

Crushing the Native Americans

- 1867--250,000 Indians in western U.S.
 - displaced Eastern Indians
 - Native Plains Indians
- By the 1880s
 - most Indians on reservations
 - California Indians decimated by disease
- By the 1890s Indian cultures crumble

Essential Questions

- 1) What motivated Americans from the east to move westward?
- 2) How did American expansion westward affect the American Indians?
- 3) How was American “identity” forged through westward expansion?



AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



**Which picture best represents America?
What affects our perception of American
identity?**

Life of the Plains Indians: Political Organization

- Plains Indians nomadic, hunt buffalo
 - skilled horsemen
 - tribes develop warrior class
 - wars limited to skirmishes, "counting coups"
- Tribal bands governed by chief and council
- Loose organization confounds federal policy

Life of the Plains Indians: Social Organization

- Sexual division of labor
 - men hunt, trade, supervise ceremonial activities, clear ground for planting
 - women responsible for child rearing, art, camp work, gardening, food preparation
- Equal gender status common
 - kinship often matrilineal
 - women often manage family property

Misconceptions / Truths of Native Americans

Misconceptions

- Not all speak the same language or have the same traditions
- Not all live on reservations
- Tribes were not always unified
- Most tribes were not hostile

Truths

- Most did believe land belonged to no one (no private property)
- Reservation lands were continually taken away by the government
- Many relied on hunting as a way of life (buffalo)
- Most tribes put a larger stake on *honor* rather than *wealth*

Culture of White Settlers

- Most do believe in private property
- A strong emphasis on material wealth (money)
- Few rely on hunting as a way of life; most rely on farming
- Many speak the same language and have a similar culture

What is important about the culture of white settlers in comparison to the culture of the American Indians?

What does it mean to be civilized?

“We did not ask you white men to come here. The Great Spirit gave us this country as a home. You had yours. We did not interfere with you... But you have come here; you are taking my land from me... You say, why do you not become civilized? We do not want your civilization!”

~ Chief Crazy Horse

American Indian Way of Life Destroyed

- The Destruction of Buffalo
 - Importance of Buffalo
 - 65 Million in 1800.
 - 1 Thousand in 1870.

Uses of the Buffalo

- meat - roasted on the campfire, boiled, for pemmican and jerky, sausages
- hides with the hair left on - winter clothing, gloves, blankets, robes, costumes for ceremonies or for hunting.
- hides - ropes, blankets, shields, clothing, bags, tipi covers, bull boats, sweat lodge covers, containers, drums
- sinew (muscles) - bowstrings, thread for sewing, webbing for snowshoes
- bones - for making hoes, shovels, runners for sleds, pointy tools, knives, pipes, scrapers, arrowheads
- horns - spoons, cups, bowls, containers to carry tobacco, medicine or gunpowder, headdresses, arrow points, toys
- hair - rope, pillow stuffing, yarn, shields, medicine balls

Uses of the Buffalo (#2)

- beard - decoration on clothes and weapons
- tail - fly swatter, whip, tipi decoration
- brain - used for tanning the hides (to soften the skin)
- hoofs - rattles, boiled to make glue
- fat - paint base, hair grease, for making candles and soap
- dung (manure chips) - fuel for campfires and smoke signals
- teeth - for decorating, necklaces
- stomach - containers for water and for cooking
- bladder - medicine bag, water container, pouches
- skull - ceremonies and prayer

U.S. Government Policies towards American Indians

1st Policy – West is “one big reservation”

2nd Policy – Concentration

3rd Policy – Assimilation

“As Long as Waters Run”: Searching for an Indian Policy

- Trans-Mississippi West neglected to 1850
- Indian Intercourse Act of 1834 excludes any white from Indian country without a license
- Land regarded as Indian preserve

Conflicts Arise with 1st Policy (West as “one big” reservation)

- As white settlers move west, conflict begins with American Indians
- White settlers move because of growing ranching, farming and mining businesses out west
- The growth of the railroad industry also creates problems
- Both groups believe they have the right to the land out west

“As Long as Waters Run”: Searching for an Indian Policy

- After 1850 white travel on Great Plains rises
- Federal government sparks wars by confining Indian tribes to specific areas
- Sioux War of 1865-1867 prompts "small reservation" policy to protect white migration

Problems with 2nd Policy (Concentration)

- o U.S. government changes original policy and signs treaties with specific tribes
- o Few on both sides follow the guidelines established by the treaties
- o Leads to increase of hostilities and open fighting

Total War

- In the last year of the Civil War conflicts between whites and Indians intensified:
 - ◆ Sherman and Sheridan waged total war on the Plains tribes, making it clear that the Indians must accept life on reservations or face annihilation.
 - ◆ Railroad expansion, new mining ventures, the destruction of the bison, and increased demand for land made the Indian plight worse.
 - ◆ Typically the army destroyed Indian lodges, horses, and food supplies.

Open Fighting

- Major battles fought between U.S. military and American Indian tribes
 - Sand Creek Massacre (1864, Colorado)
 - U.S. Army attacks Cheyenne reservation; kill 150 American Indians (mostly women and children)
 - Fetterman Massacre or “Hundred Slain” (1866)
 - Crazy Horse and Sioux warriors ambush and kill 80 U.S. soldiers
 - Treaty of Medicine Lodge (1867) and Fort Laramie (1868)
 - Temporary halts in fighting
 - As settlers continue moving west, conflict again arises
 - Both sides fail to live up to the agreements of the treaties

Colonel John Chivington



Kill and scalp all, big and little!

**Sandy Creek, CO
Massacre**

November 29, 1864

Capt. William J. Fetterman

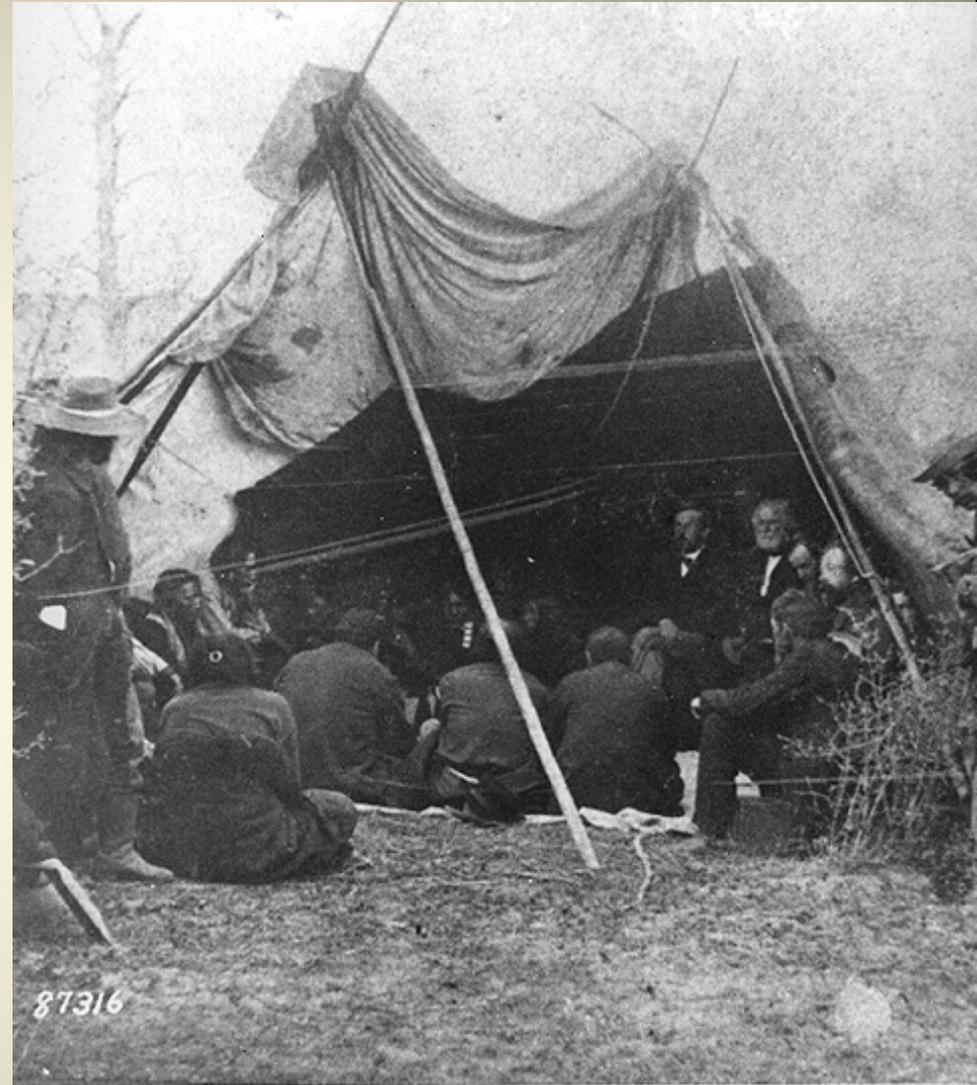


**80 soldiers massacred
December 21, 1866**

Taken from Article I

Treaty of Fort Laramie:

From this day forward all war between the parties to this agreement shall for ever cease. The government of the United States desires peace, and its honor is hereby pledged to keep it. The Indians desire peace, and they now pledge their honor to maintain it.



**Gold Found in
the Black Hills
of the Dakota
Territory!**

1874

Hostilities Increase

- Battle of Little Big Horn (1876)
 - Custer claims the Black Hills is gold “from the grass roots down”
 - George Armstrong Custer led his men (7th Cavalry) to the region
 - Attack led by Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull (Sioux Chief)
 - 265 U.S. soldiers killed in one hour
 - Also called “Custer’s Last Stand”

Final Battles on the Plains

- Small reservation policy fails
 - young warriors refuse restraint
 - white settlers encroach on Indian lands
- Final series of wars suppress Indians
 - 1876—Little Big Horn: Sioux defeat Custer
 - most battles result in Indian defeat, massacre
 - 1890—Wounded Knee massacre to suppress "Ghost Dances"

Hostilities End...

- Battle of Wounded Knee (1890)
 - Sioux turn to Wovoka (prophet) and perform ritual called the Ghost Dance
 - U.S. soldiers demand Sioux give up their weapons; 300 Sioux killed by end of conflict
 - End of American Indian Wars





Gathering up the Dead of the
Battle of Wounded Knee S.D.
For Publication North Western Photo Co

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Smithsonian Institution National Archives

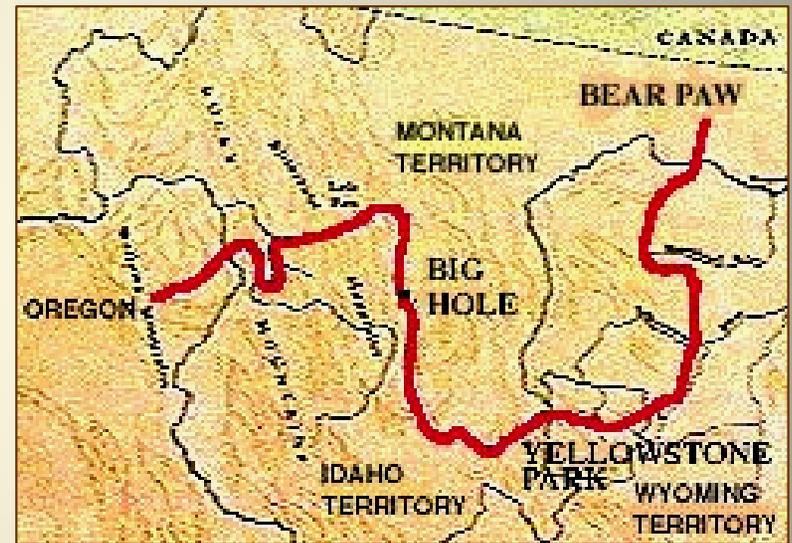
The Aftermath of Wounded Knee Massacre

Last Resistance...

- Chief Joseph (1877) led his tribe, the Nez Perce 1,500 miles to Canada
 - Within miles of border they were captured
- Geronimo crosses U.S./Mexican border and attacks U.S. settlements
 - Captured in 1886
 - Geronimo is seen as one of last Native Americans to not give in to the U.S. government

Chief Joseph

*I will fight
no more forever!*



**Nez Percé tribal
retreat (1877)**

Geronimo, Apache Chief: Hopeless Cause



Native Americans in the West: Major Battles and Reservations



The End of Tribal Life

- 1887--Dawes Severalty Act
 - destroys communal ownership of Indian land
 - gives small farms to each head of a family
 - Indians who leave tribes become U.S. citizens
- Near-extirmination of buffalo deals devastating blow to Plains Indians

Problems with Assimilation

- Assimilation – plan under which Native Americans would give up their beliefs and way of life and become part of American culture
- Dawes Act (1887)
 - Supposed to “Americanize” the Native Americans
 - Broke up reservations and gave land to individuals (160 acres to each household, 80 acres to unmarried adult)
 - Rest of land sold to settlers and money used to build Indian schools
 - Native Americans who agreed could become American citizens



Navajo Boy: Tom Torlino

Student at Carlisle

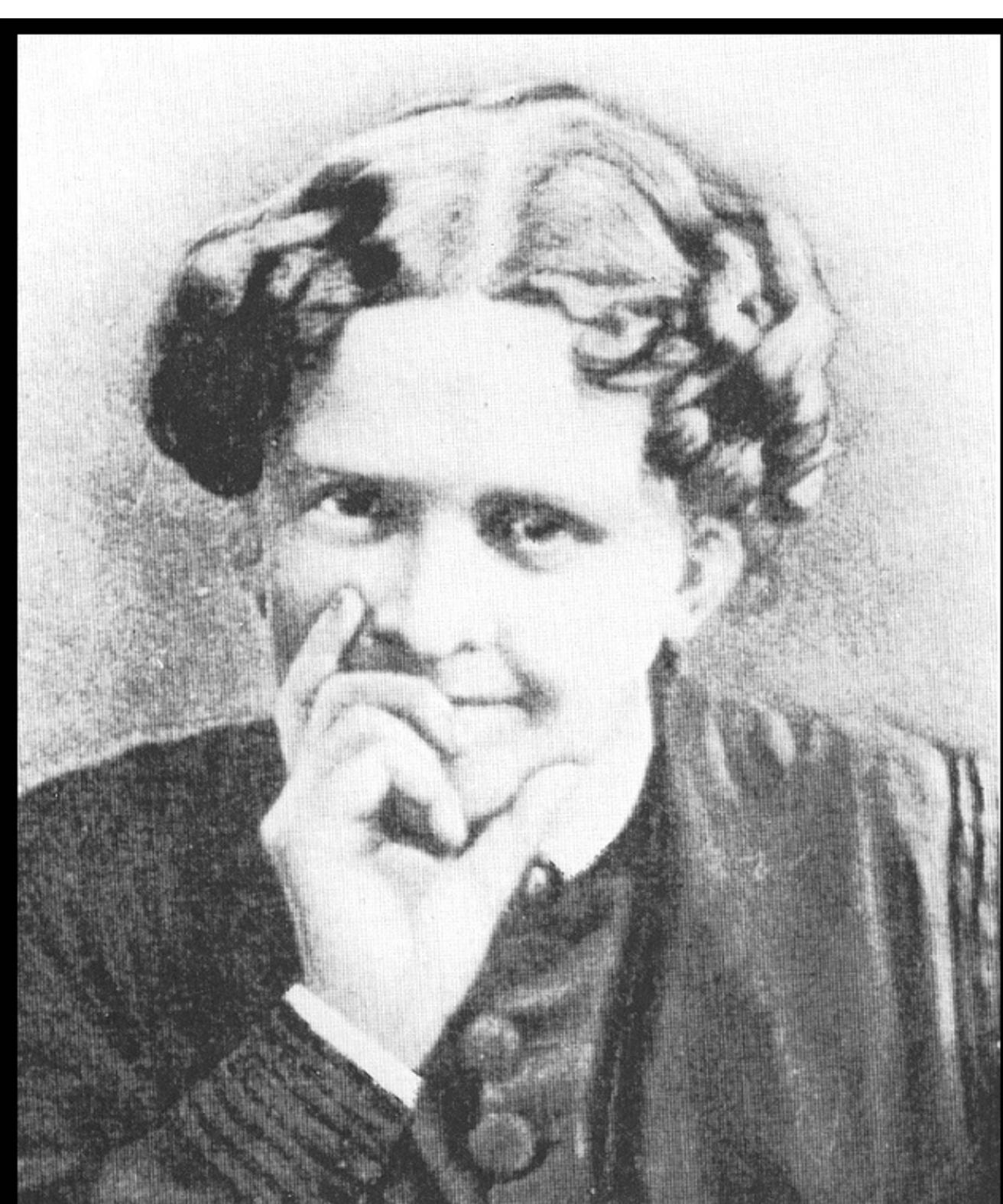
Dawes Severalty Act (1887): Assimilation Policy



Carlisle Indian School, PA

Muckraking

- *Muckraker = a journalist who exposes a governmental or business injustice*
- *A Century of Dishonor* – book by Helen Hunt Jackson
 - Exposed the broken promises of the U.S. government



Author of *A Century of Dishonor*, Helen Hunt Jackson sought to make all aware of the maltreatment towards Native Americans

Susette La Flesche



Omaha Indian → lecture tour on
Native American issues in the 1870s



THE NOBLE INDIAN.

TOURIST (*on overland train*) — "A once powerful chief, perhaps, brooding over the rapid encroachments of civilization. How sad to see the proud head bowed in grief!"

ONCE POWERFUL CHIEF — "Ugh! no find cigar stump. Injun no smoke."

Six Components of a Political Cartoon

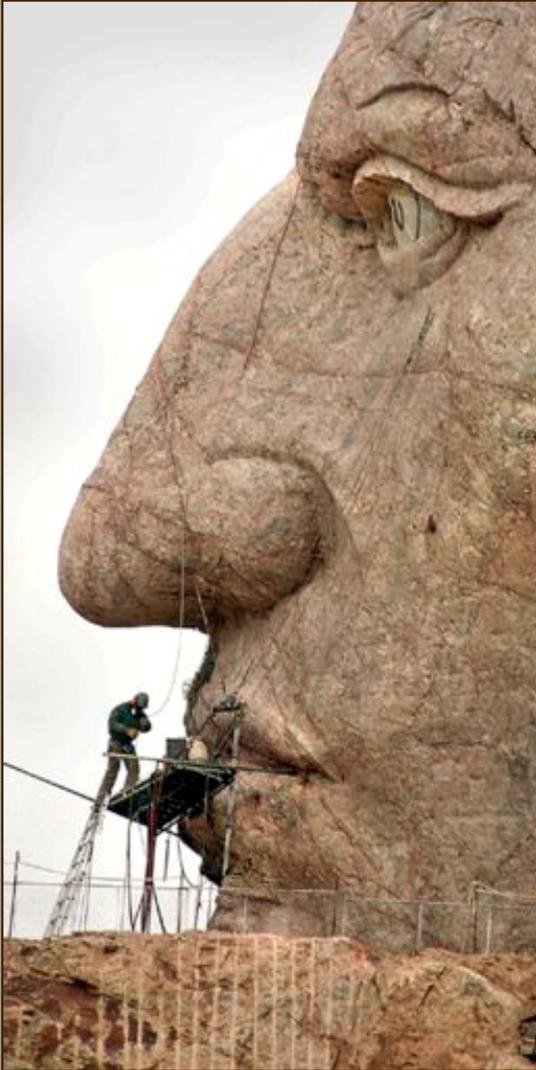
- 1) Characters
- 2) Humor
- 3) Symbolism
- 4) Headings
- 5) Action
- 6) Caricature



Indian Reservations Today

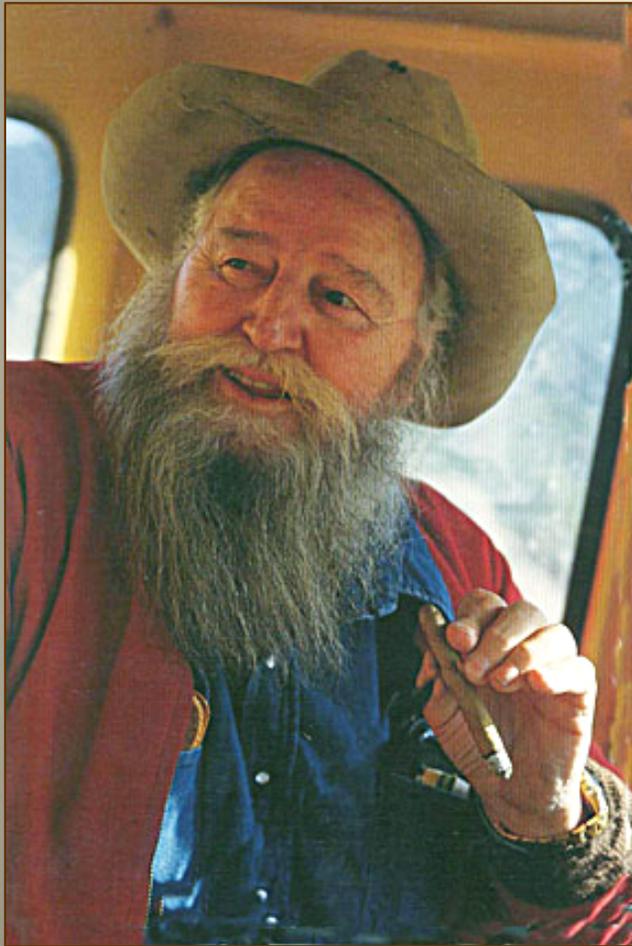


Crazy Horse Monument: Black Hills, SD



Lakota Chief

Korczak Ziolkowski, Sculptor Crazy Horse Monument



His vision of the finished memorial.

Mt. Rushmore: Black Hills, South Dakota

