CREATING POLITICAL CARTOONS
THE SEMINOLE WARS
Grades 6-8

OBJECTIVES:

• Students will interpret different points of view from primary sources.

• Students will learn and demonstrate an understanding of the techniques of political cartooning by creating their own cartoons.

• Students will demonstrate an understanding of the issues and viewpoints of the Second Seminole War through the creation of a political cartoon.

SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS / BENCHMARKS:

Completion of these activities meets benchmarks:
SS.A.1.3.2, SS.A.4.3.4, SS.A.6.3.1, SS.A.6.3.3, SS.A.6.3.4, LA.A.2.3.1, LA.A.2.3.2, LA.A.2.3.3, VA.B.1.3.1, VA.B.1.3.2, VA.B.1.3.3, VA.C.1.3.1, VA.C.1.3.2

MATERIALS:

Overhead transparencies of political cartoons related to a current events issue
Overhead projector/overhead markers
Handouts – “Analyzing Political Cartoons,” “Americans through Seminole Eyes,” and “The Florida Seminoles through American Eyes”
Paper and drawing materials

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY:

1. Show students examples of political cartoons and have them analyze the content together as a class. Then have students find their own examples of political cartoons in newspapers and other news media.

2. Have students analyze their example of a political cartoon using the handout “Analyzing Political Cartoons.”

AT THE HISTORY CENTER:

Have students pay close attention to the Seminole exhibition, particularly the information regarding the Seminole Wars.
POST-VISIT ACTIVITY:

1. Split students into pairs or groups of three.

2. Give each group a copy of the handouts “Americans through Seminole Eyes” and “Florida Seminoles through American Eyes.” (Since these are long handouts, consider assigning one or two quotes to each group. If choosing this alternative, cut up the quotes and give each group individual slips of paper.)

3. Have the groups create political cartoons about the Seminole Wars. Consider setting the following requirements:
   - Groups must use the quote as the basis for their cartoons.
   - Cartoons should include both an American and a Seminole opinion.
   - If dialogue is included, students must use the exact wording from the quote assigned to them.

   Encourage students to use information and images they got from viewing the exhibitions at The History Center.

4. Give students a copy of the rubric so that they know how you will evaluate their cartoons.

5. Have students share their cartoons with the class and explain their point of view.

RESOURCES:


The Seminole Wars, [http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/facts/history/seminole/wars.cfm](http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/facts/history/seminole/wars.cfm)

Daryl Cagle’s Professional Cartoonists Index, [http://www.cagle.com/](http://www.cagle.com/)
Analyzing Political Cartoons

Name ________________________________

1. What event or issue inspired this cartoon? How do you know?

2. What symbols, graphics, or words helped you understand the topic or main idea presented in the cartoon?

3. Are there any real people in the cartoon? If so, who are they?

4. If there are people in the cartoon, are they drawn as caricatures? If so, explain.

5. Does the cartoonist use personification in the cartoon? If so, explain.

6. Did the cartoonist use any colors in the cartoon? If so, do they have any special meaning?

7. Is there a caption for this cartoon? If so, what is it?

8. What do you think the cartoonist is trying to say about this issue?

9. Do you agree or disagree with the cartoonist’s point of view? Explain your answer.
Political Cartoon Rubric

DIRECTIONS: Read the statements below. Then indicate the number from the following scale that reflects your assessment of the student’s work.

1 = Bad  2 = Poor  3 = Average  4 = Good  5 = Excellent

1. The political cartoon contains details from the historical time period.
   1 2 3 4 5

2. The message of the political cartoon clearly represents one of the points of view of the war.
   1 2 3 4 5

3. An appropriate caption accompanies and explains the political cartoon.
   1 2 3 4 5

4. The political cartoon is clean and neat, and the information on it well organized.
   1 2 3 4 5

5. The political cartoon is creative.
   1 2 3 4 5

6. There are few or no spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors on the political cartoon.
   1 2 3 4 5

7. The graphics and symbols on the political cartoon are appropriate.
   1 2 3 4 5

8. The political cartoon demonstrates an understanding of its topic and related concepts.
   1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

Total Points/Grade: _________

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AMERICANS THROUGH SEMINOLE EYES

Six chiefs made the following statements after they signed the Treaty of Fort Gibson (a revision of the Treaty of Payne's Landing):

“When [the white men] were at Camp Moultrie they made a treaty, and was to be paid their annuity for twenty years. That is all I have to say.” Micanopy. McReynolds, 142.

“The land is very good. I saw it and I was very glad to see it…. The neighbors there are very bad people; they did not like them bad Indians (the Pawnees)…. Your talk seems always good, but we do not feel disposed to go west.” Onselmatche (Jumper). McReynolds, 142.

“We told the agent that the people were bad there – the land was good. When we went there we saw Indians bring in scalps to the garrison… I am sick. I cannot say all I want to say.” Holahiti Emathla. McReynolds, 142.

“I am no half-breed, and do not lean on one side. If they tell me to go after the seven years (that the Moultrie Creek Treaty had to run) I say nothing;….until seven years are out, I give no answer.” Charley Emathla. McReynolds, 142.

“I never gave my consent to go west…the whites may say so, but I never gave my consent.” Holatter Micco. McReynolds, 142.

“At Payne's Landing the white people forced us into a treaty. I was there; I agreed to go west and did go west; I went in a vessel and it made me sick…. We wish to hear the Agent's views and opinions on the matter.” Charley Emathla. McReynolds, 142.

“When I walk about these woods, now so desolate, and remember numerous herds that once ranged through them, and the former prosperity of our nation, the tears come into my eyes.” Chief Sitarkey after the invasion of the United States to Florida and the relocation of Seminoles to reservations. Mahon, 31.

“Brave warriors, though they despise death, do not madly contend with the strong.” Neamathala, explaining that the Seminoles would not fight the United States if they did not have to. Mahon, 45.

“When I was there, the agent, Phagan, was a passionate man. He quarreled with us after we got there—had Major Phagan done his duty it would all have been settled, and there would have been no difficulty.” Charley Emathla, on the Treaty of Payne’s Landing. Mahon, 83.
“We are poor and needy; we do not come here to murmur or complain...we rely on your justice and humanity; we hope you will not send us south, to a country where neither the hickory nut, the acorn, nor the persimmon grows.... For me, I am old and poor; too poor to move from my village to the south. I am attached to the spot improved by my own labor, and cannot believe that my friends will drive me from it.” Neamathala, after the signing of the Moultrie Creek Treaty, prelude to the Second Seminole War. Mahon, 45.

“If the hail rattles, let the flowers be crushed—the stately oak of the forest will lift its head to the sky and the storm, towering and unscathed.” Osceola, in response to Indian agent John Phagan stealing tribal funds and his determination to settle the dispute. Mahon, 92.

“Am I a negro? a Slave? My skin is dark, but not black. I am an Indian—a Seminole. The white man shall not make me black. I will make the white man red with blood; and then blacken him in the sun and rain, where the wolf shall smell of his bones, and the buzzard live upon his flesh.” Osceola, upon learning that Indians were not allowed to buy powder for firearms. Sprague, 86.

“...an Indian came up and said the white men were building a fort of logs. Jumper and myself, with ten warriors, returned. As we approached, we saw six men behind two logs placed one above another, with the cannon a short distance off. This they discharged at us several times, but we avoided it by dodging behind the trees just as they applied the fire. We soon came near, as the balls went over us. They had guns, but no powder; we looked into the boxes afterwards and found that they were empty. When I got inside the log pen, there were three white men alive, whom the Negroes put to death, after a conversation in English. There was a brave man in the pen; he would not give up; he seized an Indian, Jumper’s cousin, took away his rifle, and with one blow with it beat out his brains, then ran some distance up the road; but two Indians on horseback overtook him, who, afraid to approach, stood at a distance and shot him down. The firing had ceased, and all was quiet when we returned to the swamp about noon. We left many negroes upon the ground looking at the dead men. Three warriors were killed and five were wounded.” Halpatter-Tustenuggee or Alligator, about his return trip from the Dade Massacre. Sprague, 90-91.

“The whites... dealt unjustly by me. I came to them, they deceived me; the land I was upon I loved, my body is made out of its sands; the Great Spirit gave me legs to walk over it; hands to aid myself; eyes to see its ponds, rivers, forests, and game; then a head with which to think. The sun, which is warm and bright as my feelings are now, shines to warm us and bring forth our crops, and the moon brings back the spirits of our warriors, our fathers, wives, and children. The white man comes; he grows pale and sick, why cannot we live here in peace? I have said I am the enemy to the white man. I could live in peace with him, but they first steal our cattle and horses, cheat us, and take our lands. The white men are as thick as the leaves in the hammock; they come upon us thicker every year. They may shoot us, drive our women and children all night and day; they may chain our hands and feet, but the red man's heart will always be free.” Coacoochee to Colonel William Worth and his men at Ft. Brooke. Mahon, 286.
“Could our father now see us, he would see us with all our people around us, at the place where we were told to come; and from whence the big canoes were to carry us to our new country; we are here and we are ready to go. If we did not mean to go we would not have been here, but with our mad brothers in the red path. We believe that our great father is our best friend. General [sic] Thompson has always told us so, and he always told us the truth…. Our father, we have seen much trouble since this division came amongst our people; our lives have been constantly threatened, and we have lived unquiet and unsafe in our towns; and we have felt as if we had, and indeed, for some moons past, have had no home; and this because we have been your fast and true friends…. Our father, we have said our talk; we wished to say it whilst we lived, for in these times we know not how soon we may be amongst the dead. We hope that our father will find our talk good.” Holahte Emathla and Fuchi Lusti-Hadjio, to their people about their trip to the west and to the government asking how they could do this to them. Peters, 131-132.

“I was once a boy; then I saw a white man afar off. I hunted in these woods, first with a bow and arrow; then with a rifle. I saw the white man, and was told he was my enemy. I could not shoot him as I would a wolf or bear; yet like these he came upon me; horses, cattle and fields he took from me. He said he was my friend; he abused our women and children, and told us to go from the land. Still he gave me his hand in friendship; we took it. Whilst taking it, he had a snake in the other; his tongue was forked; he lied and stung us. I asked but for a small piece of these lands, enough to plant and to live upon, for a spot where I could place the ashes of my kindred, a spot only sufficient upon which I could lay my wife and child. This was not granted me. I was put in prison. I escaped. I have been again taken; you have brought me back; I am here; I feel the irons in my heart…. We know but little; we have no books which to tell us things; but we have the Great Spirit, moon, and stars; these told me last night, you would be our friend. I give you my word; it is the word of Coacoochee. It is true I have fought like a man, so have my warriors; but the whites were too strong for us. I wish now to have my band around me and go to Arkansas. You say I must end the war! Look at these irons! Can I go to my warriors? Coacoochee chained! No; do not ask me to see them. I never wish to tread upon my land unless I am free. If I can go to them unchained they will follow me in; but I fear they will not obey me when I walk to them in irons. They will say my heart is weak, I am afraid. Could I go free they will surrender and emigrate.” Coacoochee responding to Colonel Worth’s scripted regret of what happened to his people. Peters, 212-213.

THE SEMINOLES THROUGH AMERICAN EYES

“With our power, I hope also that [the Seminoles] may be made to feel our justice.” General James Brown, Commanding general of the Army. Mahon, 65.

“The very worst feature of the whole of this war.” Unidentified white officer after hearing that plantation slaves were joining the Seminoles in the war. Meltzer, 102.
“It was a condition, altogether without precedent, in which the country was now placed. A war was raging with the most rancorous violence within our borders; congress has been in session nearly two months, during which time this conflict was raging; yet of the causes of the war, how it was produced, if the fault was on one side or on both sides, in short, what had lighted up the torch, congress was altogether uninformed.” Henry Clay, politician and statesman from Kentucky, striking out at President Andrew Jackson about Indian Removal. Meltzer, 116.

“SIR—On my visit to the agency, I regret to state, that I discovered evidences of fraud and improper conduct on the part of Major Phagan, which I will communicate to the department with my accounts, with which, in fact, they will be necessary as explanations. I discovered that in regard to the employees [sic] of the agency, he had sub-contracts with them for much less than the amount they receipted for to the government, and that even for the amount of these sub-contracts he was in default to them. I found also that he was in debt to several Indians, and to Abraham, one of the Seminole interpreters; to the contractor, for beef at the agency, for provisions at the payment of the annuity in 1832; and Col. Blunt, an Indian chief, has a claim of fifty dollars for arrears of his annuity receipted for to him. I have promised Abraham and the Indians to report this to the department.” James D. Westcott Jr., secretary and acting governor of the Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Sprague, 72-73.

“…inflict just punishment for outrages so unpunished.” President Andrew Jackson giving orders to General Clinch on how to settle the Seminole/Slave uprising. Meltzer, 103.

“I pray you, does not this circumstance raise a doubt whether…the treaty can be considered valid and binding? The Indian question of removal is one that should be managed with great caution and care…. Tread then cautiously! The people here want their lands on which they reside.” Governor John H. Eaton of Florida raising concern about the Treaty of Payne’s Landing and its legality. McReynolds, 139.

“…a foul blot upon the escutcheon of the nation.” Thomas L. McKinney, former superintendent of Indian affairs, in response to the Treaty of Payne’s Landing. Mahon, 77.

“You solemnly bound yourselves to remove within three years from the ratification of that treaty, and the whole delegation that went west confirmed that promise by entering into a final agreement to do so, by which the whole nation is bound. You know you were not forced to do it. You know that Colonel Gadsden told you at Payne’s Landing that it was the wish of your father…to remove you west of the Mississippi River.” General Wiley S. Thompson, Indian agent, angrily and illogically to the Seminole chiefs questioning that they still had several years left to stay in Florida. Mahon, 85-86.

“Can any Christian in this republic…still pray for the continuance of blessings when he is about to wrest from the unhappy Seminole all that the Great Spirit ever conferred upon him?” A soldier, Second Seminole War. Peters, 158.
“The miserable creatures will be speedily swept from the face of the earth…. It is confidently hoped…that ten years intercourse with the whites has so far corrupted and demoralized the Seminoles as to make them incapable of protracted resistance.” *Niles’ Register, (newspaper), underestimating the Seminoles determination to keep their homeland.* Mahon, 122.

“The intercourse laws prohibit the purchase of an Indian Poney [sic] by a member of civilized society, without permission of the Agent; and why, but because the Indian is considered in a state of pupilage, and incapable of protecting himself against the arts and wiles of civilized man.” *General Wiley S. Thompson, Indian agent.* McReynolds, 150.

“Was this the language of a subdued people, humbly suing for peace?… Sooner than quit their native soil, they had appealed to arms; they had massacred a detachment of one hundred men; they had held their country notwithstanding the gallantry of Clinch and his handful of troops on the 31st of December; they had even held General Gaines himself, with his strong and excellent column, penned up under fire from the 27th of February; they had, in short, glutted their revenge, conquered the country up to the left bank of the Withlacoochee, gained all they wanted, and felt themselves in strength to dictate the terms of peace.” *General Winfield Scott, on the ending of temporary peace between the whites and the Seminoles.* Peters, 118.

“Thus it is the poor devils are driven into the swamps and must die next summer, if not before, from the effects of being constantly in the damp, low, foggy ground. Any yet they will not go. There is a charm, a magic…in the land of one’s birth.” *Soldier from General Jesup’s outfit.* Peters, 139.

“Unprincipled white men will tamper with the negroes of the Indians, and thus lead to a renewal of hostilities.” *General Thomas Jesup’s fear that whites would interfere with Seminole blacks during removal that he forbid any whites to enter the territory from the St. Johns River to the Gulf of Mexico.* Peters, 142.

“…if the war be carried on, it must necessarily be one of extermination. We have at no former period in our history, had to contend with so formidable an enemy. No Seminole proves false to his country, nor has a single instance ever occurred of a first rate warrior having surrendered.” *General Thomas Jesup to the Secretary of War.* Peters, 145.

“…every indulgence they asked promptly and kindly granted….The conduct and courage of the enemy do not alter the nature of the war, nor diminish our obligation to subdue them and to compel them to fulfill their engagements. To abandon the settled policy of the government because the Seminoles have proved themselves to be good warriors and rely for the protection of our frontiers upon the faith of treaties with a people who have given such repeated proofs of treachery, would be unwise and impolitic.” *Joel T. Poinsett, Secretary of War, response to Jesup’s defense of the Seminoles.* Peters, 156.
“I have received your letter relative to the removal of the Seminole Indians under the provisions of the treaty of 1832, but which was not ratified until 1834. I pray you, does not this circumstance raise a doubt whether, by strict rule, the treaty can be considered to be valid or binding? Our Indian compacts must be construed and be controlled by the rules which civilized people practice; because in all our actions with them we have put the treaty-making machinery in operation precisely in the same way, and to the same extent, that is employed with the civilized powers of Europe. Were these people willing voluntarily to remove (though such seems not to be the case), the whole difficulty would be removed and no evil could arise. But as military force is about to be resorted to, it is material that the government, before making such appeal, be satisfied that right and justice is on their side; and that they are not engaged in the execution of a treaty which, if void, is no part of the law of the land. The employing a military force is an act of war, and the Indians will embody and fight in their defence [sic]. The Indian question of removal, is one that should be managed with great caution and care, that the enemies in congress, ever ready to find fault, may have no just and tenable ground on which to rest their murmurs. Tread then cautiously! The people here want their lands on which they reside, and they will urge a removal fās aut nefās; and the Big Swamp, which in the treaty is declared to be the first of their country to be vacated, is of high repute, and is that on which the eyes of speculators are fixed. On the whole, and to conclude, I offer this advice: avoid the exercise of force as long as possible, and let it be only the last sad alternative; and then let not, by any means, the militia be appealed to—they will breed mischief.” Governor John H. Eaton addresses the Secretary of War, on the 8th of March, 1835, from Tallahassee. Sprague, 82-83.

“Not a single first-rate warrior had been captured, and only two Indian men have surrendered. The warriors have fought as long as they had life, and such seems to me to be the determination of those who influence their councils—I mean the leading Negroes.... If I have at any time said aught in disparagement of the operations of others in Florida, I consider myself bound, as a man of honor, solemnly to retract it.” General Thomas Jesup lamenting on inability of himself and his men to overtake the Seminoles. Meltzer, 129.

“With this tribe the government have been engaged in deadly and disastrous warfare for four or five years; endeavoring to remove them from their lands, in compliance with a Treaty stipulation, which the Government claims to have been justly made, and which the Seminoles aver, was not. Many millions of money, and some hundreds of lives of officers and men have already been expended in the attempt to dislodge them; and much more will doubtless be yet spent before they can be removed from their almost impenetrable swamps and hiding places, to which they can, for years to come, retreat; and from which they will be enabled in their exasperated state, to make continual sallies upon the unsuspecting and defenceless [sic] inhabitants of the country; carrying their relentless feelings to be reeked in cruel vengeance on the unoffending and the innocent.” Painter, George Catlin. Peters, 159.
“The fearless bravery and manly qualities of this chief*, his unusual knowledge of scientific warfare, and above all his unswerving determination to defend to the last his chosen home, had spread his fame throughout the length and breadth of the country, and won for him respect and admiration even in the hearts of his bitterest enemies. The fame of Osceola was well earned...for true patriotism and determined effort, against the combined armies of a great and powerful nation, in one of the most remarkable struggles known to history. His fame will never die; centuries will come and go, but the name Osceola will remain as long as the earth is peopled.” Poet, Charles M. Coe. Peters, 161. *NOTE: Osceola was not a Seminole chief.

“He made himself—no man owed less to accident. Bold and decisive in action, deadly but consistent in hatred, dark in revenge, cool, subtle, and sagacious in council, he established gradually and surely a resistless ascendancy over his adoptive tribe, by the daring of his deeds, and the consistency of his hostility to the whites, and the profound craft of his policy. Such was Osceola who will long be remembered as the man that with the feeblest means produced the most terrible effects.” Editorial in the Niles National Register, February 1838. Peters, 161.

“From the confidence with which General Jesup expresses his views of the policy to be pursued toward the Indians, we should suppose he had entirely mistaken the nature of his mission to Florida. We presume the General Government will feel no obligations to him for spending their money in constant negotiations with the enemy whom he is sent to subdue whilst an army of 10,000 men is kept in pay merely to witness his rare talents for diplomacy. And we are sure the people of Florida will not thank him for his assiduous efforts to barter away their lands to savage enemies.... In whatever light the proposition is received, it is abhorrent to every man endowed with common feelings of humanity.” The Tallahassee Floridian. Peters, 166-167.

“The people of Florida will not submit to it [Jesup’s plan to allow the Seminoles to remain in the Everglades].... The national honor and dignity are too deeply concerned for it to listen for one more moment to the proposed arrangement.” St. Augustine Herald. Peters, 167.

“It has been said that the national honor forbids any compromise with them—can there be a point of honor between a great nation and a band of naked savages, now beaten, broken, dispirited, and dispersed? I think those who believe so form a very low estimate of national honor. But admit that our national honor could be tarnished by giving up the contest entirely, and forming a new treaty with different provisions from those of the existing treaty—we are surely at liberty, without compromising our honor, to adopt those measures whether of direct hostility or of policy which shall promise the greater probability of ultimate success.” General Thomas Jessup in a letter to Joel T. Poinsett, Secretary of War. Peters, 168.
“It is too late in the day to contemn [sic] an enemy, who, seconded by the peculiar characteristics of the country, has baffled the military operations of successful generals, and virtually defeated our troops in every skirmish. The fact is, we are inclined to believe that the Seminoles are impregnable in their fastness, and are not to be subdued by military force. Soft words and the persuasive force of gold, may induce them to emigrate. Otherwise, we believe that they will maintain their footing in spite of all the efforts we can make to dislodge them. The country to which they might be confined is uninhabitable for the white man, and the question seriously presents itself, whether the design of forcibly expelling them had not better be relinquished. It is idle to suppose that the national honor requires their subjugation. No credit will accrue from the most successful termination of war.” *Editorial, The Political Arena.* Peters, 168.

“It is one of the imperfections of human government that the men who conceive and direct the perpetration of great national crimes are usually exempt from the immediate dangers which beset those who act merely as their instruments in the consummation of transcendent wrongs. Had General Jackson and General Cass been assured they would have been the first individuals to meet death in their efforts to enslave the Exiles [the Seminole blacks], it is doubtful whether either of them would have been willing to adopt a policy which should thus consign them to premature graves. Or had Mr. Van Buren or his Cabinet…been conscious that, in carrying out this war for slavery they would fall victim to their own policy, it may well be doubted whether either of them would have laid down his life for the safety of that institution; yet they were evidently willing to sacrifice our military officers and soldiers…." *Congressman, Josh Giddings, shortly after the war on the case of which certain United States bureaucrats were able to sacrifice their own soldiers in order to carry out their wishes.* Meltzer, 150-151.

“The government is in the wrong, and this is the chief cause of the preserving opposition of the Indians, who have nobly defended their country against our attempt to enforce a fraudulent treaty.” *Major Ethan Allen Hitchcock, opinion of the Seminole War.* Mahon, 270.

“Their sin is patriotism, as true as ever burned in the heart of the most civilized.” *Lieutenant John T. Sprague, opinion of the Seminole War.* Mahon, 270.

“You, sir, will bring down that renowned chair in which you sit into infamy if your seal is set to this instrument of perfidy; and the name of this nation, hitherto the sweet omen of religion and liberty, will stink to the world…. Will the American government steal? Will it lie? Will it kill?” *Writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, letter to President Martin Van Buren.* Meltzer, 168.
“It is high time that sickly sentimentality should cease. ‘Lo, the poor Indian!’ is the exclamation of the fanatic pseudo-philanthropist; ‘Lo, the poor white man!’ is the ejaculation which all will utter who have witnessed the human butchery of women and children and the massacres that have drenched this territory in blood.” Governor Leigh Read of Florida, in a speech to his legislative council. Peters, 184.

“One hundred and thirty warriors assembled in the neighborhood of Fort King and having feasted upon Uncle Sam’s rations and amused our Governors with tales as smooth as those that fall from ladies’ lips, they took to the hummocks one fair night without even so much as bidding the General farewell. You may cry peace! peace! but there is no peace; and so long as Government compels us to respect the delusive white flag (under whose folds the most shocking murders have been committed) and extend the usages of civilized warfare to these scoundrels, just so long will we continue to hear the cracks of the rifle and witness the bloody effects of the gleaming scalping knife.” An officer, U.S. Army about General Armistead’s campaign. Peters, 193.

“[The Indians] have so far fulfilled, though slowly, every promise they have made & it was with no less astonishment than mortification that I suddenly found myself instructed…to forfeit every pledge I had made to the Indians & pursue a course which in the present state of affairs would in my opinion not only disperse those assembled, under the proclamation for peace, but incite the entire Indian population to acts of retaliation & revenge, inevitably tending to reproduce a state of War.” Colonel Josiah H. Vose after being told to take up arms against the Seminoles. Mahon, 316-317.

“Coacoochee, I take you by the hand as a warrior, a brave man; you have fought long and with a true and strong heart for your country…. Like the oak, you may bear up for many years against strong winds; the time must come when it will fall; this time has arrived. You have stood the blasts of five winters, and the storms of thunder, lightning and wind, five summers; the branches have fallen, and the tree, burnt at the roots, is prostrated. Coacoochee, I am your friend; so is your great father at Washington. What I say to you is true, my tongue is not forked like a snake, my word is for the happiness of the red man. You are a great warrior, the Indians throughout the country look to you as a leader, by your councils they have been governed. This war has lasted five years, much blood has been shed, much innocent blood; you have made your hands and the ground red with the blood of women and children. This war must now end. You are the man to do it; you must and shall accomplish it. I sent for you that through the exertions of yourself and men, you might induce your entire band to emigrate.” Colonel William J. Worth, delivering a prepared speech at Coacoochee’s surrender. Peters, 211-212.

“…a man whose only offense was defending his home, his fireside, the graves of his kindred, stipulating on the Fourth of July for his freedom and his life.” Lieutenant John T. Sprague of the irony of Coacoochee’s pleading for himself and his people on the 4th of July, 1841. Peters, 213.
“The only reason that the war was not ended long ago was that the troops had been compelled by that sympathy to hold out the white flag to the ‘poor devils,’ to give them time to make peace…. And if the rope and gallows had been used, as they would in the case of white man committing such enormities, the affair would have been settled long before this…. But public sentiment and sympathy was ever ready to extend itself for the red man and the Negro. The white men of the South might be butchered by the hundreds, and the act looked upon with indifference; but when colored skins were concerned, then it was that an outcry was raised. It was for the Indians and the Negro for whom the public sympathy boiled and bubbled over…. “Charles Downing, Delegate from Florida. Meltzer, 154.

“If you can root from the heart of the Seminole its ferocity and scorn of faith; if you can lay the tiger in his nature; then you may essay pacification…. I regard the conduct of the people of Florida toward their savage neighbors to be eminently entitled to the praise of the country…. Let us hear no more of sympathy for these Indians. They know no mercy. They are demons, not men. They have the human form, but nothing of the human heart…. If they cannot be emigrated, they should be exterminated.” David Levy, Florida congressman. Mahon, 311.

SOURCES CITED FOR QUOTES:


