

The Seminoles mounted a far more effective resistance. Fraud and intimidation had produced the Treaty of Payne's Landing in 1832, and most Seminoles rejected it, but for the United States it served as a pretense for removal. The Seminoles did not possess prime cotton lands, but for years black slaves had fled to them, living in separate villages under the protection of Seminole chiefs. They spoke the same language as the Seminoles; they shared their customs; and to some extent they intermarried. The Americans initially not only demanded Seminole land, they demanded the right to retrieve escaped slaves.

As a result, the Seminole War, fought by both Indian and African-American



This letter of patent signed by President Martin Van Buren in 1838 in conjunction with treaties of May 6, 1828, February 14, 1833, and December 29, 1835, conveyed as a "gift" from the United States to the Cherokees two tracts of land comprising some fourteen million acres in Arkansas, with a "perpetual outlet west and free and unmolested use of all the country west of the western boundary . . . to have to hold . . . with all rights thereto belonging to the Cherokee Nation forever. . . ."

These treaties granting title to land remained unviolated. The treaties included clauses reserving rights for the United States to establish post and military roads and forts anywhere in the Cherokee nation as well as "the free use of as much land, timber, fuel, and materials of all kinds, for the construction and support of the same, as may be necessary."