Clifford Duncan, a Ute Elder (Changed for easier reading)

The arrival of the first Mormons in the Salt Lake valley did not bother the Utes too much because the valley was considered neutral territory or a buffer zone between the Utes to the south, the Goshutes to the west, and the Shoshoni to the north. Indeed, the Utes thought that the Mormons created a chance for them to trade for European goods. Many Utes thought the Utah Lake Valley, just south, to be their homeland, however. This valley provided all the natural things needed for survival, such as roots, seeds, berries, and a lake with many fish. The nearby mountains provided deer, elk, and other game. There was also plenty of lush grassland to feed their prized ponies.

When the Mormons soon expanded into Utah Lake Valley, the Utes viewed it as an invasion into their homeland and Ute-Mormon troubles began. The Mormons took Ute land as they wanted, without thinking about the Utes' rights…. And unlike the Native American way of seeking a balance and not depleting natural resources, they cut too much timber and overhunted game in the mountains. In 1849 the Mormons built a fort at present day Provo. The site of the fort was an area which had been used by the Ute people for centuries as a major campsite. The fort was on the path of several hunting trails. By 1850, Ute people had killed and stolen several cattle and horses from the fort's occupants. On 8 February 1850 fighting started and a number of Utes were killed. For the next several months fighting continued. Indians raided settlements for cattle and horses. Militias were sent against them, and many Indians were killed.

***SOURCE**: Part of a book chapter entitled "The Northern Utes of Utah," written by Clifford Duncan, a Northern Ute elder, and published in 2003 in the book, A History of Utah's American Indians edited by Forrest Cuch, a member of the Ute nation.*

Document 1: A Ute Account (Original Source)

The initial arrival of the Mormons in the Salt Lake valley did not bother the Utes too much because the valley was considered neutral territory or a buffer zone between the Utes to the south, the Goshutes to the west, and the Shoshoni to the north. Indeed, the Utes perceived that the Mormon presence created an opportunity for them to trade for European goods. Many Utes considered the Utah Lake Valley, just south, to be their homeland, however. This valley provided all the natural necessities needed for survival, such as roots, seeds, berries, and a lake teeming with fish. The nearby mountains provided deer, elk, and other game. There was also plenty of lush grassland to feed their prized ponies. When the Mormons soon expanded into Utah Lake Valley, the Utes viewed it as an invasion into their homeland and Ute-Mormon troubles began. The Mormons took Ute land as it suited them, without regard to, or any consideration of, Utes'

rights…. Also, in contrast to the Native American way of seeking a balance and not depleting natural resources, they cut timber excessively and overhunted game in the mountains. In 1849 a fort was established at present day Provo. The site of the fort was an area which had been used by the Ute people for centuries as a major campsite. The fort laid directly on the path of several hunting trails. By 1850, Ute people had killed and stolen several cattle and horses from the fort's occupants. On 8 February 1850 fighting erupted and a number of Utes were killed. For the next several months hostilities continued. Indians raided settlements for cattle and horses. Militias were sent against them, and many Indians were killed.

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