

Name: Klasse:

USA – Indian Reservations – Solution



“Since the first settlers came to the U.S., the American Indians were pushed out of their territory, first to regions west of the Mississippi. It was President Jefferson’s idea to resettle the Native Americans in the uninhabited west of the continent. ... The majority of the eastern American Indians moved without resistance. ... After 1870 the progressing expansion of the white settlements in the West began to close in onto formally isolated Indian Territories. ... In 1889 white settlements were allowed in parts of the territories, leading to a massive increase in settlers seizing the Indian land.”

Burkhard Hofmeister: Nordamerika. Fischer, Frankfurt, 1970, p. 67 ff.

1. Assess the settlement policy in 19th century in regards to the North American Indians. Use an atlas to take the natural conditions of the reservations into account.

For example: The settlement policy contradicts any contemporary international law notions. The resettlement and limitation of space to live of the North American aborigines was extremely discriminatory and has violated numerous human rights. The displacement into the dry and arid western part of the continent, where agriculture is mostly impossible, deprived them of their livelihood.

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Trailer in a reservation



Sioux selling his self-made jewellery

2. Summarize briefly how the Sioux in the film “USA: From the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean” looks at life on the reservation.

The man is frustrated about the lack of regular work and steady jobs. He has to find his own way to make ends meet and can only survive, because he can sell his self-made jewellery to tourists. He makes the best of a bad situation.

Native Americans Today

During the 20th century the number of Native Americans in the USA has increased significantly. ... About one third of the Indian tribes live on reservations, about half in cities, which are usually close to reservations. The more than 250 reservations cover about 23 million acres of land.

The indigenous people living on reservations receive **governmental support** to some extent. Nonetheless many live in poverty. There are hardly any job opportunities in reservations. Alcoholism is not uncommon. Despite the bleak situation, many North American Natives support the life in the reservations. They see it as the only chance to preserve the remainders of their culture or even revive it.

(As per: www.wissen.de/thema/indianer-nordamerika-indianerreservate?chunk=heutige-situation-der-indianer)