

## Eastern Encroachment: An Indigenous Perspective of American Settler-Colonialism (1860s-1890s)

**Instructions:** Answer the following prompts (4) in your notes. Use a specific quote from the text to support your claim.

### Document 1

**Red Cloud** (Oglala Sioux)

**“Shall we permit ourselves to be driven to and fro?” (1866)**

#### Background

*Charles A. Eastman, a Sioux biographer, says, “Red Cloud’s position was uncompromising against submission,” as is evident in the following speech. When most of the Sioux had accepted the reservations, to which Red Cloud (c. 1820-1909) and his band would go shortly as well, he remarked bitterly about a fellow chief: “We are told that Spotted Tail has consented to be the Beggars’ Chief. Those Indians who go over to the white man can be nothing but beggars, for he respects only riches, and how can an Indian be a rich man? He cannot without ceasing to be an Indian. As for me, I have listened patiently to the promises of the Great Father, but his memory is short. I am now done with him. This is all I have to say.” (Eastman, 14)*

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Friends, it has been our misfortune to welcome the white man. We have been deceived. He brought with him some shining things that pleased our eyes; he brought weapons more effective than our own: above all, he brought the spirit water that makes one forget for a time old age, weakness, and sorry. But I wish to say to you that if you would possess these things for yourselves, you must begin anew and put away the wisdom of your fathers. You must lay up food, and forget the hungry. When your house is built, your storeroom filled, then look around for a neighbor whom you can take at a disadvantage, and seize all that he has! Give away only what you do not want; or rather, do not part with any of your possessions unless in exchange for another’s.

My countrymen, shall the glittering trinkets of this rich man, his deceitful drink that overcomes the mind, shall these things tempt us to give up our homes, our hunting grounds and the honorable teaching of our old men? Shall we permit ourselves to be driven to and fro—to be herded like the cattle of the white man?

**Prompt - Use a quote from the speech that helps you explain how Red Cloud is feeling about interactions with the white man.**

### Document 2

**Crazy Horse, Tashunka Witco** (Oglala Sioux)

**“We preferred our own way of living” (September 5, 1877)**

#### Background

*On his deathbed, before his father, mother, and Agent Jesse Lee, Crazy Horse (c. 1842-1877) told his story. Although a man of few words, he was “one of the bravest, gamest, most strategic Indian generals of all frontier history in America, a red man who could not and would not be reconstructed.” (Wheeler, 200)*

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I was not hostile to the white man. Sometimes my young men would attack the Indians who were their enemies and took their ponies. They did it in return. We had buffalo for food, and their hides for clothing and our tepees. We preferred hunting to a life of idleness on the reservations, where we were driven against our will. At times we did not get enough to eat, and we were not allowed to leave the reservation to hunt. We preferred our own way of living. We were no expense to the government then. All we wanted was peace and to be left alone. Soldiers were sent out in the winter, who destroyed our villages. [He referred to the winter before when his village was destroyed by Colonel Reynolds, Third Cavalry] Then “Long Hair” [Custer] came in the same way. They say we massacred him, but he would have done the same to us had we not defended ourselves and fought to the last. Our first impulse was to escape with our squaws and papooses, but we were so hemmed in that we had to fight. After that I went up to on Tongue River with a few of my people and lived in peace. But the government would not let me alone. Finally, I came back to Red Cloud agency. Yet I was not allowed to remain quiet. I was tired of fighting. I went to Spotted Tail agency and asked that chief and his agent to let me live there in peace. I came here with the agent [Lee] to talk with big white chief, but was not given a chance. They tried to confine me, I tried to escape, and a soldier ran his bayonet into me. I have spoken.

**Prompt - Use a quote from the speech that helps you explain how Crazy Horse is feeling about interactions with the white man.**

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### Document 3

**Short Bull, Tatankaptecelan** (Brule Sioux)

**“We prefer to stay here and die, if necessary, to lost of liberty” (Fall 1890)**

#### **Background**

*The Ghost Dance was a religion founded on the vision of a Nevada Paiute named Wovoka: he believed that if the participants danced hard enough and long enough, all the buffalo would come back, all the Indians’ ancestors would come to life, and all the white people would be buried. With every tribe in America devastated by war, disease, or removal, the Ghost Dance was an immediately popular activity. In the following speech, Short Bull (c. 1846-1915) resisted the entreaties of the Indians No Neck and Louis Shangraux to return to his agency on the condition of giving up the Ghost Dance.*

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I have risen today to tell you something of importance. You have heard the words of the brothers from the agency camps, and if you have done as myself you have weighed them carefully. If the Great Father would permit us to continue the dance, would give more rations, and quit taking away portions of the reservation, I would be in favor of returning. But even if you [turning to Shangraux] say that he will, how can we discern whether you are telling the truth? We have been lied to so many times that we will not believe any words that your agent sends to us. If we return he will take away our guns and ponies, put some of us in jail for stealing cattle and plundering houses. We prefer to stay here and die, if necessary, to loss of liberty. We are free now and have plenty of beef, can dance all the time in obedience to the command of Great Wakantanka. We tell you to return to your agent and say to him that the Dakotas in the Bad Lands are not going to come in.

**Prompt - Use a quote from the speech that helps you explain how Short Bull is feeling about interactions with the white man.**

### Culminating Writing

**Using at least two documents as sources, how did the Indigenous Peoples’ of the Plains resist being removed from their traditional homelands?**