



**ULLYSSES S. GRANT** was President of the United States during the Great Indian Wars.

A hero of the Civil War, General Grant led the Union army to victory over the South. He accepted Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox in 1865, which ended the bloodiest war in American history.

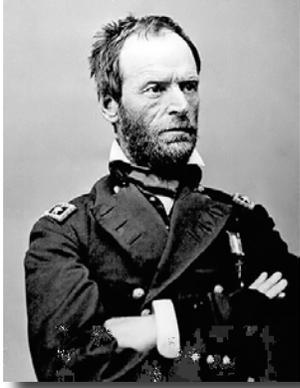
For the next three years, Grant shied away from public life, avoiding the spotlight as best he could. Finally, in 1868, he was convinced to run for President...and won, serving two terms in office.

Grant took well to the presidency, enjoying cigars and whiskey as he dealt with political matters. A devoted family man, he spent time with his wife Julia, three sons, and one daughter no matter the demands of office. In fact, he is said to have spoiled his two youngest children, leaving his wife to enforce discipline.

Despite corruption within his administration, Grant himself had a strong sense of decency. His conscience prevented him from taking complete advantage of the tribes, despite continued pressure from the "Indian Lobby"—businessmen and politicians who would stop at nothing to achieve "Manifest Destiny" and own the gold-laden Black Hills.

After the Battle of Little Big Horn, the angry American public demanded that Grant punish the "Red Man" for killing Custer and his 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. The President could handle the pressure no longer, and ordered a brutal military campaign to take care of the "Indian problem" once and for all. As Lakota flooded in to Reservations, to the public's satisfaction, Grant must have known that his fateful decision had spelled the end of the Plains Indians sacred way of life...forever.





**WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN** served as a General in the Union Army during the American Civil War (1861–65), and was known for his brutality in battle. During the Great Indian Wars, he sought not only to defeat the Lakota—but to wipe them out completely. Sherman wrote: “We must act with vindictive earnestness against the Sioux, even to their extermination—men, women and children.” In 1870, he was chosen by President Grant to join the Select Peace Commission, which tried to make “peace” by moving the Native Americans on to Reservations in order to “tame” their “savage” ways.

Sherman believed that war was brutal and could only be won by the harshest of means. During the Civil War, he’d ordered hundreds of Southern farms burned, rather than leave them intact to grow food for the enemy. In the Great Indian Wars, he planned to win again by showing no mercy. His armies attacked in winter, killing in cold blood and burning villages down. This left the Native people who survived no choice but to surrender or freeze.

Still, Sherman did live by his own code of honor. When President Grant asked him to help craft a war plan for the Black Hills, he flat out refused. Sherman believed the scheme was dishonest and illegal. Nothing Grant could say would change his mind.



When Sherman learned of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry’s fate at the Battle of Little Big Horn, he blamed the defeat on Custer’s foolishness. With Lakota clearly outnumbering the U.S. soldiers, he said, Custer’s decision to attack was reckless and doomed from the start. However, regardless of the reason for the 7<sup>th</sup>’s defeat, Sherman agreed that the government had no choice now—the Lakota must pay dearly for the U.S. Army’s painful loss.



**GENERAL GEORGE CROOK**, known as “Three Stars” for the military decorations on his uniform, led troops with skill as they battled the Lakota.

Crook disagreed with the Great Indian Wars. He respected the Native people, blaming the greed of the White Man for trouble on the Great Plains.

However, Crook was an enlisted Army officer, and had no choice but to fight whichever battles the U.S. government assigned to him. Despite his doubts, the General led his men with complete conviction. Crook never let his personal opinions stop him from inspiring the troops, and fought bravely against the tribes throughout his time in the military.

As Custer’s 7<sup>th</sup> prepared to attack the Lakota—with high hopes of claiming the Black Hills and its gold for the U.S. government—the Army developed a plan. Three columns of soldiers would march from different directions, surrounding the Lakota camp at Little Big Horn. Crook would lead one of the columns, and as Custer rode into battle, he expected Crook’s troops to aid in the fight. But Three Stars would never arrive at Little Big Horn Valley. On his way there, he was forced to turn back twice—due to unexpected battles against camps of Lakota. Little did Crook know, as he cursed the tribes for forcing his retreat, that he would have likely lost his life had he made it to the Little Big Horn Valley.



Many years later, Crook arrived at the Lakota Reservation, hoping to convince the tribes to sign another treaty. The government wanted to divide up the land into small reservations, and give each family a section. This may seem generous, but it was actually intended to destroy the tribes’ sense of community. Many Lakota, suspicious of the White Man, refused to sign. But Crook knew that the government would not rest until the politicians had their way. So he urged the tribes to “touch pen,” promising to stand up for the Lakota’s rights in Congress. The treaty was signed—but Congress dismissed Crook’s good intentions, ending the Old Ways at last.



**SENATOR HENRY DAWES** of Massachusetts was chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He was known as a "Friend of the Indian" though the laws he pushed through Congress were, at best, intended to help the Wasichu with little harm to the tribes.

When the government discovered that much of the land used for Reservations was rich in gold, the Wasichu wanted it for themselves. The Lakota saw no value in the yellow metal and did not wish the government to plunder their sacred land. Senator Dawes tried to renegotiate treaties with the Indian nations, asking the tribes to hand over their property and become a lawful part of the United States.

After the Battle of Little Big Horn, Senator Dawes incorporated this idea into a law known as The General Allotment Act, which ordered the breakup of the Reservations and gave each Indian family its own land. Although this may have seemed generous, it successfully split up the tribes, breaking the bonds that made their culture strong. Giving land to the "red man," it was thought, would "civilize" them in the name of Manifest Destiny. But in reality, this Act actually allowed the Wasichu to control native land that had been protected by treaty.

Senator Dawes' attempt at a peaceful solution to the struggle between the government and the Native Americans may have been well meaning. But, in the end, it led to policies and practices that weakened the Indian nations in the guise of helping them.





**EDWARD HENRY HARRIMAN** was one of America's leading railroad tycoons. Born on February 20, 1848, Harriman had to leave school at age 14 to help support his family. He went to work as an errand boy on Wall Street in New York City, home to the Stock Market. All around him, "stockbrokers" were buying, selling and trading parts of companies—known as "shares"—often making a huge profit without lifting a finger! Such wealth was

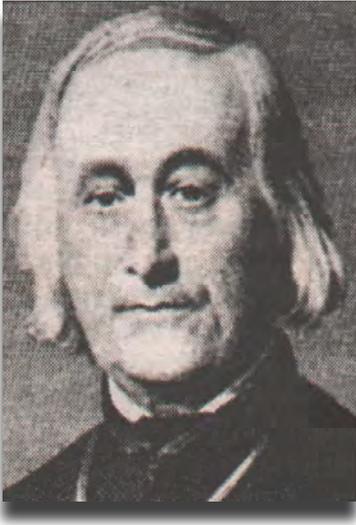
irresistible to young Harriman, and by age 22, Harriman had become a successful stockbroker himself.

In 1879, Harriman married Mary Williamson Averell. Mary's father worked in the railroad business, and soon Harriman joined in. He began by purchasing a small rail line. And in only a few short years, Harriman was building railroads across the country.



The Plains Indians, however, stood in the way of Harriman and his plans. He wanted to expand the railroad to span the country—from Coast to Coast. But the Lakota realized that tracks built across their hunting ground would frighten the buffalo and split up the herd, making it more difficult to hunt. Because of this, Lakota warriors would often kill railroad workers, and it soon became nearly impossible for Harriman to do business in the Dakotas. Harriman hoped Custer and his 7<sup>th</sup> would clear the land of Indians so that his railroads could continue their Westward Expansion with ease.

Once Custer lost the Battle of Little Big Horn, Harriman took matters into his own hands. He promoted "buffalo hunting" on his railroad, inviting "hunters" from cities throughout the East to shoot the beasts—sometimes right out train windows—by the millions. And by 1897, the buffalo all but gone now, Harriman was in charge of the largest railroad network in the entire United States—the Union Pacific.



**FATHER PIERRE-JEAN DE SMET**, known among the Lakota as “Blackrobe,” was a good-hearted Jesuit priest who did his best to create peace between the U.S. government and the Native peoples.

Born in Belgium, De Smet crossed the Atlantic in order to help resolve problems on the Great Plains. The Lakota trusted him completely—far more than any other White Man—because they recognized De Smet’s honesty and desire for peace.

De Smet proved to be an ally for the tribes. When warriors showed him gold nuggets they had found in Paha Sapa—their sacred Black Hills—the priest quickly advised them to hide the metal and never breath a word of their discovery to the Wasichu. Although the warriors heeded his warning, word eventually got out. And the U.S. government decided to claim the gold-laden land, no matter the cost.

In 1868, politicians showed De Smet what he believed to be a compromise with the tribes: a treaty banning the White Man from settling on the Great Plains, so long as the Lakota agreed to “come in” to the Reservation. The priest crossed wild land—with only an interpreter by his side—in order to encourage Sitting Bull to sign the treaty. When he arrived at the Lakota camp, the great chief saw that Blackrobe was willing to travel where no other Wasichu would dare to go, and spoke to the priest as a friend. Sitting Bull expressed his deep sadness for killing the Wasichu. But he explained that peace without justice was not truly peace, and encouraged the tribes not to sign the treaty, despite his respect for De Smet. Many Lakota did not follow this advice, and “touched pen” as the government desired.



After the Wasichu defeat at the Battle of Little Big Horn and the cry for revenge that followed, De Smet knew that his efforts towards peace would come to nothing.



**GENERAL NELSON MILES** was a military man who served in the American Civil War and the Great Indian Wars. Just after Colonel Custer's defeat at the Battle of Little Big Horn, he was sent to the Northern Great Plains—leaving his wife Mary Hoyt Sherman behind to worry at home. General Miles was asked to “do what must be done”—destroying Native villages—to force the Lakota onto Reservations.

Miles, (known as Bear Coat by the Lakota for his winter clothes), patrolled along the northern border, hunting down Lakota as they escaped across the “medicine line” to safety in Canada. When at last Miles found Sitting Bull, he tried to convince the chief to give up his weapons and “come in” to the Reservation. Sitting Bull refused, “Wakan Tanka made me an Indian and I intend to be one.”

Miles—done trying to make a deal—opened fire on the chief. Though Sitting Bull escaped, it was clear his warriors could not compete with the General's guns and determination. Bear Coat's relentlessness drove Sitting Bull into Canada where he hoped his people would find peace.

Years later, long after Sitting Bull had handed over his gun, Miles played a part in the final days of the great chief. Fearing that Sitting Bull would lead a revolt on the Reservation, yet trying to avoid more bloodshed, he asked the famed Buffalo Bill Cody to bring Sitting Bull to the agency jail without force. But other generals wanted credit for arresting Sitting Bull and sent Lakota police to do the job instead—killing the great chief just outside his home.

