The Beginning
was to replace what the federal government viewed as an
imprecise, burdensome, and inefficient system
designed for assimilation—to remake traditional cultures
and promote Indian industries. The federal government
was expected to improve the economic condition of
Indian communities by providing education, health care,
and economic development opportunities. The federal
government also recognized the need to preserve
Indian culture and traditions, focusing on
reservations and cultural assimilation programs.

The traditional system of governance in Indian
communities was based on the tribal council system,
where leaders were elected and responsible for
community affairs. The federal government viewed
these systems as outdated and inefficient, leading to
the introduction of the Dawes Act in 1887, which
abolished tribal lands and redistributed them to
individual Indian owners.

Despite these efforts, Indian communities continued
to struggle with issues of self-governance and
economic sustainability. The federal government
initiatives often conflicted with local traditions and
cultures, leading to ongoing challenges and
difficulties in achieving lasting change.

In the context of the traditional system,
Indian communities were expected to
assimilate into mainstream American
culture, adopting Western values and
technologies. This approach was
considered ineffective by many, as
Indian communities persisted in
maintaining their unique cultural
identities and traditions.

Despite these challenges, Indian
communities persevered, adapting to
the new realities while preserving
their cultural heritage. The federal
government's policies and initiatives
continue to shape the landscape of
Indian reservations and communities,
reflecting ongoing efforts to
balance cultural preservation and
development.
of such matters be considered as findings within the
meaning of this Act, nor shall the Child, issue other
than in Indiana, sell goods or be in Indiana within
the meaning of this Act.

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are good indicators and economic development are not good
projects that are decades in the planning phase. Polit-
ical relationships can make it difficult for economic development
projects to proceed. Additionally, certain resource development
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