

History of West Virginia before the Civil War

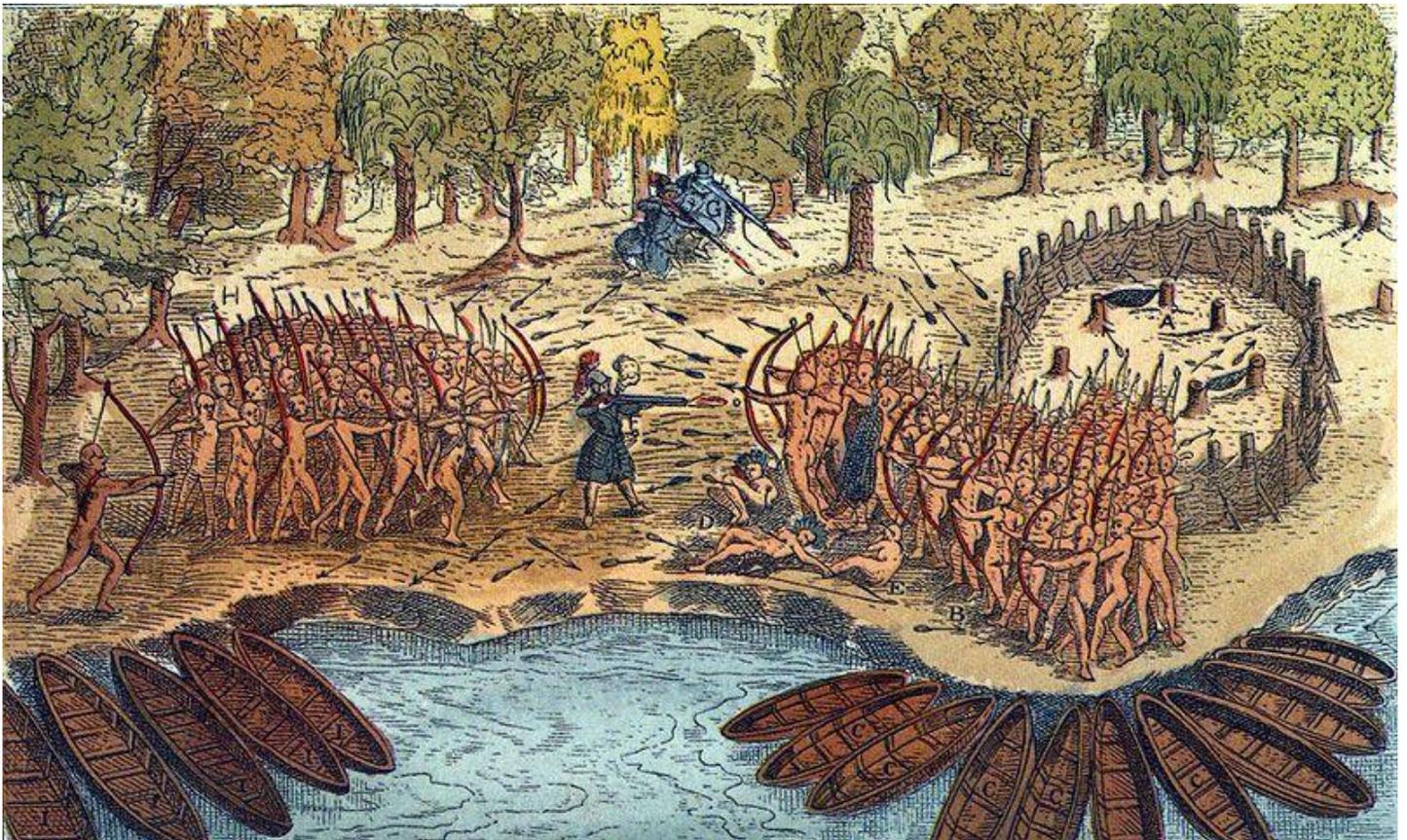
The Period from 1600 to 1800

This period was heavily influenced by the arrival of Europeans in North America.

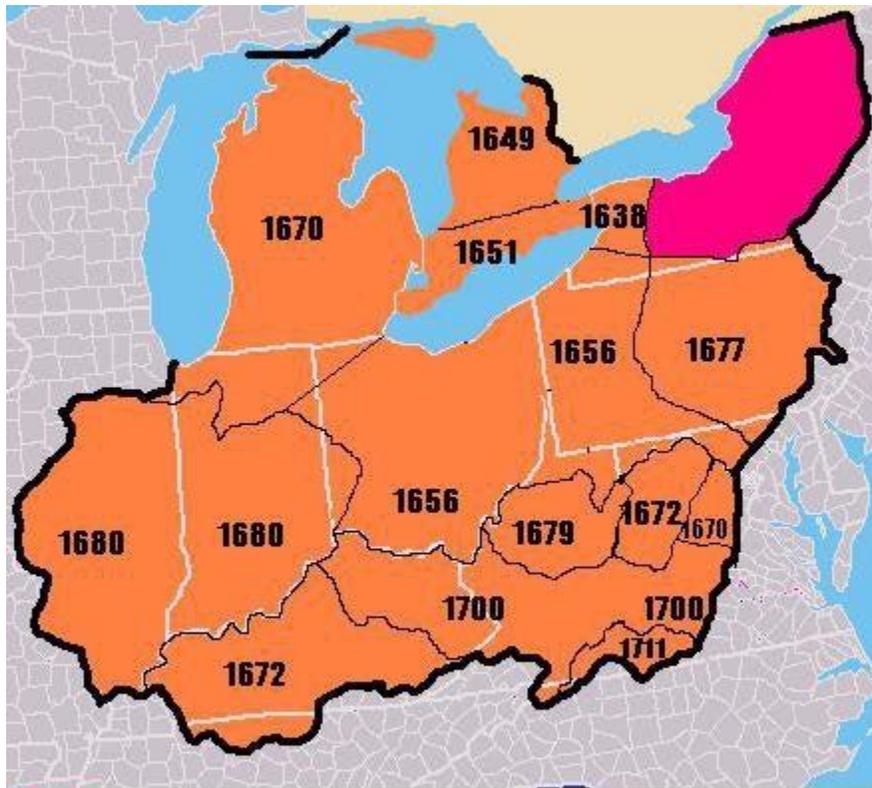
Even before native people west of the Appalachian Mountains encountered European settlers, they were affected by their presence. This happened primarily in two ways:

- Spread of disease. Settlers brought diseases such as smallpox with them, and infected coastal Native American with whom they had contact. The diseases spread to inland tribes with intertribal contact.
- Europeans gave firearms to native tribes, and even encouraged them to attack their neighbors. Why? Greed. It was mostly about beaver pelts, which were in fashion in Europe, and so were worth a lot of money. So tens of thousands of Native Americans died due to a style fad across the ocean. A period of conflict that stretched over 40 years is often referred to as the Beaver Wars.

The French armed and traded with the Algonquins and Hurons and helped them fight against the Iroquois. The Dutch supplied the Mohawks and other Iroquois with guns and traded with them.

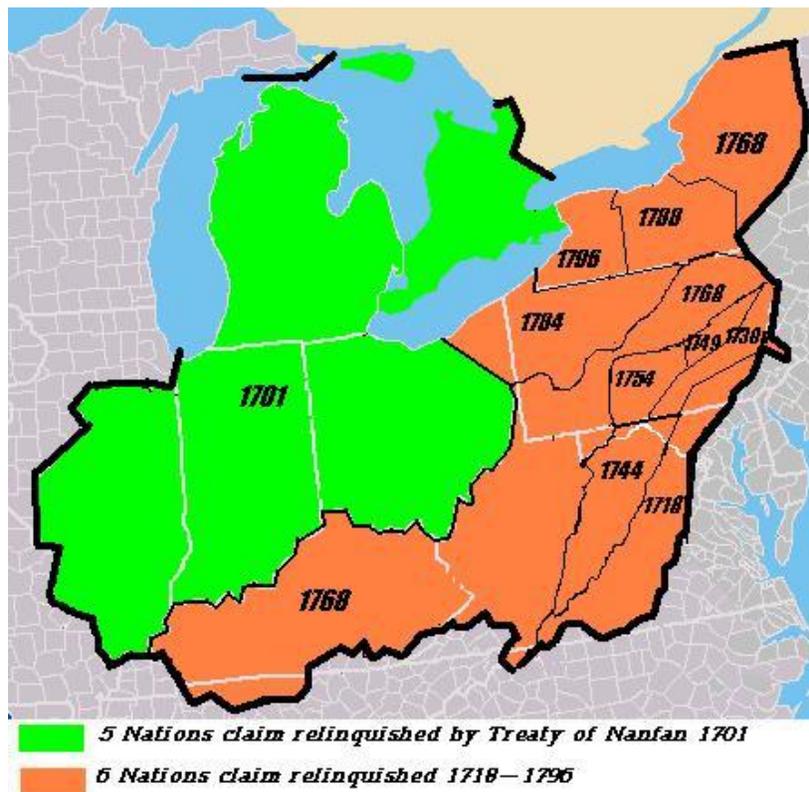


The Iroquois took over control of a very large area of land, ruining the lives of the tribes they displaced.



Original Homeland
Expansion of Five Nations Territory during the Beaver Wars

Later, they lost all this land to white settlers.



5 Nations claim relinquished by Treaty of Nanfan 1701
6 Nations claim relinquished 1718–1796