**Native American Leaders**

Student’s Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course Number and Name

Professor’s Name

Assignment Due Date

**Native American Leaders**

**Part 1:** **Pontiac**

I was born between 1712 and 1720 in Maumee River, near Auglaize. My mother was an Ojibwa, and my father was an Ottawa. By 1755, I had become the Ottawa chief and a lead of the loose union of Ojibwa, Potawatomi, and Ottawa. At the beginning of my leadership role, I was an ally of the French, and I commanded the Ottawa army against the British’ General Braddock, where we lost the war. In 1750, I allowed the English troops to pass through my territory on condition that they treat my people with respect (NNDB, n.d.). Soon after, I realized that the British were disrespecting Indians and denied us some of our privileges and independence as natives. Dissatisfied and agitated by the cruel British policies against us, I embarked on an armed struggle against the British.

My struggle against the British began in May 1763 when the other 300 natives and I attempted to occupy Fort Detroit by surprise. My plan failed, forcing me to lay a siege on the fort. Nine hundred warriors from different tribes came to reinforce our campaign. As news of our action spread across the native territory, the war expanded to other regions beyond Detroit. In July, we managed to defeat a British detachment in the Battle of Bloody Run but still unable to capture the fort. I withdrew the siege in October and moved to Illinois Country when the French, my former allies, refused to aid us against the British. The primary tactics I used against the British were surprise attacks and encouraging other natives to forge arm struggle against them. Although the tactic and campaign to take Fort Detroit was unsuccessful, it triggered other successful war against the British Fortresses. Other small campaigns, except the attack on Fort Pitt, were successful. As a result, about 200 British traders and settlers were killed, and their property worth approximately £100,000 were destroyed (NNDB, n.d.).  This destruction was the greatest of property and lives in Western Pennsylvania. Because of the losses inflicted upon the colonialist, the British Crown issued Proclamation of 1763 that banned any settler in the west of the Appalachian Mountains from encroaching Native American territories.

**Part 2: Review of Indian Leaders.**

**Tecumseh**

Tecumseh was a primary leader of the Native American confederacy and a Shawnee leader in the early 19th century. Born in Ohio, then Ohio Country, and growing up during the Northwest Indian War and the American Revolutionary War eras, He was exposed to the battlefield. He had imagined the formation of an independent Native American nation east of River Mississippi. He is among the celebrated leaders of Native Americans, known for eloquence in promoting tribal unity. He also made significant sacrifices to expel settlers from Old Northwest Territory, Native American lands (Kelly, 2019). Tecumseh managed to form a confederation that fought against the United States in an effort to secure independence for Native Americans.

**Chief Joseph**

Chief Joseph was a leader of Wallowa, a Native American tribe in the Pacific Northwest region of the U.S. He led his band against the United States federal government when they were forcibly removed from their ancestral land. A series of violence between them and white settlers forced them to flee the country to seek refuge in Canada. When the U.S. Army pursued them, Chief Joseph and band waged a fighting retreat that earned nationwide admiration from the American public and the military opponents (Indian.org, n.d.). The newspaper coverage of his effort led to the widespread recognition of Chief Joseph and his band. He is celebrated as a peacemaker and humanitarian because of his effort to resist the removal of tribe from their native land.

**Red Cloud**

Red Cloud is one of the most significant leaders of Oglala Lakota. He fought and defended the U.S. army in their attempt to occupy the western territories. The most massive battle was the Fetterman Fight, where Red Cloud men managed to kill 81 U.S. soldiers. The fight was the worst U.S. military defeat on the Great Plains until the Little Bighorn battle fought ten years later. Because of his resistance, the U.S. sought peace with him under the Treaty of Fort Laramie, where the government agreed to withdraw from Lakota territory and abandoned its forts (PBS, n.d.). As a result, Red Cloud was the most successful leader because he managed to subdue his opponents. His effort, unlike in the other three leaders, forced his opponents to withdraw from his territory.

References

Indian.org. (n.d.). *Chief Joseph, Nez Perce*. The original ~ Indians.org. <https://indians.org/indigenous-peoples-literature/chief-joseph-nez-perce.html>

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