SI Sessions, M/W/Th - 5:00-5:50 - UH109

# US Indian Policy and the Plains Indian Wars

Growing American population moving westward, clash of cultures. Tribes had been fighting, and while some fought the Americans, some tribes worked with Americans to fight other tribes.

## **Battle of the Washita** 1868

Led by chief Black kettle. Warriors were attacking villages, US brought in American soldiers. Custer raided Black Kettle’s camp.

## Battle of Little Bighorn June 25, 1876

“Custer’s Last Stand”

Custer is fighting an alliance of Indians, decides to fight like at Washita and split his forces. Because of a tactical error by his subordinates, he is pushed to Last Stand Hill where he is killed.

## Dawes Severalty Act 1887

Assigns land based on Indian families. Individual ownership of land instead of tribal ownership. Frees up a lot of former reservation land for Americans to buy. Would later be reversed back to the Indian reservation system.

## Homestead Act 1862

Mass land giveaway by the federal government. Each family was entitled to about 160 acres. Paid a small claim fee. Families had to stay and farm for at least 5 years, build some kind of structure (house, barn, etc.). After 5 years, it’s the family’s land. Barbed wire was an important invention, as wood or stone wasn’t always available.

## First Transcontinental Railroad

Government sponsored Union Pacific and Central Pacific to build a transcontinental railroad, to meet in the middle. Railroad companies also got a swathe of land around the track, which was very valuable. Meet at Promontory Point in Utah. Railroad would sometimes go through more difficult terrain to get more subsidies.

## James J. Hill and the Great Northern Railway

James J. Hill decides to invest his own money instead of government subsidies to build a railroad. Took the most direct route and bought good materials.