

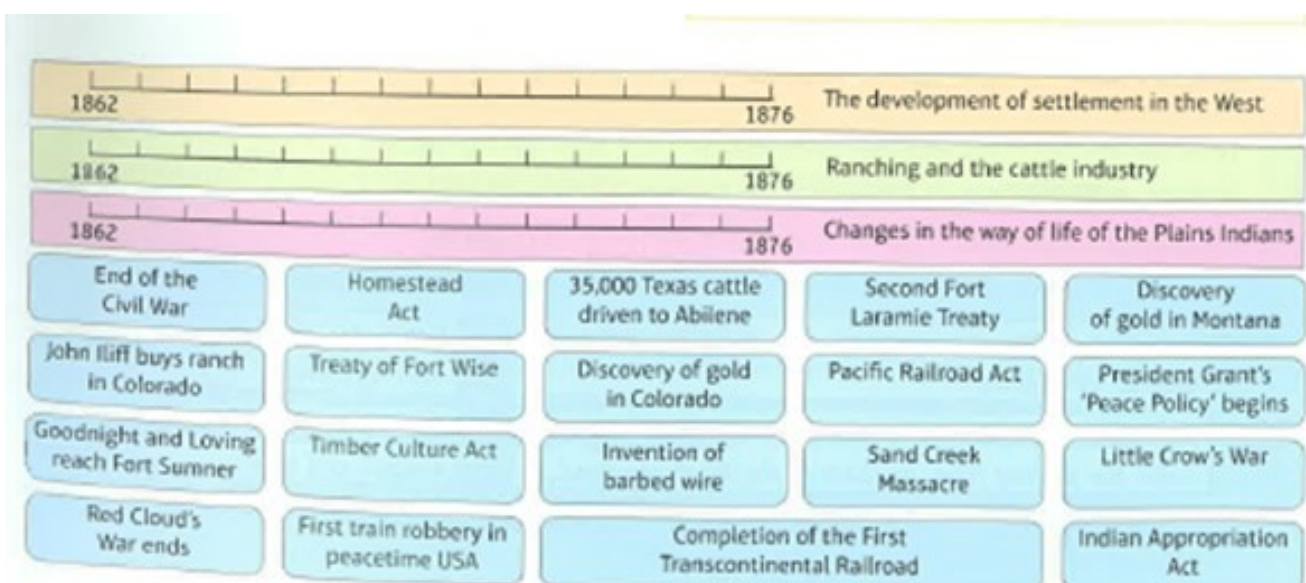
American West Module 2: Development of the plains, 1862-76

In this module you will revise;

1. **The development of settlement in the West** (Significance of Civil War and rebuilding after it, Homestead Act (1862), Pacific Railroad Act (1862) and the completion of it, solving problems faced by homesteaders, Timber Culture Act (1873), Law and order in the settlements (later), attempted local and federal solutions)

2. **Ranching and the cattle industry** (Growth of the cattle industry, including roles of Iliff, McCoy, Goodnight and the significance of Abilene and growth in railway use, impact of ranching on the cowboy and rivalry between ranchers and homesteaders)

3. **Changes in the way of life of the Plains Indians** (Impact of railroads, cattle ranching and prospecting on the Natives, U.S government policy to the Natives (including reservations, Grant's Peace Policy of 1868), conflict with the Plains Indians - including: Little Crow's War (1862), Sand Creek Massacre (1864), Red Cloud's War (1866-68) and the Fort Laramie Treaty (1868)



2.1 The Development of settlement in the West

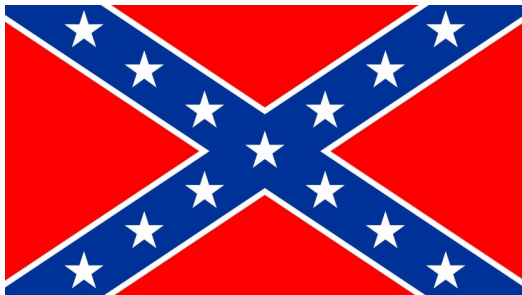
Before the 1860s, the California Gold Rush had been the main factor bringing large numbers of migrants to the West. Many travelled by sea, but two-thirds crossed the USA along the **Oregon Trail**. After **the American Civil War**, many people moved to the West to become independent farmers on the Plains.



The significance of the American Civil War on the development of the West

In 1861, seven southern states left the USA (soon joined by four more) and set up their own **Confederacy**, which triggered the Civil War. After four years of fighting the Union (what was left after the Confederacy had left) defeated the Confederacy and the Confederate states re-joined the USA. By the time the war ended in **1865**, over **600,000** Americans had died and another **400,000** were wounded. Many of the Southern states had been devastated by war.

After the Civil War, the **US government** set about rebuilding the USA. This involved repairing the enormous devastation through the South and granting citizenship for former **African American slaves**. The economic problems and changes in the South meant that many people moved to the West to start a new life. Many of these people were ex-soldiers and former slaves.



Government support for settlement in the West during the civil war

Before the Civil War began, the US government was made up of representatives of southern states and representatives of northern states. North and South both had different ideas about the West.

- Southern states relied on **slave labour** for their plantation farms. They wanted slavery to be legal in the new Western states because it was legal in the south.
- Northern states wanted new states in the West to be free of slavery. Instead of large **plantations** owned by rich whites and worked by slaves, northerners wanted family farms and worked by free, independent individuals.



The Homestead Act

The Homestead Act promoted the settle of the West. It provided incentives for people to take up un-claimed land in the West and build a new life there. Anyone could file a claim for land as long as they were:

- The head of a family or single and over 21. This meant ex slaves and single women could file claims.
- Anyone filing a claim as long as they lived on the land and worked it them-selves.
- Once someone had lived on the land for 5 years, built a house and planted 5 acres of crops, they could pay **\$30** and

own their homestead outright (this was called **"proving up."**)



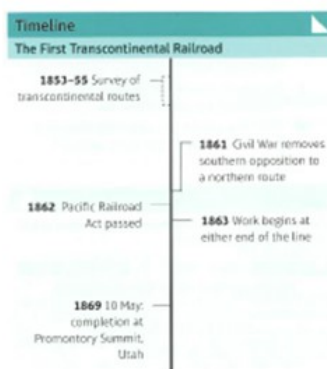
Figure 2.1 Key factors in the new wave of settlement in the West, 1862-76.

<u>Achievements of the Homestead Act</u>	<u>Limitations</u>
By 1876 , over 6 million acres of government land had successfully become homesteads.	Over 13 million acres of land had been "proved up" by 1884 ; 24 million acres by 1900 .
It ensured parts of the Great Plains were being settled for the first time.	Only 16% of public land was used. The government granted far more to the railroads— 300 million acres . The rest was sold to cattle ranchers for higher prices.
It encouraged immigration from Europe. By 1875 , more than half of Nebraska's population of 123,000 were recent immigrants and their children.	60% of homestead claims were never proved up, often because of the challenges of farming on the plains.
	Lots of rich land owners bought land cheaply and asked their employers to buy land and hand over the rights to their owners.
	Many people bought land and then sold it on for a profit. Many people living on the land had paid someone for it rather than proving it up to by the

The Pacific Railroad Act (1862)

The Pacific Railroad Act provided the incentive for transcontinental railroad building. This made migration to the West much easier and quicker. They promoted the development of towns, they boosted the sale of land to settlers, and they enabled the industrial centres of the North to connect to the developing agriculture of the West.

The First Transcontinental Railroad



There were two problems against building a railroad to connect the eastern and western halves of the USA before **1862**. First was the enormous difficulty and cost of building a 2000km railroad., especially through the mountains of the West and second was the disagreement between the northern and southern states. The Railroad Act split the job of building the **First Continental Railroad** between two companies the **Union Pacific** and the **Central Pacific**. The Pacific Railroad committed the US government to:

- Extinguishing any rights Plain Indians might have to land along the route
- Loaning each company **\$16,000** for every mile of track they laid (**\$48,000** for mountain areas)

- Granting each company large sections of public land along the railroad for them to sell.

Impacts of the railroads

New inventions

Impacts of the railroads

Railroads had major impacts on many different aspects of the development of settlement in the West. These impacts are summarised in Figure 2.3 and are explored in the rest of this chapter.



Figure 2.3 Major Impacts of the railroads on the development of settlement in the West.

The effects of the railroads

The railroad did make homestead life easier as:

- Homesteaders could visit relations much more easily and cheaply than before, which reduced isolation of homestead life.
- Homesteaders could order manufactured products that made life easier.
- Towns sprang up at regular distances along the railroads, which gave homesteaders a place to meet each other, compare farming ideas, sell crops, buy products

New crops

In **1873**, railroad agents succeeded in persuading a religious community called the Mennonites to move

from Russia to the Great Plains. The Mennonites were tough, independent-minded farmers who had farmed grasslands in Russia with similar climate to the Great Plains. They discovered that "**Turkey Red**" wheat grew well on their Kansas farms.

	1854: 'self-governing' windmill, 1870 steel blades	1874: barbed wire	1875: sulky plow
Purpose	Windmills were used to pump water out of the ground to help farmers irrigate their land and make it more fertile for crops.	Barbed wire was used to fence off crops to protect them from livestock and other animals.	Strong ploughs were used to plough up the tough weeds and prairie grass on the Great Plains.
Advantage	Halladay's windmill (or wind pump) could pump water out of quite deep wells (30 feet) and, in 1870, steel blades meant the windmills could stand up better to the strong prairie winds.	Much cheaper than buying in timber for fences, and much more effective at blocking livestock than smooth-wire fencing.	A very strong, easy-to-operate ride-on steel plough that made ploughing up tough weeds and prairie grass much easier. 50,000 sulky plows were sold in the first six years of production.
Problems	Not powerful enough to pump up water from very deep wells (more than 30 feet) and needed constant maintenance. It was not until the 1880s that these problems were overcome: see page 72.	Not widely used until after 1880. Early types broke and rusted and in 1874, it was ten times more expensive than in the 1880s.	Six times as many 'walking' ploughs were sold in the same period - these were cheaper and farmers understood them. Early sulkies were unstable and could tip up.

The Timber Culture Act (1873)

Although **160 acres** of land was sufficient for a family farm in the East, where rainfall was higher than in the West, it was not enough for successful farming. **The Timber Culture Act** allowed a homesteader to claim a further **160 acres** if she or he promised to plant trees on a quarter of it. Trees were important because they could:

- Act as a **“wind break”**: slow down the Great Plains winds to shelter crops from damage.
- Provide settlers with timber for building houses, fences and furniture, and for repairing equipment.
- Provide settlers with fuel.



Problems of law and order

The new towns created by the railroads were lawless places at first— they were known as “Hell on wheels.” The most lawless were the “cow towns.” Cowboys would collect cows and load them on to railroad wagons. After they would celebrate and this could cause problems. For example, Kansas was a cow town and lawlessness had increased because its population had increased from **500 (1867) to 7,000 (1870)** once the railroad reached there. There were lots of gunfights, murders, prostitution, gamblers, swindlers etc. Thomas Smith was hired as a town marshal and he issued a ban of carrying guns but despite being a formidable man he was shot and killed with an ex in **1870** when arresting a suspected murderer. His murderers were caught and given long sentences in prison. In **1871**, after more lawlessness, **“Wild Bill” Hickok** was appointed town marshal. He commanded fear and respect among the cowboys but did little to enforce the law. By the end of the year he was sacked and the town banned cowboys and their herds from coming into town.



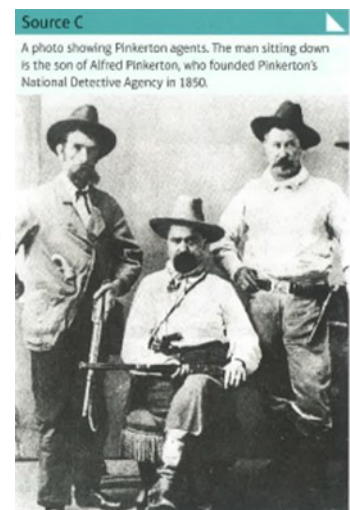
Impact of the Civil War

The Civil War (1861-65) added significantly to the potential for trouble in the West because of army deserters (soldiers who ran away from the army) and because of the arrival of large numbers of ex-soldiers in the West after the war. A lot of gangs of outlaws were former soldiers, this was because many were traumatised by the war and couldn't find jobs during peacetime. Law enforcement was often too weak to control these gangs and these gangs terrified local people.

The Reno Gang



The Reno Gang were a group of deserters, con-men and thieves. They terrorised people in the West and bribed local officials to avoid arrest. In **1866** they carried out a train robbery breaking open safe to get **\$16,000**. The owners of the safe hired the **Pinkerton National Detective Agency** to hunt down the gang. They detectives caught John Reno but the gang struck again in **1867 and 1868**. A 4th train robbery netted the gang £96,000. Their 5th attempt saw one of the gang captured and gave up the rest of the gang in return for a reduced sentence. However, when the Pinkerton's arrested the gang a lynch mob killed them instead.



Source C
A photo showing Pinkerton agents. The man sitting down is the son of Alfred Pinkerton, who founded Pinkerton's National Detective Agency in 1850.

a
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Lawlessness and the West

THINKING
CRITICALLY

Cause and Consequence (2c)

Far-reaching consequences

Most events have multiple consequences. Their impact can often be felt in many different 'strands' of history. The American Civil War (1861–65) was a significant event in the history of the West that had consequences in several different areas.



Most places in the West were not lawless, as life was very hard and many people were struggling to make a living, theft was common. But because no one could afford to lose property in this way, local communities tried hard to catch and punish thieves.

2.2 Ranching and the cattle industry

Ranching and the cattle industry

When Texas became independent from **Mexico in 1836**, Texans took over the Mexican cattle industry and the skills and traditions of vaqueros— horse-riding cattle-herders that the Texans named cowboys. The Texans herded the cows on long drives along cattle trails across the South to New Orleans and also up through Missouri to towns like Sedalia and St Louis. A cattle disease, known as Texas fever, had major impacts on the cattle drives. Even if the cattle ate from the same grass they could catch the disease. It was almost always fatal. In **1855**, Missouri farmers formed vigilance committees to block the drives. Then a quarantine law was introduced preventing infected Texan cattle with from entering Missouri. Kansas passed a similar law in **1859**.

Growth of the cattle industry after the war

After the Civil War ended in **1865**, beef was in great demand in the big industrial cities of the North. In **1865**, a cow was worth **\$40** in Chicago, where industrialised meat packing had been developed and cows could be turned into food quickly, easily and cheaply. But in the South, the price had dropped dramatically. A cow was worth **\$40** in Chicago and **\$5** in Texas.

The significance of Joseph McCoy and Abilene

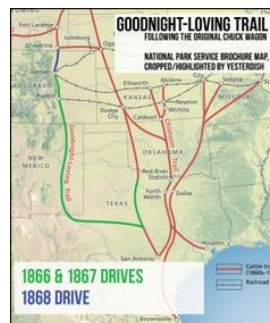
In **1867**, a branch line of the railroad, the Kansas Pacific, reached Abilene, Kansas. A Chicago livestock trader called **Joseph McCoy** realised that **Abilene** could be a new transit point for cattle drives. It had 3 key advantages:

1. Kansas has relaxed their quarantine rule in **1867**, allowing Texan cattle to be driven through the state.
2. There was grassland all the way from Kansas through Indian Territory, to Texas, and there was a trade route through this grassland called the **Chisholm Trail** that cowboys could use to bring the herds north.
3. Cattle could be loaded onto railroad trucks (boxcars) at the railhead at Abilene and shipped from there to Chicago.

McCoy acted quickly. He purchased **450 acres of land (at \$5 per acre)** and built larger stockyards where cattle could be safely kept. He negotiated with the Kansas Pacific Railroad for a depot to be built on a side track where 100 railroad cars could be loaded, and he constructed a hotel. He arranged for the Chisholm trail to be marked out through Indian Territory and extended from where it ended in Wichita, Kansas to Abilene. Then mostly importantly of all, McCoy spent **\$5000** marketing his new venture. He sent riders down to Texas to tell the cattlemen there about Abilene and its facilities, promising them a safe trail up from Texas and a great opportunity for profit at the end of it. Abilene expanded rapidly and became famous as the first “cow-town.” McCoy became enormously rich.

The significance of Goodnight-Loving Trail

The Goodnight-Loving Trail was established in **1866** by **Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving**. They realised the opportunity of settling cattle directly to new population centres in the West. Bad government planning in **1866** meant that Navajo Indians in a reservation near Fort Summer were close to starvation. Goodnight and Loving, with **18 cowboys, drove 2000 cattle** through hostile **Comanche Indian territory** to reach the fort, where they were able to sell **800 cattle** for around **\$12,000**; nearly 4 times as much as they would have sold in Texas. Then while Goodnight returned to Texas for another herd. Loving moved the remaining **1,200** cattle north and sold them to **John Iliff**, who had built a successful business selling beef to government workers and reservations in Colorado and Wyoming. In **1867** Oliver Loving was injured in a Comanche attack and died of his injuries. However, Goodnight continued to drive cattle north to the booming mining towns of Colorado (700 miles away from Texas.) In **1868**, a deal with Iliff, Goodnight drove cattle all the way up to Cheyenne, Wyoming (near Fort Laramie,) on the Union Pacific Railroad. In **1876**, Goodnight was so successful that his ranch in Texas had expanded to 1 million acres. Other cattle drivers started to use the trail to Wyoming too. As a result, Wyoming began to develop its own cattle industry.



John Iliff and the beginnings

In **1861**, **John Iliff** bought a herd of cattle for **\$500**— a cheap price because the herd was exhausted after a long drive across the Plains. In the same year, Colorado Territory had been created following a Gold Rush which meant more people moved to Denver City and the area grew rapidly. Iliff saw this as a chance to sell beef to the people and fatten his herds on the grass from the Plains, he would be able to sell beef for a good price to the mining towns with none of the expense and difficulty of long drives. In **1866**, Iliff bought the land for a ranch near Dencer. By **1870** he had **26,000** cattle. He became Denver's first millionaire by selling the beef to the mining towns, the teams building the **Union Pacific Railroad** and to the government for Plain Indian reservations.



Figure 2.4 The main cattle trails and cow towns in the West from 1866 to the 1880s.

of ranching on the Plains

The Cattle Barons

The **1870s** saw a “beef bonanza” in the West. Through the 1870s the cattle industry was seen as a sure way to make money; costs were low (free grass, almost free land, cheap transportation by rail) while profits were high. As a result, investors poured a lot of money into this industry. The best way to make money was to have very large ranches and enormous herds of cattle. The consequence was that a few men, backed by rich investors, dominated the cattle industry. They were called cattle barons because of their wealth and influence. They also ruled local politics and defended their interests fiercely, especially against cattle rustling (stealing cattle and other animals.) This affected law and order.

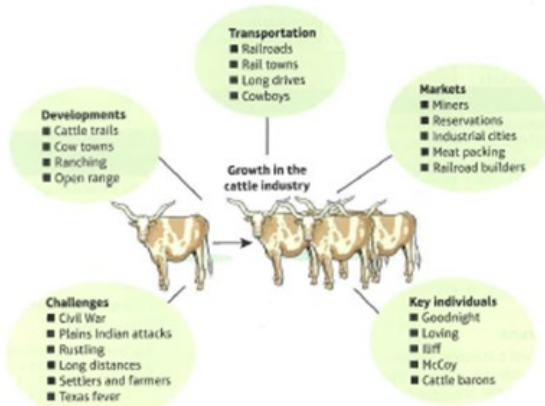


Figure 2.5 Factors affecting the growth of the cattle industry before and after the Civil War.

Cowboys and changes in the cattle industry

Driving a herd of cows from Texas to Kansas took about **2-3** months and using the Goodnight-Loving trail could take **6** months. It was very challenging work because the cattle could be very easily scared and cause stampedes. This meant they could get lost, injured or killed. Running for long distances meant the cows lost weight and became less valuable.

Issues the cowboys faced were:

- Moving the cattle at night in the dark was dangerous
- Snakes attacking the cattle
- Flowing water such as rivers that needed crossing
- Wild animals attacking the cattle
- Negotiating permission to cross Indian territory
- Guarding the herd from theft
- Fending off attacks from Plain Indians or outlaws

They had dates that they had to herd the cattle by and there was an agreement between the buyer and the owner of the herd to deliver the cattle in good condition. By **1870** trail bosses were paid **\$100** a month for the Chisholm trail, while the rest of the outfit (team) got between **\$25-\$30**. The cowboys had to take turns to sleep to protect the herds overnight. Once they reached the destination, they would be herded into stockyards to be inspected for buyers to inspect. Once bought the cowboys would herd the cattle into the railroad boxcars and the outfit was paid. Cowboys would spend their money on new clothes, alcohol gambling etc. During the winter months they would look for other jobs and would start the cattle ranching again in the Spring. This would begin again with cowboys rounding up different herds, marking them based on their herd and then putting them in groups. The cowboys then lived in bunkhouses next to the Rancher's house. The rules were strict and there wasn't much entertainment. For example, Charles Goodnight banned gambling on his ranches.

Source D

A 19th-century engraving of a round-up. It was unusual for older men to work as cowboys because it was such a tough, demanding way of life.



Rivalry between Ranchers and Homesteaders

The Homestead Act allowed people to file claims up to **160-acre** chunks of public land. When homesteading spread to ranching country, it threatened ranching. Ranchers used many different tactics to block homesteading on “their” public land.

- They would file claims under the Homestead Act themselves for bits of land on the ranch that contained waterholes or springs. This made the rest of the public land on the ranch unattractive to potential settlers as there would be no access to water.
- Ranch-hands and family members would file Homestead Act claims to parcels of land through the ranch area and then hand these rights over to the ranch owner.
- Ranches involving railroad land bought a lot of land from the railroad companies (if they had the money.) This land was mixed with public land.
- Rich ranchers took homesteaders to court over claims, knowing that most homesteaders did not have the money to pay lawyers and court costs and so would have to give up their claims.
- Some ranchers also threatened homesteaders with violence, damaged their crops and accused them of rustling cows from the ranch’s herd; stealing a cow carried severe punishments in all the “cattle state,” whose economies depended on the cattle industry.

Conflict over sheep farming

There were also conflicts between cattlemen and sheepherders, both of whom were competing for the use of public lands for grazing. Cattle ranchers claimed that sheep ate grass down to the roots, leave nothing for cows and that sheep spread disease: sheep scabs. Large-scale sheep farming started in the 1870s in the West, in places where cattle herding was already established, including Texas and Wyoming. When cattle ranchers blocked off areas from the sheep farmers, the sheep farmers would only cut the fence. Cattle barons in these areas dominated local government, which meant that cattle ranchers tended to win all court cases. This led to violent clashes between cattle ranchers and sheepherders in the 1870s.

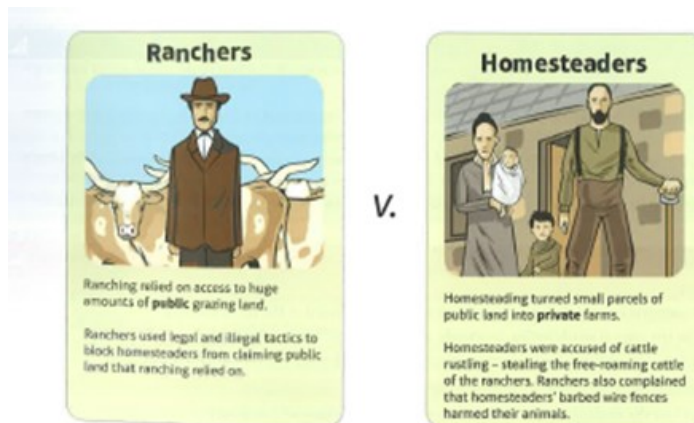


Figure 2.6 The rivalry between ranchers and homesteaders.

2.3 Changes in the way of life of the Plain Indians

The impact of railroads

Under the **Fort Laramie Treaty (1851)**, tribes were to allow railroad surveyors and construction teams to enter their lands. However, Plain Indians were unaware of the huge grants that financed the railroads and the impact of the railroads on buffalo hunting. Land grants took away land from the tribes and reduced grazing for buffalo. **The Pacific Railroad Act** extinguished any rights the Indians had to land. A lot of the tribes were moved onto reservations. This included the **Sioux, Pawnee, Winnebago** etc. The railroad being built triggered conflicts that grew into the **Great Sioux War**.



The Cattle Industry

Cattle and buffalo had the same diet: grass. As cattle numbers increased on the Plains, buffalo numbers declined.

- In **1860**, there were **130,000** cattle in the West, all in Kansas and Nebraska.
- In **1880**, there were **4.5 million** cattle: half of those in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Dakota.

Many of the Plain Indians became cowboys when it became hard to find buffalos and moved away from their traditional lifestyles. It meant they worked for money and depended on ranchers for employment. The cattle trails also had an impact on the Plain Indian ways of life.

Gold Prospecting

In California, gold prospectors had murdered American Indians as well as forcibly removing tribes to get them away from possible claims to gold. The influx of men from all over the world brought lots of new diseases that devastated the Indian population. New towns developed, with churches, schools and stores, which were alien to American Indian culture. In **1862**, gold was discovered in **Montana Territory**. To get to this area, the quickest route was through the Lakota Sioux's hunting grounds. Thousands travelled along this route called the **Bozeman Trail**, despite being against the terms of the **Fort Laramie Treaty**.

US government policy towards Plain Indians and its impacts



Figure 2.7 Pressures on the Plains Indians after 1862 and their consequences.

In return for the Plain Indians moving on to reservations, the US government agreed that Plain Indians would:

- Not lose any more land
- Be protected from attack by whites
- Be given yearly payments (in money but also food, livestock, clothing and farming equipment.)

Why did Plain Indians move to reservations?

- Easier to survive
- White expansion caused dwindling supplies
- US government promised the tribes they would be well cared for with regular food supplies of food and the opportunity to continue hunting on hunting grounds.

However, it became clear the US government wouldn't follow through with these promises. Many tribes resisted reservations: either by refusing to move to them, or not staying on them. The USA army was used to force Plain Indians to move to reservations or return to them if they left.

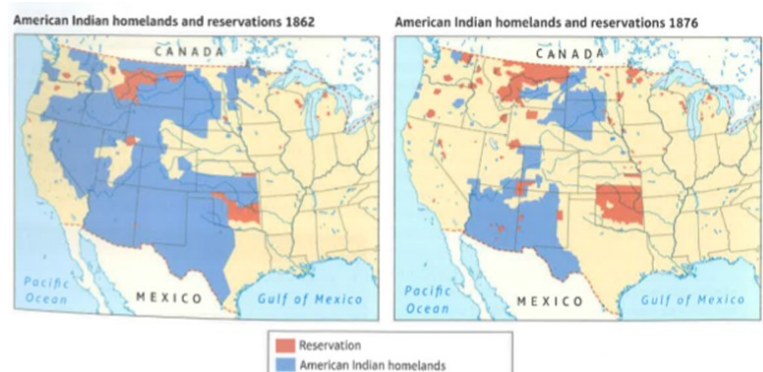


Figure 2.8 Changes in American Indian lands between 1862 and 1876. The blue areas are homelands where American Indians continued to live freely. The red areas are reservations.

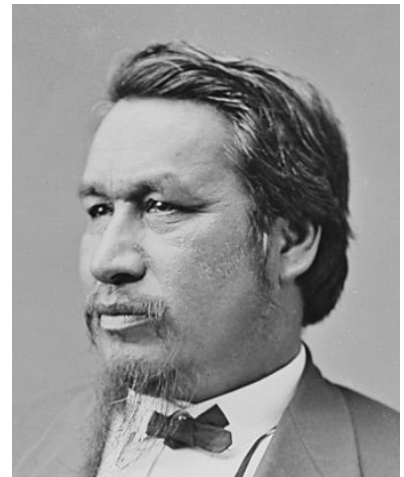
Impact of reservations

The government believed that reservations would benefit Plain Indians. They could learn about farming, Christianity and could be taught to read and write. They could also learn about white American values. However, there were major problems with reservations that had negative impacts on Plains Indian people:

- The reservations showed no understanding of Plains Indian culture. They were often a long way away from a tribe's sacred places and sometimes traditional enemies were placed on the same reservation (e.g Apache and Navajo.)
- The challenges of farming on the Plains were even worse for Plain Indians than white settlers because the land was poor. Some tribes had no farming traditions.
- The management of reservations was the responsibility of the Bureau of Indian affairs. These men were often corrupt and cheated the tribes in order to make themselves wealthy.
- White settlers were angry at the size of some reservations and complained that the Plain Indians were being treated better than they were. The government used any excuse to reduce the size of reservation, breaking treaties by doing so, and make it even harder for the tribes to survive.

President Grant's Peace Policy (1868)

Problems on the reservations led directly to conflicts between Plain Indians and the US Army. In **1868** **President Ulysses S. Grant** put forward a "Peace Policy." This aimed to calm tensions by improving the management of the reservation system. The main change in the policy was to replace corrupt reservation agents with religious men, specifically Quakers who had a strong reputation for fairness, justice and peacefulness. Grant also appointed an **American Indian, Ely Parker, as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs**. The US government put forward a budget of **\$2 million** to ensure that Plain Indians already living on the reservations were properly cared for, and to set up reservations for tribes currently roaming free. Plain Indians who refused to go to the reservations were treated as hostile and would be attacked by the army. Ely Parker pushed for a further change in government policy. Instead of negotiating treaties with tribes, he argued that Plain Indians should be treated as "helpless and ignorant wards" (a ward is a child that is put under the protection of an adult guardian. The government should decide what was best for its Plains Indian "wards," make sure they obeyed and then treat them fairly. These views came into law in the **Indian Appropriation Act of 1871**. This declared that Plain Indians would no longer be recognised "as an independent nation, tribe or power with whom the United States may contract by treaty." This made it easier for the US government to take land from the Plain Indians and give it to settlers.



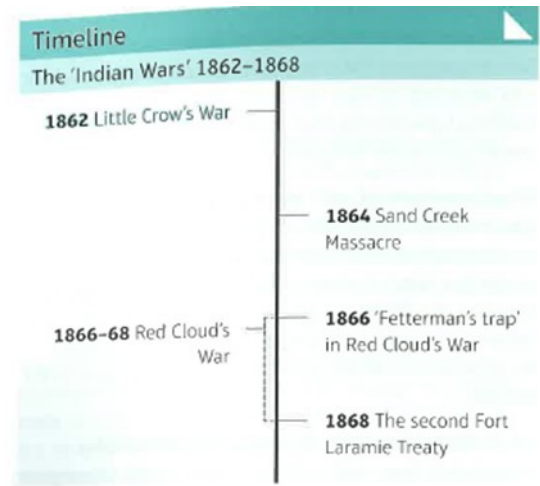
Conflict with Plains Indians

Little Crow's War (1862)

Little Crow was a chief of a band of the **Dakota Sioux** from an area in Minnesota. In 1850, there were **50,000** Plains Indians in Minnesota and only **6,000 whites**. However, the numbers of white settlers were rapidly increasing, and the numbers of animals to hunt was rapidly declining. In **1851**, Dakota Sioux bands, including Little Crow's band, signed a treaty and agreed to move to two reservations. They gave up **24 million** acres of their land in return for payment of **\$1.4 million** with a yearly payment of **\$80,000**: some in cash and some in as provisions.

There were immediate problems with the Treaty:

- In the years before the Treaty, the Dakota Sioux had build up debts with traders. The Treaty included a clause that stated that before they got any money they had to pay back **\$200,000** to the traders. They refused to do this, giving the government an excuse not to pay the \$1.4 million and delay paying annuities for months.
- It soon became clear that the reservations could not produce enough food for Dakota Sioux to survive on over winter. When bands left reservation to hunt, the reservation agent refused to let them have any supplies from their annuity in punishment.
- The Agency and local traders cheated the Dakota Sioux. The Agency would hold onto the annuity payments for several weeks until the starving Sioux agreed to very high prices for food.
- Settlers began to take other pieces of reservation land along the Minnesota River that were good for farming.
- Trouble repeatedly flared up as warrior brotherhoods launched raids to capture resources, or broke into the Agency storehouses to steal provisions.



By **1862** the Dakota Sioux were in a desperate situation. Crops had failed and late payments from the government meant they had no money to buy food. During the Civil War, Little Crow decided the time was right to take back what they felt was rightfully theirs. They took food and provisions from Agency's warehouses and distributed it amongst their starving people before burning down the Agency buildings. A lot of young warriors had little respect for the chiefs and many killed those who were no threat including women and children. **600** settlers and US soldiers were killed. After this, **400** Dakota Sioux warriors were put on trial and sentenced to death without any evidence of their guilt. President Lincoln said only those proven to guilty of murder and rape should be executed— 38 men. Little Crow was later killed by a bounty hunter who were paid for the getting the scalps for any Dakota Sioux found hiding in Minnesota.

The Sandy Creek Massacre (1864)

Source D

An engraving of the Sand Creek Massacre. This is a colour version of the original engraving, which was made in 1868.



The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 guaranteed the **Cheyenne and Arapaho** large amounts of land. However, when gold was discovered in Colorado Territory in **1858**, prospectors began cutting across Cheyenne and Arapaho land, using up the grass and scaring away buffalo and deer. Some even settled on the land and told the US government to move the Plains Indians. In the **Treaty of Fort Wise (1861)** **Arapaho** and Cheyenne chiefs (including **Black Kettle**) agreed to move to a reservation in East Colorado. Many young warriors rejected this and remained on their old lands. Black Kettle moved to Sandy Creek believing he would be protected by the US government. However, a Civil War hero named **Colonel Chivington** was appointed to "kill and destroy" hostile Plains Indians by **John Evans** (the Territory's governor.) On 29th November **1864** he attacked Black Kettle's camp with **700** cavalry and despite the camp surrendering, his men still killed over **130** men, women,

children and babies. They scalped their victims and took other body parts as trophies, which were displayed in local saloons.

Black Kettle escaped and carried news of the massacre to other tribes. The Dog Soldiers felt they had been right all along; the massacre at Sand Creek showed the white Americans should never be trusted must be fought. They attacked forts and killed many white settlers across Colorado territory. This period was during the Civil War and the US government was stretched to control these massacres. However, once the civil war was won, the US government backed out of the Treaty of Fort Wise and instead a new treaty was made in **1867** and the Cheyenne and Arapaho were moved onto a reservation half the size of what they had been promised in **1865**. They were allowed to hunt buffalo in their old hunting grounds but only as long as the buffalo remained. They also had to stay away from white settler land but were rewarded no compensation for their survival of the Sandy Creek Massacre. By **1868** Black Kettle died in another massacre of Plains Indians by US troops.

Red Cloud's War (1866-68)

Source E

A photograph (from 1891) showing Chief Red Cloud on the right of the picture, with another Lakota Sioux chief called American Horse, who is dressed in western clothing.



Red Cloud was a respected war chief and warrior of the Lakota Sioux. Like **Little Crow** and **Black Kettle** he saw his way of life under threat from whites. When gold was discovered in Montana in **182**, prospectors from the East began to use a short cut off from the Oregon Trail called the **Bozeman Trail**, which crossed important Lakota Sioux hunting grounds. By **1865**, **2,000** had travelled the trail despite numerous attacks by the Lakota Sioux. The trail broke the **Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851**. In **1866** the government called a council to discuss a new treaty. Red Cloud was invited and other Lakota Sioux's. They were asked to allow the settlers to travel safely across the trail in return for presents and a promise their hunting lands would not be disturbed. However, Red Cloud realised that the government were going to enforce forts along the Bozeman trail with or without their consent. He chose to fight against this.

Not all of the Lakota Sioux agreed with him (such as those who hunted well away from the trail) and some believed it was useless to fight against the whites and better to sign the treaty and get what they could from the government. However, many tribes supported Red Cloud, including the Cheyenne and Arapaho and their leaders such as **Sitting Bull** and **Crazy Horse**. The war involved around **3,000** Plains Indians and **700** US soldiers.

In December **1868**, there was an attack on men sent out to cut wood at one of the new forts. **Captain William Fetterman** led a group of **80** cavalrymen to protect them. The Lakota Sioux used the tactic of sending scouts out to be spotted the US cavalry and then when they were followed they would lead the cavalry straight into an ambush. This happened to Captain Fetterman and his men who were killed by a larger force of Lakota Sioux Indians. This event became known as **Fetterman's Trap**. The Lakota Sioux also surrounded **Fort Phil Kearny**, one of the forts on the Bozeman trail so people couldn't travel along the trail or leave the fort. By **1867** it became clear in a Peace Commission that other tactics were needed to be used when dealing with the Plains Indians.

The second Fort Laramie Treaty (1868)

As a consequence of Red Cloud's success, the US government agreed to close the **Bozeman Trail** (as they had found an alternative route to the gold fields.) Red Cloud agreed to take his people to a reservation in Dakota. The Treaty agreed that the Great Sioux Reservation was to be exclusive of the Sioux nation. Not all those who had fought with Red Cloud agreed with his signing of the Treaty. This included Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse who were among those who refused to sign it.

Source F

An extract from the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty
The United States hereby agrees... that the country north of the North Platte river and east of the summits of the Big Horn mountains shall be held and considered to be... Indian territory, and also... that no white person or persons shall be permitted to settle upon or occupy any portion of [that land]; or without the consent of the Indians... to pass through [that land]; and it is further agreed by the United States, that within ninety days after the conclusion of peace with all the bands of the Sioux nation, the military posts now established in the territory... shall be abandoned, and that the road [the Bozeman Trail] leading to them and by them to the settlements in the Territory of Montana shall be closed.

Exam questions

“Explain two consequences...”

“Explain two consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851)”

“Explain two consequences of the Homestead Act.”

“Explain two consequences of The Pacific Railroad Act (1862)”

“Explain two consequences of lawlessness in mining towns.”

“Write a narrative account analysing...”

“Write a narrative account analysing the ways in which the cattle industry grew in the years 1865-74)”

“Write a narrative account analysing the effects of the Goodnight-Loving Trail on the movement West.”

“Write a narrative account analysing Red Cloud’s War (1866-68) in relation to the tension between Natives and settlers.”

“Write a narrative account analysing the problems between the Homesteaders and Ranchers in relation to sheep farming.”

Explain two of the following...

“The importance of the opening of the First Transcontinental Railroad (1869) for the settlement of the West.”

“The importance of the winter of 1886-87 for the cattle industry.”

“The importance of the Dawes Act (1887) for the way of life of the Plains Indians. “

“The importance of President Grant’s Peace Policy in improving relationships between the natives and the settlers.”