

Modern US History

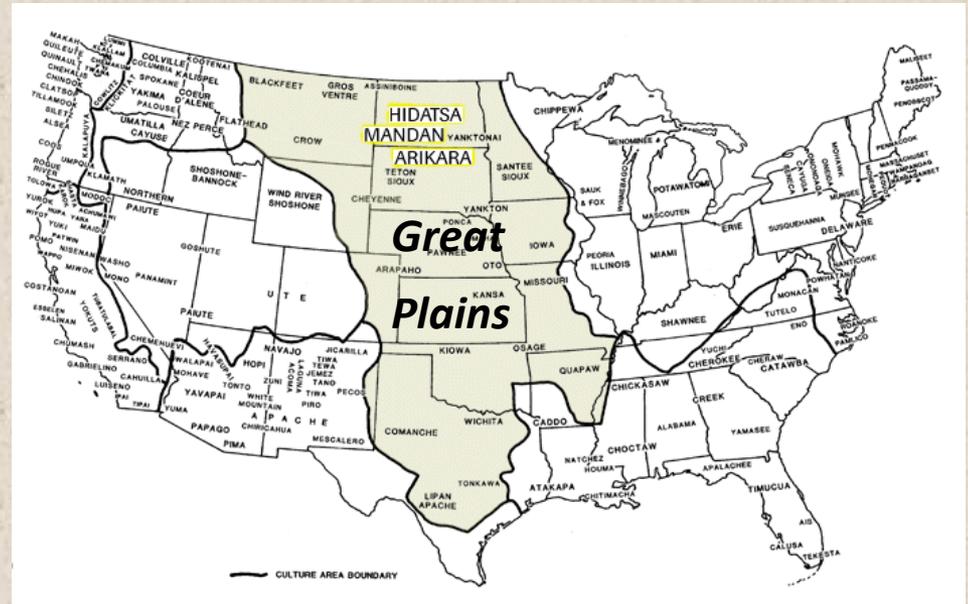
Ch. 18, Section 2

Wars for the West



Settlers Encounter the Plains Indians

- As settlers moved into the Great Plains the US government sent agents to negotiate treaties with the Plains Indians to try to avoid conflict (#1)
- The Plains stretched from Texas to Canada and each tribe there spoke different languages, but had a common sign language (#2)



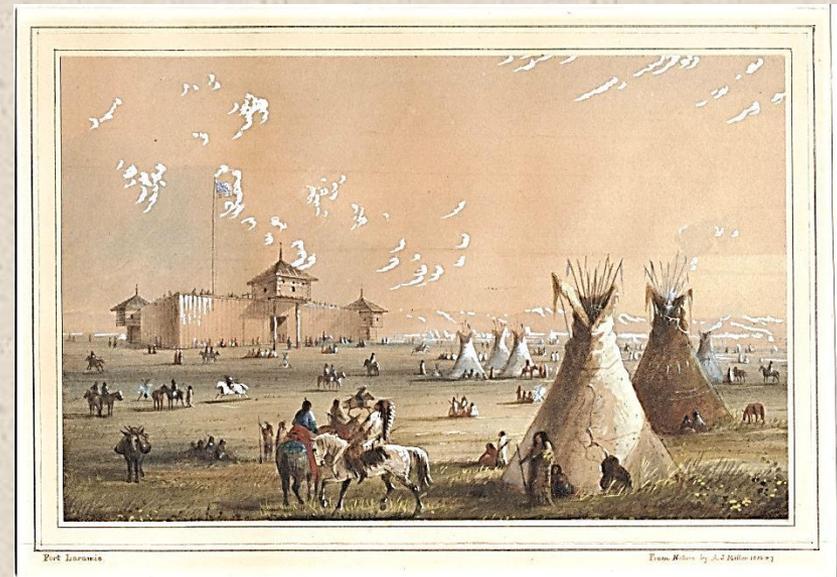
Hunting Buffalo



- The Plains Indians hunted and followed the buffalo, using horses and a short bow and arrow (#1)
- The Plains Indians who used the buffalo for food, shelter, clothing, and tools thrived with a population of over 75,000 (#2)

Struggle to Keep the Land

- Treaty of Fort Laramie – the first major treaty between the US govt. and the Plains Indians signed in 1851
- Treaties like this one recognized the Indians claims to most of the lands on the plains, but allowed the US to build forts and roads and travel across their lands (#1)
- Discovery of gold in Colorado brought thousands of settlers and the US govt. negotiated new treaties (#2)



Struggle to Keep the Land (continued)



- reservations – areas of federal land set aside in treaties for Native Americans by the US govt., which made hunting the buffalo almost impossible for the Plains Indians
- Sand Creek Massacre – after some Cheyenne refused to go to reservation and attacked settlers, the Colorado militia attacked a peaceful village of Cheyenne waiting to go to a reservation killing 130 mostly women and children

Struggle to Keep the Land (continued)

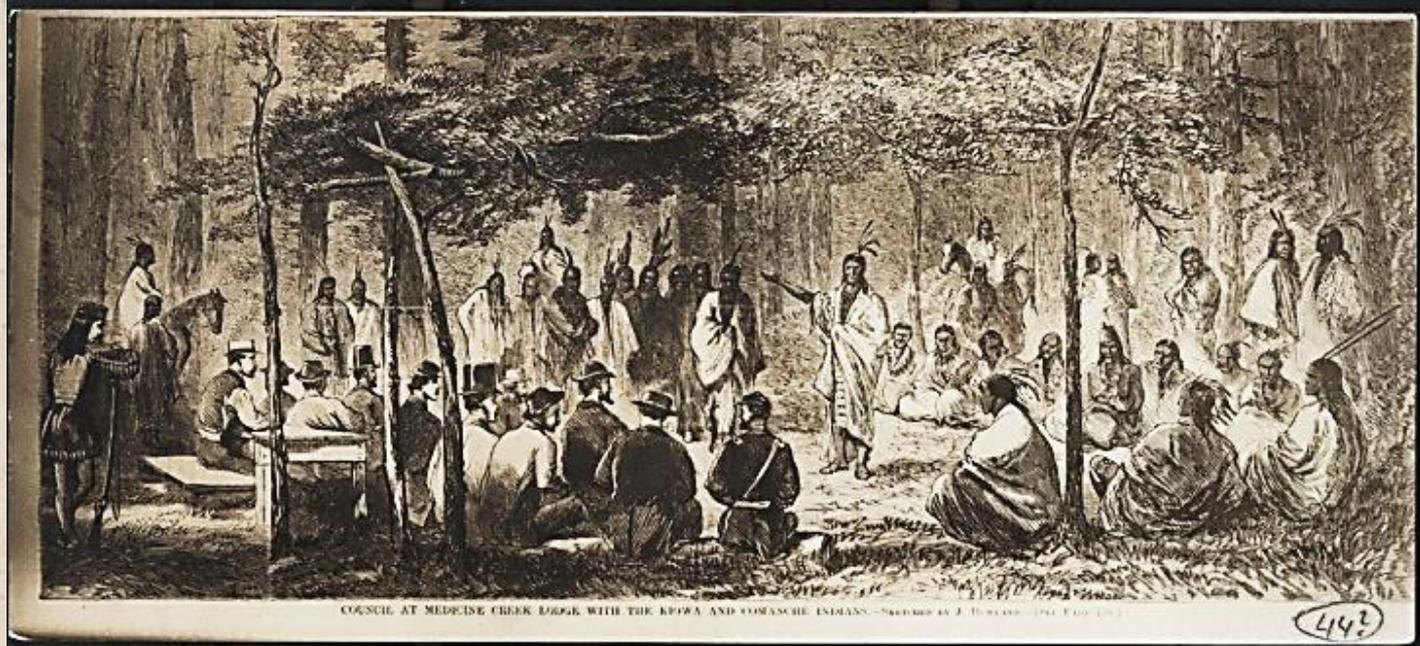
- Fetterman Massacre – the US army had built forts along the Bozeman Trail to protect miners and a group of nearly 100 cavalry troops were ambushed and killed by Sioux led by Crazy Horse in present-day Wyoming in 1866 (#3)
- In the second Treaty of Fort Laramie the US govt. agreed to abandon the forts and protect Sioux reservation land (#4)

Crazy Horse →



Struggle to Keep the Land (continued)

- Treaty of Medicine Lodge – 1867 treaty in which most southern Plains Indians agreed to live on reservations
- Some southern tribes still resisted including the Comanche who fought the US Army and Texas Rangers, but all were forced to surrender by 1875 (#5)



Fighting on the Plains



- In other parts of the plains and the far west Native Americans resisted being moved to reservations (#1)
- buffalo soldiers – among the soldiers sent out to the plains to battle with Native Americans who resisted were many African American cavalry men

Battles on the Northern Plains

- Colonel George Custer's men found gold in the Black Hills which was in Sioux reservation land (#1)
- Sitting Bull – a Sioux leader who refused to give up land to white settlers, leading to fighting between them and the army (#2)
- Battle of Little Big Horn – In 1876 264 soldiers led by Custer were wiped out by Sioux led by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse in what was the last major victory for Native Americans in the Indian Wars

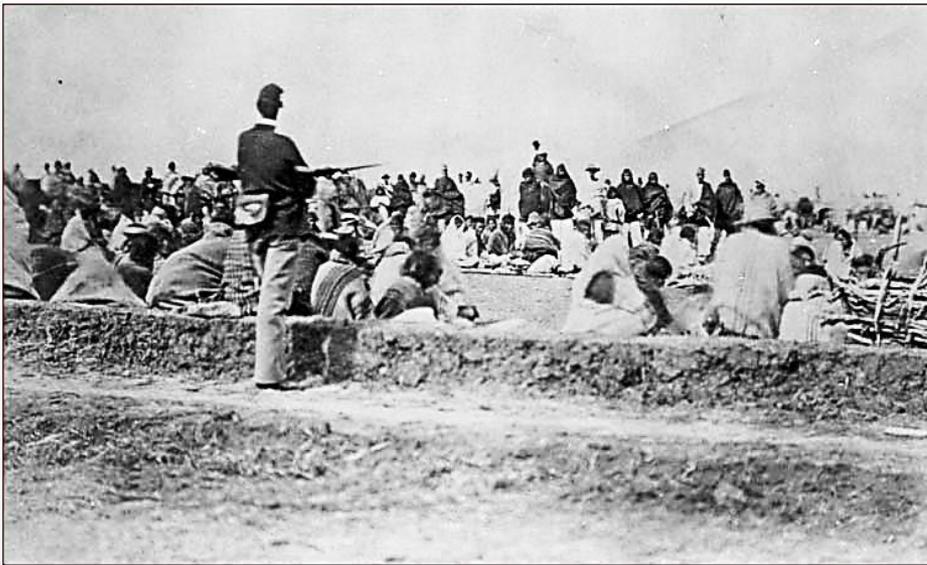


Battles on the Northern Plains (continued)

- Sitting Bull and some of his followers escaped to Canada, but returned to reservation land in 1881 when they ran out of food (#4)
- In 1890 reservation police shot Sitting Bull to death while trying to arrest him, and many Sioux left the reservation in protest (#5)
- Wounded Knee – 150 Sioux were shot and killed in 1890 on a reservation in South Dakota in what was the last major incident of the Indian Wars



Southwest



Soldier guards Navajo at Bosque Redondo Reservation

- In Arizona and New Mexico US troops raided the Navajo fields, homes, and livestock for refusing to settle on a reservation (#1)
- the Navajo were on the run and without food, and eventually were forced to surrender (#2)
- Long Walk – a 300 mile march across a desert that the Navajo were forced by the US Army to endure on their way to their reservation in New Mexico in 1864

Far West

- The US govt. promised the peaceful Nez Perce tribe of eastern Oregon that they could keep their land, but the govt. later ordered them to a reservation in what is now Idaho (#1)
- Chief Joseph – he was planning on leaving peacefully, but some of his men killed a few settlers and the US Army chased the Nez Perce for 1,400 miles for 3 months, before catching them just short of the Canadian border after which they were sent to a reservation in Oklahoma



Chief Joseph

Geronimo



Final Battles

- By the 1880s most tribes had stopped fighting and had gone to reservations, except the Apache in the southwest (#1)
- Geronimo – an Apache leader whose band stayed off the reservation and raided white settlements for food for years, before he finally was forced to surrender in 1886



Raiding party leaders including Cochise and Geronimo

Conflict Continues

- By the 1870s most of the Plains Indians were on reservations, and without being able to follow the buffalo were starving (#1)
- Ghost Dance – a Paiute Indian named Wovoka began a religious movement that predicted an end to white expansion and a return to traditional ways of life for the Native Americans
- US officials didn't understand the Ghost Dance and feared it so they tried to end it; after Wounded Knee the movement died out (#3)



Conflict Continues (continued)



- Sarah Winnemucca – a Paiute Indian who gave lectures on the problems of the reservation system in the 1870s and called for reform (*left*)
- Helen Hunt Jackson – a writer who pushed for reform of US Indian policy when she wrote *A Century of Dishonor*, which described 100 years of treaties with Native Americans broken by the US govt.
- Dawes Act – an 1887 law that was designed to “Americanize” Native Americans by giving them pieces of reservation land to farm and by sending their youth to American schools

