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The Trails of Tears



— Paper Outline

Thesis Statement: the Trails of Tears is a journey that saw Native Americans' sufferings as they were forced out of their ancestral land to pave way for white settlement.

A. Introduction

- I. The paper addresses the inhuman treatment Native Americans received from the Federal government as well as its forces.
- II. The paper also shows the ordeal the American Indians went through along their way.

B. Assimilation of Native Americans

- I. Resentment by White Americans towards Indian Americans forces the government initiated a civilization process that would assimilate the latter into the mainstream society.
- II. White Americans began to encroach the territory of Native Americans, colluded with the Federal government to have them relocated.

C. Relocation policy

- I. President Andrew Jackson abolished the assimilation process in favor of the relocation policy which was to move Native Americans to the present-day Oklahoma.
- II. The Congress threw its support behind the Federal government and gave the government the nod to go ahead with the forceful relocation.

D. The Westward Journey (the Trails of Tears)

- I. In 1831, the governments began to relocate the Five Civilized Tribes, beginning with the Choctaws, followed by Muskogee, then Chickasaw, Cherokee and finally Seminole nations.
- II. The federal forces assaulted the communities that resisted the relocation process with several civilians dying in the process.
- III. The long tiresome journey known as the *Trails of Tears* presented several challenges the migrants and the harsh conditions left many dead and others got sick at the end of the journey.

Conclusion: The relocation was inhuman and uncalled for; the Federal government overlooked plea of Indian Americans, violated their rights and relocated them against the Law.

