

## **Introductory Lecture**

The primary issue of the Indian Wars was land. The United States government made several treaties with Native American tribes to define Indian lands. However, as ever increasing numbers of Americans moved through, and sometimes settled on, Native American territory, these treaties were often ignored or broken by the government.

Native Americans fought the United States for decades. They were ultimately overwhelmed by the superior numbers and weapons technology of the United States Army. Though on several occasions Native Americans defeated American troops in individual battles. One of the most famous of those Native American victories occurred at the Battle of Little Bighorn in Montana.

On June 25, 1876 Civil War veteran George Custer attacked over 2000 Sioux and Cheyenne warriors with a few hundred men; Custer and his men were overwhelmed and everyone of them were killed.

Today we are going to look at three different documents related to the Battle of the Little Bighorn: a textbook version of the battle; a letter to the President from the Secretary of War a month after the battle; and the recollections of a Native American woman about the battle from 1922.

Our job is to analyze these sources and draw evidence from them in order to answer the question:

***Who was responsible for the Battle of the Little Bighorn?***