

The Cherokees actually had renounced their ties with the Confederacy in 1863. John Ross was previously "captured" at his home near Park Hill during 1862. He and his family were transported through Kansas to Washington, thence to a house in Philadelphia, where they spent the rest of the war. Ross was paroled and treated as the Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Reportedly he met with President Lincoln and received some assurance that the Cherokee signing of a Confederate treaty would be disregarded when the war was over.

Unfortunately for many, including the Cherokee Nation and John Ross, Lincoln did not survive. The Cherokees, and all other Nations and Tribes of the Indian Territory were given no quarter. President Johnson, the only "Southern" Senator to stand with the Union, attempted to carry out Lincoln's post-war plans, including the promises to the Cherokees was defeated by Acts of the Congress.

The U.S central government was ready for the Indians, their participation in the war, on the Confederate side, gave a legitimacy to their suppression. Once again, although they were combatants, they were not treated as the other combatants were, their treatment was segregated and unique. The political aims of the central government, which had become more powerful through the war experience, were carefully planned to bring the Indian problem to an end.

Treaties were signed with the various tribes in July 1866. The treaty was not "just" a commemoration of the end of the war. It was a well planned attack on the sovereignty of the Indian Nations. Indian Nation citizenship was granted to former slaves held by the Indians as well as to "freedmen" who had escaped from their owners and resided in the Indian Territory; land was reassigned disregarding previous treaty language; the members of the tribes were not granted U. S. citizenship, but citizenship in the Tribe or Nation was as recognized by the United States; grants of right-of-way to be determined by the Congress were made for north-south and east-west routes for railroads; U.S. Courts were designated for the Indian Territory; land grants were also given to any and all religious groups intending to perform missionary or educational endeavors. The United States retained the right to settle any civilized Indians within the land boundaries assigned by the treaty to the five tribes; such arrangements, depending on whether the newcomers desired tribal membership, or not, were detailed. "Neutral" lands which had previously been sold to the Cherokees, were to be managed and sold by the Secretary of the Interior; and the lands previously ceded to the Cherokees by the 1835 Treaty, the "Cherokee Strip" were to be assigned to the State of Kansas. These two parcels of land were to be appraised at not less than \$1.25 per acre. Settlers who were already on the land (illegally) were thereby given the right to buy 160 acres at \$1.25 per acre. The later enacted allotment of land policy was authorized by the Treaty.