

plus lands to white settlement. An agreement was finally reached and the reservation was dissolved in 1891. Approximately three and three-fourths million acres were opened to white settlement. All Cheyenne and Arapaho received individual allotments of 166 acres each, to be held in trust for a period of twenty-five years. Altogether there were 523,739 acres allotted to individual Indians. About 10,000 acres were retained in tribal ownership.

The object of federal Indian policy for many years was to help the Indians achieve economic self-sufficiency through teaching farming and other skills. It was anticipated that the Indian cultures would die out and that Indians, as individuals, would eventually become assimilated into the general population. Education for Indian children was designed with this assumption in mind.

Eventually many Cheyenne did adopt the practice of planting vegetable gardens in which they raised produce for their own use. They also raised poultry, hogs, horses, and cattle. They learned to live in houses, rather than tipis or tents. By World War I the style of living of most Cheyenne was outwardly similar to that of their rural white neighbors.

However few Cheyenne ever farmed on a scale large enough to support themselves and their families by this activity. Income from farming was invariably supplemented by other sources such as the sale of surplus lands and lease rentals from land the Indians could not use. Eventually lease rents from agricultural and grass lands came to constitute the main source of income for most Cheyenne. A few individuals later derived comfortable incomes from oil and gas leases made on their lands. Gradually, as original allottees died, the system of inheritance resulted in fractionation of large holdings. The land was not divided physically, but all the heirs of a deceased owner shared in the income derived from leases on the land.