laid claim to the Black Hills by setting up camps there. Ownership of this territory is still disputed.

- 1972, AIM take over the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington DC. 1,000 protesters arrived from the original tribes. This happened once the siege of Alcatraz had ended and its purpose was to raise awareness of the plight of Native Americans as a result of their unjust treatment since the middle of the 19th C. Its leaders had drawn up a paper identifying twenty points that needed to be addressed. Although intended as a peaceful protest, the marchers found themselves without accommodation in the city and so occupied the offices of the BIA. Violence broke out when attempts were made to evict the protesters.

- 1972, Nixon gives Native Americans preference in employment opportunities in the Bureau of Indian affairs to ensure greater Indian leadership and participation in the deployment and administration of federal funding.

- 1972, Nixon placed great emphasis on the improvement of educational provision for Indian children and young people. The 1972 Indian Education Act involved a substantial increase in federal funding for Indian schools, including programmes to build reservation schools. The closure of the highly controversial Indian boarding schools was part of this reform programme, and this was continued by Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. Nixon's actions made him very popular in the eyes of Native Americans. Who knows how much further he would have gone and whether or not he would have remained with NA's as his priority. When he resigned in 1974, a number of long standing claims between the tribes were still ongoing, but regardless, Nixon achieved more than any other Pres. for NA's.

- 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee. This was the site of the 1890 massacre of the Sioux, and was therefore a highly evocative place for all Indians. The protest arose following allegations of the suspected financial dealings of the president of the Reservation and his maltreatment of its Indian inhabitants. The violent occupation of the hamlet of Wounded Knee lasted for 71 days and involved resistance to federal marshals, FBI agents and military personnel. Like the Alcatraz incident, all of this was acted out with full media coverage from across the US and the world. It ended with a negotiated settlement. Two of the leaders of the protest were arrested but acquitted of charges. The activities of the leaders of AIM were closely monitored during the early 1970's by the FBI.

- 1974 Oneida v. Oneida and Madison Counties, New York. This was a case brought to the SC to establish the right of the Oneida tribe to sue for the return of their lands through the SC. When the SC decided in their favour, it opened the flood gate for land claims from other tribes, especially in the east.

- 1975 Indian Self-Determination Act which laid down the processes whereby the tribes could negotiate contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take responsibility for their own education, health and social service provision. It also authorised the allocation of federal funding for these programmes which moved the tribes nearer to self-sufficiency. Although passed by Congress under Gerald Ford, this act, much like the one below, was thanks to Nixon's legacy.

- 1975 Indian Education Assistance Act which gave American-Indian parents greater involvement in their children's education through membership of their school boards.

- 1978 Native American Religious Freedom Act. Marked an important step forward by allowing Native Americans to exercise their own traditional religions. The culture of NA's was finally being accepted.

- 1980 United States v. the Sioux Nation. The US SC ruled that the Sioux Indians were entitled to compensation totalling $17.5 million and an additional 5 per cent interest per year since 1877 ($106 mil) for the loss of the Black Hills in contravention of the Fort Laramie Treaty. The Sioux refused to accept this money preferring instead the return of