

7.5 Treaty Timeline with the Dakota in Mni Sóta Maŋoce

1805 U.S. government made an agreement to buy land where the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers meet to build a fort and trading post (what is now Fort Snelling). However, this treaty was never ratified, or made official, by the U.S. Senate.

1825 This treaty made boundaries permanent that were previously more fluid when tribes interacted with each other around land and territory. The U. S. government signed this treaty with the Dakota, the Ojibwe, and other tribes to set boundaries among the tribes. The U.S. said they wanted to establish these boundaries so the tribes would not fight each other. But as with all treaties, the U.S. gained an advantage and used the new boundaries to get land from the tribes specified in the treaty. So even though, in this treaty, the Dakota people did not sign away land, they lost land because this treaty assigned previously held Dakota lands to other tribes.

1830 A treaty called the "Half Breed Tract" that set aside land along the Mississippi River for mixed blood Dakota people.

1837 The Dakota and Ojibwe both signed treaties with the U.S. government this year that ended up ceding, or giving away, their rights to big areas of their land. The U.S. government promised to pay the Dakota lots of money when the treaty was signed and into the future, but as with many treaties, the money ended up in the pockets of the American and European fur traders who said they were owed money from the Indians.

1851 In these two important treaties, the Dakota lost most of their land to the U.S. government, keeping a small strip of land on either side of the Minnesota River, about 20 miles wide. In return the Dakota were promised almost \$4million. However, very little of that money was ever paid to the Dakota.

1858 Shortly after Minnesota became a state, under significant pressure, the Dakota people signed a treaty that ceded part of their small reservation to the U.S. government. They now had a 10 mile-wide strip of land along the southern side of the Minnesota River to call home. Even within this small piece of land, settlers moved in to claim part of it for themselves.

1862 In summer of 1862, crops fail and annuity payments owed to Dakota are late and Dakota people are starving. Fighting breaks out between the Dakota and white settlers (The U.S.-Dakota War of 1862), and the U.S. government declares that all the treaties they had signed with the Dakota are no longer valid. The Dakota are driven out of Minnesota and forced to live in Nebraska, Canada, and further west in what is now North and South Dakota.