

Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation: A Comprehensive History and Guide



OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN RELOCATION: Executive Branch and Legislative Action Needed for Closure and Transfer of Activities (GAO - DOI) by Mike Healy

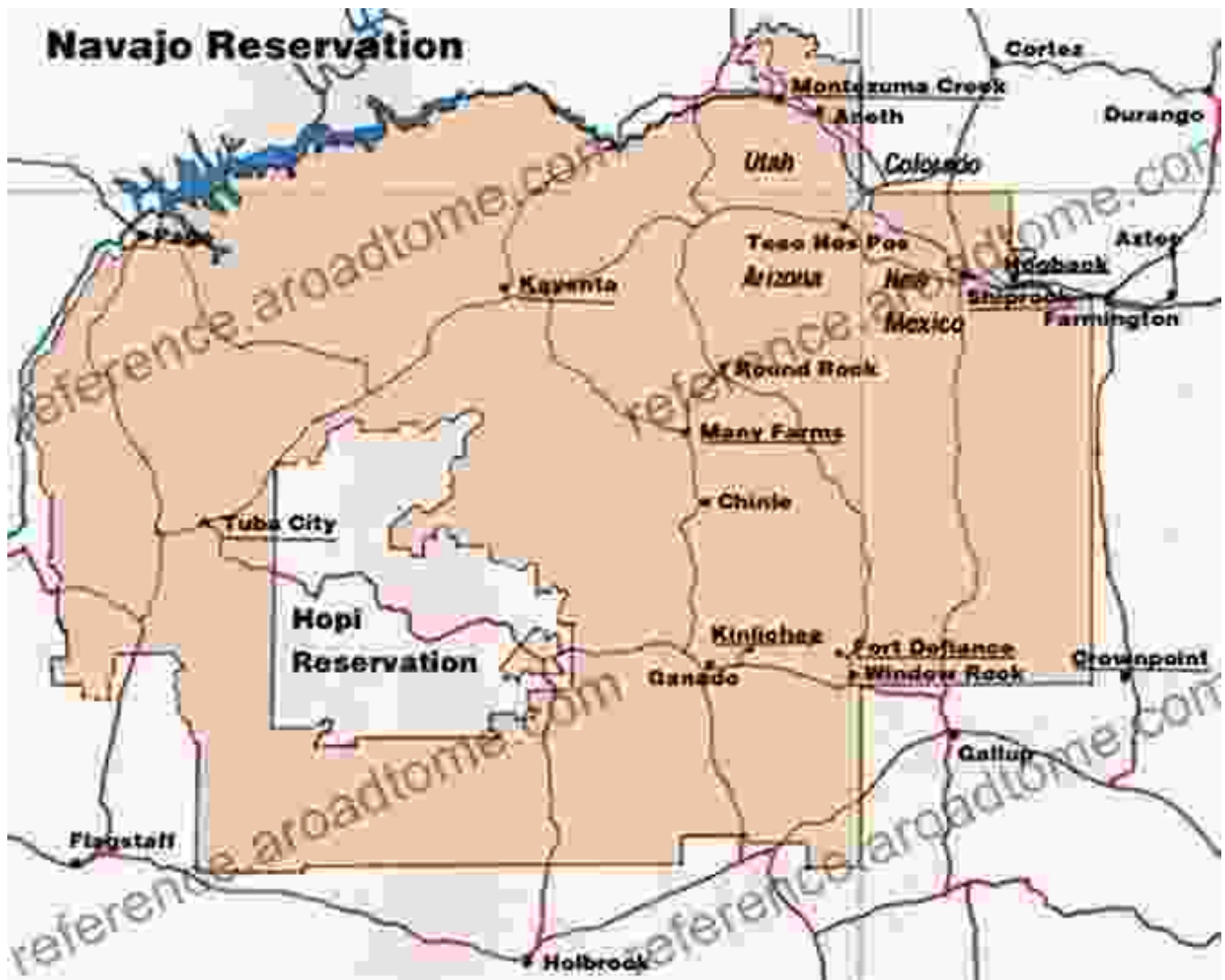
★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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The Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR) played a significant role in the lives of Native American communities in the mid-20th century. Established in 1956, the ONHIR was tasked with the relocation of Navajo and Hopi people from traditional lands to new locations in Arizona and New Mexico. This relocation effort was a controversial and multifaceted undertaking, with far-reaching implications for the affected communities.

Establishment and Mandate



The ONHIR was established by the United States Congress through the Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act of 1956. The Act authorized the relocation of approximately 11,000 Navajo and Hopi people from the Joint Use Area (JUA) of the Navajo and Hopi reservations in Arizona and New Mexico. The JUA was a disputed territory, with both the Navajo and Hopi claiming traditional ownership.

The ONHIR's mandate was to provide relocation assistance to the affected communities, including housing, land, and infrastructure. The relocation

process was complex and time-consuming, and it took several years to complete.

Controversies and Challenges

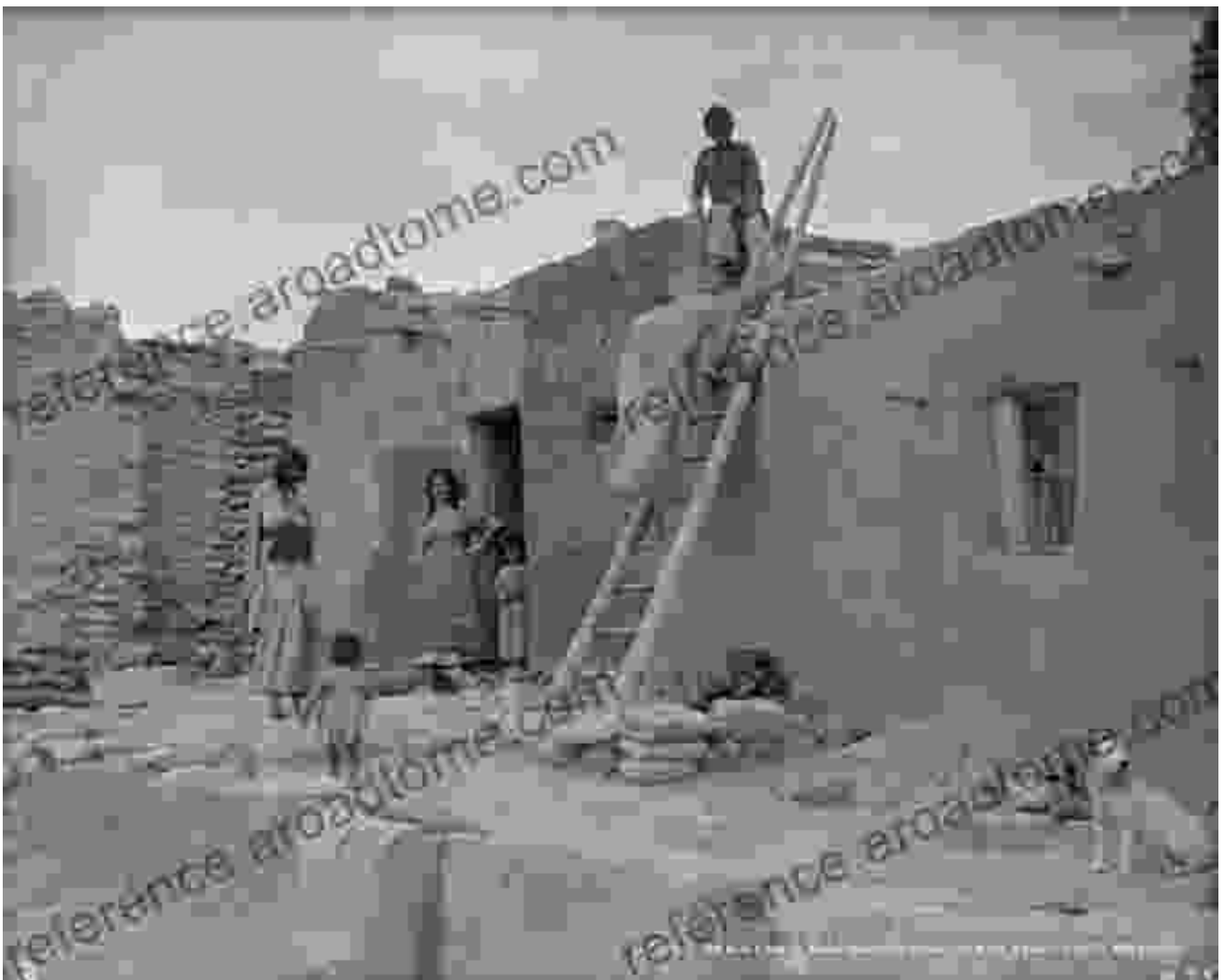
The ONHIR's relocation efforts were met with significant controversy and resistance from the Navajo and Hopi communities. Many people did not want to leave their traditional lands, and they felt that the relocation was unfair and unjust. There were also concerns about the quality of the land and housing provided by the ONHIR, and about the impact of the relocation on traditional Navajo and Hopi culture.



Photograph of Native Americans protesting against the Navajo and Hopi relocation.

The ONHIR faced numerous challenges in carrying out its mandate. The relocation process was slow and bureaucratic, and it was often difficult to find suitable land and housing for the displaced families. The ONHIR also faced resistance from local non-Native communities, who were concerned about the impact of the relocation on their own communities.

Legacy and Impact



The Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation had a profound impact on the lives of Native American communities in the Southwest. The relocation

effort was a complex and controversial undertaking, and it continues to be a source of debate and discussion today. However, despite the challenges, the ONHIR also played a role in providing much-needed assistance to Native American families, and in helping to improve the lives of many people.

The Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation was a significant chapter in the history of Native American communities in the Southwest. The ONHIR's relocation efforts had a far-reaching impact, both positive and negative. Today, the legacy of the ONHIR continues to be debated and discussed, as scholars and community members alike seek to understand the full impact of this controversial chapter in American history.

Further Reading

- National Park Service: Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute
- Library of Congress: Documents from the Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation
- PBS American Experience: The Navajo and Hopi Relocation



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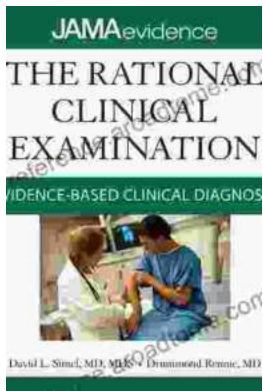
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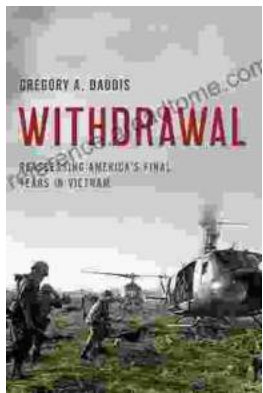
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