

This is what was told to us during our morning talks at Re-Member:

These are the words of the four U.S. Presidents, memorialized in the Black Hills of South Dakota's Great Sioux Territory

1st President, George Washington to General John Sullivan, May 31, 1779:

The immediate objects are the total destruction & devastation of their settlements and the capture of as many prisoners of every age & sex as possible. It will be essential to ruin their crops now in the ground & prevent their planting more.

After you have very thoroughly completed the destruction of their settlements; if the Indians should show a disposition for peace, I would have you to encourage it, on condition that they will give some decisive evidence of their sincerity by delivering up some of their principal instigators of their past hostility into our hands.

But you will not by any means listen to any overture of peace before the total ruin of their settlements is effected.

Our future security will be in their inability to injure us the distance to which they are driven & in the terror with which the severity of the chastisement they receive will inspire them. When we have effectually chastised them we may then listen to peace & endeavor to draw further advantages from their hearts.

3rd President, Thomas Jefferson to Henry Dearborn, August 28, 1807:

If ever we are constrained to lift the hatchet against any tribe, we will never lay it down til that tribe is exterminated, or driven beyond the Mississippi; adjuring them therefore, if they wish to remain on the land which covers the bones on their fathers, to keep the peace with a people who ask their friendship without needing it, who wish to avoid war without fearing it.

In war they will kill some of us; we shall destroy all of them.

16th President, Abraham Lincoln:

You have asked for my advice. I really am not capable of advising you whether, in the providence of the Great Spirit, who is the great Father of us all, it is best for you to maintain the habits & customs of your race, or adopt a new mode of life.

I can only say that I can see no way in which your race is to become as numerous & prosperous as the white race except by living as they do, by the

cultivation of the earth. It is the object of this Government to be on terms of peace with you & with all our red brethren. We constantly endeavor to be so. We make treaties with you & will try to observe them; if our children should sometimes behave badly, and violate these treaties, it is against our wish.

26th President, Theodore Roosevelt-1886:

I don't go so far as to think that only good Indians are dead Indians, but I believe 9 out of 10 are, and I shouldn't like to inquire too closely into the case of the 10th.

The most vicious of the cowboy has more moral principal then the average Indian. Turn 300 low families of New York into New Jersey, support them for 50 years in vicious idleness & you will have some idea of what the Indians are. Reckless, revengeful, fiendishly cruel, they rob & murder, not the cowboys who can take care of themselves, but the defenseless lone settlers on the plains.