

# Pawnee Treaties of 1833 and 1857

## Why Do Some Treaties Fail?



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The Pawnee were struck by numerous epidemics in the nineteenth century. In 1831 a devastating smallpox epidemic swept across the northern plains. The Pawnee suffered enormous loss. The epidemic reduced the Pawnee population almost by half and made the Pawnee vulnerable to attacks from neighboring tribes and encroachment from settlers pushing west.