UB-TAH IMPORTANT READINGS

The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934

"The Indian Reorganization ("Wheeler-Howard") Act of 1934 was the keystone of the "Indian New Deal," the most important turning point in federal policy toward American Indians since the early nineteenth century. The New Deal prescribed tribal constitutions, reversal of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) land policy, application of the First Amendment to tribal religions, and reservation economic development and social programs outside the control of the BIA. For the first time in living memory, the BIA reservation superintendents began to lose their positions as de facto colonial administrators with almost total power over their charges. Some historians, both Indian and non-Indian, have raised serious questions about the effectiveness -- and sincerity -- of the reforms. It would, nevertheless, be difficult to argue that the Wheeler-Howard Act and the other measures of the Indian New Deal were not perceived by many at the time as revolutionary or that its effects were trivial."

Source: The National Archive
http://www.archives.gov/education/history-day/turning-points/resources-nre.html

"A Bill of Rights for the Indians": John Collier Envisions an Indian New Deal

"John Collier's appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs by Franklin Roosevelt in 1933 marked a radical reversal—in intention if not always in effect—in U.S. government policies toward American Indians that dated back to the 1887 Dawes Act. An idealistic social worker, Collier first encountered Indian culture when he visited Taos, New Mexico, in 1920, and found among the Pueblos there what he called a "Red Atlantis"—a model of living that integrated the needs of the individual with the group and that maintained traditional values. Although Collier could not win congressional backing for his most radical proposals, the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 dramatically changed policy by allowing tribal self-government and consolidating individual land allotments back into tribal hands. Collier set out his vision for what became known as the "Indian New Deal" in this 1934 article from the Literary Digest. Although he was sympathetic to Indians, he depicted them in a stereotypical manner."

Source: History Matters
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5059/