The Meriam Report (1928) And Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934
Meriam Report (1928)

- A nationwide study of Indian life
- Publicized the deplorable living conditions on reservations
Recommendations of Meriam Report

- Health funding should be increased
- Education funding should be increased
- Allotment should be ended
- Tribal self-government should be encouraged
The Indian Reorganization Act (1934)
The Indian Reorganization Act (IRA)

- Ended allotment (division of Indian lands)
- Encouraged tribes to adopt constitutions
- Included hiring preferences for NDN’s in BIA
- Established loan funds for tribal development
- Allowed the secretary of Interior to accept additional lands in trust
- Generally included other provisions toward promoting tribal self-government
Accepting IRA

- Tribes were given two years to accept or reject IRA.
- Tribes that accepted the IRA are called IRA tribes.
- Tribes that rejected the IRA are called Treaty Tribes.
- The Quinault Nation and 14 Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation rejected the IRA.
Why did Yakama Reject IRA?

- On May 17, 1934, in hearing before the Senate, the great Yakama Nation, in a statement signed by their chiefs and councilmen, said, “We feel that the best interests of the Indians can be preserved by the continuance of treaty laws and carried out in conformity with the treaty of 1855”