

## Document A: Andrew Jackson's Second Annual Message

On December 6, 1830, President Andrew Jackson delivered his annual message to the United States Congress. In his message, Jackson informs Congress of the progress made concerning Indian removal, and explains the advantages of his policy for both the United States and the Native Americans.

*The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to individual States, and to the Indians themselves. The...advantages which it promises to the Government are the least of its recommendations. It puts an end to all possible danger of collision between the authorities of the [Nation] and State Governments on account of the Indians. It will place a dense and civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage hunters. By opening the whole territory between Tennessee on the north and Louisiana on the south to the settlement of the whites it will...strengthen the southwestern frontier and render the...States strong enough to repel future invasions.... It will relieve the whole State of Mississippi and the western part of Alabama of Indian occupancy, and enable those States to advance rapidly in population, wealth, and power.*

*It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States; enable them to pursue happiness in their own way and under their own rude institutions; will [reduce] the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers, and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the Government and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community.*

*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, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization and religion?*

**Document B:**  
**Worcester v. Georgia**  
**(1832) Supreme Court Decision**

*"The Cherokee nation, then, is a distinct community, occupying its own territory... in which the laws of Georgia have no force.... The Acts of Georgia are repugnant (disgusting) to the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States. They interfere forcibly with the relations established between the United States and the Cherokee Nation, the regulation of which according to the settled principles of our Constitution, are committed exclusively to the government of the Union."*

Marshall, C.J., Opinion of the Court,  
Supreme Court of the United States, 31 U.S. 515

## Document C:

### Excerpts from John Ross's words to delegates of the Iroquois League

**John Ross was a Cherokee chief that represented tribal interests to the Federal government.**

*'Brothers: The tradition of our Fathers ... tells us that this great and extensive continent was once the sole and exclusive abode of our race.... Ever since the whites came] we have been made to drink of the bitter cup of humiliation; Treated like dogs . . . our country and the graves of our Fathers torn from us ... through a period of upwards of 200 years, rolled back, nation upon nation [until] we find ourselves fugitives, vagrants and strangers in our own country..*

*'The existence of the Indian Nations as distinct Independent Communities within the limits of the United States seems to be drawing to a close. . . . You ire aware that our Brethren, the Choctaws, Chickasaws and Creeks of the South lave severally disposed of their country to the United States and that a portion of our own Tribe have also emigrated West of the Mississippi — but that the largest portion of our Nation still remain firmly upon our ancient domain. . . . the position there may be compared to a solitary tree in an open space, where all the forest trees around have been prostrated (knocked down) by a furious tornado."*

<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/8/unit/act3.1blm.html>