

industries grew. In late 1867, the Patrons of Husbandry, also known as the Grange, was formed to press the case for the farmers. The Grange complained about the high mortgages the farmers owed, the prices they paid to middlemen such as the operators of grain elevators, and the economic discrimination they faced in the form of higher charges at the hands of railroads in moving their goods to market. These grievances contributed to the turbulence of politics in the 1880s and 1890s.

To balance the power of the railroads, some states created railroad commissions. In Illinois, a new constitution in 1870 instructed the legislature to pass laws establishing maximum rates for the movement of passengers and freight. The legislature set up the Illinois Railroad Commission with wide powers. Neighboring states such as Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin followed the Illinois example during the next several years. Railroad companies challenged some of these laws in court, and a case testing the constitutionality of the Illinois statute worked its way toward the U.S. Supreme Court as *Munn v. Illinois*. The justices handed down their decision in 1877, as the railroad industry faced a nationwide strike.

213P/L  
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414

### INDIAN POLICIES

The opening of the West to railroads and the spread of farmers onto the Great Plains meant that Native Americans had to resist an encroaching white presence as had happened in the 1830s and 1850s. What had once been called "The Great American Desert" now beckoned as the home for countless farmers. The tribes that were living in the West and the Native Americans who had been displaced there in the 1830s and 1840s found their hunting grounds and tribal domains under siege.

1860st  
-RR  
-FARMERS  
Like Past  
1830s-1850

**The Peace Policy** Treatment of Native Americans after the Civil War mixed benevolence and cruelty. Grant brought more insight and respect to the issue of Native Americans than most previous presidents. His administration pursued what became known as the "peace policy." While a majority of western settlers advocated the removal or outright extermination of the Indian tribes, Grant's conciliatory approach won applause in the East.

MAJORITY West wants  
- remove  
- exterminate  
EAST WANTS

The policy issues took shape in the years before Grant became president. Advocates of the Indians contended that the hostile tribes should be located in Dakota Territory and the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). The government would stop treating the entire West as a giant Indian reservation. Instead, specific areas would be set aside for the Native Americans. On these "reservations," the inhabitants would learn the cultural values of white society, be taught to grow crops, and be paid a small income until they could support themselves.

Grant took up the ideas of the Indian reformers. He appointed Ely Parker, a Seneca, as commissioner of Indian affairs. Congress appropriated \$2 million for Indian problems and set up the Board of Indian Commissioners to distribute the funds. Indian agents would be chosen from nominees that Christian churches provided. The peace policy blended kindness and force. If the Indians accepted the presence of church officials on the reservations, the government would leave them alone. Resistance, however, would bring the army to see that Indians stayed on the reservations. To whites, the peace policy was humane. For Native Americans, it was another in the long series of white efforts to undermine their way of life.

REFORM?  
\$2m  
Agents - Christian  
INDIANS  
- if accept OK  
- if resist

Peace policy  
- to whites "humane"  
- to N.A way to "undermine"