

Part of the mission of the Dawes Commission was to enroll all tribal members in order that Tribal lands could then be allotted in severalty to the individual tribal members, and the tribal governments disbanded. There was delay until the Curtis Act was passed in 1902 which forced the hand of the Indian Nations. Charles Curtis, then a Congressman, later a Senator and then Vice-President under Herbert Hoover, said to be one-quarter Indian, was probably of Shawnee heritage as he came from Shawnee County, Kansas. There is no written information as to why he would seek to have promoted the legislation which so severely affected the Oklahoma Indian Nations.

In regard to the Dawes Act enrollments, the Cherokee Nation is used as an illustration:

Approximately 50,000 applications for enrollment, received by the end of 1902. The applications represented Cherokees, former Delaware and Shawnee members who had been granted Cherokee citizenship by treaty, the former black slaves and freedmen residing in the Cherokee country. Some estimates are that in excess of 300,000 applications were received of what had been expected to be a 100,000 population. After an adjudication, the final tally for the 1907 enrollment was:

8,703	full-bloods
27,916	mixed bloods
286	whites
4,919	Black freedmen and ex-slaves

The "Oklahoma Territory" had been designated as such as of 1890 by the United States government. It consisted of lands that had been acquired by the government through treaties with the Creeks and Seminoles. Six of Oklahomas modern-day counties comprise the area so designated, and one addition was made of a county from the Oklahoma Panhandle. There are general erroneous conclusions by the uninformed who are not aware that the three former Cherokee holdings: The Cherokee Strip, The Cherokee Outlet, and the Cherokee Neutral Lands were part of the Oklahoma Territory.

In 1905 the Indians of the various nations that comprised the Indian Territory, met in convention and agreed to the formation of a state, of the United States, that would be known as the "State of Sequoyah". This action was in accord with the laws of the United States, taking land through an political development from a "territory" to a "state". It was also the answer that the white man had seemingly been looking for since Columbus: the fact of an Indian State - a conversion to the white man's civilization! The concept of such a state, and a constitution for the state, were voted and approved in a general election among the members of all the tribes concerned.

The United States Government refused recognition to the new "State of Sequoyah".