

Session 10

Case Study

Red Power: North American Indigenous Movements

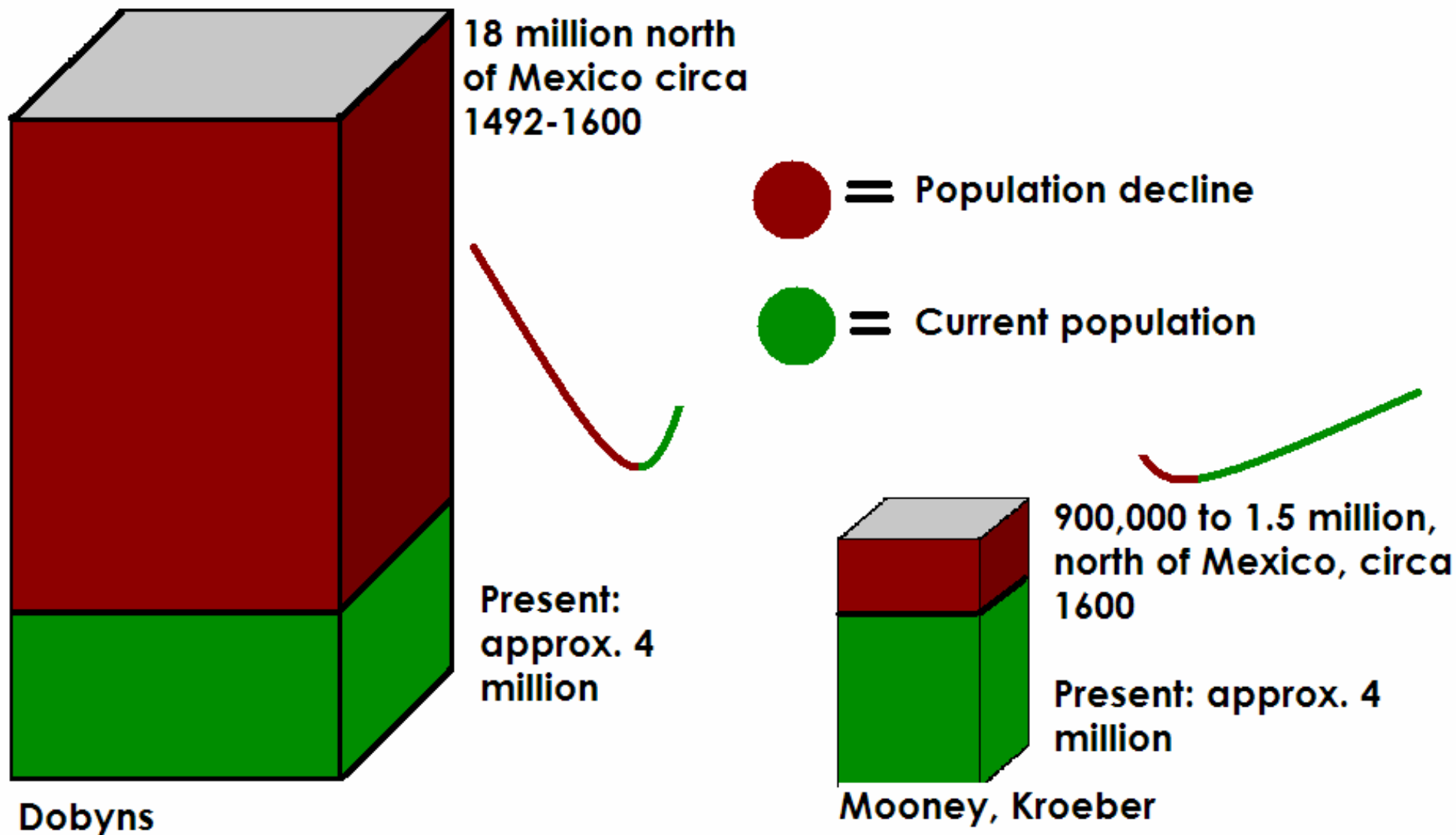


## *Bases for resurgence:*

### **A CHANGING POPULATION: Demographic Recovery**

- From 1950 to 1990 the Indian population grew more than fourfold
- 237,000 in 1900 to 947,500 people in 1980
- urbanization + intermarriage ≠ de-Indianization

# The Politics of Indian Demography



# RED POWER

## Nagel on the paradoxical origins of resurgence

- (1) federal Indian policy
- (2) American ethnic politics,
- (3) Red Power activism

→ “the growth of the Indian population and the spread of Indian identification outside reservation and traditional Indian areas are especially puzzling because they have occurred despite clear evidence of Indian ethnic decline and assimilation”

→ “during the past few decades, research has shown decreases' in reported tribal affiliation, increased English language usage, decreased use of Indian languages, continued widespread intermarriage with non-Indians, increased urbanization, and rising levels of Indian education and income”

- “researchers have also reported much evidence of Indian ethnic resurgence: increased ethnic identification in census data, increased ethnic mobilization in the form of organizational formation, activism, and litigation, and increased social and cultural revitalization on reservations and in urban Indian communities”
- “the rise of American Indian ethnic identification, Indian ethnic mobilization [and] Indian cultural revival occurred *because* of assimilation processes. In other words, the very processes thought to reduce or destroy ethnic distinctiveness can, ironically, become the means by which ethnicity is regenerated and renewed”

- assimilationist education policies
- "Indian New Deal" legislation
- Native Americans in World War II

## EDUCATION

### NEW LEGISLATION

→ “Indian New Deal”--the Howard-Wheeler or Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934

## WWII

## URBANIZATION

## LAND CONFLICTS, CLAIMS, AWARDS

### THE 1960s CIVIL RIGHTS ERA

- material incentive for Indian self-identification
- Bureau of Indian Affairs was undermined
- new Indian organizations in cities and on reservations

## NEW MOVEMENTS

- 1968, Dennis Banks and George Mitchell, American Indian Movement (AIM)
- November 20, 1969 to June 11, 1971, 89 American Indians landed on Alcatraz Island, identifying themselves as “Indians of All Tribes”
- 1972, “Trail of Broken Treaties”