

The Indian Wars.

The Permanent Indian Frontier

The Great Plains were given to the Indians 'forever'. The Eastern edge was the frontier.

This was soon broken by the wagon trains, although the travellers did not want the plains their passing through disturbed the Indian way of life. At this point the Plains Indians were unconcerned. However as the numbers of travellers increased especially after gold was discovered in California the Indians became increasingly irritated.

Wagon trains were attacked. The U.S. Army was sent to protect the trains. This increased tension as many soldiers were hostile to the Indians.

1851 Fort Laramie Treaty

The Indians told to move onto reservations so land could be given to settlers. The Indians were split up, this would later make it easier for the U.S. Government to move the Indians again and more difficult for the Indians to unite under a common cause.

It was not long before the treaty was broken.

Little Crow's War

Little Crow was chief of the Santee Sioux. Fought against the reservations. Led attacks on wagon trains and army. When the uprising was put down they were moved to a smaller reservations.

Cheyenne Uprising of 1863

Faced with starvation the Cheyenne began to attack wagon trains. They only stole food.

Colonel John Chivington was sent to deal with the problem. He did not care for the Indians, he was happy to see them dead.

On November 29 1864, Chivington's men attacked Black Kettle's camp at Sandcreek. It is known as the Sandcreek massacre. Indian men, women and children were slaughtered.

Bodies of the dead were mutilated. Chivington left the army before he was court martialled.

The conflict increased. The railway companies helped the army to move across the plains More rapidly.

Medicine Lodge Creek Treaty

In 1867 Medicine Lodge Creek Treaty was agreed. The Indians agreed to move onto the new smaller reservations. This would mean an end to their way of life.

Red Cloud's War

Red Cloud and the Oglala Sioux refused to agree to the treaty. The Indians attacked Travellers on the Bozeman Trail. By 1866 the U.S. Government decided to act. While talks were held, the army started to build a series of forts to protect travellers. In protest Red Cloud left the talks.

He joined forces with Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. In December 1866, Captain Fetterman and his men were caught in a Sioux trap. They were slaughtered. In the Spring the army withdrew. The Indians burnt the forts to the ground.

Victory was short lived.

The Second Fort Laramie Treaty.

Created the great Sioux reservation which included the Bighorn Mountains and the Black hills of Dakota. These areas were sacred to the Sioux. Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull refused to accept the treaty.