Cherokee Indians - Part 1: Overview **[1]**

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Cherokee Indians

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Part i: Overview; Part ii: Cherokee origins and first European contact [5]; Part iii: Disease, destruction, and the loss of Cherokee land [6]; Part iv: Revolutionary War, Cherokee defeat and additional land cessions [7]; Part v: Trail of Tears and the creation of the Eastern Band of Cherokees [8]; Part vi: Federal recognition and the fight for Cherokee rights [9]; Part vii: Modern-day Cherokee life and culture [10]; Part viii: References and additional resources [11]

Part i: An overview

Cherokee Indians once occupied an area encompassing approximately 140,000 square miles that became parts of North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. The Cherokee thrived in North Carolina well into the late eighteenth century, but as Euro-American settlers steadily moved into and near Cherokee lands, sharp conflicts arose between Cherokees and whites and between Cherokees themselves, as leaders with competing claims to speak for the tribe secured treaties and formed other agreements with white settlers that were not acknowledged by all Cherokee people. In 1838-39, the U.S. government forcibly removed the Cherokee from their lands in North Carolina, leading them on the infamous Trail of Tears [8] to the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). A small number of Cherokee people successfully resisted removal, however, by claiming North Carolina citizenship and by maintaining the right to remain on lands they owned. These people and their descendants were recognized in 1868 by the federal government as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. In the early 2000s these

Cherokee, living on the Qualla Boundary [12] in the western part of the state, were the only Indian tribe in North Carolina fully recognized by the federal government. The tribe has more than 13,000 enrolled members.

Keep reading > Part ii: Cherokee origins and first European contact [5]

[5]

Subjects: American Indians [13]
Cherokee Indians [14]
UNC Press [15]
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[6] http://ncpedia.org/cherokee/disease
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