

# Treaties Between the United States and the Seminole Indians

The Seminole people are a Native American tribe originally formed in Florida during the 18th century. The United States entered into several treaties with the Seminole Nation during the 19th century. These treaties were largely connected to land cessions and the federal policy of Indian removal, which eventually led to the Seminole Wars and the forced migration of many Seminole people to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma).

## 1. Treaty of Moultrie Creek (1823)

Signed on September 18, 1823, the Treaty of Moultrie Creek required the Seminole to move from northern Florida to a reservation in central Florida. In exchange, the United States promised supplies and protection. This treaty marked the beginning of formal relocation efforts and increased federal control over Seminole lands.

## 2. Treaty of Payne's Landing (1832)

Signed on May 9, 1832, this treaty required the Seminole to relocate west of the Mississippi River if suitable lands were found. A delegation later agreed that land in Indian Territory was acceptable. Many Seminole leaders disputed the legitimacy of the agreement, leading to growing tensions.

## 3. Treaty of Fort Gibson (1833)

This treaty reaffirmed the agreement to move to Indian Territory. It formally set the stage for removal. Resistance among the Seminole led to the Second Seminole War (1835–1842), one of the longest and most costly Indian conflicts in U.S. history.

## 4. Post-Civil War Treaty (1866)

After the Civil War, a new treaty was signed in 1866. The Seminole Nation had allied with the Confederacy, and as a result, the United States required new agreements. The treaty abolished slavery within the Seminole Nation and required land cessions in Indian Territory.

## Conclusion

The treaties between the United States and the Seminole people reflect a broader pattern of U.S. expansion and Native American displacement during the 19th century. While some Seminole were forcibly removed to Oklahoma, others resisted and remained in Florida, where their descendants continue today as the Seminole Tribe of Florida. These treaties remain significant in understanding federal Indian policy and tribal sovereignty.