

Mr. Aitken*Washington State History*

- Cultural Assimilation

Communal Land

- Land owned in common by a tribe.
- No private land ownership by individuals.
- Most tribes were nomadic, not farmers.
- Believed that land did not belong to any one person. It belonged to all members of the tribe as a group.

Individual Land Ownership

- A plot of land owned by one person or family.
- One primary reason the U.S. fought for independence: to own land.
- Land considered a primary source of wealth.
- Land ownership initially tied to the vote.

Dawes Act, 1887

- Gave a plot of land to each Indian family or single man (not women).
 - Had to give up communal tribal land (reservation land).
 - Granted U.S. citizenship.

Dawes Act, 1887

- Intended to:
 - Break up Indian lands and assimilate Indians into 'civilized' culture.
 - Force Indians to become agricultural (farmers) and 'productive'.
 - Free up land for white settlers.

Dawes Act, 1887

- "Excess" land was sold or given to white settlers.

INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME
OF
YOUR OWN
EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE
POSSESSION
WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST
IRRIGATED IRRIGABLE GRAZING AGRICULTURAL DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre	Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre
Colorado	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma	34,064.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	15.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 350,000 ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

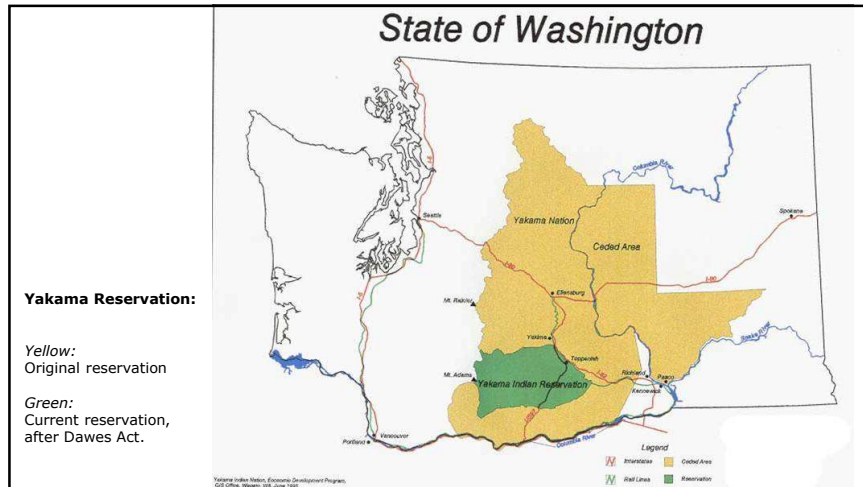
For information as to the character of the land write for booklet, "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent of U. S. Lands (about at any one of the following places):

CALIFORNIA - Chico	MINNESOTA - Duluth	MISSOURI - St. Louis	NEBRASKA - Omaha	NEW YORK - Albany	OHIO - Columbus	OREGON - Portland	PENNSYLVANIA - Harrisburg	RHODE ISLAND - Providence	TENNESSEE - Nashville	TEXAS - Austin	VERMONT - Montpelier	WASHINGTON - Olympia	WISCONSIN - Madison	WYOMING - Cheyenne
--------------------	--------------------	----------------------	------------------	-------------------	-----------------	-------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------	----------------	----------------------	----------------------	---------------------	--------------------

WALTER L. FISHER, Director of the Interior ROBERT G. VALENTINE, Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Office of Indian Affairs (later renamed: Bureau of Indian Affairs)

- Responsible for distributing land grants to Indians, and holding land in trust for future Indians.
- Highly corrupt during the 1800s. Accused of fraud. Illegally deprived Indians of land and gave it to whites.



Indian Communal Land

- 1887: 150 million acres
- by 1900: 78 million acres
- by 1934: 48 million acres
- Loss of about 2/3 of treaty land.
- 90,000 Indians made landless.

Indian Schools

- Late 1800s – 1970s.
- Indian children sent to boarding schools, many times against their will.

Indian Schools

- Boarding school: a school where a student lives during the school year.
 - Indian children often sent to boarding school in another state to prevent escape.
- Run by Christian missionaries, paid for by B.I.A.

Indian Schools

Assimilation

- Often baptized and forced to convert to Christianity.
- Taught English.
- Taught European-style agriculture and trades.
- Forced to wear 'civilized' clothes and short hair.
- Taught only European & American history, and nothing about their own culture.

Indian Schools

Harsh Punishment

- Punished with caning or flogging, being locked in rooms, and being fed bread and water.
- *"Intimidation and fear were very much part of our daily lives."*

Indian Schools

Harsh Punishment

- Could not speak Indian language, wear Indian clothes, practice Indian religions or spiritual beliefs, or dance Indian dances.
- Often would not see parents for years.



