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The  
Fort  
Laramie  
Treaty  
of  
1868

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Collectors' Edition

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PRODUCED BY

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than one family and sometimes took as additional wives the widows of fallen brother warriors or unmarried sisters of a first wife whose roll was actually enhanced as she became the teacher and arbitrator of all internal family matters.

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While there is no record of formal elections, the oral history of the Sioux point to a common practice and process of leadership by consensus. There was no hereditary Chieftain system; leadership lasted only as long as the consensus lasted. In most bands, at the Tiospaye level, there were individual medicine men, peacekeepers (akicitas), revered elders who were the historian-storytellers, and there were individuals assigned the role of keeping a calendar known as a Winter Count, where the most important event of each year was artistically illustrated.

Before 1800 the only contacts between the Teton bands of the Great Sioux Nation and white people were initiated by white individuals in the course of exploratory travel, trapping, hunting and trading but they left few records. The Teton ranged over the high, rolling prairies from the Missouri River to the mountains of the west. A unique geological feature of this vast semi-arid, undulating great plains area was the mountainous, lush, green, oval upthrust that the Lakota of the Teton called Paha Sapa, "Hills that are Black," rising to over 7,000 feet, some 3-4,000 feet above the surrounding prairies. The Lakota had a special relationship with the Paha Sapa; it was their sanctuary, their healing place, their meeting place and their touchstone around which their existence continued.

With the Louisiana Purchase from the French in 1803 the United States doubled its size and won the right to negotiate with the Indian tribes occupying the new territory that was later to become the additional 13 states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana and parts of Alabama, Texas, Minnesota, North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. Under terms of The Treaty of Paris in 1763 Louisiana Territory had come into the possession of Spain by "right of discovery and exploration." The Treaty was basically a gentlemen's agreement not to infringe on another nation's right to claim, colonize and exploit certain areas of the new, "uncivilized" world. President Thomas Jefferson engaged Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to head up a "Corps of Discovery" with about 30 men leaving St. Louis, Missouri on May 14, 1804. They first met the Yankton Sioux, near present-day Yankton in August and the Teton Sioux, near present day Pierre in September.

On August 31, 1834, William "Cut Face" Sublette chose the site and directed the building of Fort William (later to be Fort Laramie) on the upper Platte River. He sent interpreters John Sabelle and Charles E. Gilpin to the area north of the Black Hills to induce the Oglalas to make Fort William their new source of trade goods. In the fall of 1834 Oglala Chief Bull Bear moved his followers to the Fort William area and in early 1835 Oglala Chief Smoke moved his followers there. Soon the Brule Chiefs led their people to the area. Within two years the principal trade item was liquor. The principal item of exchange was the buffalo skin at the rate of one hide for one cup of whiskey. The buffalo herds began to diminish in numbers and the tribes experienced competition for the Bison.

The government brokered the Sioux Nation Treaty of 1851 which set boundaries between the tribes and made rules for safe passage up the "Mormon Trail" [along the Platte River] through Sioux territory. But, the Treaty became almost meaningless overnight because of continued intrusions into Sioux territory; some Sioux wanted interactions with the travelers and traders and some did not. Following lengthy armed

# Fort Laramie Treaty, 1868

## ARTICLES OF A TREATY MADE AND CONCLUDED

**BY AND BETWEEN** Lieutenant General William T. Sherman, General William S. Harney, General Alfred H. Terry, General O. O. Augur, J. B. Henderson, Nathaniel G. Taylor, John G. Sanborn, and Samuel F. Tappan, duly appointed commissioners on the part of the United States, and the different bands of the Sioux Nation of Indians, by their chiefs and headmen, whose names are hereto subscribed, they being duly authorized to act in the premises.

April 29, 1868  
15 Stats., 635 Ratified,  
Feb. 16, 1869  
Proclaimed, Feb. 29, 1869

### ARTICLE I.

From this day forward all war between the parties to this agreement shall for ever cease. The government of the United States desires peace, and its honor is hereby pledged to keep it. The Indians desire peace, and they now pledge their honor to maintain it.

War to cease and  
peace to be kept.

If bad men among the whites, or among other people subject to the authority of the United States, shall commit any wrong upon the person or property of the Indians, the United States will, upon proof made to the agent, and forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington city, proceed at once to cause the offender to be arrested and punished according to the laws of the United States, and also reimburse the injured person for the loss sustained.

Offenders against  
the Indians to be  
arrested, etc.

If bad men among the Indians shall commit a wrong or depredation upon the person or property of any one, white, black, or Indian, subject to the authority of the United States, and at peace therewith, the Indians herein named solemnly agree that they will, upon proof made to their agent, and notice by him, deliver up the wrongdoer to the United States, to be tried and punished according to its laws, and, in case they willfully refuse so to do, the person injured shall be reimbursed for his loss from the annuities, or other moneys due or to become due to them under this or other treaties made with the United States; and the President, on advising with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, shall prescribe such rules and regulations for ascertaining damages under the provisions of this article as in his judgment may be

Wrongdoers against the  
whites to be punished.

Damages.

farmers, the United States agrees to set apart, for the use of said Indians, as herein provided, such additional quantity of arable land, adjoining to said reservation, or as near to the same as it can be obtained, as may be required to provide the necessary amount.

Additional arable land to be added, if, etc.

#### ARTICLE IV.

The United States agrees, at its own proper expense, to construct, at some place on the Missouri river, near the centre of said reservation where timber and water may be convenient, the following buildings, to wit, a warehouse, a store-room for the use of the agent in storing goods belonging to the Indians, to cost not less than \$2,500; an agency building, for the residence of the agent, to cost not exceeding \$3,000; a residence for the physician, to cost not more than \$3,000; and five other buildings, for a carpenter, farmer, blacksmith, miller, and engineer each to cost not exceeding \$2,000; also, a school-house, or mission building, so soon as a sufficient number of children can be induced by the agent to attend school, which shall not cost exceeding \$5,000.

Buildings on reservation.

The United States agrees further to cause to be erected on said reservation, near the other buildings herein authorized, a good steam circular saw-mill, with a grist-mill and shingle machine attached to the same, to cost not exceeding \$8,000.

#### ARTICLE V.

The United States agrees that the agent for said Indians shall in the future make his home at the agency building; that he shall reside among them, and keep an office open at all times for the purpose of prompt and diligent inquiry into such matters of complaint by and against the Indians as may be presented for investigation under the provisions of their treaty stipulations, as also for the faithful discharge of other duties enjoined on him by law. In all cases of depredation on person or property he shall cause the evidence to be taken in writing and forwarded, together with his findings, to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, whose decision, subject to the revision of the Secretary of the Interior, shall be binding on the parties to this treaty.

Agent's residence, office, and duties.

entitled to receive from the United States a patent for one hundred and sixty acres of land including his said improvements, the same to be in the form of the legal subdivisions of the surveys of the public lands.

Certain Indians may receive patents for 160 acres of land.

Upon application in writing, sustained by the proof of two disinterested witnesses, made to the register of the local land office when the land sought to be entered is within a land district, and when the tract sought to be entered is not in any land district, then upon said application and proof being made to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and the right of such Indian or Indians to enter such tract or tracts of land shall accrue and be perfect from the date of his first improvements thereon, and shall continue as long as he continues his residence and improvements and no longer. And any Indian or Indians receiving a patent for land under the foregoing provisions shall thereby and from thenceforth become and be a citizen of the United States and be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of such citizens, and shall, at the same time, retain all his rights to benefits accruing to Indians under this treaty.

Such Indians receiving patents to become citizens of the United States.

**ARTICLE VII.**

In order to insure the civilization of the Indians entering into this treaty, the necessity of education is admitted, especially of such of them as are or may be settled on said agricultural reservations, and they, therefore, pledge themselves to compel their children, male and female, between the ages of six and sixteen years, to attend school, and it is hereby made the duty of the agent for said Indians to see that this stipulation is strictly complied with; and the United States agrees that for every thirty children between said ages, who can be induced or compelled to attend school, a house shall be provided, and a teacher competent to teach the elementary branches of an English education shall be furnished, who will reside among said Indians and faithfully discharge his or her duties as a teacher. The provisions of this article to continue for not less than twenty years.

Education.

Children to attend school.

Schoolhouse and teachers.

shirt, hat, and a pair of home-made socks.

For each female over 12 years of age, a flannel shirt, or the goods necessary to make it, a pair of woollen hose, 12 yards of calico, and 12 yards of cotton domestics.

For the boys and girls under the ages named, such flannel and cotton goods as may be needed to make each a suit as aforesaid, together with a pair of woollen hose for each.

And in order that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs may be able to estimate properly for the articles herein named, it shall be the duty of the agent each year to forward to him a full and exact census of the Indians, on which the estimate from year to year can be based.

And in addition to the clothing herein named, the sum of \$10 for each person entitled to the beneficial effects of this treaty shall be annually appropriated for a period of 30 years, while such persons roam and hunt, and \$20 for each person who engages in farming, to be used by the Secretary of the Interior in the purchase of such articles as from time to time the condition and necessities of the Indians may indicate to be proper. And if within the 30 years, at any time, it shall appear that the amount of money needed for clothing, under this article, can be appropriated to better uses for the Indians named herein, Congress may, by law, change the appropriation to other purposes, but in no event shall the amount of the appropriation be withdrawn or discontinued for the period named. And the President shall annually detail an officer of the army to be present and attest the delivery of all the goods herein named, to the Indians, and he shall inspect and report on the quantity and quality of the goods and the manner of their delivery. And it is hereby expressly stipulated that each Indian over the age of four years, who shall have removed to and settled permanently upon said reservation, one pound of meat and one pound of flour per day, provided the Indians cannot furnish their own subsistence at an earlier date. And it is further stipulated that the United States will furnish and deliver to each lodge of Indians or family of persons legally incorporated with the, who shall remove to the reservation herein described and commence farming, one good American cow, and one good well-broken pair of American oxen within 60 days after such lodge or family shall have so settled upon said reservation.

Census.

Other necessary articles.

Appropriation to continue for thirty years.

Army officer to attend the delivery.

Meat and flour.

Cows and oxen.

**ARTICLE XII.**

No treaty for the cession of any portion or part of the reservation herein described which may be held in common, shall be of any validity or force as against the said Indians unless executed and signed by at least three-fourths of all the adult male Indians occupying or interested in the same, and no cession by the tribe shall be understood or construed in such manner as to deprive, without his consent, any individual member of the tribe of his rights to any tract of land selected by him as provided in Article VI of this treaty.

No Treaty for cession of Reservation to be valid unless, etc.

**ARTICLE XIII.**

The United States hereby agrees to furnish annually to the Indians the physician, teachers, carpenter, miller, engineer, farmer, and blacksmiths, as herein contemplated, and that such appropriations shall be made from time to time, on the estimate of the Secretary of the Interior, as will be sufficient to employ such persons.

United States to furnish physician, teachers, etc.

**ARTICLE XIV.**

It is agreed that the sum of five hundred dollars annually for three years from date shall be expended in presents to the ten persons of said tribe who in the judgment of the agent may grow the most valuable crops for the respective year.

Presents for crops.

**ARTICLE XV.**

The Indians herein named agree that when the agency house and other buildings shall be constructed on the reservation named, they will regard said reservation their permanent home, and they will make no permanent settlement elsewhere; but they shall have the right, subject to the conditions and modifications of this treaty, to hunt, as stipulated in Article XI hereof.

Reservation to be permanent home of Tribes.

**Attest:**

A. S. H. WHITE, *Secretary.*

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Executed on the part of the Brule band of Sioux by the chiefs and headman whose names are hereto annexed, they being thereunto duly authorized, at Fort Laramie, D.T., the twenty-ninth day of April, in the year A. D. 1868.

MA-ZA-PON-KASKA, his x mark, Iron Shell.  
WAH-PAT-SHAH, his x mark, Red Leaf.  
HAH-SAH-PAH, his x mark, Black Horn.  
ZIN-TAH-GAH-LAT-WAH, his x mark, Spotted Tail.  
ZIN-TAH-GKAH, his x mark, White Tail.  
ME-WAH-TAH-NE-HO-SKAH, his x mark, Tall Man.  
SHE-CHA-CHAT-KAH, his x mark, Bad Left Hand.  
NO-MAH-NO-PAH, his x mark, Two and Two.  
TAH-TONKA-SKAH, his x mark, White Bull.  
CON-RA-WASHTA, his x mark, Pretty Coon.  
HA-CAH-CAH-SHE-CHAH, his x mark, Bad Elk.  
WA-HA-KA-ZAH-ISH-TAH, his x mark, Eye Lance.  
MA-TO-HA-KE-TAH, his x mark, Bear that looks behind.  
BELLA-TONKA-TONKA, his x mark, Big Partisan.  
MAH-TO-HO-HONKA, his x mark, Swift Bear.  
TO-WIS-NE, his x mark, Cold Place.  
ISH-TAH-SKAH, his x mark, White Eye.  
MA-TA-LOO-ZAH, his x mark, Fast Bear.  
AS-HAH-HAH-NAH-SHE, his x mark, Standing Elk.  
CAN-TE-TE-KI-YA, his x mark, The Brave Heart.  
SHUNKA-SHATON, his x mark, Day Hawk.  
TATANKA-WAKON, his x mark, Sacred Bull.  
MAPIA SHATON, his x mark, Hawk Cloud.  
MA-SHA-A-OW, his x mark, Stands and Comes.  
SHON-KA-TON-KA, his x mark, Big Dog.

**Attest:**

ASHTON S. H. WHITE, *Secretary of Commission.*  
GEORGE B. WITHS, *Photographer to Commission.*  
GEO. H. HOLTZMAN.  
JOHN D. HOWLAND.  
JAMES C. O'CONNOR.  
CHAR. E. GUERN, *Interpreter.*  
LEON T. PALLARDY, *Interpreter.*  
NICHOLAS JANIS, *Interpreter.*



**Attest:**

S. E. WARD.

JAS. C. O'CONNOR.

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J. M. SHERWOOD.

W. C. SLICER.

SAM DEON.

H. M. MATHEWS.

JOSEPH BISS.

NICHOLAS JANIS, *Interpreter.*

SEFROY IOTT, *Interpreter.*

ANTOINE JANIS, *Interpreter.*

Executed on the part of the Minneconjou band of Sioux by the chiefs and headmen whose names are hereunto subscribed, they being thereunto duly authorized.

At Fort Laramie, D.T., May 26, '68, 2 names.

HEH-WON-GE-CHAT, his x mark, One Horn.

OH-PON-AH-TAH-E-MANNE, his x mark, The Elk that Bellows Walking.

At Fort Laramie, D.T., May 26, '68, 13 names.

HEH-HO-LAH-ZEH-CHA-SKAH, his x mark, Young White Bull.

WAH-CHAH-CHUM-KAH-COH-KEEPAH, his x mark, One that is Afraid of Shield.

HE-HON-NE-SHAKTA, his x mark, The Old Owl.

MOC-PE-A-TOH, his x mark, Blue Cloud.

OH-PONG-GE-LE-SKAH, his x mark, Spotted Elk.

TAH-TONK-KA-HON-KE-SCHUE, his x mark, Slow Bull.

SHONK-A-NEE-SHAH-SHAH-ATAH-PE, his x mark, The Dog Chief.

MA-TO-TAH-TA-TONK-KA, his x mark, Bull Bear.

WOM-BEH-LE-TON-KAH, his x mark, The Big Eagle.

MATOH, EH-SCHNE-LAH, his x mark, The Lone Bear.

MA-TOH-KE-SU-YAH, his mark, The one who remembers the Bear

MA-TOH-OH-HE-TO-KEH, his x mark, The Brave Bear.

EH-CHE-MA-KEH, his x mark, The Runner.

TI-KI-YA, his x mark, The Hard.

HE-MA-ZA, his x mark, Iron Horn.

**Attest:**

JAS. C O'CONNOR,

WM. D. BROWN,

BLACK COAL, his x mark.  
BIG WOLF, his x mark.  
~~KNOCK-KNEE, his x mark.~~  
BLACK CROW, his x mark.  
THE LONE OLD MAN, his x mark.  
PAUL, his x mark.  
BLACK BULL, his x mark.  
BIG TRACK, his x mark.  
THE FOOT, his x mark.  
BLACK WHITE, his x mark.  
YELLOW HAIR, his x mark.  
LITTLE SHIELD, his x mark.  
BLACK BEAR, his x mark.  
WOLF MOCASSIN, his x mark.  
BIG ROBE, his x mark.  
WOLF CHIEF, his x mark.

**Witnesses:**

**ROBERT P. MCKIBBIN**, *Captain 4th Infantry, and Bvt. Lieut. Col. U.S.A.,  
Commanding Fort Laramie.*  
**WM. H. POWELL**, *Brevet Major, Captain 4th Infantry.*  
**HENRY W. PATTERSON**, *Captain 4th Infantry.*  
**THEO E. TRUE**, *Second Lieutenant 4th Infantry.*  
**G. BULLOCK.**  
**CHARLES E. GUERN**, *Special Indian Interpreter for the Peace Commission.*

**FORT LARAMIE, WYOMING TERRITORY November 6, 1868.**

MAH-PI-AH-LU-TAH, his x mark, Red Cloud.  
WA-KI-AH-WE-CHA-SHAH, his x mark, Thunder Man.  
MA-ZAH-ZAH-GEH, his x mark, Iron Cane.  
WA-UMBLE-WHY-WA-KA-TUYAH, his x mark, High Eagle.  
KO-KE-PAH, his x mark, Man Afraid.  
WA-KI-AH-WA-KOU-AH, his x mark, Thunder Flying Running.

**Witnesses:**

**W. MCE. DYE**, *Brevet Colonel U.S. Army, Commanding.*  
**A. B. CAIN**, *Captain 4th Infantry, Brevet Major U.S. Army.*  
**ROBT. P. MCKIBBIN**, *Captain 4th Infantry, Bvt. Lieut. Col. U.S. Army.*  
**JNO. MILLER**, *Captain 4th Infantry.*  
**G. L. LUHN**, *First Lieutenant 4th Infantry, Bvt. Capt. U.S. Army.*

**Attest:**

Jas. C. O'Conner

Nicholas Janis, *Interpreter.*

Franc. La Frambois[e], *Interpreter.*

P. J. DeSmet, S. J., *Missionary among the Indians.*

Saml. D. Hinman, B. D., *Missionary.*

Executed on the part of the Blackfeet band of Sioux, by Chiefs and Head-Men whose names are hereto subscribed, they being thereunto duly authorized.

Can-te-pe-ta, his x mark, Fire Heart.

Wan-mdi-kte, his x mark, The One who Kills Eagle.

Sho-ta, his x mark, Smoke.

Wam-mdi-ma-ni, his x mark, Vialking Eagle.

Wa-shi-cun-va-ta-pi, his x mark Chief White Man.

Kan-gi-I-yo-tan-ke, his x mark, Sitting Crow.

Pe-ji, his x mark, The Grass.

Kda-ma-ni, his x mark, The One that Rattles as he Walks.

Wah-han-ka-sa-pa, his x mark, Black Shield.

Can-te-non-pa, his x mark, Two Hearts.

**Attest:**

Jas. C. O'Conner

Nicholas Janis, *Interpreter.*

Franc. La Framboise, *Interpreter.*

P. J. DeSmet, S. J., *Missionary among the Indians.*

Saml. D. Hinman, B. D., *Missionary.*

Executed on the part of the Cutheads band of Sioux, by Chiefs and Head-Men whose names are hereto subscribed, they being thereunto duly authorized.

To-ka-in-yan-ka, his x mark, The One who Goes Ahead Running.

Ta-tan-ka-wa-kin-yan, his x mark, Thunder Bull.

Sin-to-min-sa-pa, his x mark, All over Black.

Can-i-ca, his x mark, The One who Took T'he Stick.

Pa-tan-ka, his x mark, big Head.

**Attest:**

Jas. C. O'Conner

Nicholas Janis, *Interpreter.*

Franc. La Frambots[e], *Interpreter.*

P. J. DeSmet, S. J., *Missionary among the Indians.*

Saml. D. Hinman, B. D., *Missionary.*

Brevet Captain, *U.S. Army.*

P. J. DeSmit, S. J.

Nicholas Janis, *Interpreter.*

---

Franc. La Frambotse, *Interpreter.*

Franc. La Frarnboise, *Interpreter.*

P. J. DeSmet, S. J., *Missionary among the Indians.*

Saml. D. Hinman, B., D., *Missionary.*

Executed on the part of the Sans Arch band of 'Sioux, by Chielko and Head-Men whose names are hereto subscribed. they being thereunto duly authorized.

He-na-pin-wa-ca, his x mark, The One that has Neither Horn.

Wa-inlu-pi-lu-ta, his x mark, Red Plume.

Ci-tan-gi, his x mark, Yellow Hawk.

He-na-pin-wa-ni-ca, his x mark, No Horn.

**Attest:**

Jas. C. O'Conner

Nicholas Janis, *Interpreter.*

Franc. La Frambois[e], *Interpreter.*

P. J. DeSmet, S. J., *Missionary among the Indians.*

Saml. D. Hinman, B. D., *Missionary.*

Executed on the part of the Santee band of Sioux, by Chiefs and Head-Men whose names are hereto subscribed, they being thereunto duly authorized.

Wa-pah-shaw, his x mark, Red Ensign.

Wah-koo-tay, his x mark, Shooter.

Hoo-sha-sha, his x mark, Red Legs.

O-wan-cha-du-ta, his x mark, Scarlet all over.

Wau-mace-tan-ka, his x mark, big Eagle.

Cho-tan-ka-e-na-pe, his x mark, Flute-player.

Ta-shun-ke-mo-za, his x mark, His Iron Dog.

**Attest:**

Saml. D. Hinman, B. D., *Missionary.*

J. N. Chickling, *Second Lieutenant, Twenty-Second Infantry.*

Brevet Captain, *U.S. Army.*

P. J. DeSmit, S. J.

Nicholas Janis, *Interpreter.*

Franc. La Framboise, *Interpreter.*