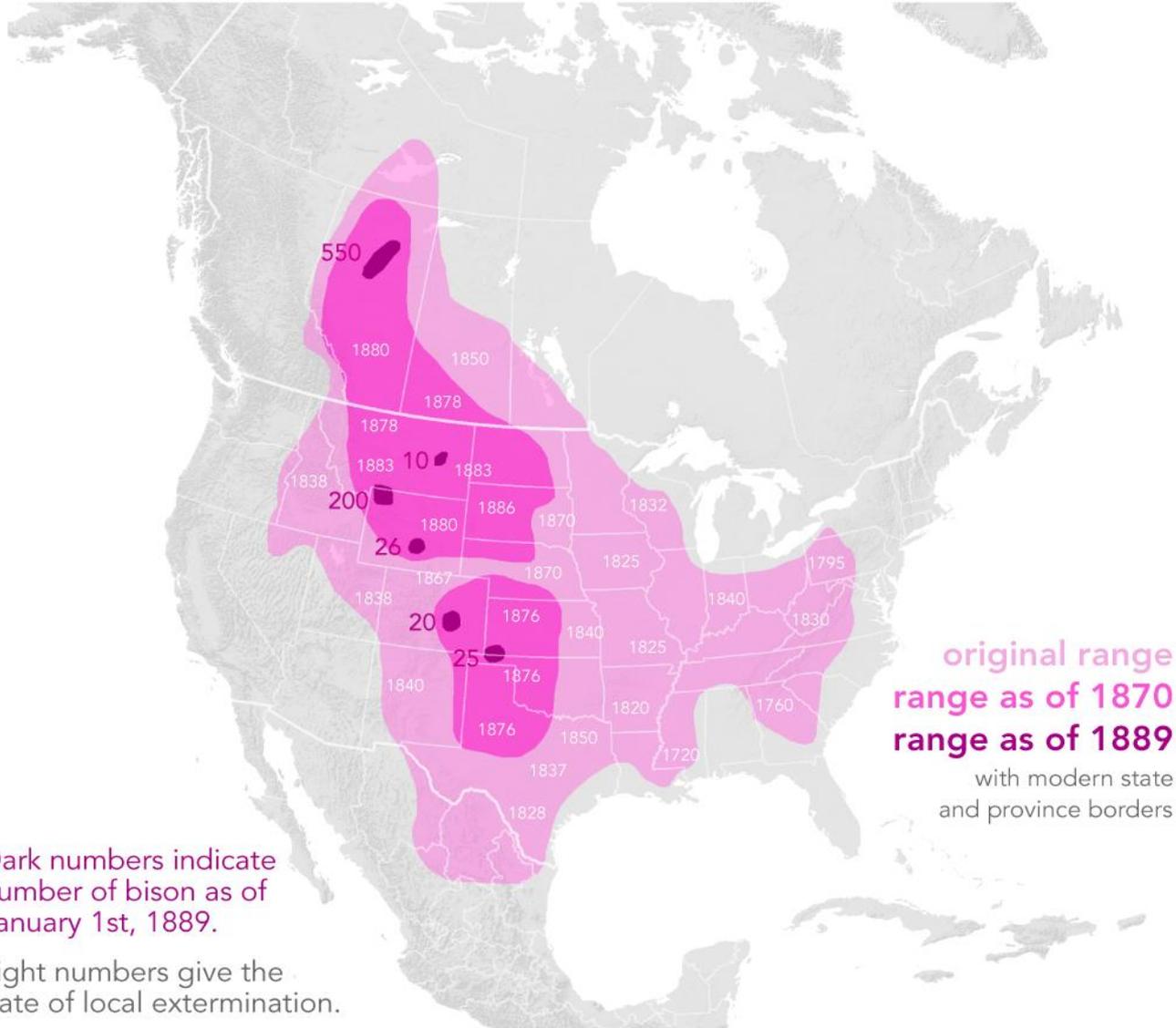


# Plains Indians Wars



# The Extermination of the American Bison to 1889



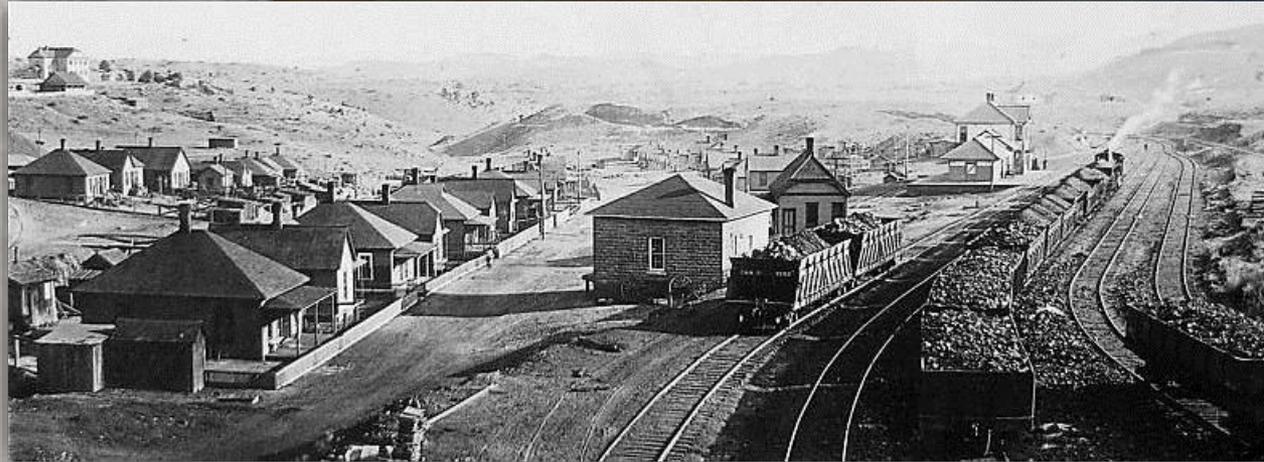
Dark numbers indicate number of bison as of January 1st, 1889.

Light numbers give the date of local extermination.

# Cultures Clash on the Prairies

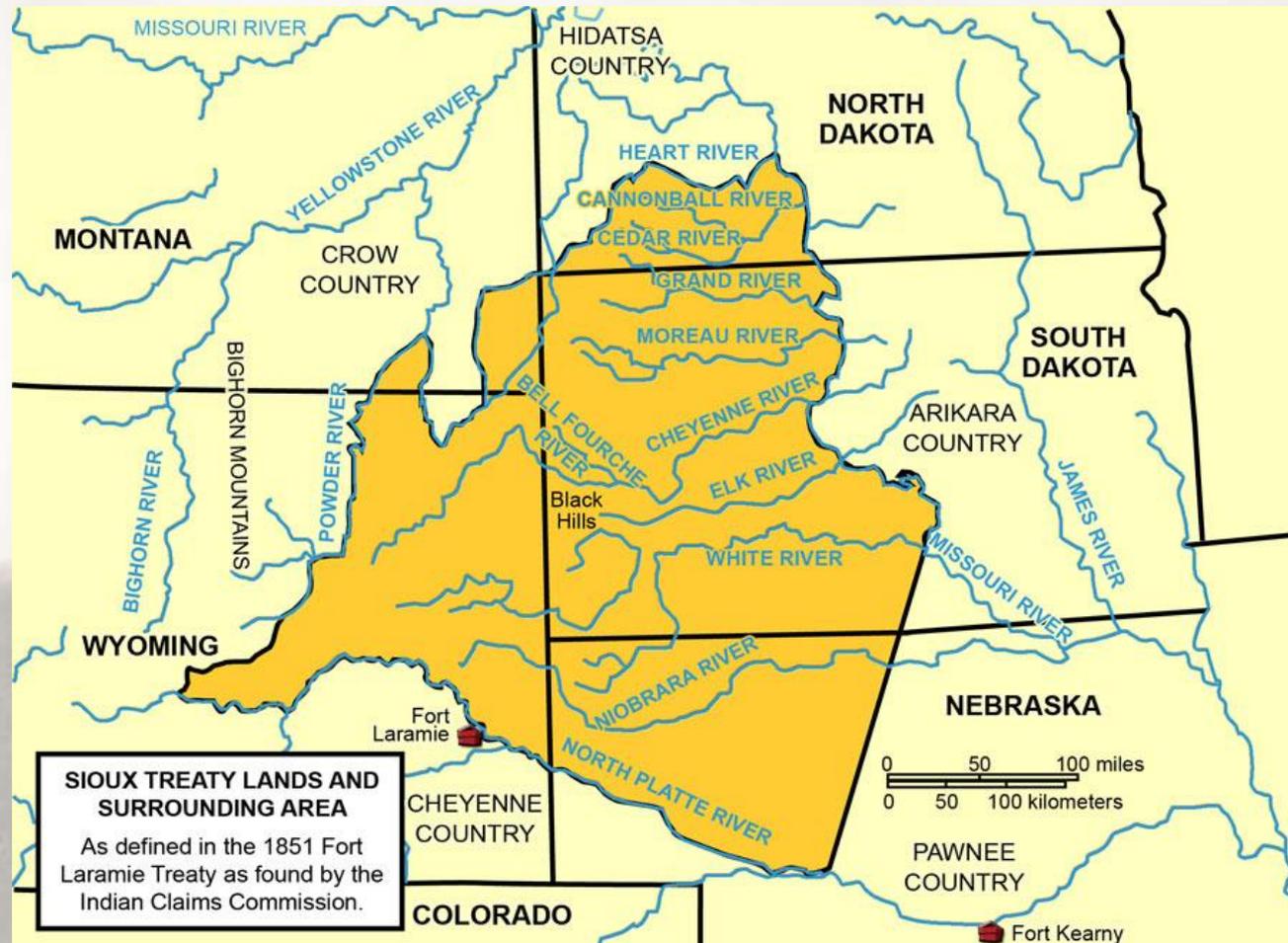
1858: Discovery  
of gold in  
Colorado

- 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

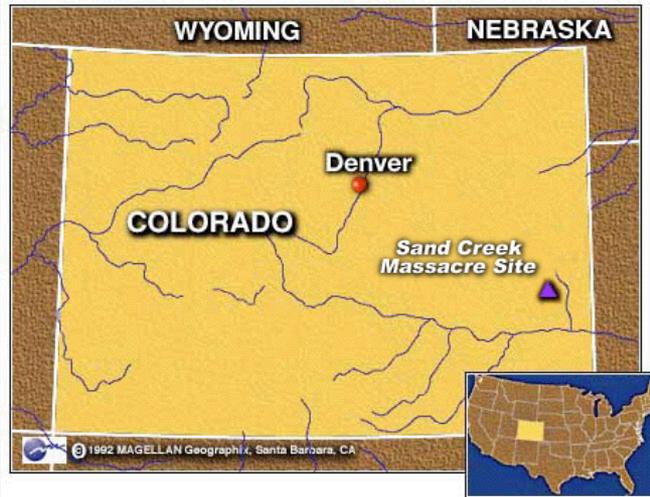


## Shift towards a “Concentration Policy” (1860)

- Plains Indians will be put on reservations  
- Sioux Uprising of 1862 (Lincoln & Homestead Act)

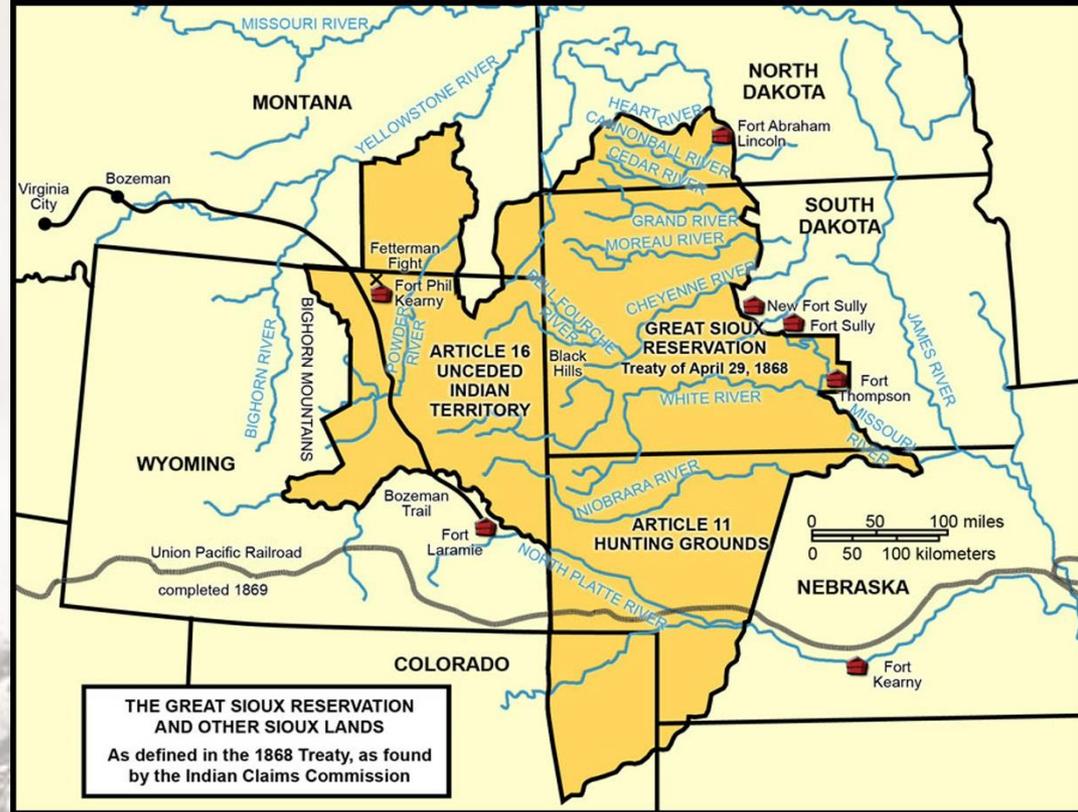
# 1864: Sand Creek Massacre

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



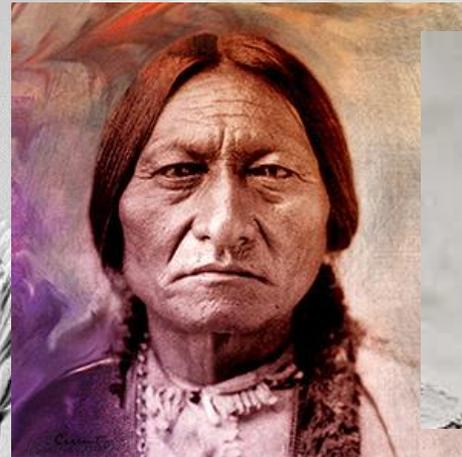
## Red Cloud's War (1866-1868)

- 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

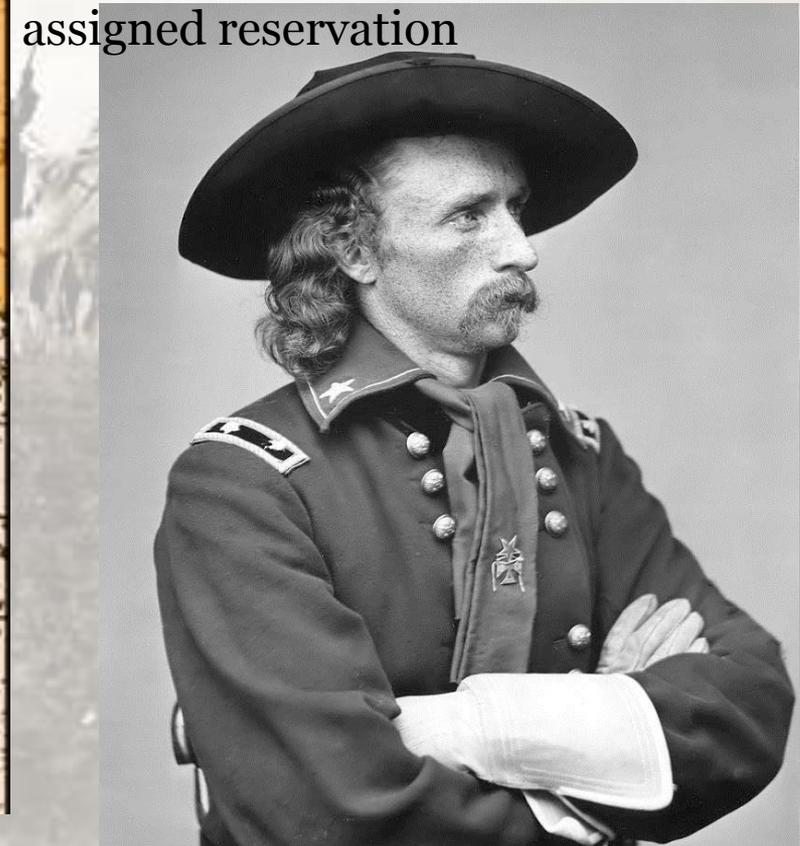
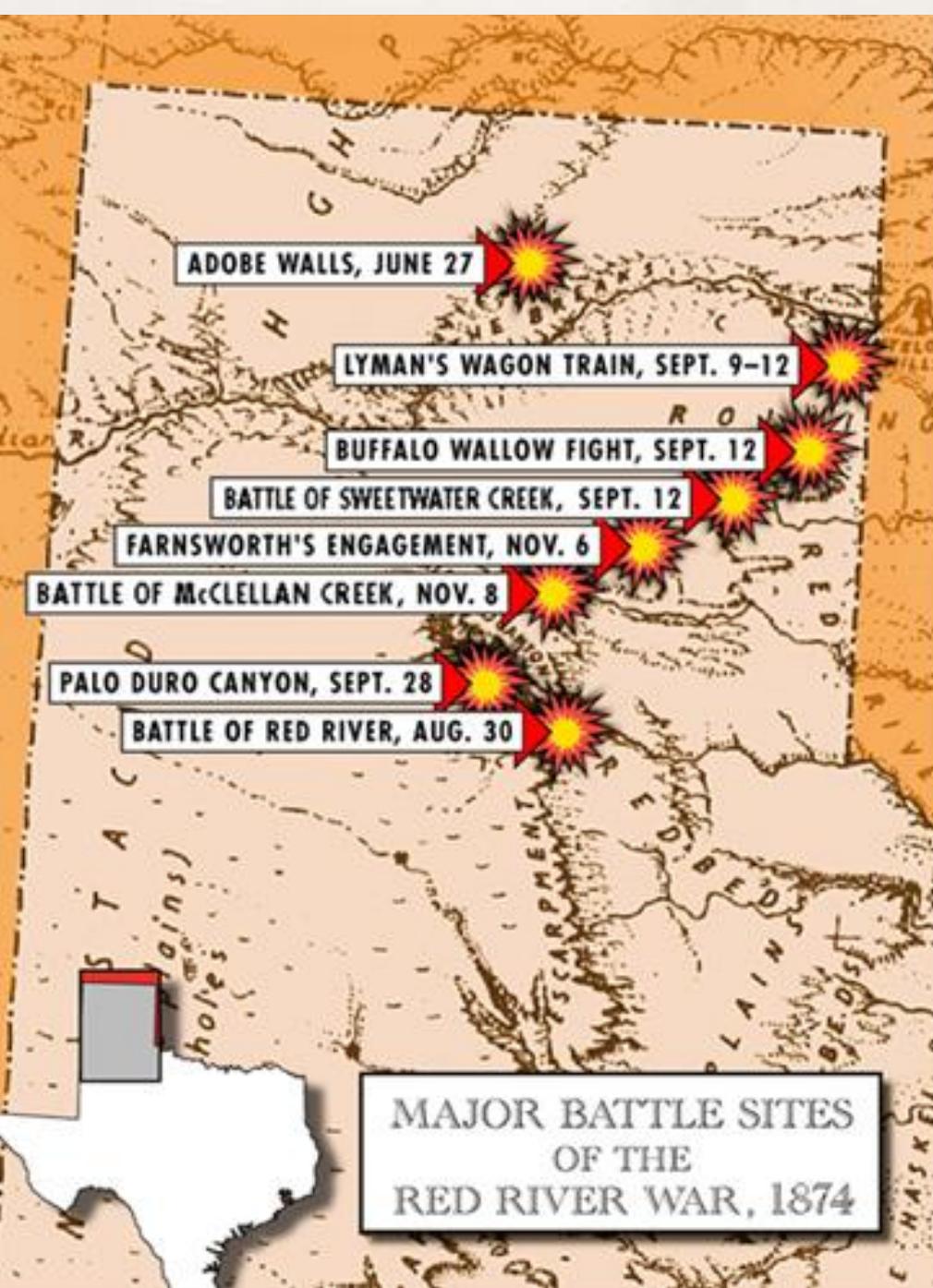


## Red River Wars (1874)

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 the Sioux Resistance

Defeat of Custer 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



**General Phil Sheridan**

Short term victory,  
long term defeat for  
the Sioux



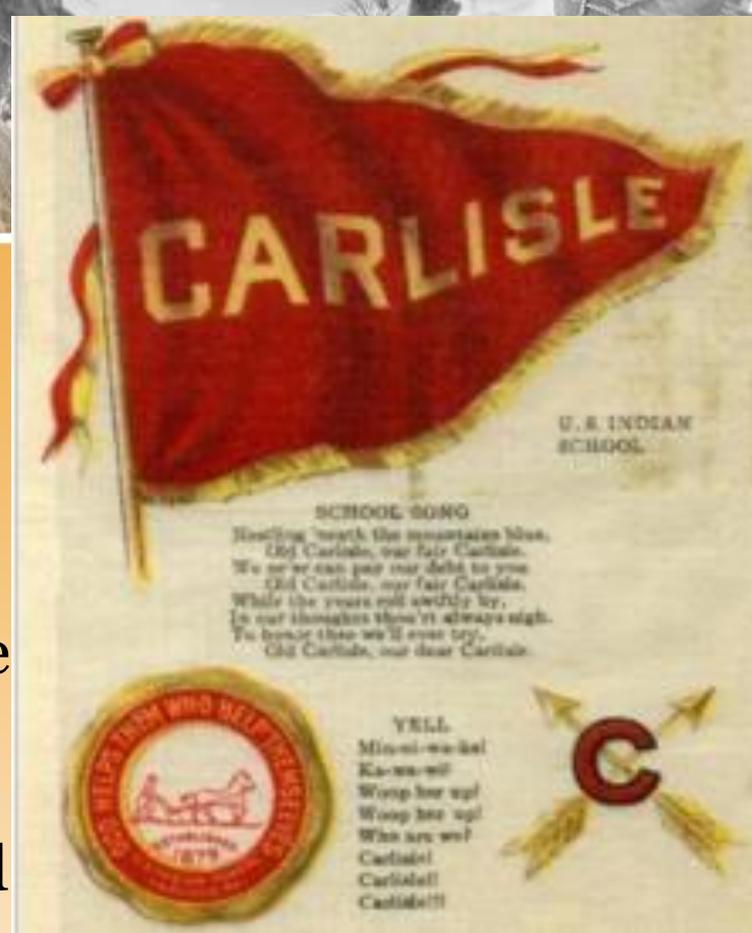
## Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce (1876-1877)

- 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.*



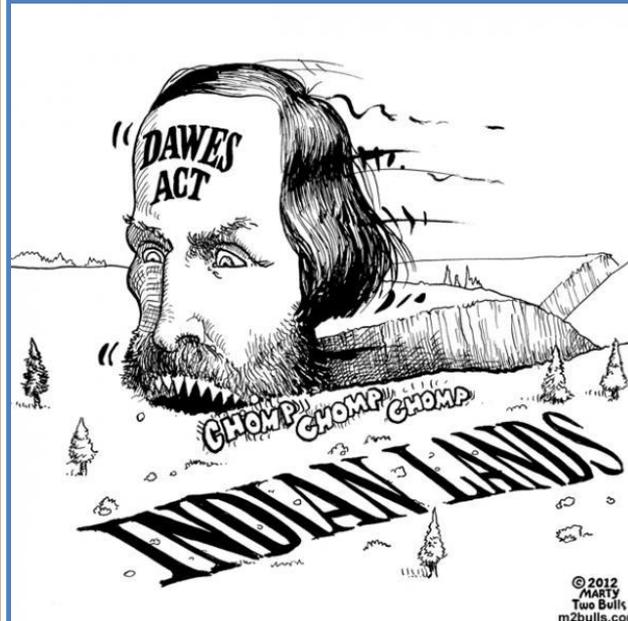
## Dawes Severalty Act 1887

- 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 of 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



