

Native American Influence on the U.S. Constitution

Before the Constitution became ratified or approved, the individual States had their own powers. One of these major powers was the ability to conduct trade, talk, acquire land, or even start a war with the Native American tribes. Individual power for the States often led to the mistreatment of many of the tribes.

After the Constitution was ratified, the Federal Government was given “exclusive and effective authority to conduct relations with Indian nations.”

The Federal Government official recognized Native American tribes as sovereign or independent nations. The framers of the Constitution wanted the tribes treated as equals and free people among American citizens.