

## Introductory Chapter

Since the organization of our government by the adoption of the Constitution of the United States has been <sup>a little over</sup> about One Hundred years;

During this period nearly One Thousand Treaties have been made with the various Indian Tribes within our boundaries.

Since, by the definition of the word Treaty, only independent States or nations can constitute treaty making powers, our government has acknowledged the different Indian Tribes as independent nations, as many times as it has ratified treaties with them.

According to Art VI of the Constitution of the United States, treaties duly signed & ratified by the contracting parties, become the Supreme Law of the the land, & must be so regarded by all citizens, & State Officials.

Among civilized nations treaties are regarded of such binding force, that each party is held to a strict accountability by the other for an infringement of any of the provisions guaranteed by it; & in the present condition of international law, is considered sufficient cause for an appeal to the force of arms.