

READ THE SUMMARY SECTION AT
[HTTP://UPSTANDERPROJECT.ORG/FIRSTLIGHT/PRATT](http://upstanderproject.org/firstlight/pratt) AND
THEN CONTINUE BELOW

COMPELLING QUESTION

In what ways did Pratt represent progressive thinking for his time?

Excerpt from “The Advantage of Mingling Indians with Whites,” a speech presented by Colonel Richard H. Pratt at a conference in 1892, pp. 33, 35, 39-40 of the pagination in the electronic document.

“The contact of peoples is the best of all education.”

Washington believed that commerce freely entered into between us and the Indians would bring about their civilization, and ... he was right. He was followed by Jefferson, who inaugurated the reservation plan. [His] reservation was to be the country west of the Mississippi.... Any method of securing removal—persuasion, purchase, or force—was authorized....

Washington’s policy was one of association, equality, amalgamation, —killing the Indian and saving the man. Jefferson’s plan was segregation, degradation, destruction. Washington’s plan meant health self-help, economy, hope, increase in every way. Jefferson’s plan meant and has proven destructive to the Indians, vastly expensive, hopeless, and productive of inertia, disease, and death.

The Indians under our care remained savage, because forced back upon themselves and away from association with English-speaking and civilized people, and because of our savage example and treatment of them.

We think the Indian’s habit of scalping his enemy sure evidence of his inhumanity. But in an early day the Governor of Pennsylvania, by proclamation, offered bounties for the scalps of Indians... Virginia in 1755 enacted a law giving ten pounds out of the public money to any person or parties... for every male Indian above the age of twelve years taken prisoner, killed, or destroyed....

In 1708 Carolina gave a gun to every Indian who would kill another Indian.

Discussion questions

- In what historic moment and place did he present the paper?

- Summarize the main points of his argument. Why does he feel it is necessary and right to establish Indian schools to assimilate Native children? In what ways does his argument seem logical or illogical to you? In what ways does it seem morally sound or unsound?