

How should we remember the Occupation of Alcatraz?

Featured Source

Source A: Brooks Townes, "Thanksgiving Day dinner", Alcatraz, California, 1969, *National Parks Service*



Available via the Library of Congress at the National Parks Service:

<https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?pg=6513513&id=96BA2B86-8558-4E63-A7CD-A5C00D86607D>

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Source B: Art Kane, "Members of the Indians of All Tribes pose on Broadway in the Alcatraz cellhouse during the 1969-71 occupation of the island ", Alcatraz, California, ca. 1970, *National Parks Service*



Available at the National Parks Service: <https://www.nps.gov/alca/welcome-to-indian-land-exhibit.htm>

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Source C: Ilka Hartmann, "Children Running Into the Sunshine", Alcatraz, California, 1971, *National Parks Service*



Available via the Library of Congress at the National Parks Service:

<https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?pg=6513513&id=93CF672B-8A63-4AE7-A613-9A1BAF2F422A>

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Source D: Ilka Hartmann, "We Will Not Give Up!", Alcatraz, California, 1971, *National Parks Service*



Available via the Library of Congress at the National Parks Service:

<https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?pg=6513513&id=93CF672B-8A63-4AE7-A613-9A1BAF2F422A>

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Source E: Stephen Shames, "Indians fish off the Alcatraz dock during the occupation of Alcatraz Island", Alcatraz, California, 1969, *National Parks Service*



Available via the Library of Congress at the National Parks Service:

<https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?pg=6513513&id=48010F77-B8D5-40A0-8B24-DA6CB72D6207>

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Source F: Julian Brave NoiseCat, “Why Alcatraz Matters to Native Americans”, November 20, 2019, *The New York Times*, modified for readability

Note: Julian Brave NoiseCat wrote the following opinion in the *New York Times* on the 50th anniversary of the Occupation of Alcatraz. Mr. NoiseCat is the co-founder of a group that commemorated the anniversary with a canoe journey to Alcatraz in 2019

Richard Oakes, one of the organizers of the occupation, said of the movement: “Alcatraz is not an island. It’s an idea.” The message behind the occupation was this: Just as the Statue of Liberty greeted those arriving in New York, symbolizing this nation’s immigrant roots, those who came through the Golden Gate would see Alcatraz, reclaimed as a symbol of Indigenous rights.

The activists’ demand for ownership of Alcatraz Island wasn’t met. But with their protest, they forced the government to pay attention to the problems of Native people...Today, this essential history is largely overlooked. On the 50th anniversary of the Occupation of Alcatraz, a memorial ceremony showed what Alcatraz is for Native people: a symbol of our rights, resistance and persistence; an island reclaimed by our elders half a century ago; an idea, a story and a moment of organized action that bent the arc of justice in favor of the Indigenous.

...Since the Alcatraz occupation, much Native American activism has aimed simply to make this country’s First Peoples visible. It’s easy for many Americans to forget that we exist. That’s why the Alcatraz occupation mattered — and still matters. It put Native Americans on the national agenda.

Available at *The New York Times*: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/20/opinion/alcatraz-native-americans.html>

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Source G: Jesus Barraza, "Alcatraz. -- Indigenous peoples Thanksgiving. -- Celebrating 40 years of the American Indian Movement", 2009, *Library of Congress*



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