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## Apaches Removed From Southwest

### Journal Staff Report

The Fort Sill Apaches are descendents of the Chiricahua bands of the Apache Indians. The Chiricahua lived in southwestern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona, northern Sonora and northern Chihuahua in Mexico until westward expansion of the United States triggered battles among the Chiricahuas, miners, settlers and the U.S. Army.

Despite an 1852 treaty, conflicts continued.

In 1863, Apache leader Mangas Coloradas was killed while in U.S. Army custody, setting off a sporadic war that lasted nearly 25 years.

Federal authorities established the Chiricahua Apache Reservation in Arizona in 1872, but escapes and raids continued for decades.

When the Chiricahuas finally surrendered in 1886, they were exiled to reservations in Florida, Alabama and Oklahoma.

Most Apaches eventually moved to the Fort Sill military reservation in Oklahoma, but in 1913 they were allowed to return to parts of Arizona and New Mexico. Many Apaches still live in Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico, including the Mescalero reservation near Ruidoso.

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