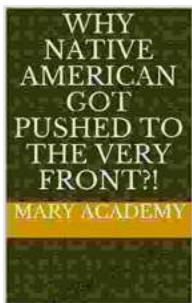


# Why Native Americans Got Pushed to the Very Front

Native Americans, the original inhabitants of the land now known as the United States, have a rich and complex history marked by both triumph and adversity. Throughout the centuries, they have faced numerous challenges, including colonization, assimilation, and systemic racism. These forces have had a profound impact on their lives, pushing them to the very front of American society in a paradoxical way.



## Why Native American Got Pushed To The Very Front?!

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1668 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 17 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## The Impact of Colonization

The arrival of European settlers in the 15th century marked a turning point in Native American history. Colonization brought with it a wave of disease, warfare, and land dispossession. As European powers expanded their territories, they encroached on Native American lands, forcing them to relocate or face annihilation. This process of colonization disrupted traditional ways of life and led to the loss of cultural identity and autonomy.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 stands as a grim example of the devastating effects of colonization. This act authorized the forced removal of thousands of Native Americans from their ancestral lands in the southeastern United States. The Trail of Tears, a tragic journey that ensued, resulted in the deaths of countless Native Americans as they were marched west into unfamiliar and hostile territories.

## **Assimilation Policies**

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the US government implemented a series of assimilation policies aimed at stripping Native Americans of their cultural identity and assimilating them into white society. These policies included the establishment of boarding schools, where Native American children were forcibly removed from their homes and subjected to harsh punishments for speaking their native languages or practicing their traditional customs.

Assimilation policies were based on the misguided belief that Native American cultures were inferior and should be replaced by white, Christian values. These policies had a devastating impact on Native American communities, eroding their cultural heritage and undermining their sense of self-worth.

## **Systemic Racism**

Systemic racism has been a persistent obstacle for Native Americans throughout US history. Laws, policies, and societal attitudes have created barriers to their full participation in society. Discrimination in education, employment, and housing has limited their opportunities and perpetuated a cycle of poverty and inequality.

The mass incarceration of Native Americans is a glaring example of systemic racism. Native Americans are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, often due to racial profiling and harsh sentencing laws. This has led to the separation of families and the erosion of Native American communities.

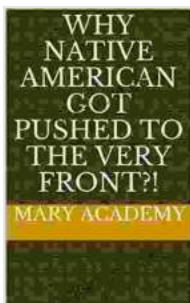
## **The Paradox of the Front**

The experiences of Native Americans throughout history have been characterized by a strange paradox. While they have been pushed to the margins of society, they have also found themselves at the forefront of social and political movements.

In the 20th century, Native Americans played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement, fighting for equal rights and recognition. They have also been at the forefront of environmental activism, advocating for the protection of their traditional lands and the preservation of natural resources.

The history of Native Americans in the United States is a complex and often troubling one. Colonization, assimilation, and systemic racism have all contributed to their marginalization and struggle for recognition. However, amidst these challenges, they have also demonstrated resilience and a fierce determination to maintain their cultural identity and advocate for their rights.

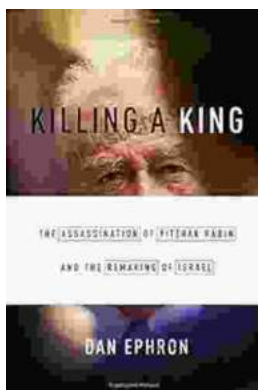
Understanding the historical forces that have pushed Native Americans to the very front is essential for reconciliation and healing. By confronting the injustices of the past, we can work towards a more just and equitable future for all.



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