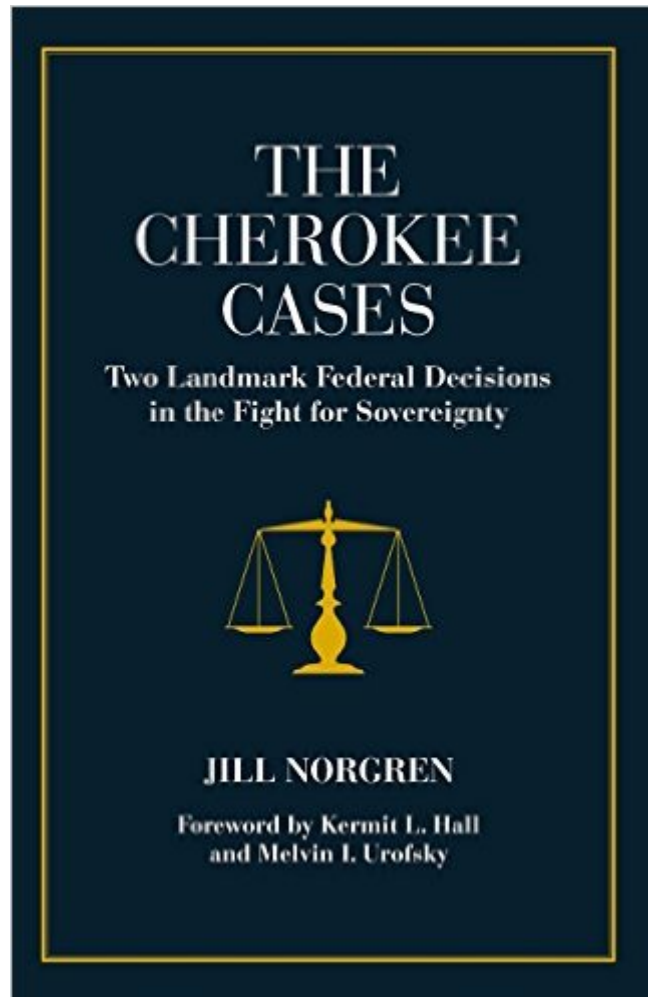


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# The Cherokee Cases: Two Landmark Federal Decisions In The Fight For Sovereignty



## Synopsis

This compact history is the first to explore two landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases of the early 1830s: *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* and *Worcester v. Georgia*. Legal historian Jill Norgren details the extraordinary story behind these cases, describing how John Ross and other leaders of the Cherokee Nation, having internalized the principles of American law, tested their sovereignty rights before Chief Justice John Marshall in the highest court of the land. The Cherokees' goal was to solidify these rights and to challenge the aggressive actions that the government and people of Georgia carried out against them under the aegis of law. Written in a style accessible both to students and to general readers, *The Cherokee Cases* is an ideal guide to understanding the political development of the Cherokee Nation in the early nineteenth century and the tragic outcome of these cases so critical to the establishment of U.S. federal Indian law.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jill Norgren's "The Cherokee Cases" gives a well-rounded history of two landmark 1830s US Supreme Court cases litigated in the twilight of the John Marshall court, *Cherokee Nation v. State of Georgia* and *Worcester v. State*, that preceded the cruel and bloody expulsion of the Cherokees from their homeland in the infamous Trail of Tears (1838). Though touching on almost all aspects of the "Indian Removal" question pushed by land-hungry whites and the Andrew Jackson administration, a measure opposed only half-heartedly by compromised northerners tainted by their own prejudices, *The Cherokee Cases* deals expressly with the subject of its title: the dramatic legal cases in which the Cherokee Nation, having resolved to submit its grievances to a judicial resolution

in the white men's courts rather than a violent resolution on the battlefields, pinned its best hopes. In an economical 154 pages, remarkable for the complexity of her subject, Norgren relates all facets of the dramatic legal showdown, culminating in the bitter irony of a Cherokee legal victory that the United States, supposedly the superior, "civilized" nation, refused to accept.

Norgren's Cherokee Cases is an excellent legal history, engaging and accessible, about two landmark cases in federal Indian law. She combines history, politics and the law into a readable whole, providing abundant details without overwhelming the reader. If you thought you knew the story of the Cherokee cases, think again -- and pick up this book.

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