

THE GROWTH OF

INDIGENOUS



GAMING

ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY

How did it begin?

In the late 1900s, tribes which faced limited economic opportunity resorted to gaming and gambling to generate income.

High-stakes gambling became most popular among Indigenous tribes in 1979.

The commonly known pioneers of this are the Seminoles located in the Florida Everglades.

The state of Florida attempted to prohibit the Seminole tribe from continuing high-stakes lottery, instead, the Seminoles sued Florida and won.

What happened with them after?

Seminole Tribe Casinos

Brighton
Reservation

The Seminole tribe owns six casinos. Of the six Seminole reservations there are in Florida, the casinos only lay on four of them.

Tampa
Reservation

★ Seminole Hard Rock
Hotel & Casino Tampa

★ Seminole Brighton
Bay Hotel & Casino

★ Seminole Casino
Hotel Immokalee

Immokalee

These casinos have allowed the Seminoles to collect a large amount of revenue, which has become a monthly payment that can be made to tribal members. This revenue has also been used to support community services and offer scholarships to students. The casino boosted the local economy by creating jobs for many people. The biggest dilemma is that most of these jobs aren't designated for tribal members.

Hollywood
Reservation



Seminole Hard Rock
Hotel & Casino Hollywood, FL

★ Seminole Classic
Casino Hollywood



MASHANTUCKET PEQUOTS

Before the English destroyed their central village in 1637, the Mashantucket Pequots held a lot of economic & political power. Three-hundred fifty years ago, this tribe was on the verge of becoming extinct. It wasn't until 1983 that they were granted federal recognition.

1992

1992

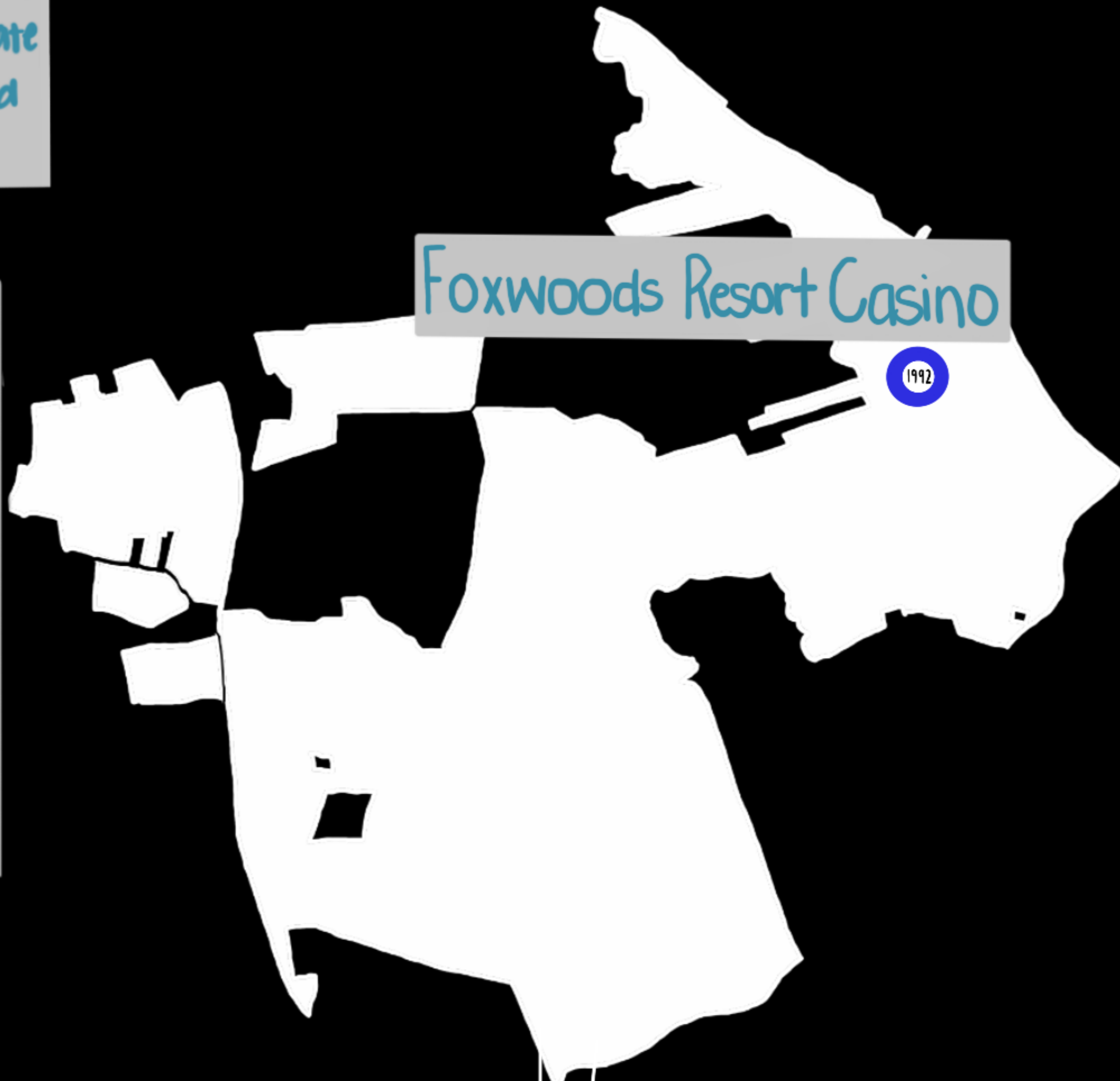
1992

In 1992, they opened a casino, which is now known as the Foxwoods Resort Casino. Before immediately turning to high-stakes gaming, the tribe decided to use bingo. By the end of the 1990s, the Mashantucket Pequots were once again a major political and economic power.

Where are the Mashantucket Pequot?

The Mashantucket Pequot reservation is located in the southeastern part of Connecticut. Their Foxwoods Resort Casino is known for being one of the richest in the world. The profits from this casino have enabled the tribe to provide housing, healthcare, education, elderly care, & cultural programs for its members. In 1998, the Mashantucket Pequot were able to create the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center.

Similar to the Hard Rock Casino, the Foxwoods has also created employment opportunities, boosting its local economy. Casinos and gambling don't stop here; tribes like these were able to influence other tribal nations to adopt these practices.

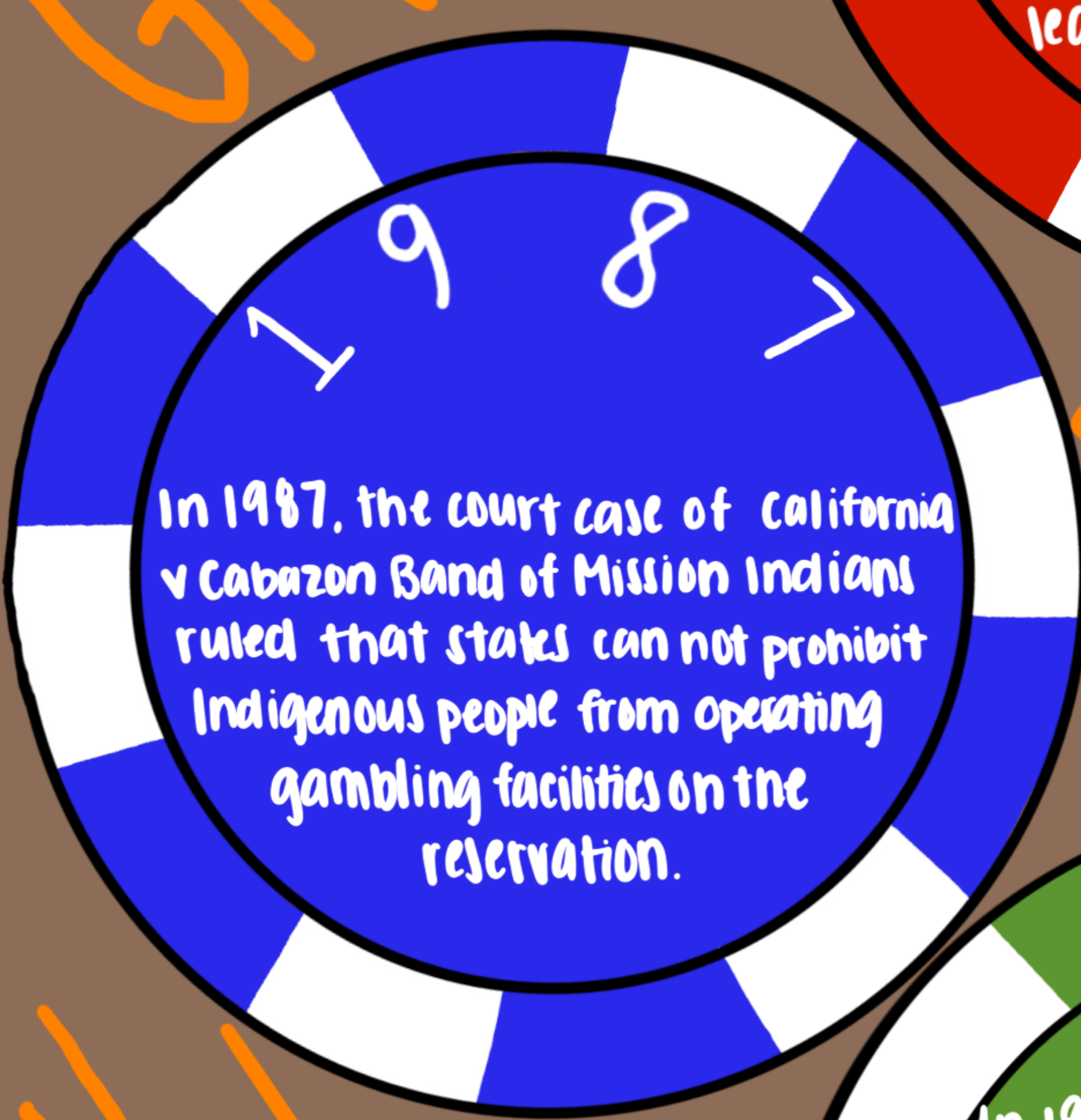


GA



ORGANIZATION

In 1985, the Indian Gaming Association was established to protect tribal nations in regards to gaming. They help protect tribal sovereignty and serve as a resource to tribal leaders and policymakers.

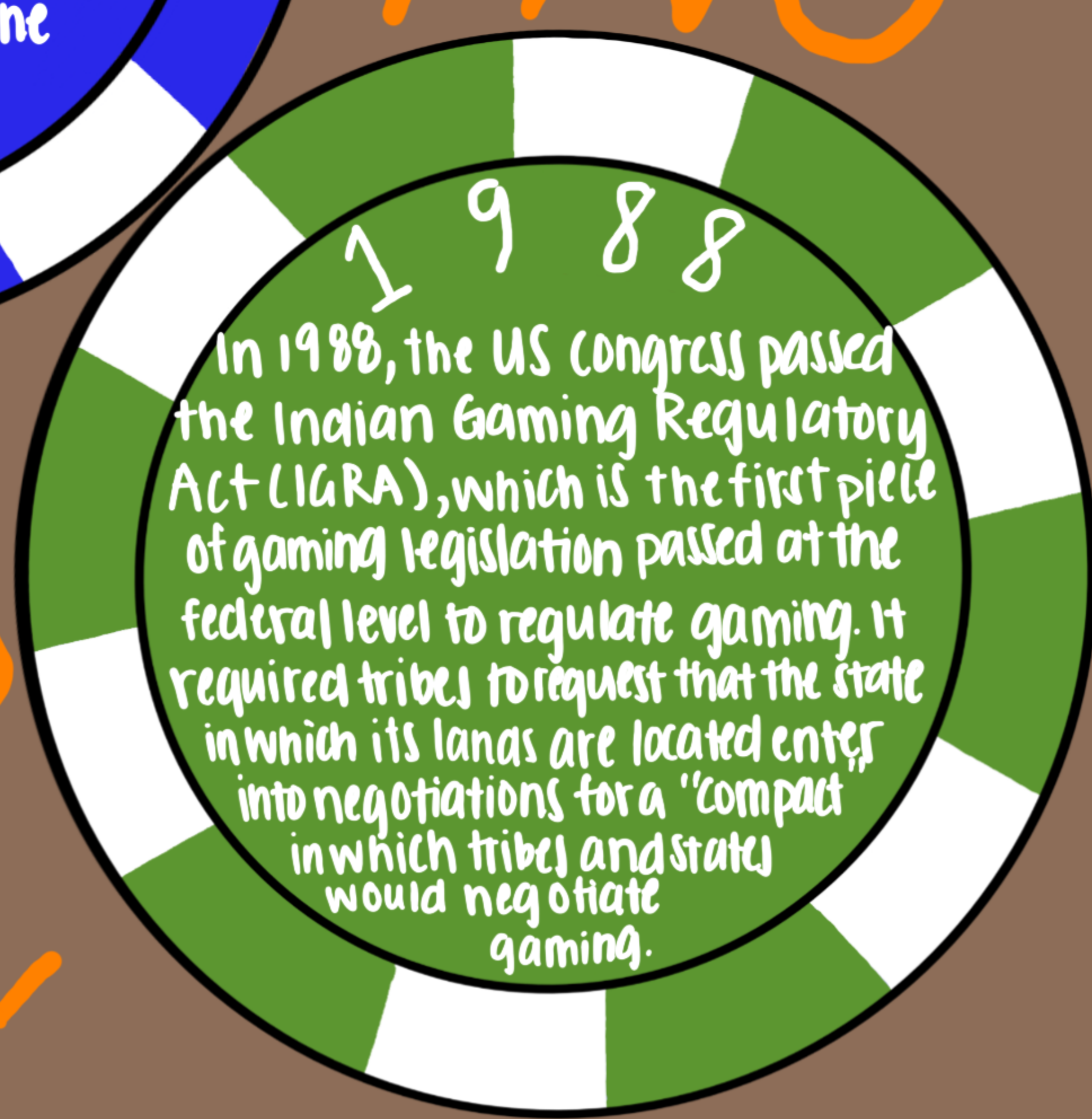


1987

In 1987, the court case of California v Cabazon Band of Mission Indians ruled that states can not prohibit Indigenous people from operating gambling facilities on the reservation.

LAW

BD



1988

In 1988, the US congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which is the first piece of gaming legislation passed at the federal level to regulate gaming. It required tribes to request that the state in which its lands are located enter into negotiations for a "compact" in which tribes and states would negotiate gaming.

F
A
V
O
R

It generates
INCOME

And it can go
back to the
community

Scholarships

Schools

It can provide
jobs

Clinics

housing

utility
services

social
service
programs

better
infrastructure

HOPE

there have been
many developments

INDEPENDENCE

Reciprocity

Different
tribal nations
sharing revenue
with one
another, in order
to aid financially
where
necessary

PER CAPITA PAYMENTS

Per capita payments are a part of the casino's revenue that is distributed to tribal members. Tribes with a lot of members don't usually get the opportunity to offer them. However, smaller tribes do distribute the payments directly to their tribal members. There is tension about potential misuse of money.

They
are
taking
advantage
of tribal
nations

Non-Indigenous financial
bankers are taking advantage
of casinos by taking a lot of
their revenue

Casinos have
disproportionately
benefited a small
number of tribal
nations

The IGRA is
compromising our tribal
sovereignty

Depending on the size of the
reservation and how much the
casino makes will influence how
much money will be distributed

The unhealthy
& untraditional
environments of
casinos will
have negative
effects on
tribal
members

Gaming is in
conflict with
our tribal
values

A
G
A
I
N
S
T

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PAGE 2

Calloway, Colin G. “Economic Success through Sovereignty.” In *First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of Native American History*. 7th ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2023.

PAGE 3

Calloway, Colin G. “Economic Success through Sovereignty.” In *First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of Native American History*. 7th ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2023.

Cattelino, Jessica R., and Donald L. Fixico. “Casino Roots: The Cultural Production of Twentieth-Century Seminole Economic Development.” In *Native Pathways: American Indian Culture and Economic Development in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Brian Hosmer and Colleen O’Neill, 66–90. University Press of Colorado, 2004. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt46nvxp.8>.

“Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino” by ucumari photography is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

PAGE 4

Calloway, Colin G. “Economic Success through Sovereignty.” In *First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of Native American History*. 7th ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2023.

PAGE 5

Calloway, Colin G. “Economic Success through Sovereignty.” In *First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of Native American History*. 7th ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2023.

PAGE 6

Calloway, Colin G. “Economic Success through Sovereignty.” In *First Peoples: A Documentary Survey of Native American History*. 7th ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2023.

PAGE 7

Treur, Anton. “Economics.” In *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask*, 128-37. 1 ed. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2012.