

ASSIMILATION

- Becoming part of a new culture.
- Some whites in the Colonies (1600s-1700s) & the early United States (late 1700s - 1830) wanted to assimilate American Indians into white (European) **social, political, & economic** practices.



PATRIARCHY



Reorganize Indian societies so that the father or oldest male is the head of the family & makes all legal decisions for women & younger males. In this system, women are excluded from roles of power they once shared with men. This is a social change for the tribes.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- Tribes have their children taken away from their family & community & sent to white boarding schools.
- Children are punished for “acting Indian” or using their own language to speak to each other.
- Tribes are pressured to wear white clothing & adopt white customs.
- This is a social change for the tribes.



RELIGION



TRIBES ARE FORCED TO GIVE UP THEIR SPIRITUAL PRACTICES & CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY. THIS IS A SOCIAL CHANGE FOR THE TRIBES.

AGRARIAN (FARMING)

- Reorganize Indian economies away from small-scale farming & hunting to large-scale agriculture & cash cropping.
- Tribal economies dependent on hunting require a lot of land to support large game (buffalo).
- White agriculture focuses on livestock & crops that compete with game for space & food.
- This is an economic change for the tribes.



PRIVATE LAND OWNERSHIP

- Whites want to take Indian land & divide into small farms that one male at the head of a family owns.
- Whites want large tracts of land to grow cash crops (tobacco & cotton).
- Reorganize the legal structure of most tribes holding land in common (whole group uses & cares for land).
- Tribal leadership speaking for the entire tribe is powerful.
- When individuals hold land instead of a tribe together, it's easier for whites to convince people in economic distress to sell their land.
- This is a political change for the tribes.



