

In 1883 Congress authorized the establishment of an organization that became know as the Dawes Commission. The hope was that the commission could persuade the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes to negotiate themselves out of existence — an essential first step in implementing a policy of allotting land to each individual Indian. Allotment was supposed to promote assimilation into the dominant culture, clear the way for converting Indian Territory into a state, and satisfy powerful groups seeking opportunities for economic development and profit. However, when the tribal governments refused to cooperate in their own demise. Congress used its legislative power to abolish them and gave the Dawes Commission the almost impossible task of determining who was entitled to a share of land. Many full-bloods did not want an allotment of land and returned their Certificate of Allotment to the Dawes Commission with the annotation, "I don't want these certificates. If I want them at all I will come myself and get them".

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## 451 - " NO ALLOTMENT FOR AGGIE "