Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a list of the sources you have used in your research paper. Each entry should include a brief summary of the source followed by your own assessment and criticisms of the source. You should explain if the source is reliable, whether or not the information is biased, and the value of the source to your research and thesis. Summarizing a source without including your own thoughts and analysis will not receive full points for the Application of Information section of the grading rubric.

For Professor Creasman’s class, you will be using the Chicago Bibliography Style. There are many good resources and examples on annotated bibliographies on the web including the following: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/


Alfred Cave’s article is a well-researched attack of how the Jackson administration carried out the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Cave’s central thesis is that the Jackson administration violated the legal terms of the Indian Removal Act in both removing the Indians from their lands in the east and in denouncing former treaties between the National and State governments with the Indians. Cave has made extensive use of primary documents, including Presidential papers, to support his research that Jackson abused his presidential power. Despite the excellent research, this article is definitely an anti-Jackson indictment, and indeed Cave has few positive things to mention about Jackson and blasts previous historians that have painted Jackson’s Indian removal in a positive light. Cave’s article was useful because it provided some balance to Remini and other historians that have supported Jackson, and included an excellent bibliography of sources to consult further in my research. This article had several useful points that I used in my paper regarding the negative aspects of Indian Removal, which I used to compare and contrast with other more pro-Jackson sources.


Robert Remini is recognized as one of the preeminent scholars of Andrew Jackson. In this book, he describes Jackson’s relations and policies regarding the Indians. Remini does an excellent job of providing the facts and does a commendable job in portraying Jackson as a product of his time, pointing out that the great Thomas Jefferson had suggested moving the Indians west many years earlier. Nevertheless, there was some obvious bias in favor of Jackson, and Remini offers the controversial idea that Jackson’s policies might have actually saved more Indians than it harmed. Remini’s book was one of the most important sources I used in arguing that the Indian Removal Act of 1830 was a necessary law. Many modern sources criticize or demonize Jackson, and this book was especially important because it recognized some flaws in Jackson, but mainly describes his admiral qualities. Remini concludes that based on the circumstances of that time; there was no viable alternative to the Indian Removal Act, which echoed my opinion.

This article was extremely interesting and informative. Mary Young details the methods and treaties used by the Federal and State governments, the Indians, and the signatories of both groups involved in Indian Removal treaties. One of the Federal Government’s main arguments was that removal was a wise policy and that the white culture was a farming, free, and religious culture versus the hunting barbarian Indian culture. However, some of the main tribes that still lived east of the Mississippi had developed farming and fenced land, and were in fact civilized in many ways. Young also describes that many of the treaties and problems that arose in Indian Removal were because of half-breed Indians that had learned how to manipulate the Indian and white governments to their own profit. This article was an excellent source because it helped me to substantiate the reasons for Indian removal and apportioned blame to all parties, while acknowledging the mistakes and often contradictory polices the government had regarding the Indians. I found this article useful in acknowledging the difficulties and problems with Indian Removal in my paper, as well as the greater long-term benefits. Ultimately, this source helped make my own research and views stronger because it was balanced and carefully considered all of the stakeholders.


The Library of Congress website has several primary documents related to the Indian Removal Act. Each source is available electronically as scanned copies, and provides a glimpse of the official government documents of the Indian Removal act, including Jackson’s speech regarding removal. This site’s primary value for my research was allowing me to access the actual documents surrounding the Indian Removal Act. I was able to make my own interpretations of the text and debate surrounding this controversial legislation rather than rely solely on the interpretations of other researchers and historians.