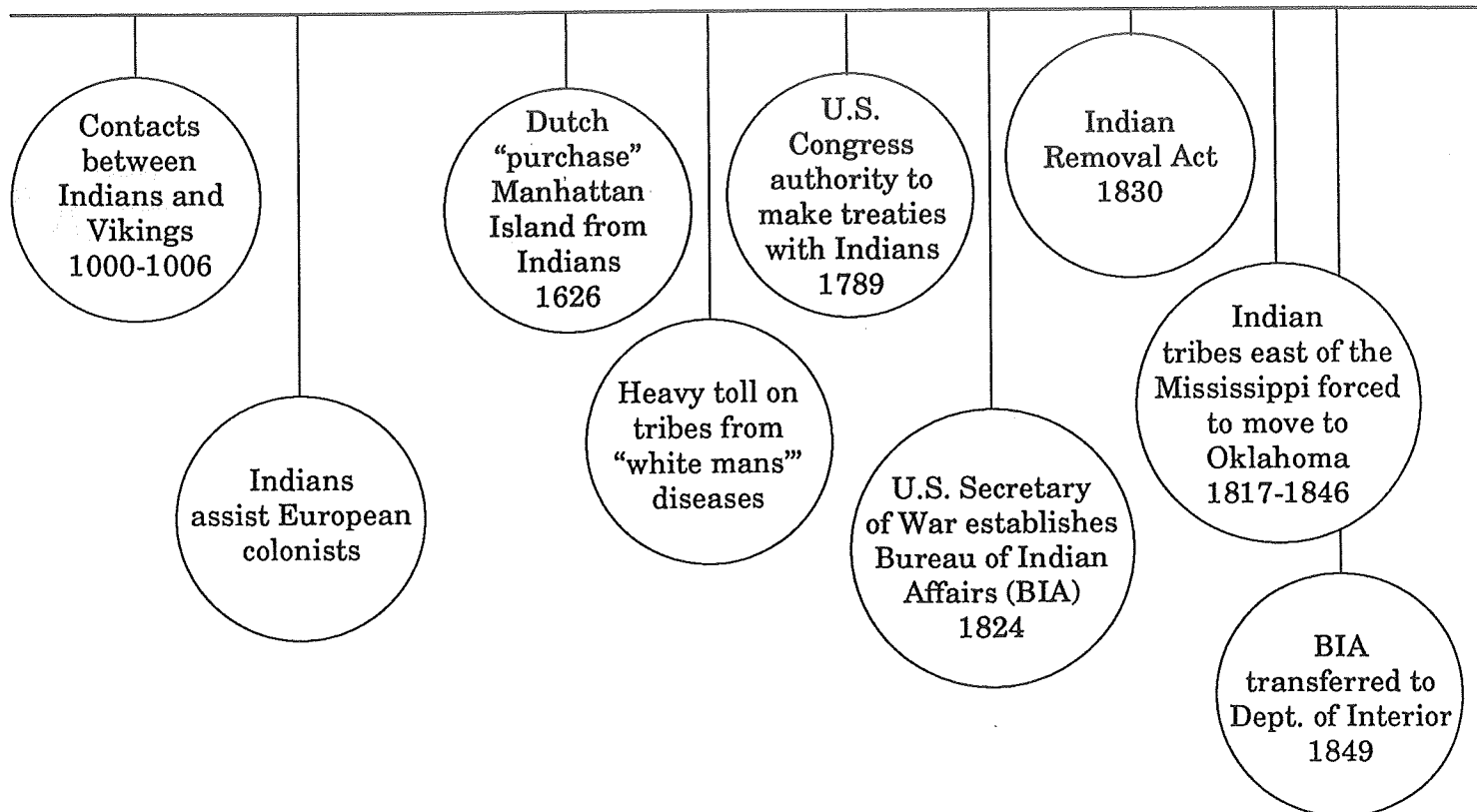


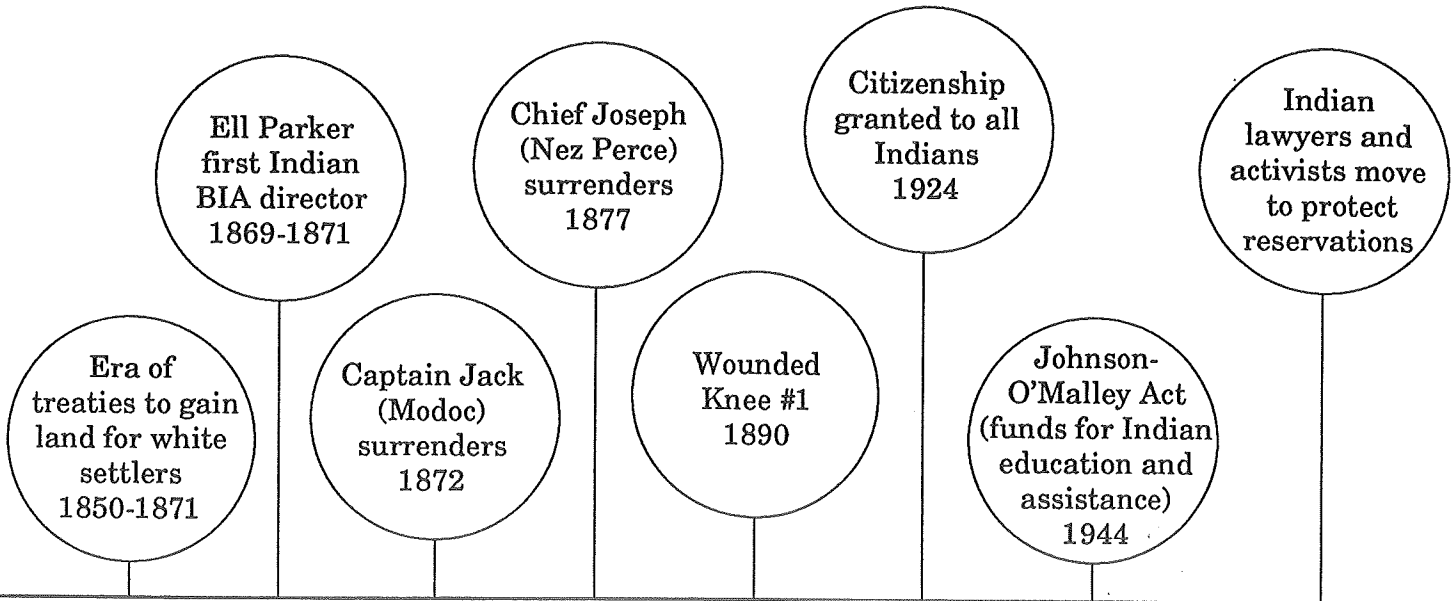
Time Immemorial 1500 1600 1800

Self-determination Colonial Period Early United States Indian Removal Era

1000-1006 European Contact 1700 and Indian Relations 1820



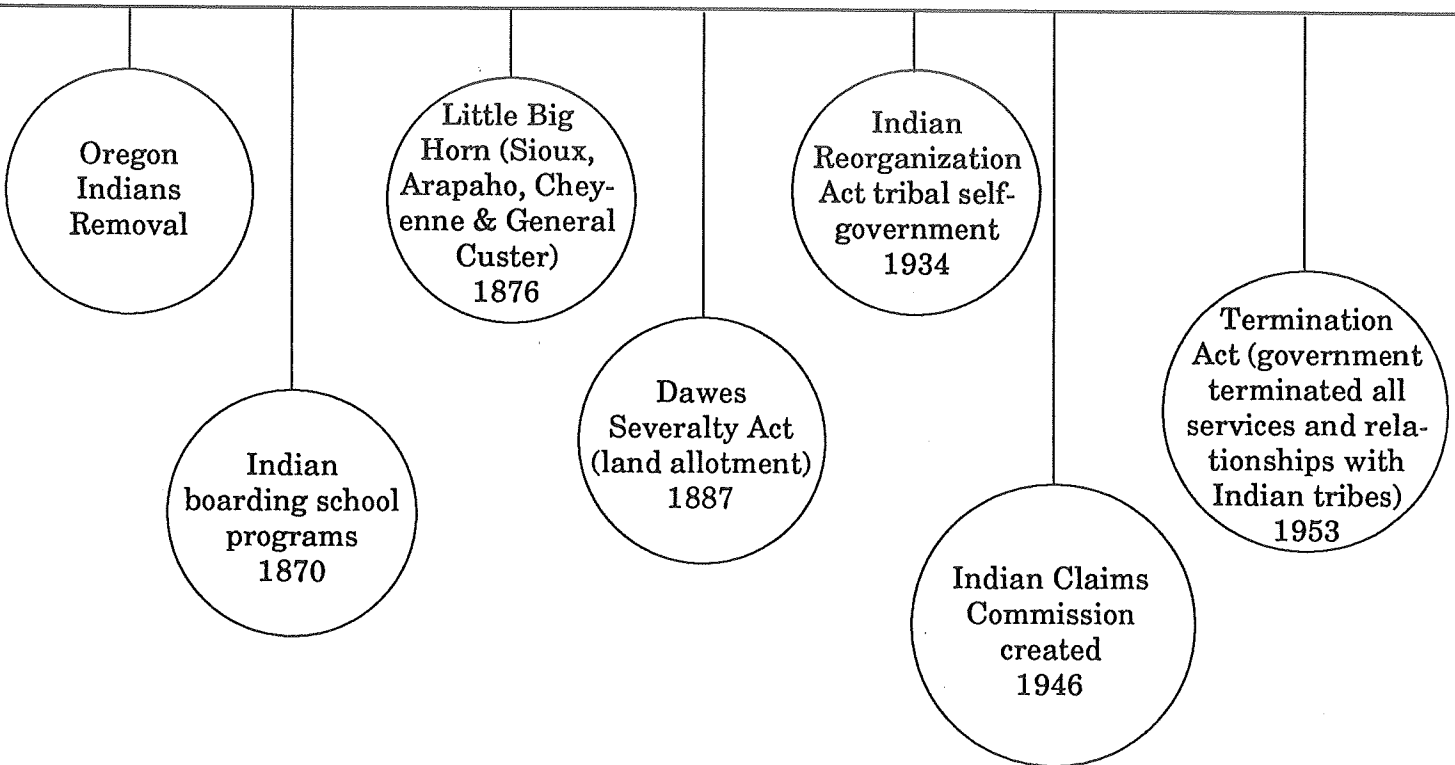
# First Americans' Historic Timeline

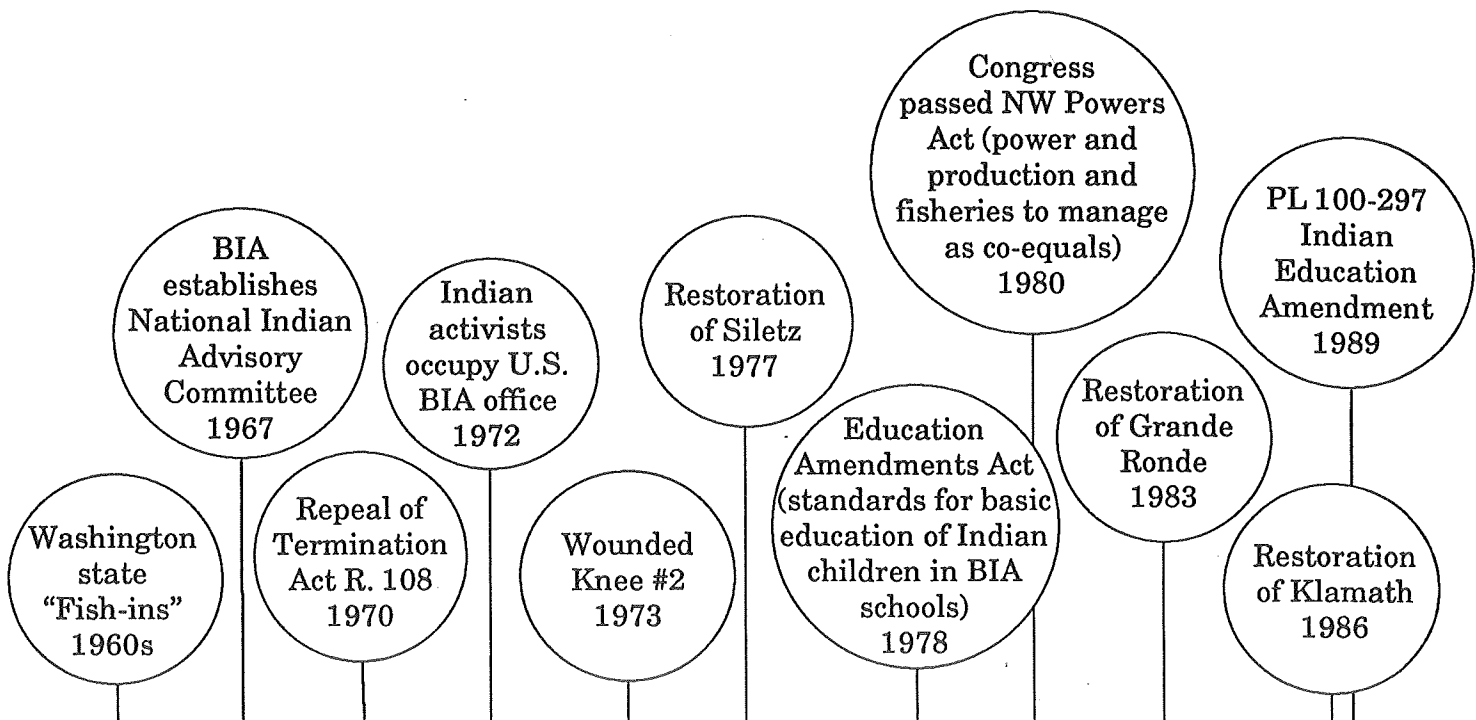


1850 1860  
 Reservation and Wars  
 Assimilation Era  
 1855

1875  
 Trail of Broken Treaties

1900 1940  
 Indian Reorganization Act (IRA)  
 Termination Period  
 1950 1964

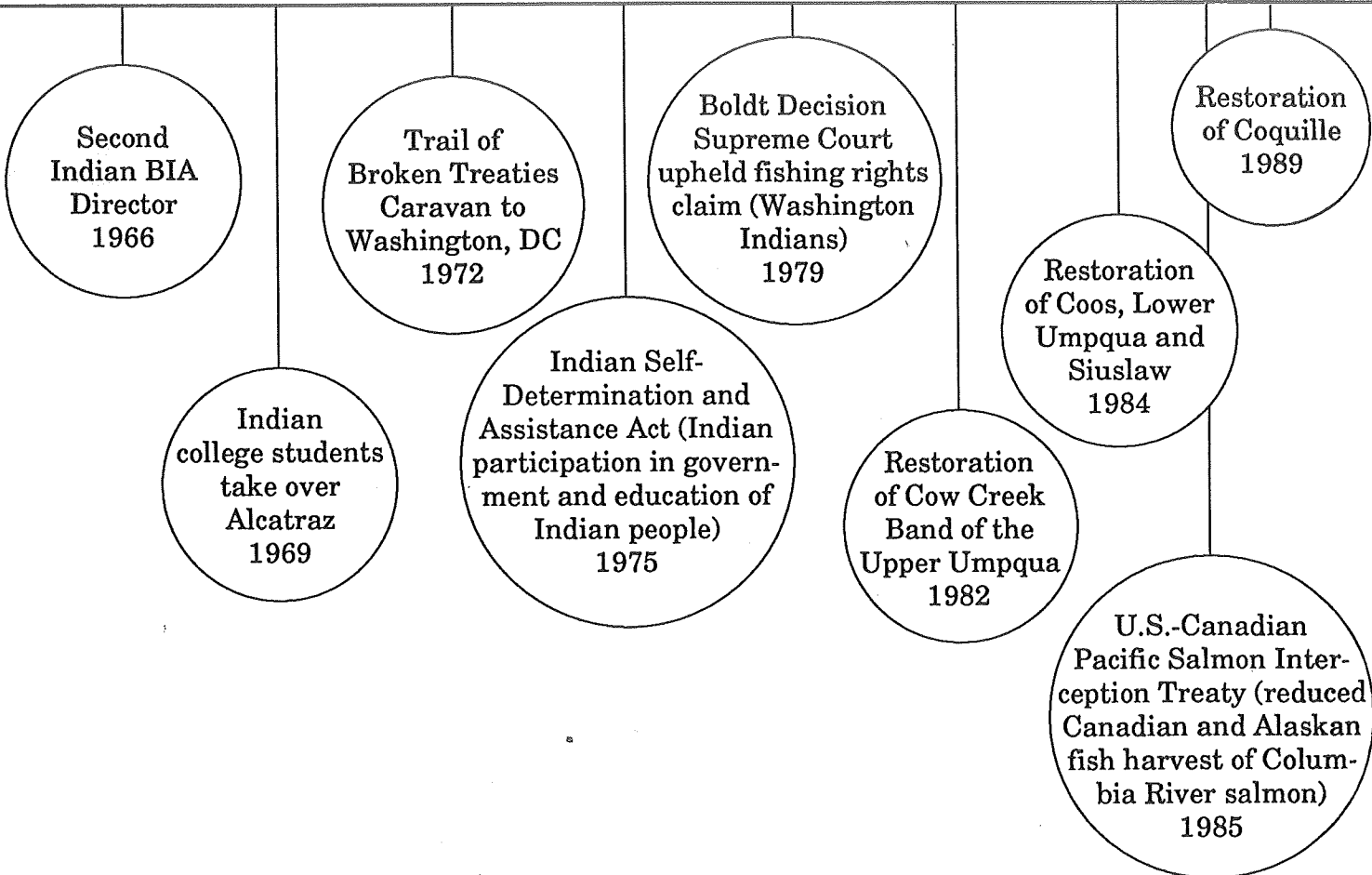




1964                                      1970                                      1979                                      1989

Self-determination                                      Fish Treaties and Restoration

1975                                      1900                                      1950                                      1964



# AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE—UNITED STATES HISTORY – A CRONOLOGY

## Beginning

- Self-determination

1492

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### Colonial Period:

- Indians assist European colonists.
- Colonists exploit Indians through the extraction of resources and local products, forced labor, and importation of European life.
- Colonists use the treaties to acquire land and regulate transactions. Some treaties stipulate the employment of people to teach Indians.

1776

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### Early U.S.—Indian Relations:

- The first treaty between the U.S. and an Indian nation is signed with the Delewares (1778).
- Indians are needed as allies in wars with Europe.
- Indian land is exchanged for services from the U.S. Government.
- A federal responsibility for Indian education is established.
- Congress authorizes funds “to promote civilization among the savages” (1802).
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is created in the War Department (1824).

1830

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### Removal Era:

- Tribes living in the southeastern U.S. are coerced into moving west of the Mississippi River.
- The assimilation movement begins.
- The BIA is transferred to the Department of the Interior (1849)
- The Supreme Court recognized Indian tribes as “domestic dependent nations” within the U.S.  
In an 1832 decision, the Court declared that such nations had a right to self-government (1831).

1850

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### Reservation and Wars:

- The Court of Claims is established (1855); broken treaties are excluded.
- Treaties are negotiated which secure land for settlers and establish reservations and limited assistance programs for Indians.
- The Transcontinental Railroad is completed (1869).
- The Allotment System is established under the General Allotment (Dawes) Act to allot reservation land to Indian families and individuals and to allow lands not allotted to be sold to the U.S. and opened for homesteading (1887). The basic idea was to make Indians conform to

the social and economic structure of rural America by giving them private property (40 to 160 acres). It was thought that if the Indian had his own piece of land, he would forsake his tribal ways. Many of the Indians sold or lost land to the Anglos rather than work it themselves.

#### Assimilation and Allotment:

- Rations are withheld from Indian parents who refuse to keep their children in school (1892).
- Federal educational services are limited to children of one-fourth or more Indian blood (1918).
- Indian students in public schools, for the first time, outnumber those in federal schools (1920).
- Reservations were turned over to different Christian denominations. They were church-operated for years. Every possible method was used to ensure that the Indian learned about the American way of life.
- The Snyder Act authorizes the BIA to establish and fund educational programs that benefit Indians (1921). This indicated that the objective of the BIA was to provide for the general support and civilization of the Indians.
- Congress grants citizenship to Indians (1924).
- The Meriam Report is issued by the Brookings Institution criticizing federal Indian policies (1928).
- Indian lawyers and activists move to protect reservations.

1930

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#### Indian Reorganization Act:

- The Indian Reorganization Act, also referred to as the Wheeler-Howard Act, ends the allotment system, establishes an employment preference for Indians in the BIA, and provides a mechanism for chartering and reorganizing tribal governments—reversing the trend of breaking up tribes (1934).
- The Johnson-O'Malley Act authorizes contracts with states, territories, political subdivisions, and non-profit agencies for the education, medical attention, agricultural assistance, and social welfare of Indians. It eases the impact of tax-free Indian lands on state's ability to provide services (1934).
- The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is organized (1944).

1945

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#### Termination Period:

- Pressure builds in Congress to transfer trust land to non-Indian ownership and to terminate tribes from federal protection, especially those having valuable resources.
- 2.5 million acres are removed from protected status, and 12,000 Indians lose tribal affiliations and political relationships with the U.S. Statutes are enacted terminating over 100 tribes, including the Klamaths and Menominees (1954-1962).
- The Indian Claims Commission is created (1946).
- Indians are included in Public Law 81-874 (Federally Impacted Areas of 1950) and Public Law 81-815 (School Facilities Contraction Act of 1950) in 1958.
- The American Indian Historical Society is founded in San Francisco, California, to correct the treatment of Indians in textbooks and to publish materials about Indian history (1964).

## Self-Determination:

- The termination policy is rejected.
- Great Society Programs are begun. The Economic Opportunity Act (1964) authorizes Head Start, Upward Bound, Job Corps, Vista, and the Indian Community Action Program. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides aid for disadvantaged youth (1965).
- There is increased tribal participation in local government.
- The Report of the Kennedy Sub-Committee, *Indian Education: A National Tragedy—A National Challenge*, recommends increased Indian control of education, the creation of an exemplary federal school system, and the establishment of a National Indian Board of Education (1969).
- The National Indian Education Association is founded in Minneapolis, Minnesota (1970).
- The Alaska National Claims Settlement Act provides Alaska Natives title to surface lands and subsurface resources for 40 million acres and authorizes 12 Regional Corporations. Alaska Natives start to manage their own affairs and negotiate with the government and agencies for better services, including education (1971).
- The National Tribal Chairman's Association is formed (1971).
- Congress restored the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin to federal trust status (1972).
- The Indian Education Act (Title IV of the Education Amendments of 1972) is enacted to meet the special needs of Indian students in public schools having ten or more Indian students; to establish a National Advisory Council on Indian Education; to train teachers of Indian children; to give priority funding to Indian tribes and organizations in the use of discretionary program money; and to begin work with Indian community colleges (1972; reauthorization in 1984).
- The Indian Self-Determination and Assistance Act promotes "maximum Indian participation in the government and education of the Indian people" (1975).
- The Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act provides grants for the operation and improvement of such colleges (1978).
- The Education Amendments Act provides for standards for the basic education of Indian children in BIA schools (1978).
- The Supreme Court upheld the fishing rights claims of the Indian tribes of Washington State (1979).
- The Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Tribes of Maine received a settlement of their land claims after a long and difficult battle (1980).

Adapted by Robin Butterfield from *American Indian/Alaska Native Education: Quality in the Classroom*, Washington, D.C., Human and Civil Rights, National Education Association (1983).