Dawes Act: Document Analysis

The Dawes Severalty Act promoted the white man’s view that Indians were inferior to the whites, and that they must assimilate with American civilization to survive. The commissioner of Indian affairs noted that Indians were barbaric in nature, and increasingly difficult to control. To continue with this mindset, the Dawes Act limited the Indian’s barbaric practices, such as hunting, via reservations. The reports that were used to justify this statement were indicated to be conducted by American agents. A piece of land was given to the tribe as a whole, rather than individual plots of land to each Indian, which indicated that Americans viewed Indians even more differently than their emancipated slaves. Later, each family would own their own plot of land instead of handing over the land to the entirety of the tribe.

Highlight me please… :D

U ned citations - <3 Hayden