

Moving Forward Acadian Genocide

The United States has not issued a formal federal apology or official recognition of the Expulsion of the Acadians, a British colonial campaign regarded as one of the first large scale state directed acts of ethnic cleansing in North America. During this period, thousands of Acadians were forcibly removed from their lands, families were systematically separated, and populations were dispersed across British territories, including the American colonies and Louisiana, as well as overseas regions such as the Caribbean. Many endured extreme hardship, and a substantial number died due to disease, shipwrecks, starvation, and exposure, while others were subjected to coerced labor, including plantation work under harsh conditions. Despite the scale, coordination, and enduring consequences of this displacement, including cultural fragmentation and a population that remains comparatively small, formal acknowledgment at the federal level in the United States remains absent, with recognition largely confined to regional and cultural commemorations.

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