CA) in 1860</p> <p>Execution of 38 Sioux on order of President Lincoln as beginning of policy to kill or remove all Native Americans in Minnesota</p> <p>Massacre of 200 near Preston (ID) in 1863</p> <p>Massacre of 160 Cheyenne at and Creek (CO) in 1864</p> <p>Massacre of 103 Cheyenne at Washita River in 1868</p> <p>Massacre of 200 Piegans in 1870</p> <p>Massacre of 350 at Wounded Knee (SD) in 1890</p>
First school by whites for Indigenous children	Merri Creek School in Melbourne, 1851	Carlisle Indian School in PA in 1879
Forced relocations	<p>400 Aboriginals from Queensland to Fraser Island, 1902</p> <p>300 Aboriginals from Tasmania to Flinders Island, 1835 (all but 46 dead by 1847)</p>	Trail of Tears 1838 – removal of Cherokees, Choctow, Seminoles, Miamis, Creeks, Shawnees, Sauk, Fox, Delawares to Oklahoma (at least 20,000 moved; around 8,000 died from relocation)

	<b>ABORIGINALS</b>	<b>NATIVE AMERICANS</b>
Nuclear attacks on Indigenous lands	Emu Junction and Maralinga, 1954-57	928 attacks on Western Shoshone land (Nevada) 66 attacks on Marshall Islands
Current Government agency responsible for Indigenous Affairs	Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination, Ministry for Affairs, Immigration & Multi-Cultural & Indigenous Affairs	Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Interior
Current per capital income	National: \$21,000 Indigenous: \$11,700	National: \$35,299 Indigenous: \$8,000
Current life expectancy	National : 78 Indigenous: 58	National: 77.6 Indigenous: 45
Indigenous pop. in college	7.350	30,000 in tribal colleges
Indigenous pop. in prison	5,050	88,000 incarcerated in state and federal prisons
Indigenous pop. unemployed	38%	25% nationally; 50% on reservations
Percent living in poverty	50%	33% among the employed
# of Indigenous Universities	0	33 serving 30,000 students
Aboriginals in Parliament/Congress	1 (of 226)	9 (of 535); number includes Asian/Pacific members
Court cases of interest	Koowarta v. Bjelke-Petersen (1982) Mabo v. Queensland (1988) Mabo v. Queensland (1992) Wik Peoples v. Queensland (1996)	Johnson & Graham Lessee v. McIntosh (1823) Georgia v. Corn Tassel (1830) Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831) Worcester v. Georgia (1832) Mitchel v. U.S. (1835) Beecher v. Wetherby (1877) Ex parte Crow Dog (1883) New Mexico v. Yarberry (1883) U.S. v. Kagama (1886)

	<b>ABORIGINALS</b>	<b>NATIVE AMERICANS</b>
		<p>Ward v. Race Horse (1896)</p> <p>Lonewolf v. Hitchcock (1903)</p> <p>Winters v. U.S. (1908)</p> <p>U.S. v. U.S. Fidelity &amp; Guaranty Co. (1940)</p> <p>Makah Tribe v. McCauly (1941)</p> <p>Seminole v. U.S. (1942)</p> <p>Mashunkashey v. Mashunkashey (1943)</p> <p>Tee-Hit-Ton v. U.S. (1955)</p> <p>Williams v. Lee (1959)</p> <p>Native American Church v. Navajo tribal Council (1959)</p> <p>McClanahan v. Arizona State Tax Commission (1973)</p> <p>Morton v. Mancari (1973)</p> <p>Passamaquoddy Tribe v. Morton (1975)</p> <p>Oliphant v. Suquamish (1978)</p> <p>U.S. v. Wheeler (1978)</p> <p>U.S. v. Sioux Nation (1980)</p> <p>National Farmers Union Ins. Co's. v. Crow Tribe (1985)</p> <p>Calif. V. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians (1987)</p> <p>Lyng v. Northwest Cemetery (1988)</p> <p>Red Lake Band of Chippewa v. Swimmer (1990)</p> <p>Oklahoma Tax Commission v. Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe (1991)</p> <p>U.S. v. Chavez (1993)</p> <p>Fletcher v. U.S. (1997)</p> <p>U.S. v. Doherty (1997)</p> <p>Alaska v. Venetie Tribal Government (1998)</p> <p>Kiowa Tribe v. Manufacturing Technologies Inc. (1998)</p> <p>South Dakota v. Yankton Sioux Tribe (1998)</p>

	<b>ABORIGINALS</b>	<b>NATIVE AMERICANS</b>
		Amoco v. Southern Ute (1999) Minnesota v. Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa (1999) Doe v. Kamehameha Schools (2005)
Current organizations defending rights of indigenous peoples	Reconciliation Australia Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation Action for Aboriginal Rights	American Indian Movement The Buffalo Trust Indigenous Environmental Network Native American Rights Fund Women of All Red Nations National Congress of American Indians
Definition of Indigenous Person	A person of Aboriginal descent, who identifies as an Aboriginal, and is recognized by his/her community as an Aboriginal.	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliations or community or community recognition.

REV 8-25-05

<sup>1</sup> To put the size of Teotihuacan into perspective, in the year 1300 the population of London was only 60,000 and Paris 80,000; see Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., *500 Nations: An Illustrated History of North American Indians* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994), p. 65.

<sup>2</sup> Jan Roberts, *Massacres to Mining: The Colonisation of Aboriginal Australia* (Victoria: Dove Communications, 1981), p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> A treaty (Batman's Deed) initiated by white settlers with indigenous people around current-day Melbourne was quickly nullified by British authorities.

<sup>4</sup> See David E. Stannard, *American Holocaust: The Conquest of the New World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), p. 121.

<sup>5</sup> See David E. Stannard, *American Holocaust: The Conquest of the New World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), p. 121.

<sup>6</sup> The number of Aboriginals killed in massacres has come under attack by a few Australian academics, so the range in casualty figures takes into account this disagreement. Most academics as well as Aboriginal leaders believe the true death count is closer to the higher end of the range. For a discussion of this ongoing debate see Keith Windschuttle, "The Myths of Frontier Massacres in Australian History, Part I: The Invention of Massacre Stories," *Quadrant* (October 2000); and Robert Coor, "Australia's Genocidal Past: Keith Windschuttle, Denialism and the Truth of the Whole," 19 December 2002 (see [www.redrag.net/uploads/genocide.pdf](http://www.redrag.net/uploads/genocide.pdf)).