

1 **President Andrew Jackson's Message to Congress 'On Indian Removal' (1830)**

2

3 It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the benevolent policy of the
4 Government, steadily pursued for nearly thirty years, in relation to the removal
5 of the Indians beyond the white settlements is approaching to a happy
6 consummation. ...

benevolent – KIND

consummation – ENDING

7 The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to
8 individual States, and to the Indians themselves. ... It will place a dense and
9 civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage
10 hunters. ... It will relieve the whole State of Mississippi and the western part of
11 Alabama of Indian occupancy, and enable those States to advance rapidly in
12 population, wealth, and power. It will separate the Indians from immediate
13 contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States;
14 enable them to pursue happiness in their own way and under their own rude
15 institutions; will retard the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers,
16 and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the Government and
17 through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and
18 become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community.

tracts – AREAS

rude - PRIMITIVE

institutions – CUSTOMS

retard – SLOW DOWN

counsels – ADVISORS

19 What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a
20 few thousand savages to our extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and
21 prosperous farms embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or
22 industry execute, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled
23 with all the blessings of liberty, civilization and religion?

embellished – DECORATED

execute - ACCOMPLISH

24 ...

25 Rightly considered, the policy of the General Government toward the red man is
26 not only liberal, but generous. He is unwilling to submit to the laws of the States
27 and mingle with their population. To save him from this alternative, or perhaps
28 utter annihilation, the General Government kindly offers him a new home, and
29 proposes to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement.

liberal – TOLERANT

utter - COMPLETE

annihilation - DESTRUCTION

30

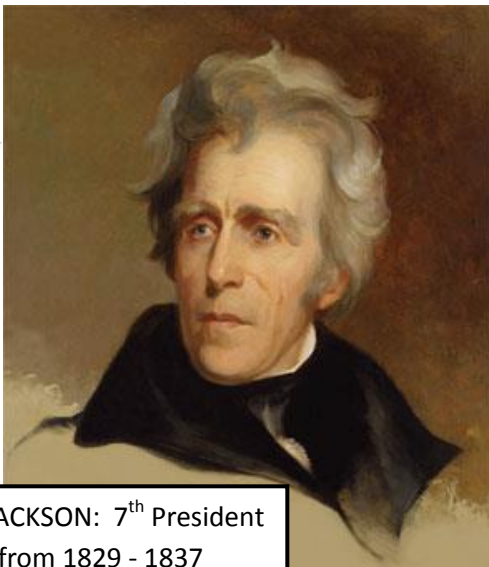
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ANDREW JACKSON: 7th President
of the U.S. from 1829 - 1837

- 1) Summarize President Andrew Jackson feelings toward the Native Americans. List specific words or ideas to support your conclusion.
- 2) According to Jackson, what would be the effect on the United States if the natives were relocated?
- 3) Does Jackson believe relocating the tribes will a positive or negative impact on the Native Americans? Cite specific lines to support your answer.

36 **Letter from John Ross, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Indians (1836)**

37

38 ...We are stripped of every attribute of freedom and eligibility for legal self-
39 defense. Our property may be plundered before our eyes; violence may be
40 committed on our persons; even our lives may be taken away, and there is none
41 to regard our complaints. We are denationalized; we are disfranchised. We are
42 deprived of membership in the human family! We have neither land nor home,
43 nor resting place that can be called our own.

44 ...

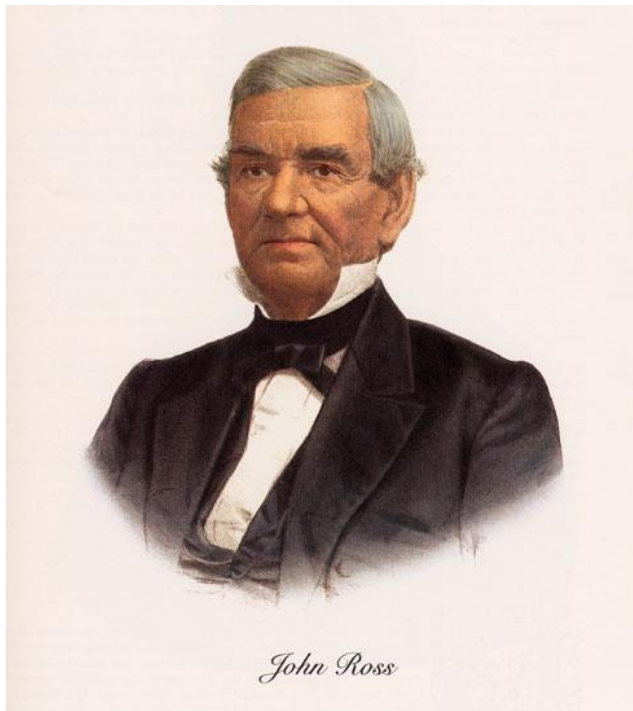
45 In truth, our cause is your own; it is the cause of liberty and of justice; it is based
46 upon your own principles, which we have learned from yourselves; for we have
47 gloried to count your Washington and your Jefferson our great teachers; ...

48 We have learned your religion also. We have read your Sacred books. Hundreds
49 of our people have embraced their doctrines, practiced the virtues they teach,
50 cherished the hopes they awaken, and rejoiced in the consolations which they
51 afford.

52 On your kindness, on your humanity, on your compassion, on your benevolence,
53 we rest our hopes. To you we address our reiterated prayers. Spare our people!
54 Spare the wreck of our prosperity! Let not our deserted homes become the
55 monuments of our desolation!

56

57



attribute – PART OF

plundered – TAKEN

disfranchised – DEPRIVED

doctrines – BELIEFS

consolations – COMFORTS

benevolence – GENEROSITY

reiterated – REPEATED

desolation - DESTRUCTION

- 1) According to Ross, what are some ways the Cherokees have been mistreated?
- 2) In your own words, summarize Chief John Ross' main argument explaining WHY he believes the Cherokee should not have their land taken from them.
- 3) On lines 45-47, what comparison is Ross making with regard to the Cherokee's fight to protect their homes and basic freedoms?
- 4) Describe some ways that Ross details how the Cherokees have become "more American". Explain why he would use the argument that the Cherokees are just like other Americans.