

falttered as corruption and politics replaced the original desire to treat the Indians in a more humane manner. The tribes that continued to hunt and pursue their nomadic culture found unhappy whites and a hostile military in their way. The Red River War, led by Cheyenne, Kiowas, and Comanches, erupted on the southern Plain, and Indian resistance ultimately collapsed when food and supplies ran out.

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills of Dakota brought white settlers into an area where the Sioux had dominated. The Indians refused to leave, and the government sent troops to protect the gold seekers. The Indian leaders, **Crazy Horse** and **Sitting Bull**, rallied their followers to stop the army. Near what the Indians called the Greasy Grass (whites called it the Little Bighorn), Colonel **George Armstrong Custer** led a force of six hundred men in 1876. With a third of his detachment, he attacked more than two thousand Sioux warriors. Custer and his soldiers perished. The whites called it "Custer's Last Stand." The Indian victory, shocking to whites, was only a temporary success, however. The army pursued the Indians during the ensuing months. By the end of the Grant administration, the Sioux had been conquered. Only in the Southwest did the Apaches successfully resist the power of the military. Native Americans now faced cruelty, exploitation, and oppression that extended through the rest of the nineteenth century and beyond 1900. In the face of these relentless pressures from white society, Indians struggled just to survive.

WOMEN IN THE 1870s

White women during this time did not have anything that approached social or political equality with men. Amid the male-dominated public life, women struggled for some political rights, a foothold in the new industrial economy, and a way to make their voices heard about social issues. But they faced significant barriers to any kind of meaningful participation in public affairs, a condition that continued into the early twentieth century.

The debates over the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment underscored this problem. Women had hoped that they might share in the expansion of political rights. In fact, several major advocates of woman **suffrage**, including **Susan B. Anthony**, opposed the amendment because it left women out. In Anthony's mind, black and Asian men should be barred from voting unless women had the right of suffrage as well. That put her at odds with champions of black suffrage such as Frederick Douglass.

At a meeting of the Equal Rights Association in May 1869, such differences about how to achieve suffrage produced an open break. Two distinct groups of suffragists emerged. The National Woman Suffrage Association reflected the views of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton that the Fifteenth Amendment should be shunned until women were included. The American Woman Suffrage Association, led by Lucy Stone and Alice Stone Blackwell, endorsed the amendment and focused its work on gaining suffrage in the states. Amid this dissension, the new territory of Wyoming granted women the right of suffrage in 1869. The Wyoming legislature wanted Americans to notice their underpopulated territory, and woman suffrage was a means to that end. Nonetheless, their action represented a small step forward while the major suffrage groups feuded. A united front among suffrage advocates probably would not have made a great deal of difference in the 1870s, but the lack of cohesion was a weakness in this cause.

Future

Red River War

Black Hills Custer

"Temp-Success" Apaches

Beyond 1900