

EARLY AMERICAN INDIAN DOCUMENTS: Treaties and Laws, 1607–1789

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“Treaties between the early Anglo-American governments and the various Indian tribes are crucial sources for understanding early American history in general and the ethnohistory of Indian-European contact in particular. This set fills an important gap by making these vital historical records easily accessible. Besides formal treaties, the researcher will also find conference reports, council minutes, commissioners’ reports, scouts’ and interpreters’ records, and even deeds of land sales. Each chapter is prefaced by a summary that places the ensuing documents in their proper historical contexts. Each document has been skillfully edited and even original Indian ‘marks’ (i.e., signatures) carefully redrawn. The volumes are beautifully bound and have a very readable typeface. Highly recommended for all university and large public libraries.”

—Reference Services Review



William Bartram's sketch of Weoffki, the Long Warrior of Alachua. Confirming the implication of the caption that Weoffki was a peace chief (“King”) rather than a war leader, Bartram later called him “Chief King of the Seminoles.” *Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.*

The almost two centuries that preceded the implementation of the United States Constitution in 1789 were the formative years of Indian-white contact in America. European colonists and American Indians evolved basic patterns of coexistence—sometimes harmonious, often contentious—that lasted with few fundamental changes until the 20th century. Those patterns continue to influence governmental policies and judicial decisions.

Access critical resources

Knowledge of early Indian-white contacts has long been hampered by the inaccessibility of historical sources. (Kappler’s well-known collection, *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, does not include this early material.) Some records have been published piecemeal and incompletely; others not at all. There has been no thorough compilation of the most crucial items: the treaties between the early governments and the Indian tribes and the laws concerning

Indians passed by colonial and early national legislatures.

Uncover the history behind today’s controversial issues

Without access to that vital and immense literature—much of it in manuscript, the rest scattered through hundreds of disparate volumes—many of today’s most important historical and legal questions must remain unanswered. Such questions concern specific matters of tribal rights, land titles, and state boundaries, as well as less tangible but equally important issues of ethnic discrimination and assimilation.

Early legislation concerning American Indians offered together for the first time

UPA’s *Early American Indian Documents* will bring together for the first time the laws relating to the American Indians passed by colonial, state, and national governments before 1789 and all significant diplomatic documents (i.e., treaties, conferences, and official correspondence) of the

same period. Scholars in several fields—especially law, anthropology, and ethnohistory—will find that the collection’s chronological scope and inclusive documentation result in an unparalleled source for the reassessment of early America.

Volume VIII chronicles the rise of the powerful Iroquois confederation

Two volumes were published in 1996. Volume 8, *New York and New Jersey Treaties, 1683–1713*, details the formation of the

Forthcoming in 2002—

Volume XII. Georgia and Florida Treaties, 1764-1775

This volume chronicles the colony of Georgia and the new colonies of East and West Florida from the close of the French and Indian War (1754–63) to the onset of the American Revolution. Nearly three quarters of the documents in the volume are being published for the first time. Most of the remaining documents appear in fresh and more accurate transcriptions.

(Over, please)

powerful Iroquois confederation in the late seventeenth century. Neither the English nor the French colonists could ignore the might of the Iroquois, who resourcefully pursued strategies that balanced relations with both European powers and with surrounding Indian nations. Volume 8 also covers the decline of the Indian nations along the Hudson River, on Long Island, and in New Jersey.

Volume IX depicts tensions leading up to the Seven Years War

Volume 9, *New York and New Jersey Treaties, 1714–1753*, brings the chronology of Native American diplomacy in New York and New Jersey to the eve of the Seven Years (French and Indian) War. During this period, the Iroquois attempted to maintain their power and influence by acting as a buffer between the French and English. They pursued a course of friendship with the tribes surrounding the Great Lakes, while refocusing their warlike inclinations toward the

southern tribes. Their status was, however, slowly eroded by the powerful European military presences and the manipulation of skilled European diplomats such as William Johnson. Volume 9 also shows that the Lenape Delawares of New Jersey and the remnant Mahicans in New York were intensively evangelized by European clerics, often despite the determined opposition of British colonial officials.

Volume XV offers rare compilation of statutes

Published in 1998, Volume 15, *Virginia and Maryland Laws*, and Volume 16, *Carolina and Georgia Laws*, bring together more than 500 statutes that pertain to Native Americans. Carefully edited and annotated, the new volumes provide a comprehensive view of the early colonies' and states' statutory efforts to control their native neighbors. Many of the "Indian laws" concern major matters such as war and peace, the regulation of trade, the acquisition of land, the establishment of reservations, and the control of

servants and slaves. Among numerous slave laws is the influential and previously unpublished South Carolina code of 1696. These volumes also include hundreds of laws of special legal and social significance in the 17th and 18th centuries, such as bounties for killing wolves, squirrels, and crows; restrictions on the branding of hogs; and curbs on the sale of boats, horses, alcoholic beverages, firearms, and other weapons. These materials will be of immense value to ethnohistorians, social historians, legal scholars, and anyone interested in America's formative years. Volumes 15 and 16 are edited by Professor Vaughan and Deborah A. Rosen, Professor of American History at Lafayette College. A companion volume on northern colonies and states is in preparation.

Each volume contains a general introduction for the series, an introduction for that particular volume, and introductions for all of the chapters, as well as detailed footnotes and a bibliography.

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