Thomas Jefferson

- Jefferson’s attitude toward civilization was well remarked upon in his biography. He believed that unlike Africans,

  “proofs of genius given by the Indians of North America, place them on a level with white in the same uncultivated state.”
Pressures for Removal

• Changing Ideas of Race and “Civilization”

– One of the earliest proponents of scientific racism was Dr. Charles Caldwell, who claimed that there were distinct races: some of superior, some of inferior stock:

– “when the wolf, the buffalo and the panther shall have been completely domesticated, like the dog, the cow, and the household cat, then, and not before, may we expect to see the full-blooded Indian civilized, like the white man.”
Pressures on the Land

- Following independence John Adams was convinced that the U.S. was “destined beyond a doubt to be the greatest power on earth.”

- John Quincy Adams would later write to his father that “The whole continent of North America appears to be destined by Divine Providence to be peopled by one nation, speaking one language, professing one general system of religious and political principles, and accustomed to one general tenor of social usages and customs.”

- And Jefferson anticipated that the U.S. (Confederacy at the time he said it) was the “nest from which all America, North and South, is to be peopled.”
“Manifest Destiny”

• In “The Great Nation of Futurity” (1845) O’Sullivan wrote that foreign governments were obstructing the acquisition of Texas. It was Americans’ "manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions."
Andrew Jackson

• Even Robert Remini concedes that “Jackson personally benefited to an extraordinary degree from the land wrenched from Native Americans. And he encouraged his friends and others to follow his example and purchase this valuable real estate.” – *Andrew Jackson and His Indians Wars*, 181

• Except for Remini the motivation was to “increase the number of white settlers along the southern frontier to better secure the area against foreign invasion.” The Indians had, after all, sided with enemies more than once. That AJ also made a “financial killing” in the process was all the better.
In his second inaugural address Jackson explained further:

“What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms, embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or industry execute...?”
Benjamin F. Currey, a commissioner who negotiated with Indians, believed his role was to make “the situation of the Indians so miserable as to drive them into a treaty, or an abandonment of their country.”
Indian Policy

- **Before 1830** Assimilation and Removal
- **1830** Indian Removal Act
- **1851** Indian Appropriations Act creates the reservation system
- **1887** Dawes Act (General Allotment (Severalty) Act) ends granting land parcels to tribes.
- **1934** Indian Reorganization Act empowers tribes
1804 Treaty of St. Louis

• “As long as the lands that are now ceded to the U.S. remain their property, the Indians belonging to the said tribes shall enjoy the privilege of hunting on them.” But it ceded lands to the U.S.

• The treaty also promised a trading post which was attached to the new Fort Madison.

• British traders swore to Indians that Americans sold “cast-off, shop-worn merchandise of the cities” and that Americans intended to take their lands with Fort Madison an example of this.
“The Dawn’s Early Light”

News of the Treaty of Ghent was slow to arrive on the frontier.
Tecumseh

• Shawnee spiritual leader who mounted a pan-Indian offensive against the U.S. during the War of 1812.
Battle of the Sinkhole (May 24, 1815)
Sauks and Fox

- Originally from Michigan
- Merged near Green Bay in 1733
Winnebago Uprising 1827

• Wrongly informed U.S. had executed two of their warriors
• Party attacked settlers near Prairie du Chien then a few days later attacked a boat because the Ho-Chunk believed it was the same one whose crew had recently abducted and raped several Indian women
• Resulted in increased military presence and quick response
Black Hawk and White Cloud
Sauk
Winnebago Prophet
1828

- U.S. Army ordered Black Hawk and the rest of the Sauk nation to finally leave.

- First battle came in May 1832 at Stillman’s Run

- "business was failing -- had almost failed -- when the Black Hawk war of 1832 broke out. Abraham joined a volunteer company, and, to his own surprise, was elected captain of it. He says he has not since had any success in life which gave him so much satisfaction. He went to the campaign, served near three months, met the ordinary hardships of such an expedition, but was in no battle."

Lincoln’s 1860 autobiography
Historical Thinking

• Using the documents from the Wisconsin Historical Society we see that the US Army and Black Hawk have very different versions of the events. Have students debate what actually happened using the different documents. How do we know what is true?