

CORNPLANTER'S DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY: FROM THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION TO THE TREATY OF CANANDAIGUA

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After the American Revolution the Indian tribes who sided with the British also lost and had to deal with a fledging government that wanted land reparations. The Seneca war chief Cornplanter used diplomacy to try to prevent the land seizure and treaty history shows his efforts succeeded. Cornplanter argued his case directly to George Washington. The conversation between Cornplanter and the President examined in this paper explains the relationship between the Seneca and the new United States government. Washington and Secretary of War, Henry Knox, saw Cornplanter as an ally to help pacify frontier Indian aggression while Cornplanter viewed Washington as someone who could solve his grievances with earlier encroachment. Because of Cornplanter's friendly relationship with the United States, the Treaty of Canandaigua secured most of the Seneca lands.