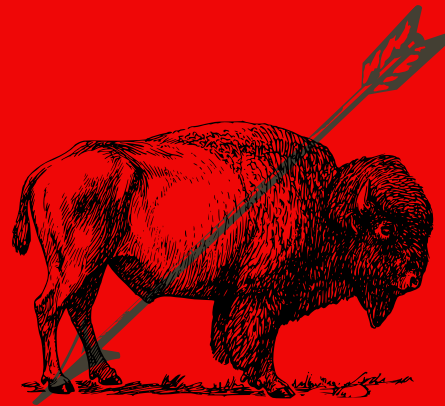


"The Buffalo shows us to Respect all life on Mother Earth no matter how big or small, to respect our Elders and people of all races. The very essence of respect is to give and share."

Indigenous teachings



"Kill Every Buffalo You Can! Every Buffalo Dead Is an Indian Gone"

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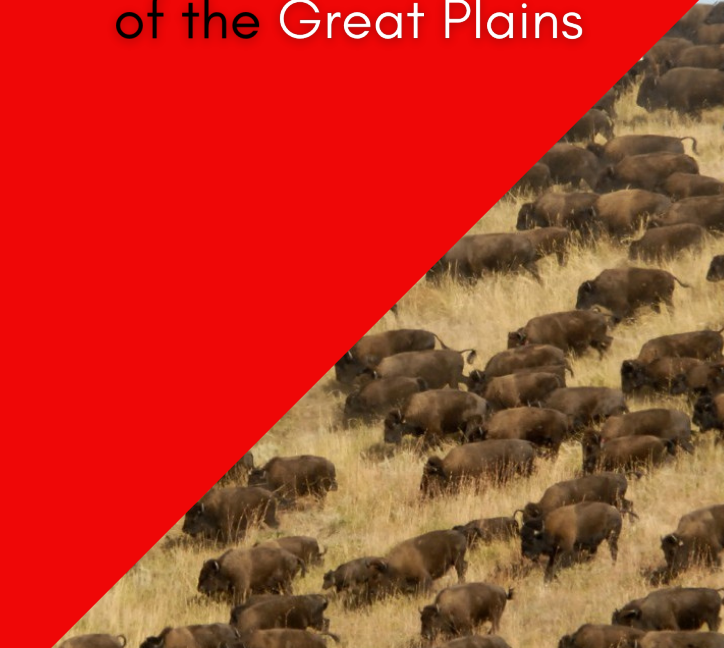
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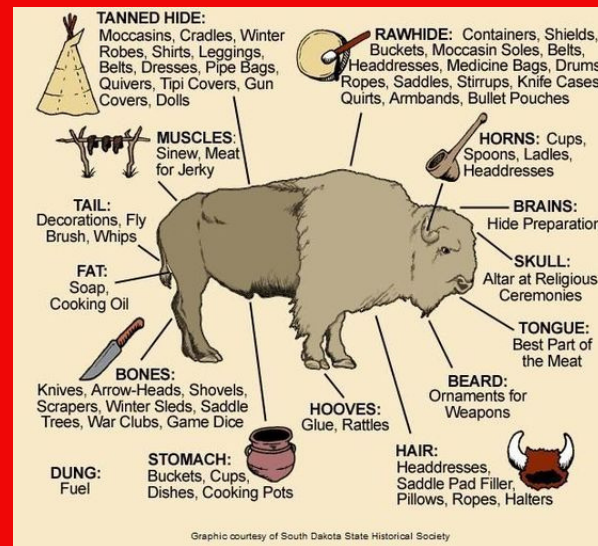


Buffalo Slaughter to Starve the Indigenous People of the Great Plains



The Sacred Buffalo Teachings

- The buffalo is sacred to the Great Plains Indigenous peoples and culture, ranging across all of Turtle Island.
- The buffalo was traditionally used for food, clothing, shelter, medicine, artifice uses, ceremony, and many other practices, as every part of the buffalo is used and not wasted, and this sustained the lives of many Plains Indigenous people for thousands of years.
- (Recorded up to 300 ways to utilize the buffalo)
- The respect for the buffalo was through the kinship relation and not over-hunting the buffalo and only taking what you need.
- The powerful relationship between buffalo and Indigenous people is the kinship relations that shaped the reciprocal exchange; kinship meant that the buffalo were family to the Indigenous people.
- The buffalo were central to the teachings of survival and living on the land with all human and non-human relations.
- The buffalo grazed the grass within the Plains, holding a sacred relationship to land.
- The buffalo teachings came from hunting/harvesting and passing down traditional knowledge from one generation to the next. This structured the political and social framework around the importance of the buffalo and everyday life. From hunting, skinning the hide for clothing/drums/teepees, making tools/artifices, meat used for cooking and ceremony, with every use of the buffalo came teachings and knowledge to sustain life on earth.
- The buffalo is the teaching of respect, it sacrifices its existence for the survival and gives life for Indigenous peoples of the Plains. Giving every part of itself as this demonstrates the respect it has for the Indigenous people of the Plains by offering its whole being.
- The Indigenous people and the herds of buffalo that roamed the Plains were caretakers of the land.
- The sacred relationships of the buffalo and Indigenous people of the Plains is that it offers itself to the hunter first, this is what makes it different than trophy hunting. There is ceremony that takes place in exchange for this reciprocal relationship to give thanks to the buffalo for offering survival and life.



Facts about the Buffalo Genocide

- Masses of buffalo roamed the Great Plains throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, and down to Mexico. It is estimated 30-60 million that existed at one time before colonialism.
- Buffalo were the keystone species that shaped the ecosystem of the Plains and other living beings.
- "Buffalo determines landscape. By their sheer numbers, weight, and behavior, they cultivated the prairie, which is the single largest ecosystem in North America."
- Indigenous people and buffalo were seen as inconvenience to the imperialist project and development of the New World.
- The slaughter of the buffalo was a tactic to starve the Indigenous people out of the Great Plains.
- Genocide in the name of Western advancement
- The extinction of "savagery" of Indigenous peoples and species of buffalo meant attaining happiness.
- The colonial agenda intended for land theft, destabilizing the social/political sovereignty, assimilation of cultural and spiritual practices, dehumanization, violence, genocide, misrecognition, mortification of the Indigenous nations.
- Buffalo Disappearance of Canada 1879 and US 1883.
- The buffalo were central to the Indigenous culture and existence in the Plains. This was targeted by the white settlers and used against the Indigenous people for conquest.
- The replacement of buffalo was farming animals like cows.
- The extermination of buffalo meant more opportunity for the West to expand into the Plains, which almost caused extinction for not only the buffalo but also the Indigenous peoples. This was to protect the railway construction across America, connecting the East to Western settlement.
- The development of the railway was used as a war tactic against Indigenous peoples and the buffalo herds.