

LITTLE CROWS WAR

- The Santee Sioux were a band of the Dakota Sioux. They were put into a reservation in Minnesota in 1861 that was half the size of the one they were given in 1851.
- They were forced onto this reservation because they couldn't pay \$200,000 to traders who said they were owed money by the Sioux and thus they never received their \$1.4m or \$80,000 annuity. The government withheld food when the Indians went to hunt off the reservation.
- After Cutworm destroyed their crops in 1862 and the government didn't give them any food to help them survive, the Santee Sioux revolted and robbed the stores of the Indian Agency who refused to help despite the Indians resorting to eating grass. They felt able to do this as the Army were busy in the Civil War.
- The Indians killed 600 settlers and soldiers including women and children.
- 400 Indians were caught and sentenced to death but Lincoln intervened. Only 38 were killed for rape /murder. The tribe was moved to the Crow Creek reservation where 100's died in the first winter and Little Crow and his allies were hunted and killed for bounties.

THE CHEYENNE WAR / SAND CREEK

- The Cheyenne faced the same food problems in Colorado. The Dog soldiers of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Warrior Brotherhoods refused to move to a reservation in East Colorado in 1861.
- After three years of fighting Black Kettle, a Christian convert, believed that he could negotiate peace and brought the Cheyenne to Sand Creek to do this.
- However, the Governor of the Territory, John Evans, wanted to destroy them. On the 29th November 1864 General Chivington led a dawn raid with 700 men on Black Kettle and 1,000 Cheyenne and killed 130 women, children and babies despite them waving white flags. Body parts were displayed in saloons and fetuses worn as trophies.
- The Cheyenne fought back and in 1865 they secured a large reservation in the Treaty of Little Arkansas. However, once the Army returned after the Civil War this was reversed at the Treaty of Medicine Lodge as the land was reduced by half and the land available for hunting by 90%. No compensation was given.

RED CLOUD'S WAR AND FETTERMAN

- Between 1862 and 1868 Red Cloud and the Oglala Sioux waged war against the White Americans because they used the old Bozeman Trail to the mines, after gold was discovered in Montana in 1862, straight through Native American Land given to them at the first Fort Laramie Treaty in 1851.
- The Oglala Sioux were joined by the Lakota Sioux, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, the Cheyenne, the Arapaho leading to a force of 3,000 against 700 white soldiers.
- The American Government knew their trail was controversial so built forts along the trail during negotiations with Red Cloud. He left the negotiations and sieged the forts and in 1866 they massacred 80 of General William Fetterman's troops in 'Fettermen's Trap', by luring them out.
- This eventually led to the closing of the Bozeman Trail and the signing of Fort Laramie Treaty 2 in 1868 promising them the Great Sioux Reservation.
- Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse refused to sign.

INDIAN WARS

THE BATTLE OF LITTLE BIG HORN

- In 1874 Custer broke the Fort Laramie Treaty 2 when he looked for gold in the Black Hills. When he discovered gold there the hills were crawling with prospectors within 6 months.
- In 1875 the Army forced the Sioux back to their reservation but Sitting Bull was unwilling to comply considering the breaches of the treaty by the US, he had a vision that he could defeat them and it was physically impossible to meet the army demands (President Grant gave them 60 days) in such a short time given the lack of communication technology!
- By 1876 7,000 hostile Indians had amassed outside the reservation, in Montana, under Crazy Horse.
- General Terry, Colonels Crook and Gibbon planned a three pronged attack but Crazy Horse defeated Crook at Rosebud Creek and then the Sioux forces headed to the Little Big Horn hills and river with 2,000 warriors on hand.
- Terry sent Gibbon to attack them from the North but Custer to go and track them down, not to engage them but to find them.
- Custer decided to engage then Indians, despite only having had 600 men, being told he didn't have enough ammunition to win the fight, not having reinforcements or a Gatling gun, and having single shot rifles against the Indians with repeating Winchester rifles.
- Custer also blundered spectacularly by splitting his forces into three. Reno and Benteen soon saw the pointless nature of the attack and remained in secure positions and refused to engage. Custer tried to cross the river to engage the Indians but was met with about 1,500 braves who chased him up onto the Big Horn hills.
- After consistent fighting the final battle with Custer last 1 hour and Custer was killed along with all 225 of his men.
- The Battle of Little Big Horn was unfortunately the 100th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence so the Americans changed their policy of concentration to eradication.
- The Army engaged in total war. The Military used their forts as bases to launch attacks on Indian Reservations. They used total war tactics where they would kill women, children and old folk as well as braves and left them to surrender or starve. They used the railroads to move swiftly and fought winter campaigns to defeat the Indians.
- The less equipped Indians couldn't attack the foughtS and they were divided against each other because of the militaries use of spies. Gibbon and Terry mercilessly tracked down the Sioux from the Little Big Hirn battle. Crazy Horse was killed in 1877 and the Sioux warriors were forced back onto the reservation by 1881.
- They intensified their reservation policy, refusing the Indians food and supplies until they gave up the Black Hills, the area around the Arkansas River and Powder Country.

