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“The Government proposed that each...tribe at this council lay aside their weapons and discontinue their warfare against each other. It was made known to us at this Fort Laramie Treaty that these lands belong to the three tribes.”

—Red Bear (Arikara)

Indian Court of Claims 1930. The Indians of the Fort Berthold Reservation in the State of North Dakota, comprising the tribes known as the Arickarees, the Gros Ventres, and the Mandans, and the Individual Members Thereof v. the United States, No. B-449

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Pressures on Native Nations had been building throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. At the time of the Horse Creek Treaty, the U. S. government was advocating for settlement of the West, a policy that directly threatened Native Nations' sovereignty and ways of living. Native leaders had to make difficult decisions in order to ensure peace and security for their people.