

**The General Allotment Act**  
**(Also known as the Dawes Act)**  
**A Law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1887**

This is a law to end the independence of Indian tribes and make them part of the United States laws. And to divide Indian reservation lands into separate pieces for individual Indians. And for other purposes.

Indian reservations that are determined to be good for farming or raising livestock shall no longer to owned by the tribes that lives on them. Instead, the reservation land is to be divided up and each family in the tribe is to be given 160 acres.

After the tribe members have received their land pieces, there may be extra land leftover on the reservations. This leftover land may be sold to non-Indians.

Once the Indians receive their land pieces, they become United States citizens.

February 8, 1887

**United States Statutes at Large, XXIV, 388–91**

**(Note to the reader: This is a shortened version of the original document. It has also been re-written in words that are easier to understand than the original ones.)**