

Perpetuating Slavery & Discrimination **IN CALIFORNIA**

1849

Peter Hardeman Burnett

The 1st elected governor of CA, Peter Hardeman Burnett, was a former slaveholder. He led the efforts to pass a law that excluded blacks from CA. The law allowed whites to keep slaves for 3 years, after which they were freed and required to leave CA. The law was rescinded.

1850

Act of the Government & Protection of Indians

The act enabled whites to force indigenous people from their lands into slavery. In his second state address, Burnett said: "That a war of extermination will continue to be waged between the races until the Indian race becomes extinct must be expected." He sets aside state money to arm local militias against the indigenous and, with the help of the U.S. Army, distributes weapons to the militias, who are tasked with raiding tribal outposts and scalping and killing indigenous people. Local governments put bounties on indigenous scalps and pay settlers for stealing horses of the indigenous they murder.

1850

Testimony Exclusion

Testimony Exclusion Laws are enacted. The law states that "no black or mulatto person, or Indian, shall be permitted to give evidence in favor of, or against, any white person."

1852

The California Fugitive Slave Act

The Act becomes law. It states that "When a person held to labor in any State or Territory of the United States under the laws thereof, shall escape into this state, the person to whom such labor or service may be due, his agent or attorney, is hereby empowered to seize or arrest such fugitive from labor, or shall have the right to obtain a warrant of arrest for such fugitive..."