

Native american reservation system essay

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In the Wabash Case of 1886 it was decided that states had no power to regulate interstate commerce. The railroad was not the only advancement made in the area of technology. Machines such as the Twine Binder and Combine allowed farmers the capability to increase the amount of crops they were producing at a faster rate (Document D). Farmers wanted to have the machinery on their farms to keep up with the competition, even though it was expensive. When farmers began to produce more goods, they were hopeful that their economic conditions would improve; however, due to overproduction, they did just the opposite. Unfortunately, farmers did not necessarily understand the concept of supply and demand. Due to an overabundance of crops being produced, the price of the crops decreased (Document A).

Farmers may have been raising big crops; however, their crops were not worth as much as they used to be (Document G). Farmers could not pay for the expensive machinery and were struggling financially due to overproduction. In 1890, around 100,000 farms went bankrupt. After going bankrupt many farmers struggled to find work (Document H). Families began suffering from starvation (Document H).

The poor economic conditions cost many farmers their land. With economic conditions being tough, people began leaning towards the gold standard as being their ticket out of the hard times (Document J). This meant less business for farmers. Farmers were outraged that farming was not being recognized as the nation's backbone, which it was. Farmers had the experience of producing masses for the nation and world, commercial

interests, and laboring interests. Farmers wanted to receive the support and recognition they had worked for.

From 1865 to 1900 the government issued policies that the farmers supported and policies that left farmers unhappy. The signing of treaties at Ft. Laramie started the Native American reservation system. This meant that land was put aside with territory boundaries for each tribe. Farmers thought it was unjust that millions of acres of arable land were being used as a camping ground for people who did not even practice American culture.

This is land that farmers could be investing in, and working on. Farmers felt that if the Indians were going to be treated poorly, they did not need as much land. They felt that giving the Native Americans more land at the expense of the homesteader was outrageous (Document I). Another government policy that affected American agriculture was the Homestead Act of 1862.

The Homestead Act provided farmers with 160 acres of land. They would have to live on it for five years while working on it and improving it. Farmers would be responsible for paying a nominal fee of thirty dollars. The Homestead Act was passed in order to encourage rapid filling of empty space and to provide stimulus for family farms. Farmers were told that all they needed to do was raise a big crop (Document G). Once again, farmers were hopeful for the nation's agricultural future; however, that hope diminished quickly.

Once farmers got their land, they realized they were victims of government corruption. The farmers experienced a severe lack of rain and harsh drought.

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Two out of three farmers gave up because they could not produce crops in the climate. Not only did farmers experience poor working conditions, but also their housing conditions were also inadequate. Farmers had to live in sod houses because there was a scarcity of trees on the plains. Many homes did not even have windows. Not only were the working and housing conditions undesirable, but also land was spread out vastly.

Working on the farm and living on the plains could be lonely due to the land separation. (Document G) At first, farmers appreciated the advances in technology, economic conditions, and policies passed by the government. These advances made their jobs easier, faster, and more profitable. Agriculture would be able to thrive in the United States. Farmers began to dislike these advancements once they began going bankrupt from overproduction and government corruption.