

# LANDBACK

A GENERAL OVERVIEW BY ABIGAIL COOK

The LANDBACK movement calls for "reclamation of everything stolen from the original Peoples." This includes Land, Language, Kinship, Medicines, and Ceremony. So, how did we get here?

SOURCE: LANDBACK

## A brief history of violence against First Nations

- Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World in 1492, originally known as Turtle Island, to colonize the Americas.

## What followed:

- Disease, dispossession, forced assimilation, and mass genocide of Indigenous peoples.

SOURCE: HISTORY.COM

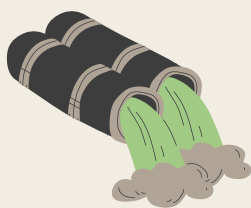
Impacts of colonization on Native American populations are devastating to this day.



**Insufficient education funds**



**Poor quality housing**



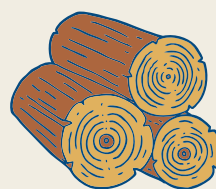
**Higher rates of pollution**



**Violence against women**



**Inadequate healthcare**



**Exploitation of resources**

SOURCE: POWWOWS.COM

Some **370 treaties** exist between the US government and Indigenous groups to combat the above issues and honor Native land rights. However, **existing treaties are routinely ignored**, granting Native Peoples little to no sovereignty. LANDBACK's campaign demands seek to address these tragedies and much more.

**They are summarized here:**

SOURCES: VOX, TAYLOR

- **Dismantle** systems of white supremacy such as the Bureau of Land Management & NPS.
- **Defund** white supremacist mechanisms like the police, ICE, the military, & others that disconnect Natives from the land.
- **Return** all public lands to Indigenous hands.
- **Consent:** move into an era of Free and Prior Informed Consent.

SOURCE: LANDBACK

## Some initial steps:

- **Shut down Mt. Rushmore and return the sacred Black Hills to the Lakota Nation.**
- **Rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.**

SOURCES: LANDBACK, HAUCK, THE TEMPEST



## Benefits of honoring LANDBACK

### For Natives:

#### **Spiritual significance:**

Revival of their connection with The Creator as they reconnect with the land of their ancestors.

#### **Health benefits and self-governance:**

Current Native reservations face impacts of environmental racism (poor water quality, higher rates of pollution, diminished air quality, etc.) that could be lowered if granted autonomy over their land and governance.



SOURCES: KAUR, LANDBACK, RORY, SHEC, WHYTE, GAMBLIN

### For non-Natives:

#### **Lessened impacts of climate change:**

–All Indigenous groups hold deep respect for the land and practice sustainable lifestyles that promote health of the environment—a benefit that can be reaped by all.

#### **This does not affect your property:**

Indigenous folks do not believe in Western ideas of land "ownership." The LANDBACK initiative seeks to uproot the harmful effects of colonialism through acknowledgement that public lands were forcibly stolen from Natives.

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