New Minority Movements

The American Indian Movement

and

The Chicano Movement
New Minority Movements

The American Indian Movement
Native American Causes for Action

- Native American lands taken under the Northwest Ordinance of 1787
- Native American lands taken in the Southeast due to the Indian Removal Act of 1830
Native American Causes for Action

- Terrible injustices that Native Americans were forced to endure during the Trail of Tears
Native American Causes for Action

- Native American lands lost to White Settlement due to the Homestead Act of 1862
- Native American lands lost in the Dakotas due to the Discovery of Gold in 1868 and the Broken Treaty of Fort Laramie
Native American Causes for Action

- Creation of the Carlisle Indian School (1879) designed to help Assimilate the Native American to the White Society

- The Dawes Allotment Act of 1887 designed to reduce Tribal Autonomy and Force them to become Farmers & Assimilate
Native American Causes for Action

• Removal of Native Americans from the Indian Territory due to the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1889

• The Ultimate & Final Injustices committed by the U.S. Army at the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890
Native Americans Start taking Action

• Indian Citizenship Act of 1924:
  Finally granted Native Americans the Right to Vote & Due Process under the Law

• The National Congress of American Indians:
  Formed in 1944 to promote improved living conditions and education for Native Americans
Native American Causes for Action

• 1953-1968: Termination Policy
Survey of Indian Reservations showed horrible conditions.

The U.S. Government solution was to terminate the policies of federal aid to the reservations in hopes that it would force the Native Americans to take responsibility for their own recovery and development.
Native American Causes for Action

• 1953-1968: Termination Policy’s impact on the Native American Population
  - Subject to Federal Taxes
  - Reduction in power of Tribal self-government
  - Jurisdiction of Reservation turned over to the States

✓ Many Native Americans were forced to move to the cities to try and find employment
✓ Most Native Americans experienced discrimination, extreme poverty, and total discontentment

• By the 1960’s:
  Many young adults of the Native American tribes considered the older generation to be “Sell Outs to the White Man’s Laws”
The American Indian Movement

• In 1968:
The American Indian Movement was formed in Minnesota to bring attention to the plight of Urban Poverty and discrimination

• 1969-71: Occupation of Alcatraz Island

“Red Power” activists formed the “Indians of All Tribes” and seized control of the abandoned “Alcatraz Island” according to their interpretation of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie
The American Indian Movement

- 1969-71: Occupation of Alcatraz Island

- More than 5,600 Native Americans occupied the island
- Determined to avoid violence and set a positive example
- Supported by Jane Fonda, Greatful Dead, and CCR
- Plagued by drugs, alcohol, poor sanitation, lack of food
- 12 year old Yvonne Oaks accidentally fell to her death
- Four historical buildings were burned (ending protest)
The American Indian Movement

• 1971-72: Trail of Broken Treaties
The American Indian Movement organized a cross-country protest to bring attention to their plight and U.S. Policy Makers

• 1973: Takeover of Wounded Knee, SD
Approximately 200 Oglala Sioux and members of 75 other nations seized the town to force investigation of corruption in the Bureau of Indian Affairs
The American Indian Movement

• 1973: Takeover of Wounded Knee, SD

✓ Standoff lasted 71 days between Native Americans and law enforcement agencies

✓ Demanded investigations into 371 treaties over the past 100 years

✓ Heavy daily gunfire resulted in 2 killed and over 1,200 arrested (12 others disappeared without a trace)
The American Indian Movement

- 1978: The Longest Walk

- Approximately 2,000 Native Americans and Supporters walked 2,700 miles from San Francisco to Washington
- Symbolizing the Native American Forced Removals
- To protest and lobby against 11 Congressional Bills that threatened existing treaties and Native American lands
- Unified efforts successful defeated all the legislation
New Minority Movements

The Chicano Movement
Latin American Causes for Action

- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 promised citizenship to an estimated 80,000 Mexicans in the Ceded Territories

California (1849-1890)
Employers used aggressive job recruiting to hire Mexicans for the Gold Industry, Railroads, Meatpacking & Farms
Latin American Causes for Action

- Mexican Revolution caused many Mexicans to flee across the border into the U.S. between 1910-1920

1924: First Official Border Patrol Post was established along the U.S.-Mexican border

Control of the border was sparsely controlled and very limited
Latin Americans Start taking Action

1929: League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) was formed

- Organized to fight against voting, education, and employment discrimination in the United States
- A Conservative organization open only to legal citizens
Latin American Causes for Action

- Mexican Repatriation during the Great Depression (1929-1939)

  - Unconstitutional Removal and Forced Emigration of an estimated 2 million (1.2 million were U.S. citizens)
  - Due to concerns over White unemployment rates and rising costs of Welfare for un-documentated Mexicans
Latin American Causes for Action

- Changing Mexican Immigration policies between 1920 - 1939


Graph 1. Number of Persons Entering the United States from Mexico (1920-1940)
Latin American Causes for Action

- **Mexican Bracero Program initiated during World War II (1942 - 1964)**

- Initiated in 1942 due to the demand for additional labor in the Texas agricultural industry during WWII
- Eventually spread from California to Georgia (farming)
- Railroad Bracero program developed from 1942-1945
Latin American Causes for Action

• Operation Wetback (1952-1955)

✓ Based on a request from the Mexican government to stop illegal entries by Mexican Nationals into the U.S.
✓ Increased the number of U.S. Border Agents (1,692)
✓ Allegations of abuse and civil rights violations occurred
✓ Deported 1,075,168 illegal Mexicans by bus and ship
Latin American Causes for Action

- Mexican Bracero Program (1942-1964) versus Operation Wetback (1952-1955)

### Guest Worker Success

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**Source:** Stuart Anderson, The National Foundation for American Policy
Latin Americans Start taking Action

- American G.I. Forum (1948 - Present)
  - Formed in 1948 by Dr. Hector Garcia after the clinic at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Cristi, Texas refused to admit a Chicano veteran
  - Received national notoriety in 1949 when a funeral home in Three Rivers, Texas refused funeral services to U.S. Army Private Felix C. Longoria, Jr.
  - The organization gained him a military burial at Arlington
  - They continue to fight for the rights of Chicano servicemen
Latin Americans Start taking Action

The Chicano Movement

- Organized to fight for political power
  - To obtain proper political representation in Congress
  - To eliminate poll taxes and literacy tests for Chicanos
  - To regulate Gerrymandering within voting districts
  - To eliminate voter intimidation and repression

- Mexican American Political Association (1959)
  - Founded in Fresno California (1959)
  - Established as the primary political voice for the Mexican-American community in the United States
  - Conducted local voter registrations
Latin Americans Start taking Action

**The Chicano Movement**

- **Viva Kennedy Clubs**
  - Formed to support the 1960 Presidential Election of John F. Kennedy
  - Helped gain two pivotal states for JFK: Texas and California

- **United Farm Workers**
  - Formed in 1962 to improve social, economic, and voting conditions for migrant farm workers
  - Originally organized by Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez
Latin Americans Start taking Action

The Chicano Movement

United Farm Workers

- Organized a major produce boycott in 1965 in response to farmers' failure to raise the minimum wages of struggling farm workers

- The continued to campaign against unfair labor & voting practices in the 1970's

- The United Farm Workers eventually joined forces with the AFL-CIO
Latin Americans Start taking Action

The Chicano Movement

Mexican American Youth Organization (1963-67)

- To obtain proper political representation in Congress
- To eliminate poll taxes and literacy tests for Chicanos
- To regulate Gerrymandering within voting districts
- To eliminate voter intimidation and repression

- Five Chicano’s successfully ran for local office in Texas (1963)
- Elections resulted in bad Anglo reactions (job loss, pay cuts, etc)
- Jose Angel Gutierrez eventually led organization of La Raza Unida
Latin Americans Start taking Action

The Chicano Movement

**MALDEF**

- Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund

- Founded in 1968 as a non-profit organization formed to protect the civil rights of Latinos in the U.S.

- Developed with the help of LULAC and the NAACP

- Won legal battles concerning voting rights and equal opportunity for public and college education

**La Raza Unida (1970)**

- An independent Chicano political party organized by Jose Angel Gutierrez

- Promoted support for Mexican land grants, gun control, limitations of Police powers, and voter registration