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## TREACHERY AND TERROR AGAINST INDIAN TRIBES OF USA

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### ABSTRACT: -

**M**ore than two centuries ago, the American continents by and large, belonged to the Red Indians. Since the European colonisation, the Indian population has become a vanishing race. They were vanquished by the whites and expelled from their home lands. As a rule the Indians believed in one all powerful Supreme Being. He was the Great Spirit or the Master of life.

**KEYWORDS:** Treachery and Terror, Indian Tribes of USA, Red Indians.

### INTRODUCTION :

Prof. K.Rajayyan mentions in his book "Treachery and Terror Against Indian Tribes of USA, The Great Spirit who was the source of all evil. Everything in the nature had a spirit. Manittoes were subordinate deities who belonging to two categories such as good and evil. Both in North America and South America the inhabitants worshiped their heroes, living as well as dead, planets and plants. They considered the mountains, rivers lakes and trees as the sacred abodes of their gods and worshipped by them. All Indians practised self torture and offered drink and meat to pacify the enraged spirits of the dead. Manittoes was made of wood, an idols of minor deities. Prof. K.Rajayyan says that the prominent Tribals were the Wyandots, Ottawas, Chippewas, Winnebagoes, Delawares, Potawatomes, Piakeshawas, Illinois, Miamis, Kickapoos, Shawanees, Cherokees, Creeks and Miami.

### TRIBAL GRIEVANCES OF CHEATING

According to Prof. K.Rajayyan, The United States took away the Indian territories in the name of Adjustment of boundaries and settlement of claims and disputes. The prices of lands were fixed at one rate but were given at lower rates. The lones were given to the Indians. When they failed to paid the loan, the lands were confiscated by the Americans. They supplied liquor namely fire water to the Indians for intoxicating. Through this policy some of the land swore occupied by the Americans.



### EXODUS OF THE TRIBES

The Westward movement of American pioneers, which gained momentum since the establishment of independence of USA. The whites occupied the hunting grounds of the tribals. Potawatome's and Delaware's and souks had moved southward, as the fertile region. The Indians who found a new home in the southern region, however feared that the progressive settlement.

In 1793 Blue Jacket, the Shawnee chief informed to the National government about the grievances. The reaction of the Indians to the ominous threat presented by the ever aggressive United States, individual States and frontier men manifested itself

into two diverse movements neither of which can be defined positively as conservative or radical. Tecumseh, the Shawnee assumed the leadership of self strengthening movement. He advised them to resume the use of the weapons, that were familiar to them in the past, and to wear the skins of beasts. Another important movement was reformist movement which was led by Red Jacket, the Sauk tribe. He suggested that all the tribal nations to unite under a common banner. Prof. K.Rajayyan explains that the self strengthening movement worked in three different forms like religious, political and military. The nature of the movement was an intellectual awakening, and the religious stir which consolidated the forces of unity. The work of the prophets who propagated a religious zeal of militant order and directed against the American usurpations. A prophet by name Le Maiquoiss who was the first man of the world, he preached the superiority of the Indian over the American. The movement gain importance under the work of Tecumseh. He formulated a bold and ambitious scheme to unite all nations of the continent and led numerous missions to the tribal nations of the North and South.

### CONFEDERACY OF TRIBES

Prof. K.Rajayyan gives a detailed account of the Confederacy of Tribes. Tecumseh was the organiser of the grand alliance of Indian Nations. He was born in 1768 at Piqua which is situated south West of spring field in Ohio. Puckehinawa, his father was of the Kishopohe clan of the Shawnee tribe in the North, while Methoataski, his mother was of the Turtle clan of the creek Tribe in the South. The relationship with a tribe of the North through the father and a tribe of the South through the mother proved advantageous to Tecumseh to emerge as an acceptable leader of the Indians of the continent.

By the Treaty of Greenville, more and more colonists people came to Ohio for establishing their settlements. So Tecumseh decided to establish a new town of Tippecanoe. In 1808 Tecumseh with the aid the blessings of his prophet brother Tenskwatawa founded the town of Tippecanoe as the new centre of his political and cultural activity, which is situated at the confluence of river Tippecanoe. The Indians were settled in the town and raised agricultural products.

### BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE

Prof. K.Rajayyan also explains about the Battle of Tippecanoe. In 1811 the United States made a military expedition to the head quarters of Indian confederates when Tecumseh was involved in mission of South, Tenskwatawa was incharge of the situation. The league was organised for the safeguard of Indian rights. The army was led by Harrison when they reached the bank of river Vermillion; he erected a block house for the protection of the boats. Harrison demanded such a privileges from the Indian tribals. They were the Indians should give up the stolen horses and also surrender the alleged murderers. When Tecumseh was away in the far South and the tribes made no preparations for war. The action was maintained with the greatest determination and perseverance on either side. The Indians resistance was so obstinate that it was unprecedented.

In 1811 Tecumseh returned from the Creek Nation and find out the destruction of their headquarters. His warriors were scattered. So he devoted himself to the rehabilitation of Indian from the conflict and re-erected his hut on the charred field and summoned the warriors from the wilderness. After the expedition to Tippecanoe, the Americans occupied more tribal lands and raided the villages who founded new settlements. The American forces moved an expedition against the Kickapoo's in 1811. General Hopkins who command the troops but he was compelled to retreat. So the army was led by Colonel William Russell who marched to the Kickapoo town on the Illinois. They destroyed the canoes and seized Horses belonging to the tribals of Indians. The United States took effective measure to the suppression of the tribal confederacy. General null the commander of the forces in the Northwest who convened a council at Fort Wayne. Tecumseh attended this conference however it met with failure.

### WAR IN THE NORTH

According to Prof. K.Rajayyan, The conflicts and clashes that marked the period of American invasion of Tippecanoe culminated in the outbreak of hostilities on a formidable proportion in 1812. The confederacy of Indian powers was supported by the Great Britain. They promised to restore to the tribes country of north of river Ohio. General Hull, the commander of the forces in the North – West assembled his troops at Detroit in 1812 on the 12th of July 1812. General Hull command the army and crossed river Detroit. The first target of American

expedition was Malden. General Hull considered it Vulnerable but it was a wrong calculation. Tecumseh routed a party led by Major Van Home, cut off the communications of Hull and captured Mackinac and Fort Dearborn. Many of the troops from the hostile camp fell as prisoners but Tecumseh ordered his warriors to treat them with the utmost humanity in contrast to general Hull's policy of instant annihilation.

Tecumseh was wounded who fought at Monguaga when he proceeded to Malden suggested to General Brock for liberation of the North West. Brock also accepted his plan. But Hull was surrendered without resistant. The Indians who gained more victories due to the surrender of Hull Tecumseh decided to attack the remote and vulnerable fortifications Fort Wayne, garrisoned by seventy Americans, and Fort Harrison held by fifty, before the enemy brought in reinforcements. In 1812 President Madison appointed Henry Harrison in commander of the army in the North – West Harrison formulated to wage a war against the tribals of Tippecanoe and Mississinewa. General Harrison appointed General Hopkins, who lead the army and sent an expedition to Tippecanoe. Hopkins General Butler marched to the Winnebago town but found it evacuated. The troops burned the Indians habitations in the town. As the Indians evaded confrontation, Hopkins sent out scouts to discover their concentrations. The scouts reported that they came across an Indian camp near the destroyed town of the Winnebago's because of inadequate strength the troops wanted to return to prophet's town, but one of them by name Dunn declared that he would not go back without a shot. He tried but was shot dead leaving the body of Dunn, exposed a warrior mounted on a horse waited nearby.

In 1812 another expedition was led by Colonel Campbell. They marched to the Wabash and discovered a village which was inhabited by the Miamies and Delawares. The young men were away for hunting while the old men, women and children stayed behind. Campbell shot down the innocent people indiscriminately. The few of them escaped and fled to the bank of the Wabash. The intruders reached Mississinewa one of the towns of Mississinewa Indians in 1812. The battle continued with unabated fury for an hour, at the end of which the Indians were silenced. Tecumseh had encamped about fifteen miles from the scene of fighting. They found encamped on the bank of the Mississinewa taking advantage of the darkness of night some of them, began to imitate owls, night birds and different kinds of animals as signals between themselves. The troops of Campbell shot in all directions, believing that the Indians were there. The Americans fled along the bank but were killed by the Indians. Thus Indians gained victories in the battle field.

### FALL OF TECUMSEH

Prof. K.Rajayyan made references to the fall of Tecumseh. At the confluence of Mc Gregor's Creek with River Thames, Tecumseh discovered a strategic place suitable for defence. Proctor inspected the spot. Harrison's army landed at Malden, Proctor left his wife and daughter to safety at fair field a Delaware Indian town. Proctor returned from Fairfield, when his army already moved six miles beyond the Creek. Tecumseh was furious but was helpless. He destroyed the bridges on the Creek and posted his warriors on the north bank with orders to check the advancing enemy. The troops of Harrison crossed the Thames and captured the British Boats. So Proctor sent his messenger to Tecumseh. He rushed to the arena dressed in his usual buckskin, leggings and moscasins carrying his rifle, Tomakawk and war club. The warriors moved to the left and made counter attack on the Americans. They made deep in roads, despite the betrayal by the English.

The Indians retreated to the Thames Rapids, while Proctor retired to his camp near Thames Ville. Proctor waited for the beginning of gun fire so that when all the Indians were engaged in battle. Tecumseh thought that, it was a life and death struggle and a final war in defence of his home land. The warriors continued fought heroic deeds. But Tecumseh received wound after wound with blood pouring from his body. Tecumseh dead and well all ran. The Americans made a vigorous search for the body of the fallen hero but none found on the battle field could be identified as his. The warriors lifted his body, carried off buried it at an unknown spot and kept a constant vigil. During the period that followed when the American militarists were reaping political rewards for their great victory over the Tribal confederacy among the Indians on the other hand Tecumseh was exalted in their memory as their great leader.

### WAR IN THE SOUTH

In 1813 Indians of the South formed themselves and made a preparation for operations against the

Americans. Most of the warriors of the South were guided by Menewa, the Shawanee chief. The tribals were led by Hobobeilchle Micco, Auttossee and Foosee Hatchee in the war against the United States. After that, the Seminoles and Negroes opened a heavy fire on the Americans columns advancing to the Indians town of Wanmoke. In the course of war, the Americans destroyed the towns and rich fields of Seminoles and the Negroes. So they escaped to the Creek nation.

### FALL OF MENEWA

Prof.K.Rajayyan also gives a detailed account about the fall of Menewa. In 1813 Andrew Jackson and James Cooke marched from the River Tennessee. The expedition crossed the ridges of the Raccoon and Lookout Mountains and entered the heart of the Creek country. Jackson made a preparation and marched to the Indian camp. The Indians army who led by Menewa continued fought against USA with heroic. The American army was assisted by colonial Russell and defeated the Creek. They captured Kahaba, the stronghold of the Indian chief, Black warrior. In the course of war, Menewa was hit by rifle fire several times and he fell. Thus the Indians of the South found it impossible to sustain their resistance for long with any hope of victory. The fall of the Creeks marked the collapse of the league of the tribes which was organised by Tecumseh.

### TREATY OF DETROIT

More over Prof. K.Rajayyan has highlighted that, in 1815 the United States decided to summon another council of the Indians and impose fresh treaties on the tribes of the North West. The provisions were Americans wanted to explain to the Indians the nature of the reciprocal stipulation made in the treaty of peace and amity concluded between the United States and Great Britain at Ghent. Soon after the treaty of Detroit was signed, the prophet together with his Shawanees retired to Canada. Menewa, the Creek hero, by the time when his wounds were healed, found his favourite country occupied by the whites. Many of the Creeks had to depart from their dear land for the barren West. Before he left his home for his unknown destination, he went to his home town okfuskee

### CHRISTIANITY – A VICTIM OF CONFLICT

Prof. K.Rajayyan mentions that the service of the Moravian Mission in the Indian Tribes. The Moravian brother of Germany made an effort to preach the gospel. The Moravian church was called as the Unitas Fractrum or Unity of brethren or Society of Friends founded in 1457. The Missionaries of the society was known as brothers or friends. The Moravian Mission preached love and non violence. The missionaries of the Moravian church were called as the Brothers who reached Georgia in 1735. They initiated attempts to carry the message of peace and salvation to the tribes and founded the southern Mission to work among the Cherokees and the Creeks, two populous tribes of the South. Brother Hagan founded Moravian church centres at Salem, Wachovia and Bethabara. The Indians took interest to learn the arts and crafts from the brothers. But they were not interest in religious activities. Moravian and their Indians who moved to another area and founded a new settlement called New Salem on the Huron. Thus perished in fire the church of the Moravian Brothers and their dream of saving the Indians through the Christian faith to coincide with the fall of Indian confederacy and its vision of a peaceful co-existence between the reds and the whites.

### END NOTES

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