

# Plains Indians Wars





**TANNED HIDE:**

Moccasins, Cradles, Winter Robes, Shirts, Leggings, Belts, Dresses, Pipe Bags, Quivers, Tipi Covers, Gun Covers, Dolls



**RAWHIDE:**

Containers, Shields, Buckets, Moccasin Soles, Belts, Headdresses, Medicine Bags, Drums, Ropes, Saddles, Stirrups, Knife Cases, Quirts, Armbands, Bullet Pouches



**MUSCLES:**

Sinew, Meat for Jerky



**HORNS:**

Cups, Spoons, Ladles, Headdresses

**TAIL:**  
Decorations, Fly Brush, Whips

**BRAINS:**

Hide Preparation

**FAT:**  
Soap, Cooking Oil

**SKULL:**

Altar at Religious Ceremonies



**BONES:**

Knives, Arrow-Heads, Shovels, Scrapers, Winter Sleds, Saddle Trees, War Clubs, Game Dice

**TONGUE:**

Best Part of the Meat

**BEARD:**  
Ornaments for Weapons

**HOOVES:**

Glue, Rattles



**STOMACH:**

Buckets, Cups, Dishes, Cooking Pots

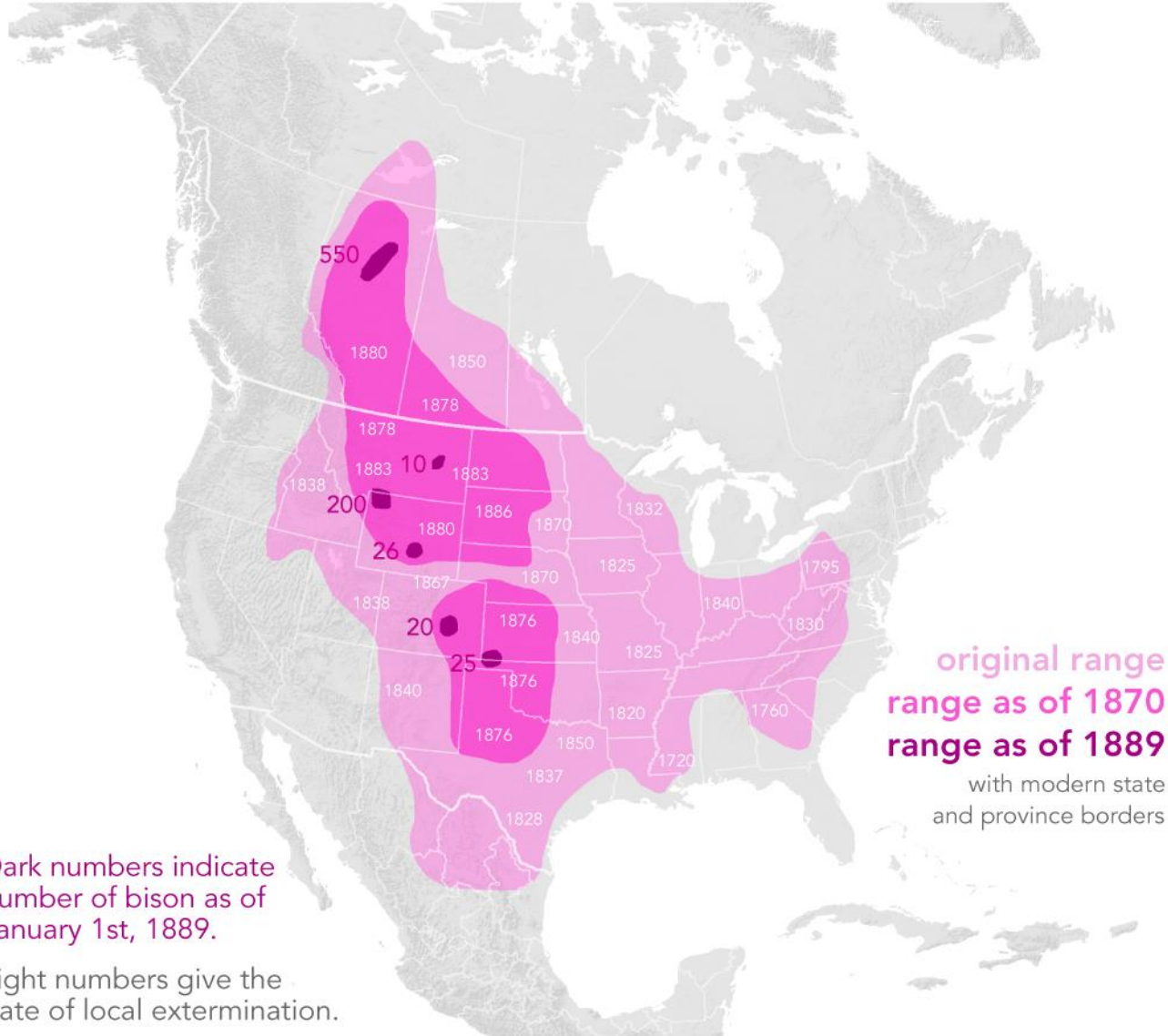
**HAIR:**

Headdresses, Saddle Pad Filler, Pillows, Ropes, Halters



**DUNG:**  
Fuel

# The Extermination of the American Bison to 1889



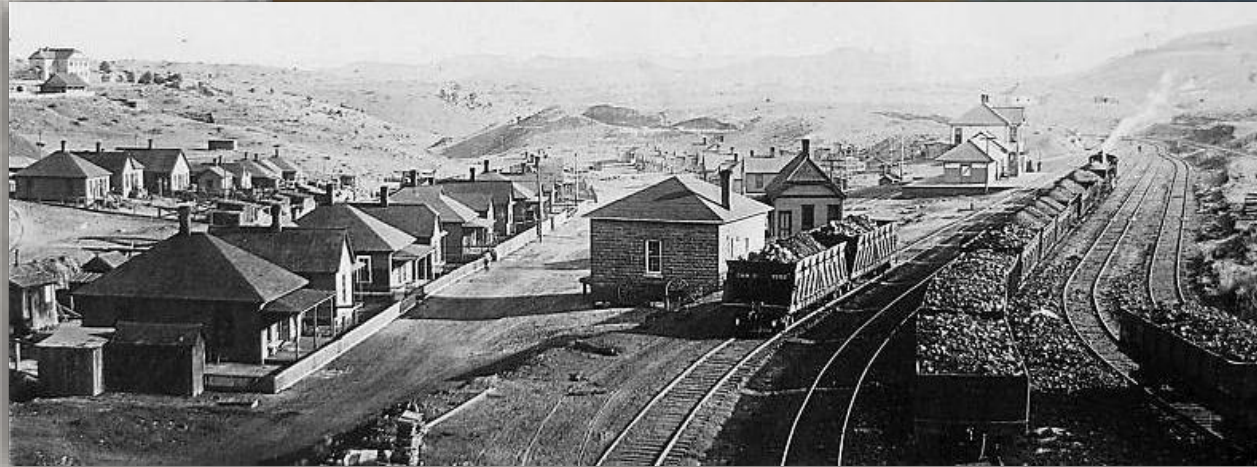
Dark numbers indicate number of bison as of January 1st, 1889.

Light numbers give the date of local extermination.

# Cultures Clash on the Prairies

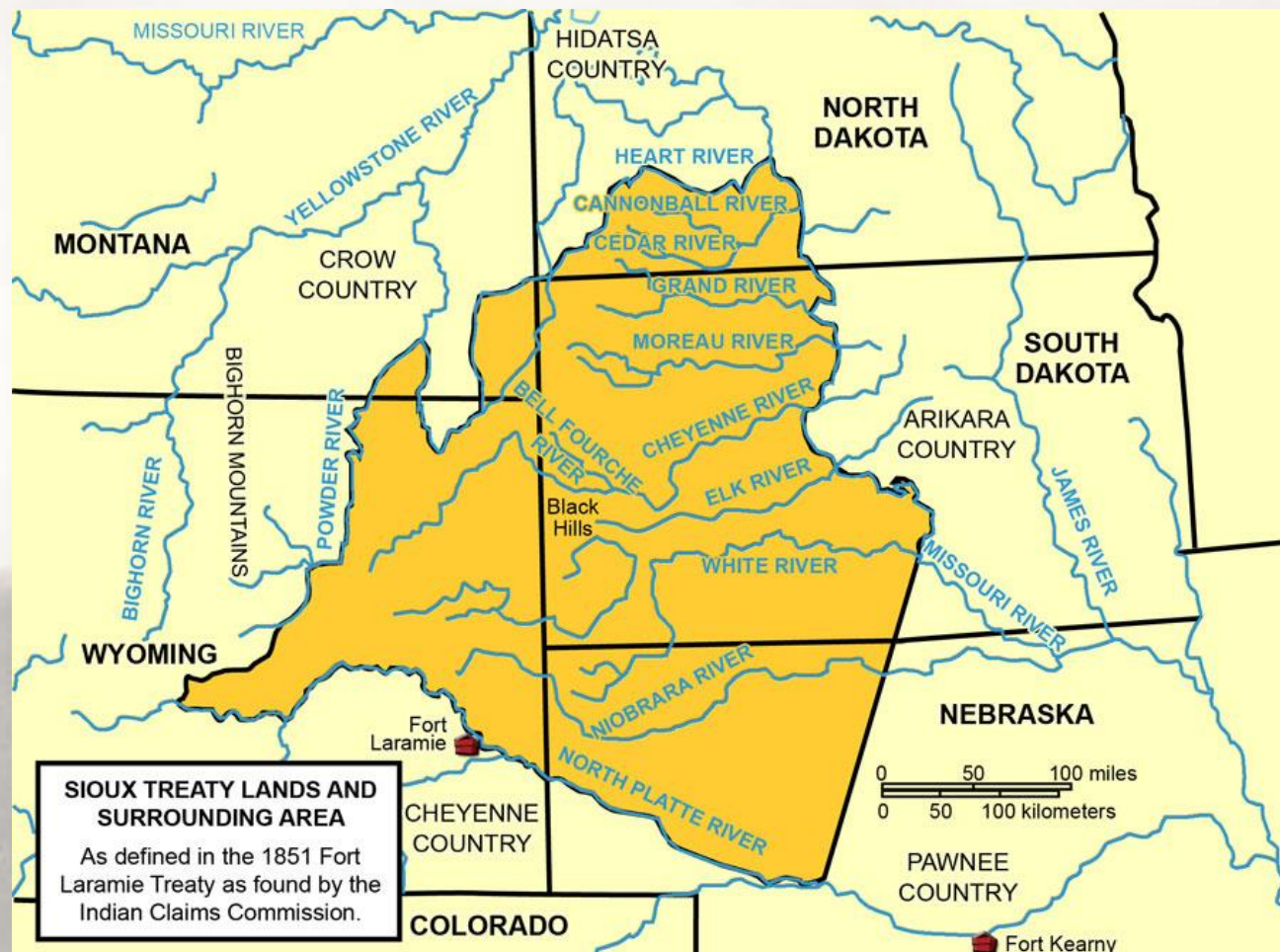
1858: Discovery  
of gold in  
Colorado

- Led to the  
growth of  
mining camps  
and frontier  
towns



## Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851

- Plains Indians are guaranteed free roam of the Great Plains



## Shift from a “Removal” Policy towards “Concentration” (1860)






- Plains Indians will be put on reservations  
- Aftermath of the U.S. - Dakota War of 1862 (Lincoln & Homestead Act)





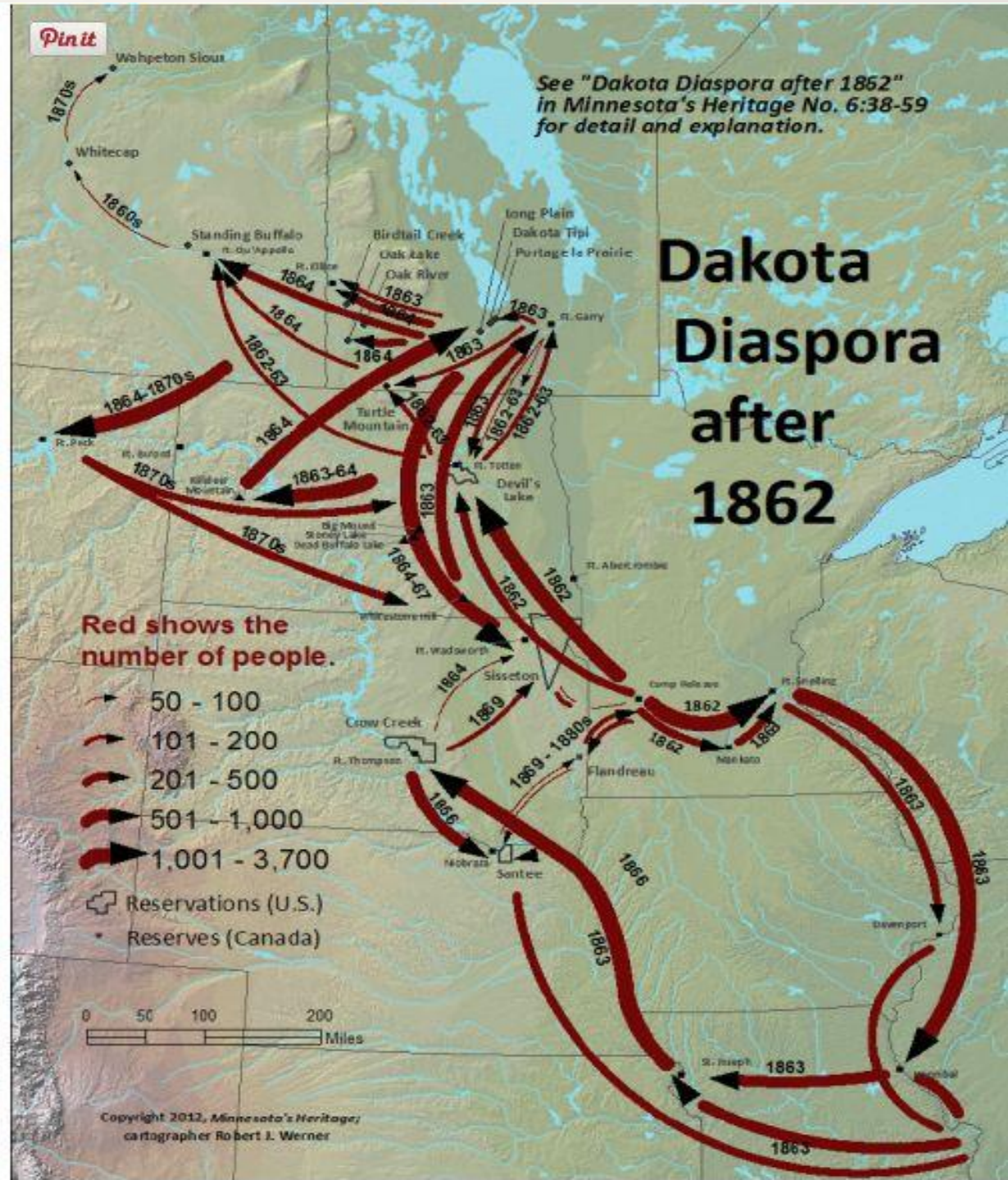
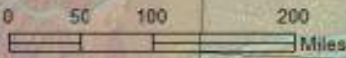
See "Dakota Diaspora after 1862" in Minnesota's Heritage No. 6:38-59 for detail and explanation.

# Dakota Diaspora after 1862

Red shows the number of people.

-  50 - 100
-  101 - 200
-  201 - 500
-  501 - 1,000
-  1,001 - 3,700

-  Reservations (U.S.)
-  Reserves (Canada)



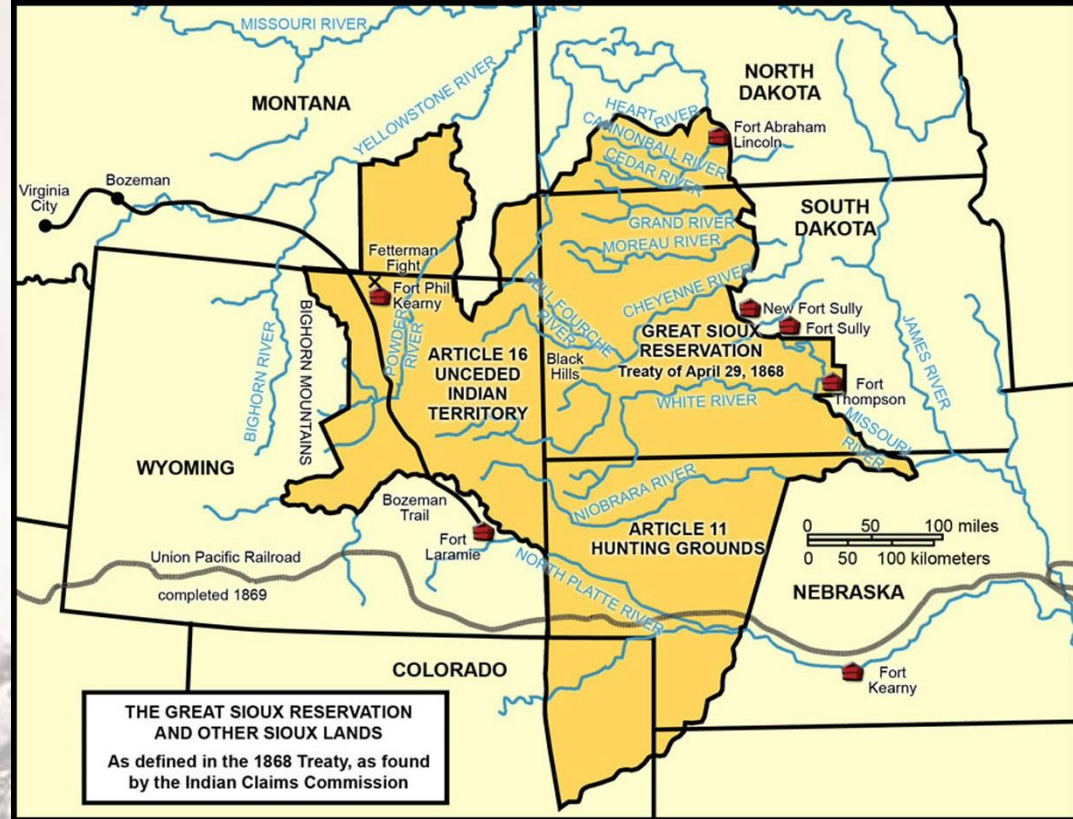
# 1864: Sand Creek Massacre

- 500 peaceful Cheyenne relocated at Sand Creek, Colorado were attacked without warning by the U.S. Army
- At least 150 were killed



## Red Cloud's War (1866-1868)

- Wyoming and Montana
- Bozeman Trail blazed through Sioux lands to get to gold and copper mines in Montana
- U.S. Army occupied the Powder River area
- Red Cloud **defeats** U.S. Calvary



## Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868

- Red Cloud, an Oglala Sioux Chief, acquires a large reservation for the Sioux
- Included the sacred Black Hills
- Sitting Bull, a Hunkpapa Sioux Chief, opposes the treaty, as will Crazy Horse



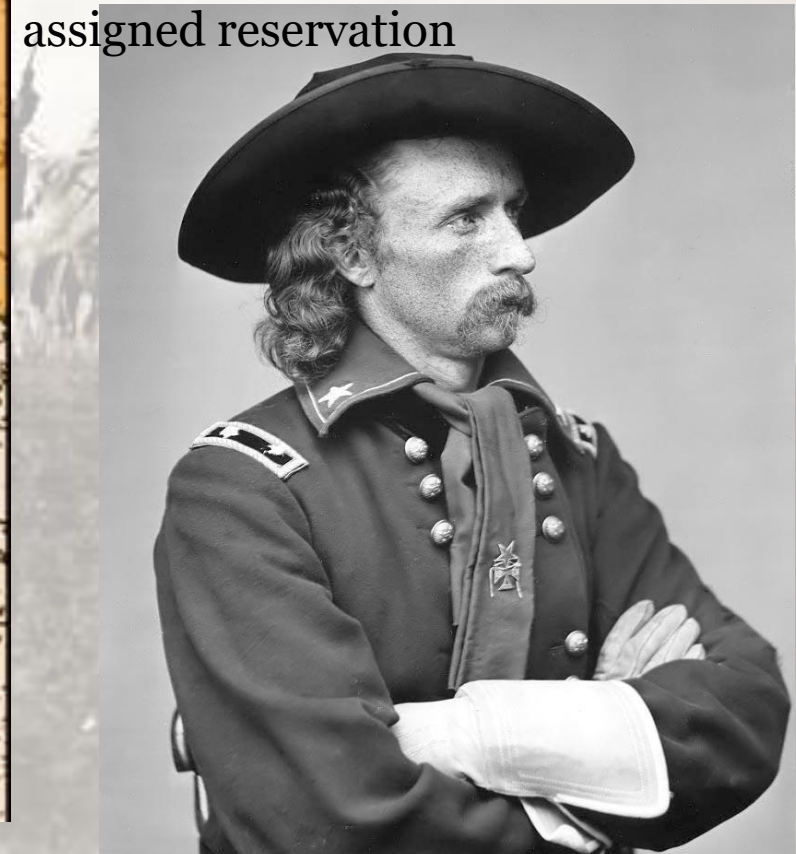
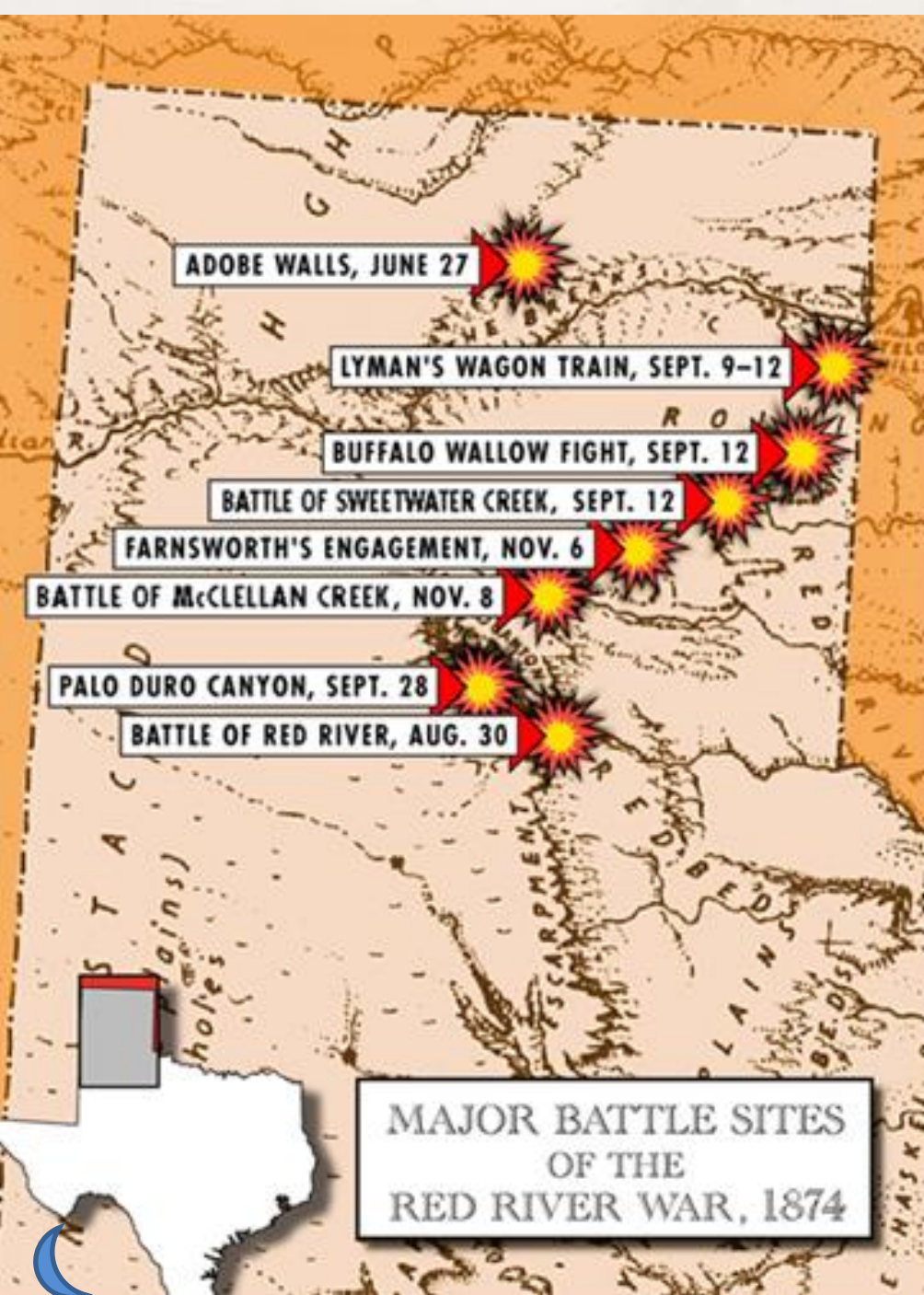


## Red River War (1874)

U.S. Army uses total war tactics against the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache in TX and OK

19 women and children, 875 ponies killed

- General George Armstrong Custer becomes a hero at the Battle of Washita which helped force a significant portion of the southern Cheyenne onto a U.S.-assigned reservation



## 1874: Black Hills Gold Rush

- Gen. Custer instigates war with the Sioux by illegally entering the Black Hills with the purpose of discovering gold  
→ Thousands of whites move into the Black Hills

## 25 June 1876: Battle of Little Bighorn

- Known as “Custer’s Last Stand”  
- Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and over 5,000 Sioux warriors wipe out Custer and his 200 soldiers from the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry



# Smashing Sioux Resistance

Defeat at the Little Big Horn caused the U.S. govt to increase the military effort to defeat the Sioux and others that resisted the reservation system

\*Think slave codes after Nat Turner's Rebellion\*

Short term victory, long term defeat for the Sioux



**General Phil Sheridan**



## Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce (1876-1877)

- Nez Perce were ordered to leave their home in Oregon to go to a reservation in Washington Territory within 30 days → Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce refused
- 1,000 mile, 3-month chase by the U.S. Army
- Captured 40 miles south of the Canadian border; 5-day battle
- Famous quote from his surrender:  
*I am tired of fighting...Hear me my Chiefs! I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever.*



## Wounded Knee Massacre

-Remaining Sioux forced into reservation life at gunpoint

-Many Sioux sought spiritual guidance → a religious awakening inspired by a Paiute holy man called Wovoka (he received a message from the Creator that an Indian messiah would come and the world would be free of the white man and they could return to their lands and the buffalo would once again roam the Great Plains)

-Wovoka and his followers performed what became known as the “Ghost Dance” → movement spread throughout tribes in the South and West

-Morning of 29 December 1890: U.S. army demanded the surrender of all Sioux weapons → a shot rang out → the reconstructed 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry opened fire on the Sioux → they were cut down as they tried to run away

-Almost all of the 300 men, women, and children were dead; others froze to death in the snow





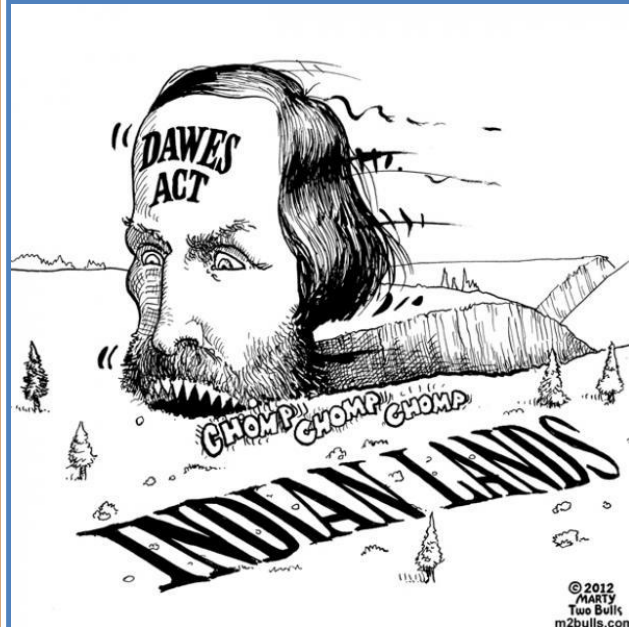
## Dawes Severalty Act 1887

- Provided NAs with 160 acres of land per family
- Given a land allotment with the requirement to have "adopted the habits of civilized life" (lived separate and apart from the tribe) and become a U.S. citizen
- Act forced many NAs off their land and onto worse plots of land
- Sent NA children to boarding schools (e.g. - Carlisle Industrial School)
- Provided the white settlers with much more and better quality land



# Why was the Dawes Act created?

“Purpose”:  
create farmers  
out of NAs by  
giving them  
land and tools



Purpose:  
breakup  
tribes, place  
NAs under  
U.S.  
sovereignty, &  
“Americanize”

# Effect of The Dawes Act

Before the Dawes Act, NAs owned about 150 million acres of land

After the Dawes Act, the land was divided up, and the NAs lost about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the land

The land was then given to Natives who could use the land for either farming or grazing

The rest of the land was divided up between white settlers







Then, many of the Natives began to sell their land

Many European settlers took advantage of the natives and cheated them out of much of the money that they should have been paid

-Then, once the Native Americans got the money, since they had not handled money before, they spent most of the money right away  
-90,000 Natives ended up broke with no land

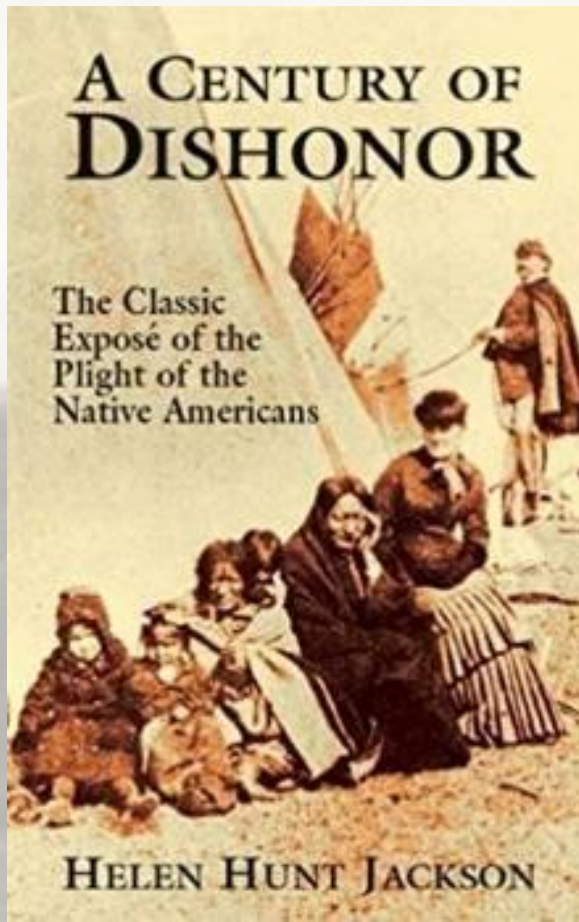
**INDIAN LAND FOR SALE**  
GET A HOME OF YOUR OWN WITH EASY PAYMENTS  
PERFECT TITLE POSSESSION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS  
**FINE LANDS IN THE WEST**  
IRRIGATED PASTURE GRADING AGRICULTURAL DRY FARMING  
In 1888 the Government of the United States has been forced to purchase from the Indians in the West  
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State	Price per Acre	Price per Acre	Price per Acre	Price per Acre
Arizona	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
California	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Colorado	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Idaho	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Montana	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Nebraska	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
North Dakota	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
South Dakota	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Utah	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Wyoming	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00

WALTER L. FISHER, ROBERT G. VALENTINE

## *A Century of Dishonor* – Helen Hunt Jackson (1881)

- “Muckraking” account of the broken treaties, promises, and land agreements of the U.S. govt towards NAs since the American Revolution
- Made the case that the U.S. govt violated basic principles of international law
- Called on Congress to shift policy
- Also wrote *Ramona*, which became the *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* of NA struggles





**Indian Lands**  
 (Lands larger than 100,000 acres and with a population of more than 25,000 are shaded.)