

- ➔ On account of their rejection to assimilation, American Indians were given **reservations** - *any of the areas of land given to Native Americans by the US government. The US Bureau of Indian Affairs protects them and provides schools for them. The largest is the Navajo reservation on land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Most Native Americans on reservations are poor and receive financial help from the government-* where they can live in the 19 and 20 Century.
- ➔ American Indians represent only 1% over 3 million. They're particularly affected by poverty, bad housing and sub-healthcare. They actually live under the poverty line; therefore, their public assistance is seven times more.
- ➔ They are **poor because** they lack the educational level, suffer high rate of illiteracy (most can't go to college), have low jobs which don't require special skill, and low income to successfully compete with other Americans. As a result, they can't find a place in the American society. So, when they moved to live in the city in the 60s, they settled in precarious ghettos because they were discriminated against whenever closer to a white American family because they are considered incompetent, lazy, alcoholic, lower, and trouble-makers. Also, they suffer a high rate of infant mortality because of infectious diseases among them, that's why their life span is lower.
- ➔ Some **reservations are good** because of land (20% of US oil, 2/3 of US uranium, iron, gold, timber). As a result, they'd be target to great multinationals and wealthy businessmen since the Indians lacked the necessary equipment and financial support (*neither means nor skills*), so they lease the land to non-Indians. Whereas, the most are rocky.
- ➔ Reservations were meant to unite the tribes and preserve their traditional heritage. Still, they lost their values. Only they use their culture to make money (clever projects). This defaces the way of life among the generations.
- ➔ Also, some reservations live on **tourism** as they remain different and worth to see and as they attract tourists to give them the opportunity to hunt buffalo for 3000\$ and 300\$ more if they want to have it cut the traditional Indian way. → A lot of **Indians moved back** from the city to the **reservation** because of job opportunities with no discrimination.
- ➔ **Sovereignty**: The Indians have the right to make their own laws (*by the tribal council*) in the reservation but under the Federal law. So, they are bound to respect the reservation laws and the Federal laws while in the reservation --but once leaving the reservation, they're applied to the State law--. So, the **Casinos** in Indian reservations which are very profitable (especially they don't have to pay taxes that is an seen as an excess of rights) and which would provide them with decent living conditions even if they don't generally belong to them and gambling is not an Indian culture. Actually, non-Indians find it a legal loophole to escape State laws.
- ➔ **Today**, they want to be accepted as American citizens of Indian ancestors. They want to keep their Indian identity because America is a pluralistic society. They also want to raise their educational level to escape staying behind the others. They want the Federal government to finance and build the schools.
- ➔ BIA: (Bureau of Indian Affairs) is a federal agency which deals with Indian affairs regulated by the federal government. It's to deal especially with financial affairs. However, it is one of the most corrupted bureaus in the U.S because they often break the laws (*commissions*) on the expense of the Indians.
- ➔ Thanks to the civil rights movement, the Indians have become more visible more vocal, more aggressive and more important.