

Abstract

In my thesis, I argue that the Native American activism of the 1960s and 1970s does not fall into the category of Civil Rights Movement because of its significantly different goals, and that the fundamentally different character of sovereignty rights also keeps the Indian struggle invisible in American understandings of U.S. political and social history. According to my analysis, the terms *tribal sovereignty*, *self-determination*, and *treaty rights* describe the ultimate goals of the Native American activists in the 1960s and 1970s the best. The decade between 1964 and 1974 witnessed the rise of radical Indian activism, which succeeded in reminding the general public and politicians that Indians are still present in the United States. Furthermore, it influenced a whole generation of Native Americans who found new pride in being Indian. However, this current of American activism is not known so well by the general U.S. public. This thesis will describe this state as “selective visibility” deriving from U.S. selective historical memory, only noticing and remembering those events and images concerning Native Americans that can be simply understood, somehow relate to the U.S. set of values, and fit in the national historical narrative.