

## John Collier: Indian Commissioner, 1933-45

### Reading Guide Answer Key

1.
  - Emphasis on community not individualism
  - “Ameliorate the disruptive forces of poverty, isolation and class antagonisms” of industrialization
  - Community centers, “progressive education”
  - General Federation of Women’s Clubs, Settlement house workers, school community center movement: Progressive institutions
  - Government as the solution
2.
  - Used sociology to study relationships and shared obligations of community life in immigrant urban environment
  - Prevent social disorientation by preserving culture, value of Old World cultures and communal institutions
3.
  - “He knew what was in their best interest”
  - “Condescending assumption”
  - Difficult to apply his romantic ideas
  - Steadfastly believed in sociology to promote “great society”
4.
  - World War I had stifled Progressive efforts in NYC
  - The Red Scare! “He discussed the cooperative movement and the significance of the Bolshevik Revolution”, “his activities irritated members of the state legislature
5.
  - Community life flourished, “had survived repeated and immense historical shocks”, the Indians the only people possessing “the fundamental secret of human life- the secret of building great personality through the instrumentality of social institutions” fits his communal Progressive techniques
6.
  - Opposed the Dawes Act, preservation of Indian civilization
  - Criticized Indian Comm. Assimilation policies, Comm. Burke a scapegoat, worked as lobbyist in Washington
  - Charges led to Meriam Report
7.
  - Passage of Pueblo Relief Bill- compensate Rio Gr. Indians for loss of land
  - Johnson O’Malley Act- \$ for states to improve Indian health, ed., soc. services
  - Indian Reorganization Act- ended land allotment, tribal self-gov’t.
8.
  - Closed the boarding schools
  - PWA \$ construct day schools/community centers
  - “Progressive ed.”
  - Professional standards of teachers raised
  - Cross-cultural ed.
  - First bilingual program> improve literacy
9.
  - Obtain legislation
  - Expose conditions at insane asylum in So. Dak.
  - Defended right to practice Indian religion
  - Increased # of Indians employed in Indian service
  - Establish tribal herds of buffalo
  - Abolished Board of Indian Commissioners
  - Reformed court system
  - Codification of federal Indian law
  - \$100 million of CCC, PWA and other relief to benefit Indians

10.
  - Reversal of Dawes Act
  - Autonomous Indian political communities
  - Promote study of Indian civilization
  - Collective ownership of reservation land
  - Creation of special federal court of Indian affairs
  - Establish cooperative commonwealths
  
11.
  - Little interest in his romantic ideal
  - Indian factions of mixed- bloods and full-bloods (liberals vs. conservatives)
  - No provision to tribal claims, no enforcement of treaty rights
  
12.
  - No mandatory transfer of allotted lands to tribal ownership
  - No special Indian courts
  - Inheritance fractionalized land allotments
  - Curtailed provisions of self-government
  - OK excluded!!!!
  
13.
  - Tribe could draw up a constitution defining their limited powers
  - Establish charters of incorporation to borrow \$ (financial benefits)
  
14.
  - Imposition of rigid non-Indian political and economic concepts
  - Inflexible
  - Not based in tribal custom, confusing legal jargon
  
15.
  - OK Indians remain skeptical
  - Wanted to keep individual allotments
  - Favored assimilation
  - Collier imposed communistic ideas and created tribal dissension
  
16.
  - Appropriations slashed- financial difficulties
  - Collier relations with Congress badly deteriorated- political stalemate
  - Ineffectiveness
  - Insistence on communal lands and cultural pluralism (“He knew what was best for them!”) despite tribal resistance
  
17.
  - Human and creative man
  - Respected tribl culture
  - Secured more lands
  - Started conservation projects
  - Potential of Pan-Indianism
  
18.
  - Much remains same: individual ownership of land, no real self-government, individualism
  - But respect for tribal cultures, religion becomes law