

From Andrew Jackson's Controversial Presidency to the Dark Trail of Tears, Unveiling the Start of the Civil War

About Andrew Jackson

The presidency of Andrew Jackson marked a significant turning point in American history. Born in 1767 in the Carolina Piedmont region, Jackson rose to prominence as a military hero in the War of 1812 and eventually became the seventh President of the United States in 1828.

With his strong-willed personality and controversial policies, Jackson left an indelible mark on the young nation. One of his most consequential actions was the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which set the stage for the tragic events that would unfold along the Trail of Tears.

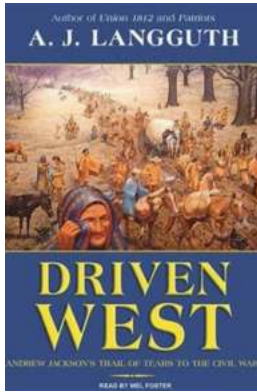
The Indian Removal Act of 1830

In 1830, President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act into law, paving the way for the forced removal of Native American tribes living in the southeastern United States. The Act authorized the federal government to negotiate treaties that would require tribes to relocate to lands west of the Mississippi River.

Driven West: Andrew Jackson and the Trail of Tears to the Civil War

by A. J. Langguth (Reprint Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 5743 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 485 pages



While Jackson argued that the relocation would protect Native Americans from conflicts with white settlers, many tribes fiercely opposed the act. The most notable opponents were the Cherokee Nation, who fought the removal policy through the United States legal system.

The Trail of Tears

The Cherokee Nation's legal battle against the Indian Removal Act reached the Supreme Court, resulting in the landmark case *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* in 1831. Surprisingly, the Court ruled that the Cherokee Nation was not an independent state and therefore lacked standing to sue in federal court.

Refusing to give up, the Cherokees pursued another legal avenue. In 1832, they brought a new case before the Supreme Court, *Worcester v. Georgia*. In a remarkable turn of events, the Court ruled in favor of the Cherokee Nation, stating that the state of Georgia could not enforce laws within Cherokee territory.

However, President Jackson openly defied the Supreme Court's decision and proceeded with the removal of the Native American tribes. In 1838 and 1839, over 15,000 Cherokees and thousands of other Native Americans were forcefully

removed from their ancestral lands and forced to march westward. This tragic journey became known as the Trail of Tears, where thousands lost their lives due to harsh conditions, disease, and starvation.

The Prelude to the Civil War

Andrew Jackson's presidency and the Trail of Tears set the stage for the eventual eruption of the Civil War. The forced removal of Native Americans further deepened the divide between the North and the South, creating tensions over states' rights and the moral implications of slavery.

The plight of the Native Americans also exposed the hypocrisy of the American government's treatment of marginalized groups. While the nation celebrated its democratic principles, it simultaneously violated the basic rights of Native Americans, showcasing the inherent contradictions within American society.

Under the surface, these tensions festered and contributed to the growing divide that would eventually lead to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. The Civil War, which fought primarily over the issue of slavery, would result in the deadliest conflict in American history and forever change the nation.

In

Andrew Jackson's presidency had far-reaching consequences, from the implementation of the controversial Indian Removal Act to the tragic Trail of Tears. These events shed light on the deeper issues that plagued American society during this era, ultimately leading to the Civil War. Understanding this complex history allows us to reflect on the mistakes of the past and work towards a more inclusive and just future.

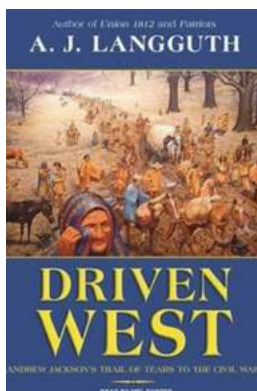
"A. J. Langguth's *Driven West* is American history at its absolute finest."
—Douglas Brinkley, author of *The Wilderness Warrior*

DRIVEN WEST

ANDREW JACKSON
AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS
TO THE CIVIL WAR



A. J. LANGGUTH
Author of UNION 1812 *and* PATRIOTS



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By the acclaimed author of the classic *Patriots and Union 1812*, this major work of narrative history portrays four of the most turbulent decades in the growth of the American nation.

After the War of 1812, President Andrew Jackson and his successors led the country to its manifest destiny across the continent. But that expansion unleashed new regional hostilities that led inexorably to Civil War. The earliest victims were the Cherokees and other tribes of the southeast who had lived and prospered for centuries on land that became Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia.

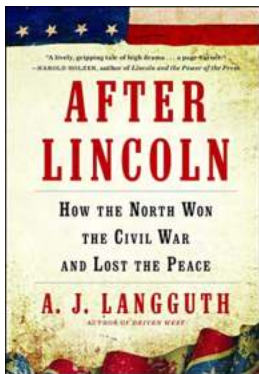
Jackson, who had first gained fame as an Indian fighter, decreed that the Cherokees be forcibly removed from their rich cotton fields to make way for an exploding white population. His policy set off angry debates in Congress and protests from such celebrated Northern writers as Ralph Waldo Emerson. Southern slave owners saw that defense of the Cherokees as linked to a growing abolitionist movement. They understood that the protests would not end with protecting a few Indian tribes.

Langguth tells the dramatic story of the desperate fate of the Cherokees as they were driven out of Georgia at bayonet point by U.S. Army forces led by General Winfield Scott. At the center of the story are the American statesmen of the day—Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun—and those Cherokee leaders who tried to save their people—Major Ridge, John Ridge, Elias Boudinot, and John Ross.

Driven West presents wrenching firsthand accounts of the forced march across the Mississippi along a path of misery and death that the Cherokees called the Trail of Tears. Survivors reached the distant Oklahoma territory that Jackson had marked out for them, only to find that the bloodiest days of their ordeal still awaited them.

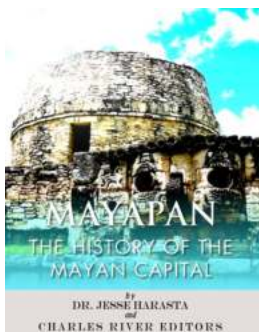
In time, the fierce national collision set off by Jackson's Indian policy would encompass the Mexican War, the bloody frontier wars over the expansion of slavery, the doctrines of nullification and secession, and, finally, the Civil War itself.

In his masterly narrative of this saga, Langguth captures the idealism and betrayals of headstrong leaders as they steered a raw and vibrant nation in the rush to its destiny.



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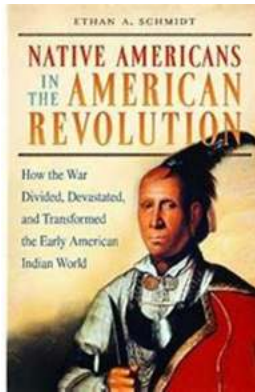
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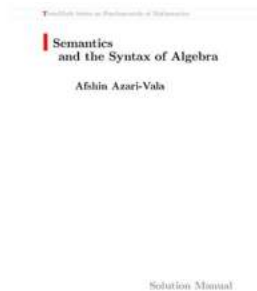
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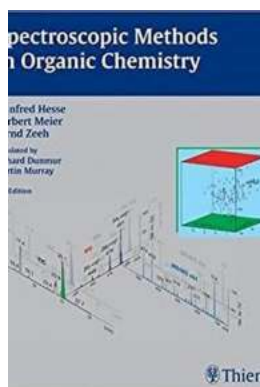
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