

ONONDAGA HISTORICAL TIMELINE

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...1142	1452	1492	1493	1613	1654	1677	1722	1754	1776		
Earliest date established by non-Indian scholars for the founding of the Confederacy. The Peacemaker gathers representatives from the Five Nations to bury their weapons and agree to the Great Law of Peace forming the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.	Papal Bull (letter from Pope Nicholas V) bestows "special graces... to invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens and pagans whatsoever." This initiated the "Doctrine of Discovery," which served to justify the subjugation of people throughout the world, including Native Americans.	Columbus reaches Watlings Island, Cuba, and Hispaniola in the Caribbean, believing he has reached India.	The Inter Caetera Bull issued by Pope Alexander VI elaborated on the earlier bull further codifying and validating Christian conquest of non-Christians.	Probable date of the first treaty between the Haudenosaunee and the Dutch, signified by the Two Row Wampum, the Guswentia. For the Haudenosaunee, this formed the basis for all future relations with European settlers. It establishes the idea of two separate but equal nations that will respect one another's sovereignty.	French send Jesuit Simon LeMoyne to Onondagas.	Treaty negotiations in Albany result in the first known Silver Covenant Chain Treaty with New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.	Tuscaroras are adopted into the Haudenosaunee Confederacy after being defeated in war by colonists in North Carolina who sought to make slaves of their people.	Benjamin Franklin's "Albany Plan of Union" for a central government of the North American colonies names its legislative branch "the Grand Council," language directly borrowed from the Haudenosaunee.	John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, sends a wampum belt to the Haudenosaunee to "show good intentions" and "cultivate peace".		
1789	1788	1784	1783	1779	1777						
Treaty of Fort Harmar renews peace and friendship between U.S. and Six Nations. The Six Nations give up claim to lands west of modern day Buffalo, but are guaranteed lands east and north of there.	New York State "buys" more than 96% of the Onondagas' land about 2 million acres from the Onondaga Nation. Onondaga territory is reduced to about 108 square miles, including a one-mile strip around Onondaga Lake. The "treaty" followed a private effort to buy land and was made with Onondagas without authority to negotiate for their people. New York Governor George Clinton promised, "this tract is to remain with the Onondagoes (sic) forever. Our people will know that they cannot get any Part of this Tract and therefore will not attempt it."	Treaty of Fort Stanwix cedes Haudenosaunee land north of the Ohio River to the U.S. (Onondaga territory is not affected.) During treaty negotiations Haudenosaunee leaders were taken hostage. In a meeting to discuss ratification of the treaty in 1786, the treaty was rejected by the Six Nations government, which quickly began appealing to the U.S. government for redress. This treaty followed an unsuccessful attempt by New York Governor George Clinton to negotiate land purchases from the Haudenosaunee.	U.S. War of Independence ends with victory over England.	During the American Revolution, colonial soldiers burn Onondaga villages, killing at least 12 and taking 34 prisoners. An Onondaga chief recalled the incident: "When They came to the Onondaga Town (of which I was one of the principal Chiefs) They put to death all the Women and Children, excepting some of the young Women that they carried away for the use of their Soldiers, and were put to death in a more shameful and Scandalous manner; Yet these Rebels calls themselves Christians." (Council at Niagara, December 11, 1782, in The Haldimand Transcripts (Series B), The Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, B.119, p. 172.) Meanwhile, General John Sullivan invaded other Haudenosaunee lands burning cornfields and homes. His forces retreated after their assault. These actions encouraged many of the neutral Haudenosaunee to side with British forces in the War of Independence.	Oneidas and Tuscaroras serve alongside Patriot soldiers. Other Haudenosaunee, primarily Mohawks and Senecas, fight alongside the British, believing that they are maintaining treaty obligations with the British that date back to the 1600s.						
1790	1793	1794	1795	1799-1815	1817	1822	1825	1838	1847	1848	1887
The Trade and Intercourse Act requires Congress to authorize in advance any negotiations carried out by a state. The act states "that no sale of lands made by any Indians, or any nation or tribe of Indians within the United States, shall be valid to any person or persons, or to any state, whether having the right of pre-emption to such lands or not, unless the same shall be made and duly executed at some public treaty, held under the authority of the United States."	New York State "buys" 79 square miles (50,560 acres) of the Onondaga territory. Onondagas believed that they were leasing land to New York State, not selling it.	Treaty of Canandaigua establishes peace between the U.S. and Haudenosaunee, guarantees that the U.S. will not claim lands of the Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga Nations and accepts the right of the Haudenosaunee of "free use and enjoyment of their lands".	New York State "buys" rights to Onondaga Lake and the land surrounding it. The state is in clear violation of both the 1790 and 1793 Trade and Intercourse Acts. And like earlier treaties, these were negotiated with factions of the nation who had no authority to sell land.	Handsome Lake appeals to Haudenosaunee people to return to the old values of kinship, family, and the ideas of the Peacemaker.	New York State "buys" just over 4,000 acres of Onondaga land.	New York State "buys" 800 acres at the south end of the Onondaga Nation, reducing Onondaga territory to its current size of 7,300 acres.	Erie Canal opens.	New York State attempts to have all remaining Haudenosaunee removed to a territory west of Missouri. This effort is thwarted.	The Grand Council Fire is returned to Onondaga Territory. The fire had been moved to Buffalo Creek by 1790 after being maintained at Onondaga for hundreds of years.	Syracuse becomes a city.	General Allotment Act, passed by the U.S. Congress, breaks up the communal land base of most reservation lands across the U.S. by subdividing the reservations into personally-owned tracts. But this act specifically exempts the Haudenosaunee.
1980	1979	1974	1971	1970	1956-63	1947-60	Late 40's	1946	1924	1922	
Cayuga Nation files a claim for the return of 64,000 acres of land.	An agreement is signed between the Onondaga Nation and Onondaga County Sheriffs Department affirming that the Sheriffs Department will recognize Onondaga Sovereignty by not entering Nation territory without permission of the Chiefs except in life-threatening situations.	U.S. Supreme Court decides that the Oneida Nation's claim for lands which were lost through a violation of the Trade and Intercourse Act should be heard in federal court.	The Onondagas resist New York State's efforts to take Onondaga Nation land to widen Rt. 81. Negotiations in the longhouse lead to an agreement that limits the expansion and reasserts Onondaga sovereignty.	New York State places a ban on eating fish from Onondaga Lake.	Despite determined resistance by the Senecas, the Kinzua Dam is built, flooding 9,000 acres of the Allegany reservation, causing the relocation of 130 families and many graves.	The New York State Power Authority confiscates 550 acres of Tuscarora land to build a hydroelectric dam and reservoir.	Onondaga land is taken as the result of a dam project.	Following World War II, the Indian Claims Commission is established by Congress to redress past land frauds and treaties.	American Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to Native Americans born in the U.S. The act contradicted the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua and the 1815 Treaty of Ghent. Despite provisions of the law, certificates of citizenship were never distributed to any of the Haudenosaunee, so the law was never put into effect legally. Beginning with a letter to President Coolidge on December 30, 1924, the Haudenosaunee have consistently rejected U.S. citizenship.	NYS Legislature rejects the New York State Indian Commission "Everett" Report which concluded that the original six million acres of land guaranteed to the Haudenosaunee by the 1784 Treaty of Fort Stanwix still belonged to them. The report was hidden from the public until 1971.	
1982	1992	1994	1998	2000-2001...	2001	November 2003	March 11, 2005	June 28, '05	August 1, '05		
The Ancient Indian Land Claims Settlement Act seeks to resolve land claims by validating all prior land transfers and allowing Indian nations to sue only for monetary damages. The bill dies in Congress.	The Federal government intervenes in the Cayuga case.	U.S. District Court Judge Neal McCurn rules that the Cayugas had a valid claim to their ancestral land.	Onondaga chiefs meet with Gov. George Pataki in Albany to notify him that a land claim will be filed.	After negotiations break down, the Cayuga claim becomes first to go to trial in federal court. In February, a jury awarded the Cayugas \$36.9 million dollars for their land and loss of use of that land. On October 2, 2001, Judge Neal McCurn announced his decision to add \$211 million in interest to the jury award.	Onondaga Chief Sidney Hill is con-doled (installed) as Tadadaho (spiritual leader) of the the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.	Onondaga students and adults convince the LaFayette School District to fly the Haudenosaunee flag at the High School following years of persistent effort.	Onondaga Nation files historic Land Rights Action in federal court seeking recognition of its aboriginal title over some 4,000 square miles of land and calling for environmental cleanup in the territory.	Second Circuit US Appeals Court overturns the Cayuga decision, nullifying an award of some \$250 million to the Cayugas for loss of their land. The full court later chose not to review the divided decision of the three judge panel.	Onondaga Nation files amended Land Rights Action responding to court decisions in Sherrill v. Oneida and an appeal of the Cayuga Land Claim.		