

# The Effect of Euroamerican Contact and **WHERE THE REMAINING PATWIN TRIBES LIVE TODAY**



**THE TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLE OF THE PATWIN** changed dramatically with the arrival of the Spanish and Euroamerican explorers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Throughout California, indigenous populations were decimated in less than a century, from an estimated 350,000 Native people living in California as of 1769, when the Spanish arrived, to 50,000 as of 1855, at the peak of the Gold Rush. One of the western invasion's more disastrous impacts on Native people was the introduction of disease to which they were not immune. Malaria and smallpox epidemics swept through the Sacramento Valley in 1834 and 1837, reducing its indigenous population by nearly 75 percent.

During the 1850s and 1860s, many of the Patwin who had survived eventually either became assimilated into the non-tribal culture by working as laborers for

the ranches or they were placed on small reservations established by the United States government. Today, over 200 years after the first Europeans arrived in California, three Patwin tribes remain—the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community.

