

**Master Narrative**

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Course

Date

## Master Narrative

Master narratives are referred to as socially disseminated tales used to influence people's ideas, attitudes, values, and actions. Over the years, we all have had our perceptions of Native Americans based on stories narrated by western people due to these master narratives. Native Americans and other Indigenous populations considered the original occupants of the United States were characterized by thousands of tribal groups with different cultural backgrounds and historical events that told their epistemological and conceptual ideas and beliefs. Native Americans master narratives played a huge in justifying how American Indians were treated.

Even though Native Americans are not extinct, Western citizens continue to tell the stories of Native inhabitants for them, producing master narratives. Western citizens portray Native inhabitants as relics of the past. Additionally, they picture them to be destitute, illiterate, and tramps in the world today (Deloria, 2015). According to some, this is a long-standing impact of the colonial conquest that has continued to wipe away Native peoples' accurate and lived experiences over time, thereby restricting their understanding of themselves and their potential opportunities.

Due to these master narratives, all through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the United States government took control of 98% of the jurisdictional regions and native lands of Native American territories through coercive and inequitable treaty obligations. Despite the fact that the framework used to acquire these territories is referred to as a treaty structure, it differs from the global agreement system currently used by white European nations (Takaki, 2012). As opposed to the latter, which was mostly designed to put a stop to or avoid conflicts between sovereign countries, the Indian treaty scheme was nothing more than an elaborate ruse that, while giving the illusion of fairness and justice and equality, was only one piece of a comprehensive

system of extermination committed by the United States against Native inhabitants. These actions were justified by the notion that the United States government wanted to civilize native inhabitants from their primitive cultures, as portrayed in the master narratives.

In conclusion, it is apparent that master narratives played a huge role in influencing America's actions toward Native inhabitants. However, in order to influence how people view them, Native inhabitants should engage in social-centered and community-based spaces where they can convey authentic narratives.

### References

- Deloria, P. J. (2015). American Master Narratives and the Problem of Indian Citizenship in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, 14(1), 3-12.
- Takaki, R. (2012). *A different mirror: A history of multicultural America (Revised edition)*. eBookIt. com.