

## History

The Chinook Indian Nation is made up of just over 2,000\* individuals with some Chinook heritage from the western most Lower Chinook peoples: the Clatsop and Kathlamet of what is now Oregon and the Lower Chinook and the Wahkiakum and Willapa Chinook of Washington State (see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinookan\\_peoples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinookan_peoples)). Many villages of over 1,000 inhabitants once existed, where men hunted and fished with salmon abundant. The women gathered foods and raised families. Their society was marked by social stratification: shamans, warriors, and traders; their language, “Chinook Jargon,” was widely used. They resided at the bull’s eye of early Oregon Territory settlement. Their DNA has all but disappeared, one of the reasons why the Tribe is not federally recognized.

## Legends & Lessons

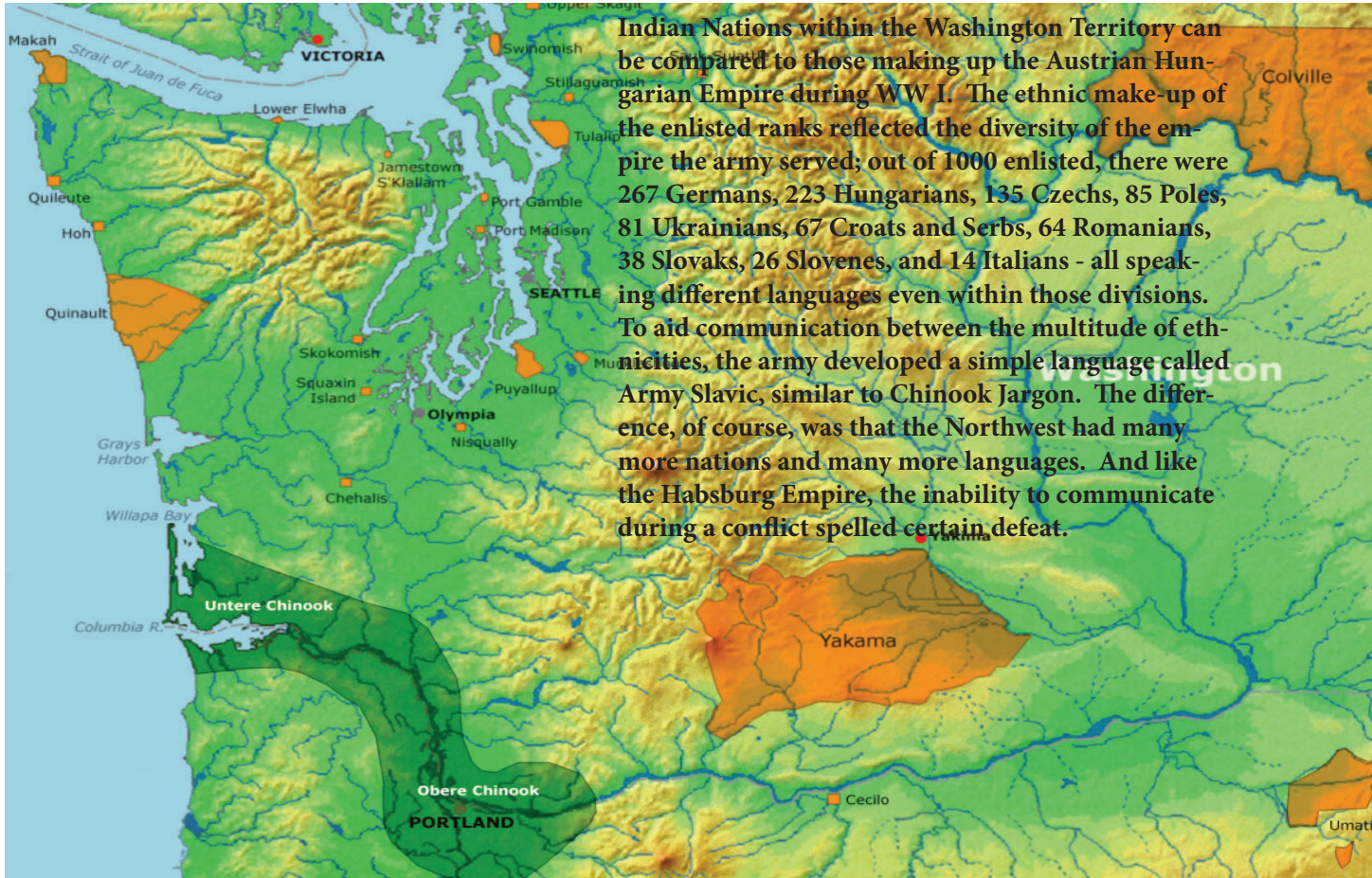
The NW native population estimates differ greatly from when Coronado explored the SW and 50 years later when Juan de Oñate brought 500 Spanish settlers and soldiers with 7,000 head of livestock, founding the first Spanish settlement in New Mexico in 1598. They also brought: smallpox, malaria, measles, mumps, tuberculosis, the flu, cholera, dysentery, alcoholism, urologic diseases, dysentery, trachoma, and firearms. The NW held only 30,000 Native Americans in 1860. No one knows how many Indians died in the 1600s when the 1st raging wave of smallpox occurred. (98%?) In later years, the Chinook were hit hard by malaria; the Cayuse by measles.\*

INDIANS IN THE STATES AND TERRITORIES RETAINING THEIR TRIBAL CHARACTER NOT ENUMERATED IN THE EIGHTH CENSUS, 1880.			
Texas	262, 401	North Carolinians	1, 489
West of Arkansas	277	Oregians	150
California	13, 519	Wyomians	2, 815
Idaho	207	Idahoans	2, 815
Utah	284	Dakota Territory	39, 064
Colorado	284	Nebraska Territory	39, 064
Monte (a)	669	South Dakota Territory	39, 064
Michigan	17, 600	North Dakota Territory	39, 064
Minnesota	17, 600	Dakota Territory	39, 064
Wisconsin	3, 748	Nebraska Territory	39, 064
New York	3, 748		

Natives did not “get stronger” with each new variant of pioneer diseases:

Year	Disease	Death Rate	Period
1801	Smallpox	50%	Trading, Chinook hit the hardest
1824	Smallpox	50%	Trading
1830	Malaria	80%	Willamette Valley & Columbia Gorge
1836	Smallpox	50%	Immigrant Migration
1847	Measles	10%	Oregon north carried by HBC Beaver
1853	Smallpox	50%	Immigrants
1863	Smallpox	50%	Reservations, Taxed and Untaxed

\*A count in 1902 found one pure-blooded Cayuse alive.



## Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant “starts” from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

[illegible]