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Did the Biden inauguration really have to start with "This Land Is Your Land," an ode to land theft, settler colonialism and Indigenous genocide? (No matter how well-intentioned Woody Guthrie may have been.) YOU ARE ON NATIVE LAND!



Every presidential inauguration has in effect been a celebration of Indigenous land theft & genocide, whether directly stated or not. Settlers exerting the power of their settler government and "ownership" over Indigenous lands.

At John F. Kennedy's 1961 inauguration, poet Robert Frost began: “The land was ours before we were the land’s…Such as we were we gave ourselves outright (The deed of gift was many deeds of war)." That settler white "We," justifying and erasing genocide, slavery, history.

At Teddy Roosevelt's 1905 inauguration, he had 6 famous
chiefs on horseback to give the people "a good show." The chiefs came hoping to appeal for justice, but instead were displayed to represent what TR & others viewed as the complete subjugation of Indigenous peoples & lands.



The chiefs included Quanah Parker of the Comanche, Buckskin Charlie from the Ute, Hollow Horn Bear and American Horse of the Sioux, Little Plume from the Blackfeet and the imprisoned Apache warrior Geronimo, who pleaded in vain with Teddy Roosevelt for the release of his people.

Presidents also like to lie about ish at their inaugurations. Andrew Jackson in 1829: "It will be my sincere and constant desire to observe toward the Indian tribes within our limits a just and liberal policy, and to give that humane and considerate attention to their rights and

their wants which is consistent with the habits of our Government and the feelings of our people." This was from Andrew Jackson, the monster Indian-killer president who supported Native removal including the Trail of Tears.

Here's what Indian-hating dead president James Monroe -- that "Monroe Doctrine' and "manifest destiny' guy -- said in his 1821 inauguration address:

The care of the Indian tribes within our limits has long been an essential part of our system, but, unfortunately, it has not been executed in a manner to accomplish all the objects intended by it. We have treated them as independent nations, without their having any substantial pretensions to that rank. The distinction has flattered their pride, retarded their improvement, and in many instances paved the way to their destruction. The progress of our settlements westward, supported as they are by a dense population, has constantly driven them back, with almost the total sacrifice of the lands which they have been compelled to abandon. They have claims on the magnanimity and, I may add, on the justice of this nation which we must all feel. We should become their real benefactors; we should perform the office of their Great Father, the endearing title which they emphatically give to the Chief Magistrate of our Union. Their sovereignty over vast territories should cease, in lieu of which the right of soil should be secured to each individual and his posterity in competent portions; and for the territory thus ceded by each tribe some reasonable equivalent should be granted, to be vested in permanent funds for the support of civil government over them and for the education of their children, for their instruction in the arts of husbandry, and to provide sustenance for them until they could provide it for themselves. My earnest hope is that Congress will digest some plan, founded on these principles, with such improvements as their wisdom may suggest, and carry it into effect as soon as it may be practicable.¶

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