



Haudenosaunee Influence on the U.S. Constitution

CMN Constitution Day

What is Constitution Day?

- Constitution Day was established by law in 2004. In addition to creating Constitution Day (on the day that had formerly been known as Citizenship Day), the act requires that any educational institution that receives federal funds holds an educational program on the Constitution on September 17.

CONSTITUTION DAY

SEPTEMBER 17, 1787

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



National Constitution Center Home

- Visit the Museum
- Exhibits
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- Programs & Events
- Podcasts

Countdown to Constitution Day

00	19	07	44	49
MONTHS	DAYS	HOURS	MINUTES	SECONDS

On September 17, 1787, the U.S. Constitution was signed by thirty-nine brave men who changed the course of history.

Now CONSTITUTION DAY is a time for us to continue their legacy and develop habits of citizenship in a new generation of Americans.



SHOP for MATERIALS

Pocket Constitution



The Pocket United States Constitution are 9-by-22 inches and fold into an approximately 3-by-3 inch square.

Receive one FREE Classroom-Ready Resource when purchasing 150 or more Pocket Constitutions.

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Constitution Day Kit



Everything you need for a Constitution Day lesson and activities. Comes with lesson plan, DVD, pocket constitutions and more!

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EDUCATION RESOURCES

Bill of Rights Game

Elementary and students

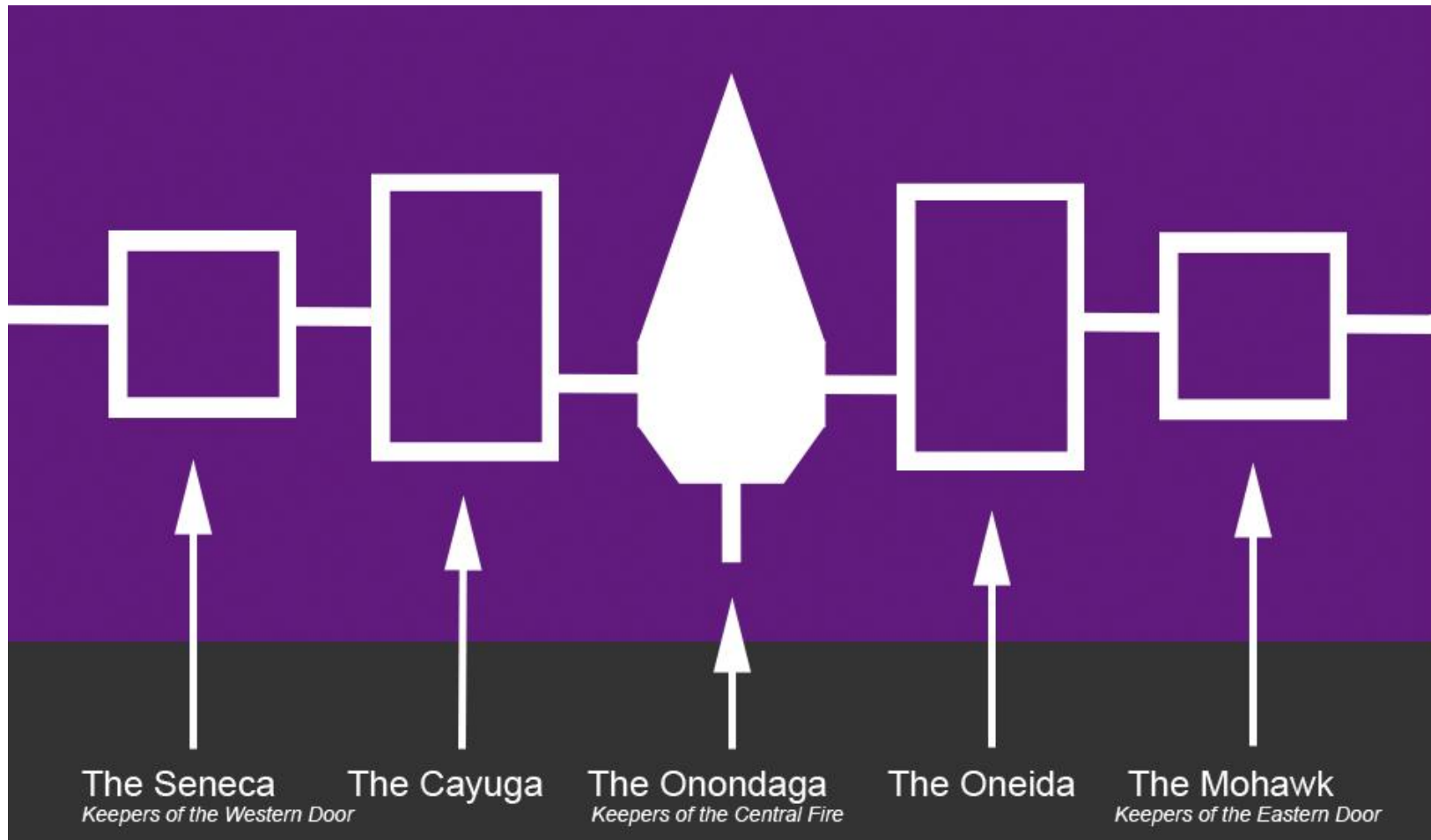
What do we know about the Constitution?

- How many Articles are in the Constitution?
- Preamble and 7 Articles.
- How many times has the Constitution been amended?
- 27 times.
- Who could vote?
- Only white male property owners.

Questions about the Constitution?

- Does the Constitution mention Indians?
- Yes, . Art. I Section 2 (3) excluding Indians not taxed, Amendment XIV Section 2 and Art. 1 Section 2 (3) Indian Commerce Clause.
- Does the Constitution apply to Indian Nations?
- No, “powers of local self government enjoyed by the Cherokee nation existed prior to the Constitution.” *Talton v. Mayes* 163 U.S. 376 (1898)

Haudenosaunee or “People of the Longhouse”

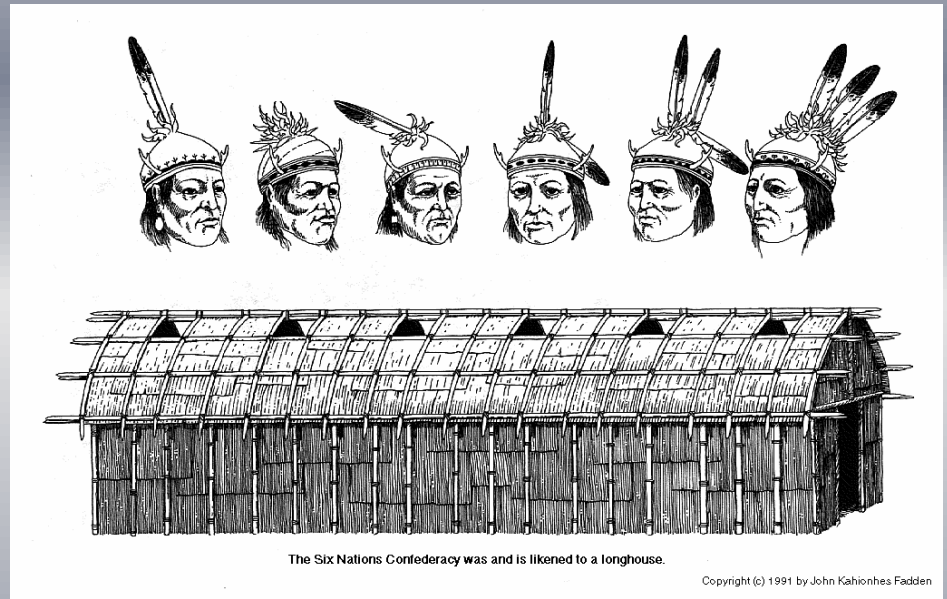


Iroquois Great League of Peace

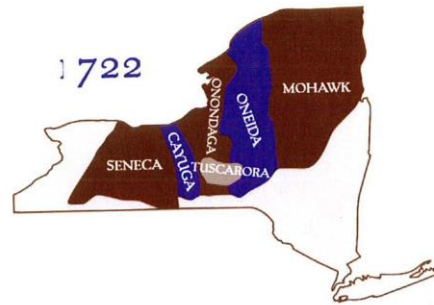
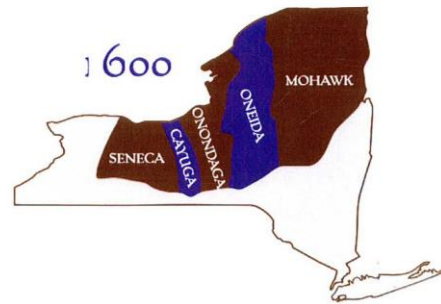
- League of the Iroquois
- Iroquois Confederacy
- Five Nations, now Six Nations
- The Iroquois language family is a group of distinct but closely related languages. Of these languages, six are spoken by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy: Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora.

Formation

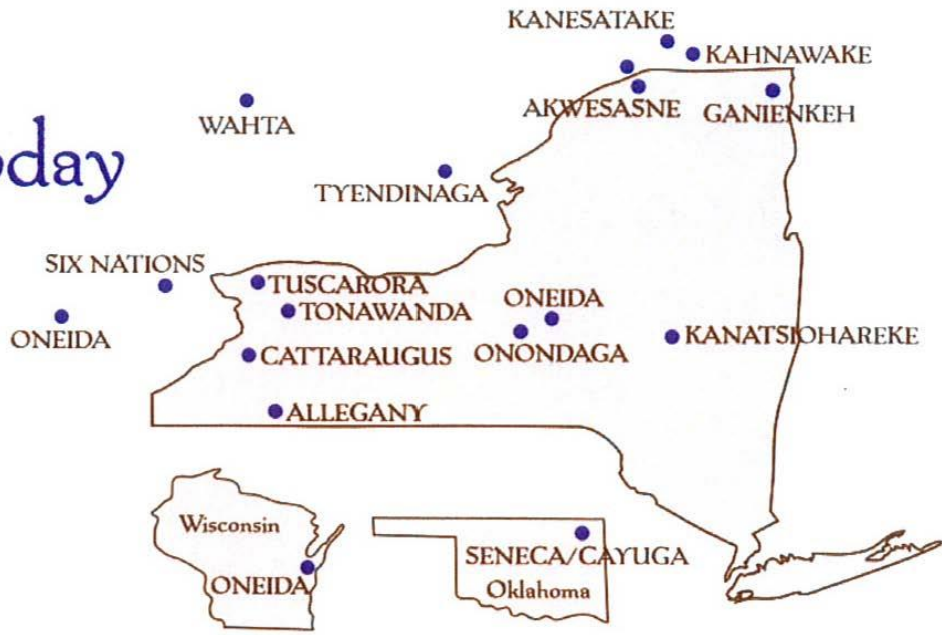
- 1142, 1390 or 1451
- Before in constant warfare
- Hiawatha (Onondaga) met Deganawidah (Peacemaker) composed great laws of peace on wampum.
- Traveled from village to village teaching laws.



HAUDENOSAUNEE
TERRITORY
THROUGH TIME



Today



-17-





YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Before the idea of inalienable rights, liberty, and democracy were strung together in words, they were strung together in beads made of shells. In this beaded Constitution, Wapogan Belt.

It represents 1,000 years of democratic principles that we Indians shared with our newer brothers and sisters. (Including Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin who openly acknowledged in speeches and in writing that our

contributions formed the basis of The Constitution.)

We shared our belief that leaders should represent and serve the people. Which was a startling belief in a world of kings and queens.

We shared what we call, The Great Law. Which is the moral law of human dignity that precedes and underlies all other laws.

Even, We The People began in an ancient Indian phrase.

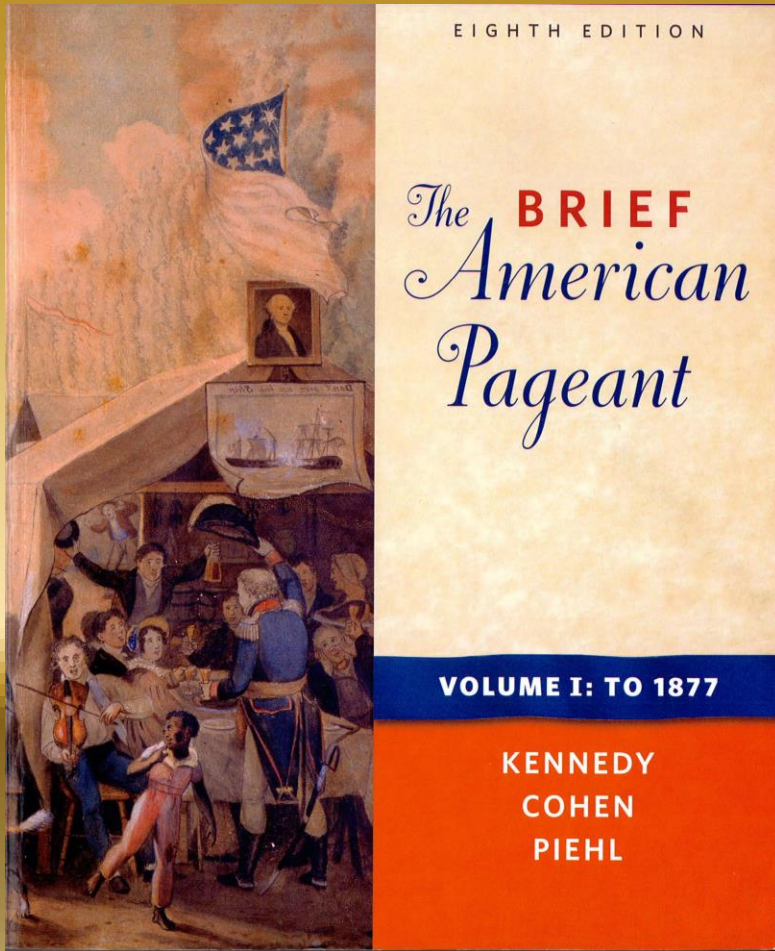
And it's important to the pursuit of all our happiness that We The People now means, and continues to mean, We, ALL OF Us, Who Are Americans.

For more information write: The American Indian Institute, P.O. Box 4352, New York, New York 10185-0352



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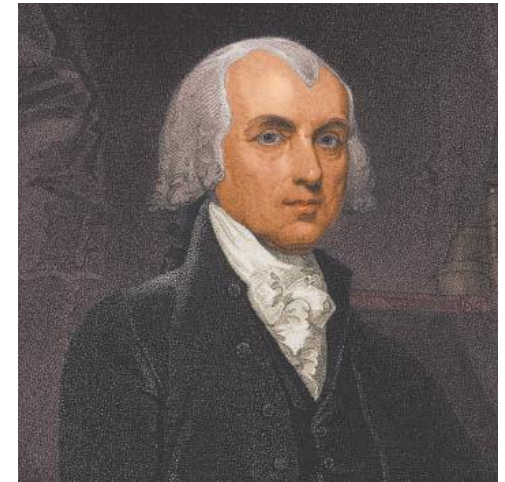
History and Government Courses



Background of the Constitution

–Historical Setting

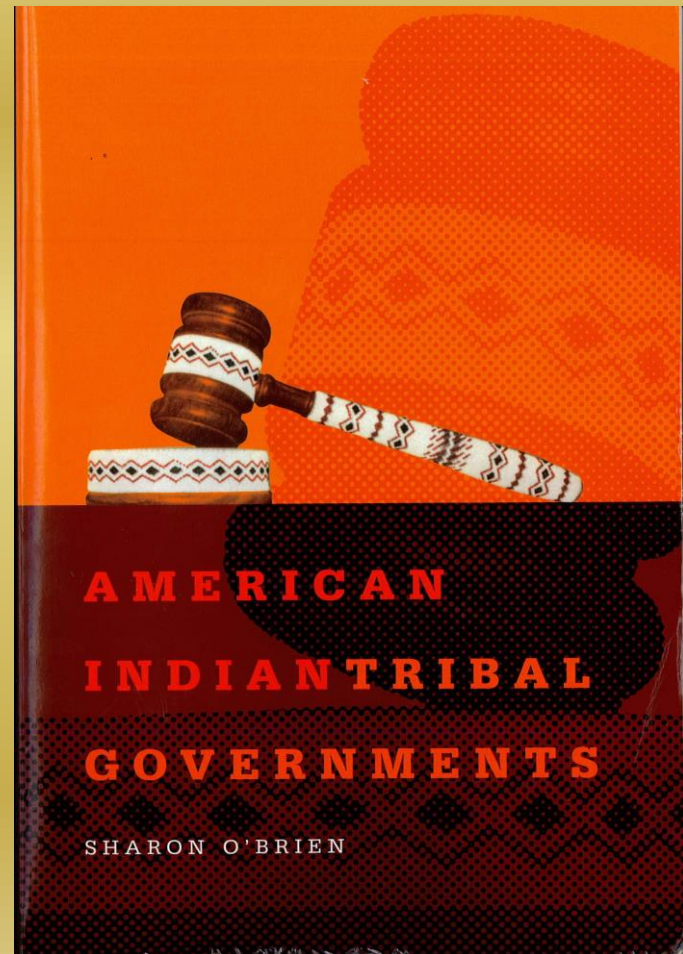
- Founding fathers influenced by their most recent past
 - Under British rule
 - Under the Articles of Confederation



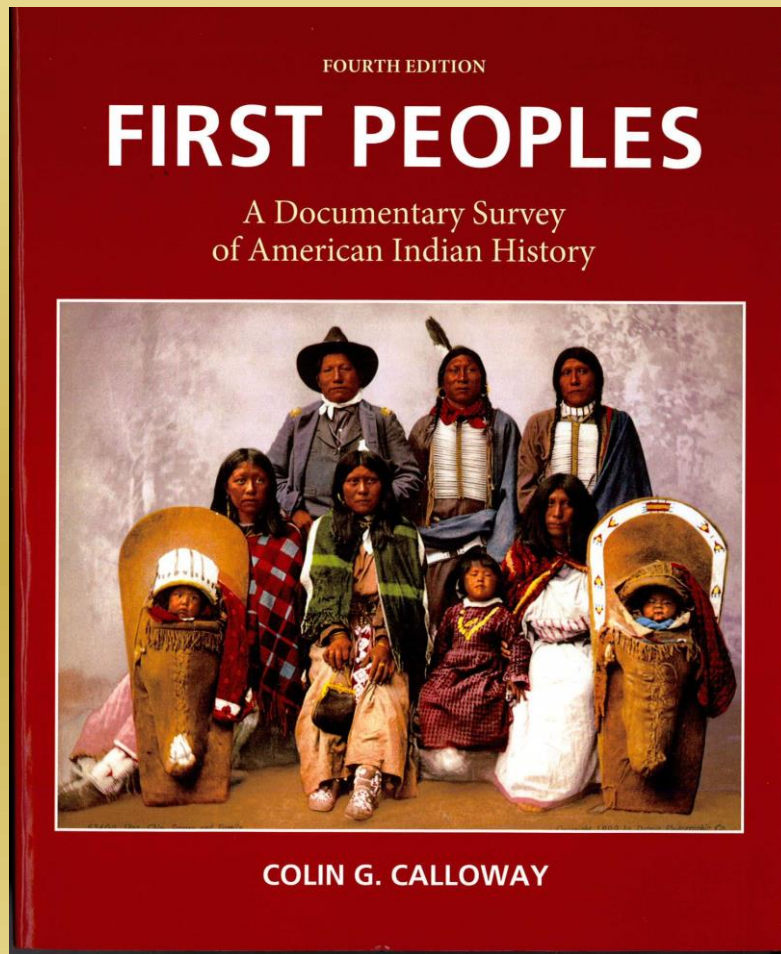
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Native American Tribal Government

- “In fact, Benjamin Franklin had modeled the new country’s structure on that of the Iroquois League.”



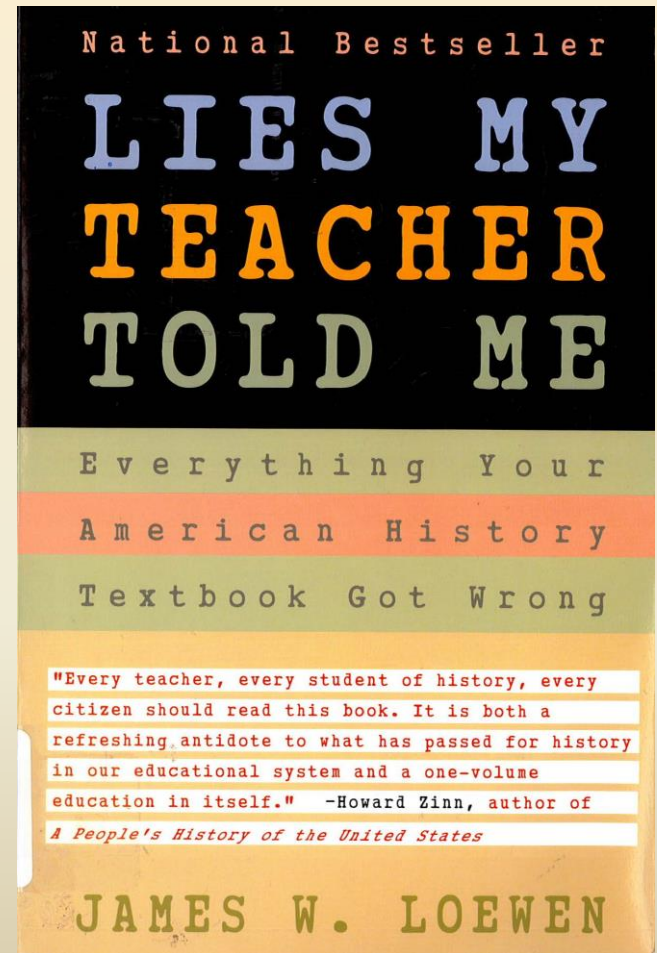
Native American History



- “Many Iroquois people and some non-Iroquois scholars believe that the League of the Iroquois served as a model for the Constitution of the United States. But whether or not the founding fathers looked to the Iroquois League remains a hotly contested debate. “

Library Books

- “Indeed, Native Americans ideas may be partly responsible for our democratic institutions.”
- “Through 150 years of colonial contact, the Iroquois League stood before the colonies as an object lesson in how to govern a large domain democratically.”



Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1744

- “Our wise forefathers established Union and Amity between the Five Nations. This has made us formidable; this has given us great Weight and Authority with our neighboring Nations. We are a powerful Confederacy; and by your observing the same methods, our wise forefathers have taken, you will acquire such Strength and power. Therefore whatever befalls you, never fall out with one another.”



Canassatego spoke on behalf of the Six Nations.

Ben Franklin

- 1751, “It would be a strange thing . . . if Six Nations of Ignorant savages should be capable of forming such an union and be able to execute it in such a manner that it has subsisted for ages and appears indissoluble, and yet that a like union should be impractical for ten or a dozen English colonies, to whom it is more necessary and must be more advantageous, and who cannot be supposed to want an equal understanding of their interest.



Albany Congress

- June 19 to July 1754
- First time in the 18th century that colonial representatives met to discuss some manner of formal union
- The northern seven of the thirteen
- Plan was rejected
- Wanted a treaty with Iroquois

Continental Congress



- 1st, September 5-October 26, 1774
- 2nd, May 10, 1775-December 12, 1776
- June 11, 1776, Iroquois invited to the Congress, name John Hancock
- July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence signed
- September 17, 1778 Treaty with Delaware Tribe
- March 1, 1781 Articles of Confederation

US Constitution

- September 17, 1787 approved by the Congress
- June 21, 1788, ratified by the states
- March 4, 1789 put into operation

Comparison

Haudenosaunee Grand Council

- Onondagas (14) Tadadaho
- Mohawk and Seneca (Older Brothers 9 and 8)
- Oneida and Cayuga (Younger Brothers 10 and 9)
- Clan mothers

United States Government

- Executive Branch
- U.S. Senate
- House of Representatives
- Supreme Court

Continued

- We shall place on the top of it an eagle which has great power of long vision
- We shall therefore symbolize the union of these powers by each nation contributing one arrow which we shall tie up in a bundle



Concurrent Resolution

- October 21, 1988
- Acknowledging the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy of Nations to the development of our Constitution and reaffirming the continuing government-to-government relationship between Indian tribes and the United States established in the Constitution

100TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 331

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 26), 1988

Received and referred to the Select Committee on Indian Affairs

OCTOBER 21 (legislative day, OCTOBER 18), 1988

Committee discharged

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To acknowledge the contribution of the Iroquois Confederacy of Nations to the development of the United States Constitution and to reaffirm the continuing government-to-government relationship between Indian tribes and the United States established in the Constitution.

Whereas the original framers of the Constitution, including, most notably, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, are known to have greatly admired the concepts of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy;

Whereas the confederation of the original Thirteen Colonies into one republic was influenced by the political system developed by the Iroquois Confederacy as were many of the democratic principles which were incorporated into the Constitution itself; and

Whereas, since the formation of the United States, the Congress has recognized the sovereign status of Indian tribes and has, through the exercise of powers reserved to the Federal Government in the Commerce Clause of the Constitution (art. I, s.2, cl. 3), dealt with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis and has, through the treaty clause (art. II, s.2, cl. 2) entered into three hundred and seventy treaties with Indian tribal Nations;

Whereas, from the first treaty entered into with an Indian Nation, the treaty with the Delaware Indians of September 17, 1778, the Congress has assumed a trust responsibility and obligation to Indian tribes and their members;

Whereas this trust responsibility calls for Congress to "exercise the utmost good faith in dealings with Indians" as provided for in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, (1 Stat. 50);

Whereas the judicial system of the United States has consistently recognized and reaffirmed this special relationship: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the Congress, on the occasion of the two hun-
4 dredth anniversary of the signing of the United States
5 Constitution, acknowledges the contribution made by
6 the Iroquois Confederacy and other Indian Nations to
7 the formation and development of the United States;

8 (2) the Congress also hereby reaffirms the consti-
9 tutionally recognized government-to-government rela-
10 tionship with Indian tribes which has been the corner-
11 stone of this Nation's official Indian policy;

(3) the Congress specifically acknowledges and re-affirms the trust responsibility and obligation of the United States Government to Indian tribes, including Alaska Natives, for their preservation, protection, and enhancement, including the provision of health, education, social, and economic assistance programs as necessary, and including the duty to assist tribes in their performance of governmental responsibility to provide for the social and economic well-being of their members and to preserve tribal cultural identity and heritage; and

(4) the Congress also acknowledges the need to exercise the utmost good faith in upholding its treaties with the various tribes, as the tribes understood them to be, and the duty of a great Nation to uphold its legal and moral obligations for the benefit of all of its citizens so that they and their posterity may also continue to enjoy the rights they have enshrined in the United States Constitution for time immemorial.

Passed the House of Representative October 4, 1988.

Attest: DONNALD K. ANDERSON,

Clerk.

Questions?

Mvto.