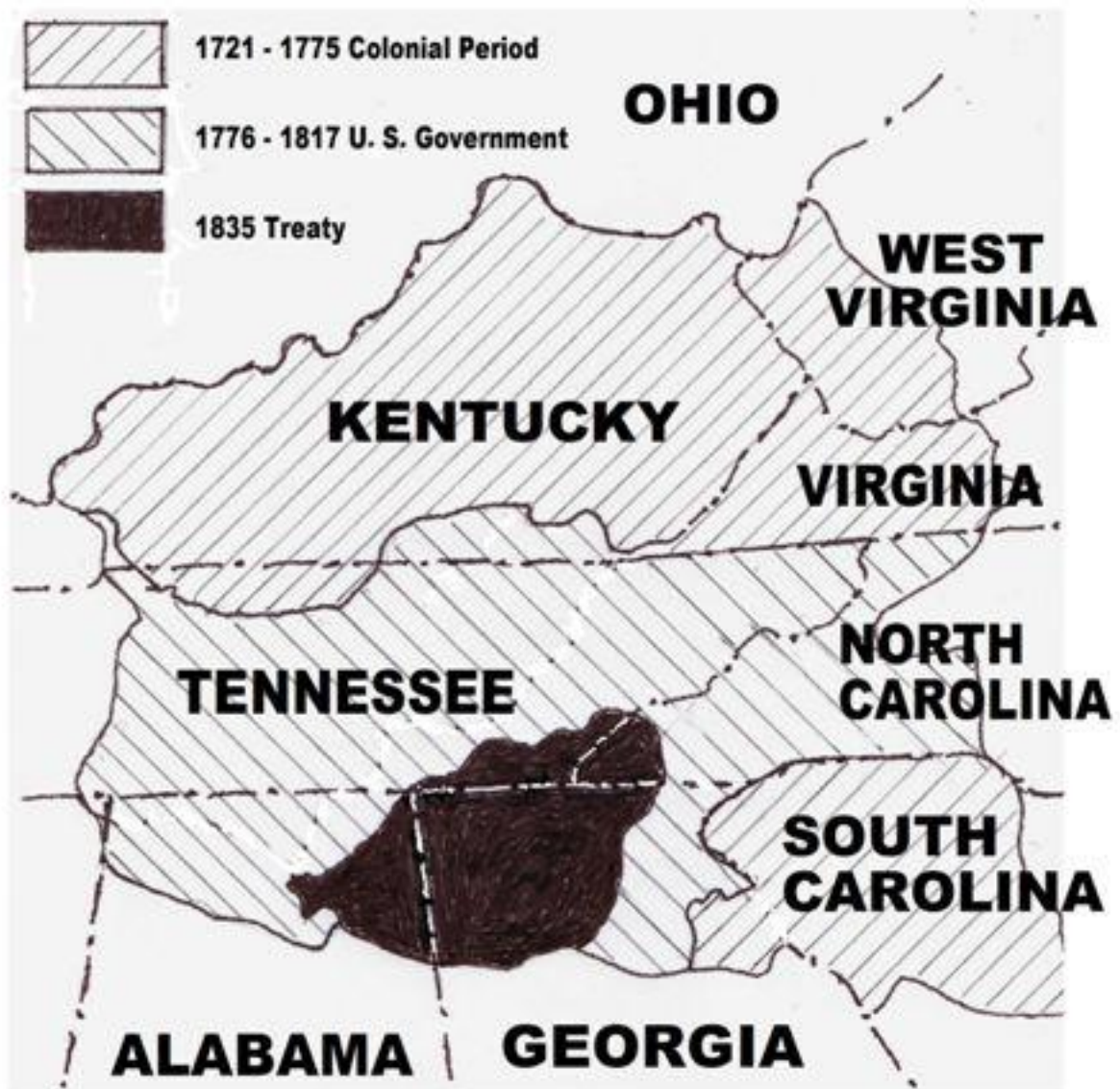


Sovereignty of the Tribes

Primary Documents

Document 1

Source: Map of territory cessions made by Cherokee from their original tribal lands.



Sovereignty of the Tribes

Primary Documents

Document 2

Source: Secretary of War, William H. Crawford, letter to military commanders (January 27, 1816).

“Intrusions upon the lands of the friendly Indian tribes, is not only a violation of the laws, but in direct opposition to the policy of the government towards its savage neighbors. Upon application of any Indian agent who is a United States government official, stating that intrusions of this nature have been committed by whites, the President requires that they shall be equally removed and their houses and improvements destroyed by military force”.

Document 3

Source: Chief Justice John Marshall of the U.S. Supreme Court, Majority Opinion in the case of Worcester v. Georgia (1832)

“From the commencement of our government Congress has passed acts to regulate trade & intercourse with the Indians; which treat them as nations, respect their rights, and manifest a firm purpose to afford that protection which treaties stipulate. All of these acts manifestly consider the several Indian nations as distinct political communities, having territorial boundaries within which their authority is exclusive, and having a right to all of the lands within those boundaries, which is not only acknowledged but guaranteed by the United States....The Cherokee Nation then, is a distinct community in which the laws of Georgia can have no force, and which the citizens of Georgia have no right to enter but with the assent of the Cherokees themselves or in conformity with treaties and with the acts of Congress”.