

The American Pageant
Seventeenth edition



CHAPTER 25
The Conquest
of the West
1865–1896

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The Closing of the Western Frontier

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Merrol Hyde Magnet School

Essential Questions

1. What national issues emerged in the process of closing the western frontier?
2. Why does the West hold such an important place in the American imagination?
3. In what ways is the West romanticized in American culture?



the
plains
indians

25-1 INDIANS AND WHITES ON THE PLAINS
(SLIDE 1 OF 5)

- Clash between Indians and advancing white pioneers:
 - Migration and conflict:
 - Comanches drove Apaches off central plains into upper Rio Grande valley in eighteenth century
 - Harried by Mandans and Chippewas, the Cheyenne had abandoned villages along Mississippi and Missouri Rivers a century before the Civil War
 - The Sioux, displaced from Great Lakes woodlands in the eighteenth century emerged onto the plains to prey upon Crows, Kiowas, and Pawnees



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25-1 INDIANS AND WHITES ON THE PLAINS
(SLIDE 2 OF 5)

- White soldiers and settlers on the plains:
 - Accelerated fateful cycle of fierce enmities among Indians
 - Ultimately undermined foundations of Native American culture
 - Spread cholera, typhoid, and smallpox among native peoples of the plains, with devastating results
 - Put pressure on steadily shrinking bison population by hunting and by grazing their livestock on prairie grasses



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INDIAN CONFLICTS

❖ Differences in land ownership

❖ Railroad

❖ Settlers trespassing on Indian Land

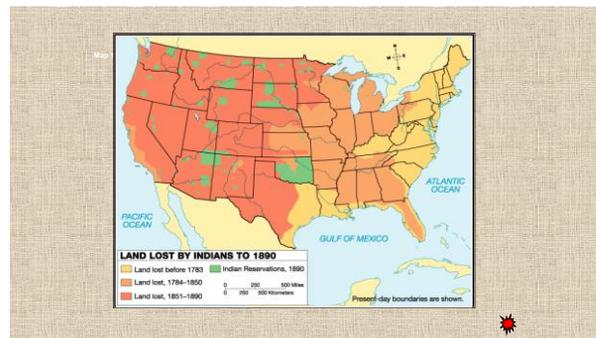
❖ Discovery of gold

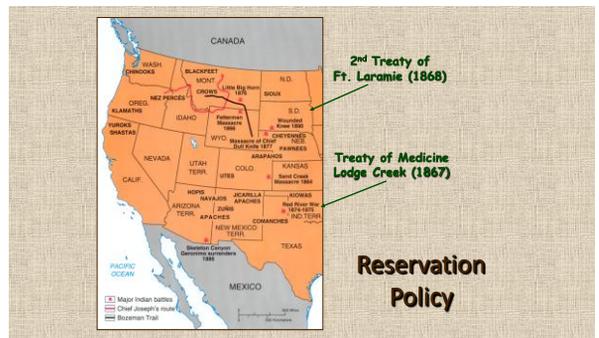
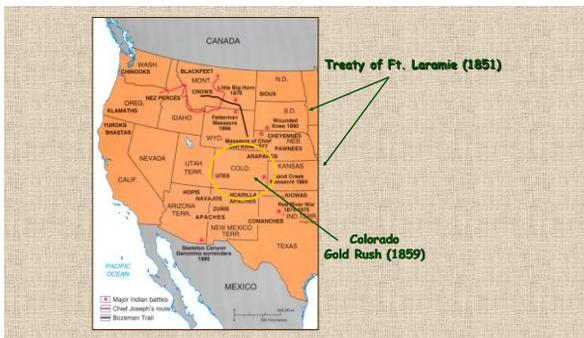
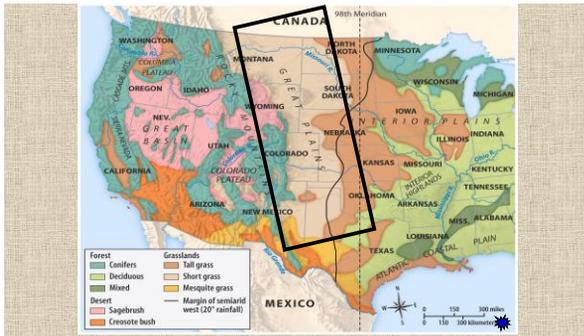
❖ Slaughter of the buffalo

❖ Broken treaties

U.S. INDIAN POLICY

- ❖ Negotiate treaties to sell land to US
- ❖ Americanization or assimilation
 - ❖ Adopt Christianity
 - ❖ White education
 - ❖ Individual land ownership
 - ❖ Adopt agriculture
- ❖ Take away food source to force to Reservations = tracks of land





Gold Found in the Black Hills of the Dakota Territory!

1874



U.S. Indian Policy



p580

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25-1 INDIANS AND WHITES ON THE PLAINS (SLIDE 3 OF 5)

- Federal government:
 - Tried to pacify Plains Indians by signing treaties with "chiefs" of various "tribes" at Fort Laramie (1851) and at Fort Atkinson (1853)
 - Treaties marked beginnings of **reservation system** in the West:
 - Established boundaries for territory of each tribe
 - Attempted to separate Indians into great "colonies" to north and south of a corridor of intended white settlement
 - White treatymakers:
 - Misunderstood both Indian government and Indian society

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Indian Reservations Today



25-1 INDIANS AND WHITES ON THE PLAINS (SLIDE 4 OF 5)

- "Tribes" and "chiefs" often fictions of white imagination
- Many Native Americans recognized only authority of their immediate families or a band elder
- Nomadic culture of Plains Indians utterly alien to concept of living out one's life in confinement of a defined territory
- In 1860s federal government intensified policy and herded Indians into still-smaller confines:
 - Principally "Great Sioux reservation" in Dakota Territory and Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma)

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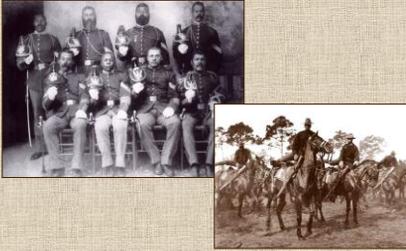
25-1 INDIANS AND WHITES ON THE PLAINS (SLIDE 5 OF 5)

- Indians surrendered ancestral lands:
 - When they received solemn promises from Washington:
 - They would be left alone
 - They would be provided food, clothing, and other supplies
 - Regretfully, federal Indian agents often very corrupt
- For more than a decade after the Civil War:
 - Fierce warfare between Indians and U.S. Army raged in various part of West
Many Army troops were immigrants
 - Fully 1/5 of all U.S. Army personnel were African American—dubbed "Buffalo Soldiers" by Indians

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The Buffalo Soldiers on the Great Plains



A Romantic View



The Buffalo Soldiers & the Indian Wars



Map 25-1 p581

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25-2 THE INDIANS FIGHT BACK (SLIDE 1 OF 6)

- Indian wars in West often savage clashes:
 - At Sand Creek, Colorado (1864), Colonel J.M. Chivington's militia massacred 400 Indians
 - Women shot praying for mercy
 - Children had brains dashed out
 - Braves tortured, scalped, and mutilated
- Cruelty begot cruelty
 - "Fetterman's annihilation" in 1866 was violent slaughter of 81 whites by Sioux

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Colonel John Chivington



Kill and scalp all, big and little!

**Sandy Creek, CO
Massacre**

November 29, 1864

Capt. William J. Fetterman



80 soldiers massacred
December 21, 1866

25-2 THE INDIANS FIGHT BACK (SLIDE 2 OF 6)

- Fetterman massacre led to one of the few (though short-lived) Indian triumphs in plains wars:
 - **Battle of the Little Bighorn**
- Treaty of Fort Laramie (1868):
 - Government abandoned Bozeman Trail
 - "Great Sioux reservation" guaranteed to Sioux Tribes
- 1874 another round of warfare with Plains Indians:
 - Custer led "scientific" expedition into Black Hills, South Dakota and announced he found gold
 - Hordes of greedy gold-seekers swarmed into Sioux lands
 - Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians took to warpath, inspired by Sitting Bull



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Little Big Horn River, Montana - 1876



- **George Armstrong Custer** was sent to force the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho back to their reservations.
- He was in command of the 7th Cavalry.
- June 26, 1876

The Battle of Little Big Horn 1876



- ❖ He was heavily outnumbered and trapped.
- ❖ Custer & all 220 of his men died.
- ❖ "**Custer's Last Stand**" outraged Americans and led to govt. retribution.
- ❖ The Sioux and Cheyenne were crushed within a year.

LITTLE BIGHORN





THE MEMORIAL
 The remains of about 220 soldiers, scouts, and civilians are buried around the base of this memorial.
 The white marble headstones scattered over the battlefield denote where the slain troopers were found and originally buried. In 1881 they were reinterred in a single grave on this site.
 The officers' remains were removed in 1877 to various cemeteries throughout the country. General Custer was buried at West Point.



25-2 THE INDIANS FIGHT BACK (SLIDE 3 OF 6)

- General Custer's seventh Cavalry
 - Set out to suppress Indians and return them to reservation
 - Attacked **2,500 well-armed warriors** along Little Bighorn River in present-day Montana
 - "White Chief with Yellow Hair" and his **250 officers and men completely wiped out in 1876**
 - Indians' victory short-lived
 - Army hunted down Indians who had humiliated Custer

25-2 THE INDIANS FIGHT BACK (SLIDE 4 OF 6)

- In 1877 a band of **Nez Perce Indians** in northeastern Oregon goaded into flight
 - When U.S. authorities tried to herd them onto a reservation
 - Chief Joseph surrendered with his 700 Indians after a tortuous, 1,700 mile three month trek across Continental Divide toward Canada
 - Nez sent to dusty reservation in Kansas, where 40% died from disease
 - Survivors eventually allowed to return to Idaho
- Fierce Apache tribes of Arizona and New Mexico led by Geronimo most difficult to subdue:
 - Pursued into Mexico by U.S. troops

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce



Nez Perce tribal retreat (1877)



- Refused to recognize the authority of a 2nd treaty with the US Government reducing his tribal land.
- Refusing to go to the reservation, he led his tribe on a 1,400 march trying to get to Canada. Trying to meet up with [Sitting Bull](#).
- Eventually surrendered.
- In 3 months, the band of about 700, 200 of whom were warriors, fought 2,000 U.S. soldiers in 4 major battles and skirmishes

CHIEF JOSEPH

I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. Looking Glass is dead. It is cold, and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them, have run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food. No one knows where they are -- perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children, and see how many of them I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. *Hear me, my chiefs! I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever.*

"the Indians throughout displayed a courage and skill that elicited universal praise... [they] fought with almost scientific skill, using advance and rear guards, skirmish lines, and field fortifications."

General William Tecumseh Sherman

25-2 THE INDIANS FIGHT BACK (SLIDE 5 OF 6)

- Federal troops used sunflashing heliography, a communication device that impressed Indians as "big medicine"
- Scattered remnants of warriors finally persuaded to surrender after Apache women exiled to Florida
- Apaches ultimately became successful farmers in Oklahoma
- Relentless fire-and-sword policy of whites at last shattered spirit of Indians:
 - Vanquished Indians ghettoized on reservations
 - Compelled to sullen existence as wards of government



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25-2 THE INDIANS FIGHT BACK (SLIDE 6 OF 6)

- "Taming" of Indians engineered by:
 - Federal government's willingness to back its land claims with military force
 - Railroad, which shot an iron arrow through heart of West
 - Locomotives could transport unlimited numbers of troops, farmers, cattlemen, sheepherders, and settlers
 - Indians ravaged by white people's disease, to which they had little resistance, and by firewater, which they could resist even less
 - Virtual extermination of buffalo doomed Plains Indians' nomadic way of life



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25-3 BELLOWING HERDS OF BISON
(SLIDE 1 OF 3)

- **Buffalo:**
 - Tens of millions—described as “hunchback cows”—blackened western prairies, when white Americans first arrived:
 - Shaggy animals staff of life for Native Americans:
 - Their flesh provided food
 - Their hides provided clothes, lariats, and harnesses
 - Their dried dung provided “buffalo chips”
 - When Civil War ended, 15 million of these meaty beasts still grazed on western plains



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Importance of the Buffalo

1800 65,000,000

1870 1,000

2000 200,000

•1871 to 1875, the US supported the extermination of 11 million buffalo.

US INDIAN POLICY

•Take away the food source from the Native American and they will be forced to submit and go to the reservations.

End of the Buffalo

- In an attempt to force the **Plains** Indians to become “more American”, the government sponsored the **slaughter** of the **buffalo**, which the Plains Indians depended on.

Examples:

- Buffalo population in 1860: approximately **13 million**
- Buffalo population in 1900: approximately **400**

Buffalo skulls, mid-1870s, waiting to be ground into fertilizer.

Slaughtered buffalo, 1872

Hide yard with 40,000 buffalo hides
Dodge City, Kansas, 1878



p584
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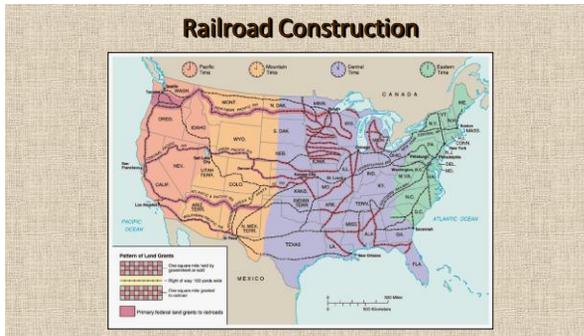
25-3 BELLOWING HERDS OF BISON
(SLIDE 2 OF 3)

- Effect of railroads:
 - Had sometimes to wait up to eight hours for herd of buffalo to cross tracks
 - Much of food supply for railroad construction gangs came from buffalo steaks
 - William "Buffalo Bill" Cody killed over 4,000 animals in 18 months while employed by Kansas Pacific
- With the building of the railroad:
 - The massacre of herds began in earnest
 - Creatures slain for hides, tongues, or amusement
 - "Sportsmen" on trains leaned out windows and blazed away at animals



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the Railroad builders



"The Big Four" Railroad Magnates



Charles Crocker



Collis Huntington



Mark Hopkins



Leland Stanford



1st TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD



• May 10, 1869 at Promontory, Utah
• "The Wedding of the Rails"
• Central Pacific and Union Pacific



**Promontory Point, UT
(May 10, 1869)**



**25-3 BELLOWING HERDS OF BISON
(SLIDE 3 OF 3)**

- Wholesale butchery left fewer than a thousand buffalo alive by 1885
- Once-numerous beasts in danger of complete extinction
- Shocking example of greed and waste that accompanied conquest of continent



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**25-4 "KILL THE INDIAN AND SAVE THE MAN"
(SLIDE 1 OF 7)**

- By 1880s, national conscience began to stir uneasily over plight of Indians:
 - Helen Hunt Jackson:
 - Pricked moral sense of Americans in 1881 with *A Century of Dishonor*:
 - Chronicled sorry record of government ruthlessness and chicanery in dealing with Indians
 - *Ramona* (1884):
 - Love story about discrimination against California Indians
 - Inspired sympathy for Indians

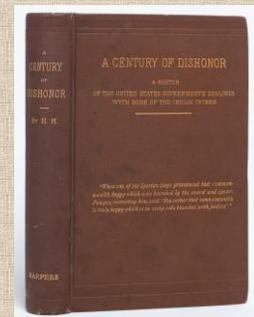


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Helen Hunt Jackson



***A Century of Dishonor* (1881)**



A CENTURY OF DISHONOR



- *Helen Hunt Jackson* (1830-1885), activist for Native American rights and author of *Century of Dishonor* was published in 1881.
- Jackson also began work on a book condemning the government's Indian policy and its record of broken treaties.
- When Jackson sent a copy to every member of Congress with the following admonition printed in red on the cover: **"Look upon your hands: they are stained with the blood of your relations."** To her disappointment, the book had little impact.

Susette La Flesche



Susette La Flesche
OMAHA | 1884-1905

- Daughter of Omaha Principal Chief Joseph La Flesche, Susette La Flesche was a teacher, activist, author, and lecturer.
- Testified and translated for the Peace Chief Standing Bear who sued the U.S. Government for its treatment of his people.
- The court's decision was the first one to acknowledge the human rights of Native Americans and stated that Native Americans were free to choose where they wanted to live.
- Was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

#SUSETTELAFLESCHES
www.susettelaflesche.org

Omaha Indian → lecture tour on Native American issues in the 1870s

The Ghost Dance Movement -1890

- Paiute medicine man Wovoka promised the return of the buffalo and Indian way of life.
- The religion prophesied the end of the westward expansion of whites and a return of Indian land.
- The ritual lasted five successive days, being danced each night and on the last night continued until morning.
- Hypnotic trances and shaking accompanied this ceremony, which was supposed to be repeated every six weeks.



GHOST DANCE

Telegram to Washington, D.C.
Nov. 15, 1890

"Indians are dancing in the snow and are wild and crazy. I have fully informed you that the employees and the government property at this agency have no protection and are at the mercy of the Ghost Dancers. ... We need protection and we need it now ...nothing [short] of 1000 troops will stop this dancing."

Dr. Daniel F. Royer, Agent,
Pine Ridge Agency

GHOST SHIRT



Indian warriors fighting against the US wore Ghost Shirts which were to stop the penetration of American soldiers bullets.....It gave them supernatural powers as was believed.....

The Ghost Dance Movement -1890

- Ghost Dance movement spread to Sitting Bull and the Sioux
- They religiously danced even after they were told to stop by reservation authorities.
- Military went to arrest Sitting Bull, where he was killed.
- Many Sioux followers left the reservation and became hostile



Battle of Wounded Knee – Dec.1890



- 7th Cavalry rounded up starving and freezing Sioux and took them to Wounded Knee camp.
- They attempted to confiscate all weapons.

Battle of Wounded Knee – Dec.1890

- Violence erupted, 300 Indians and 25 whites lay dead.
- This is the last of the Indian conflicts.



Chief Big Foot

Battle of Wounded Knee – Dec.1890



- The dead of Big Foot's people were buried in a mass grave. The still frozen stiff bodies were dumped unceremoniously into the hole.
- The United States handed out over twenty Congressional Medals of Honor to soldiers of the Seventh Cavalry who had participated in the battle.



25-4 "KILL THE INDIAN AND SAVE THE MAN"
(SLIDE 4 OF 7)

- Dawes Severalty Act (1887):
 - Misbegotten offspring of movement to reform Indian policy
 - Reflecting forced-civilization view of reformers:
 - Act dissolved many tribes as legal entities
 - Wiped out tribal ownership of land
 - Set up individual Indian family heads with 160 free acres
 - If Indians behaved like "good white settlers," they would get full title to holdings as well as citizenship in 25 years

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U.S. INDIAN POLICY

Dawes Act of 1887

- ❖ Quicker **Americanization**
 - Assimilate, mainstreamed and absorbed into US society
 - Adopt Christianity and White education
 - Individual land ownership
- ❖ Abandon tribe, culture and become farmers
- ❖ Male claimed 160 acres of land
- ❖ Children would be sent to Indian schools
- ❖ Farm land for 25 years.
- ❖ 1924 gain citizenship and right to vote
- ❖ Failed policy
 - Indian resistance and corruption



Dawes Severalty Act (1887): Assimilation Policy



Carlisle Indian School, PA

Native American Schools

In an attempt to make Native Americans "live as white men", special schools were set up by the U.S. government for Native Americans.



Apache children on arrival at the Carlisle Indian School (Pennsylvania) wearing traditional clothing.



The same Apache children four months later.



Cheyenne woman named Woxie Haury in ceremonial dress...



...and in wedding portrait with husband.

Indian Assimilation Attempts

- Native American children were taken to off-reservation Indian schools where they would be taught white man's ways.



Jacobus Franciscus "Jim" Thorpe (Wa-Tho-Huk) (28 May 1888 – 28 March 1953)

- was an American athlete. Considered one of the most versatile athletes in modern sports, he won Olympic gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon, played American football collegiately and professionally, and also played professional baseball and basketball. He subsequently lost his Olympic titles when it was found he was paid for playing two seasons of minor league baseball before competing in the games.
- Thorpe was a multi-racial, part Native American Indian and part ancestral European American..
- Thorpe was named the greatest athlete of the first half of the twentieth century by the Associated Press (AP) in 1950. He ranked third on the AP list of athletes of the century in 1999. After his professional sports career ended, Thorpe lived in abject poverty. He worked several odd jobs, struggled with alcoholism, and lived out the last years of his life in failing health.
- In 1983, thirty years after his death, his Olympic medals were restored.

25-4 "KILL THE INDIAN AND SAVE THE MAN" (SLIDE 5 OF 7)

- Former reservation land not allotted to Indians under Dawes Act:
 - Sold to railroads and white settlers
- With proceeds used by federal government to educate and "civilize" native peoples:
 - Government-funded Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania where Native American children were:
 - Separated from their tribes
 - Taught English
 - Inculcated with white values and customs
 - In 1890s government expanded its network of Indian boarding schools:



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25-4 "KILL THE INDIAN AND SAVE THE MAN" (SLIDE 6 OF 7)

- Sent "field matrons" to reservations:
 - To teach Native American women art of sewing
 - To preach virtues of chastity and hygiene
- Dawes Act:
 - Struck directly at tribal organization:
 - Tried to make rugged individualists out of Indians
 - Ignored traditional reliance of Indian culture on tribally held land
 - By 1900 Indians had lost 50% of the 156 million acres they held (see Map 25.2)
 - Forced-assimilation doctrine of Dawes Act remained cornerstone of government policy for decades



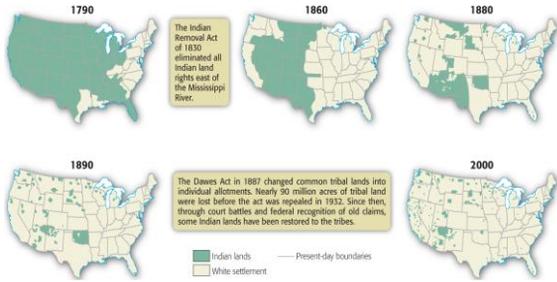
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25-4 "KILL THE INDIAN AND SAVE THE MAN" (SLIDE 7 OF 7)

- **Indian Reorganization Act ("Indian New Deal") of 1934:**
 - Partially reversed individualistic approach
 - Tried to restore tribal basis of Indian life
 - Indian population started to recover slowly:
 - Total number reduced by 1887 to about 243,000—the results of bullets, bottles, bacteria
 - Census of 2000 counted more than 1.5 million Native Americans, urban and rural



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the MINERS

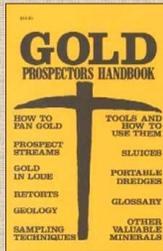
25-5 MINING: FROM DISHPAN TO ORE BREAKER (SLIDE 1 OF 5)

- Conquest of Indians and the railroads were life-giving boons to mining frontier:
 - Golden gravel of California continued to yield "pay dirt"
 - In 1858 an electrifying discovery convulsed on Colorado
 - Avid "fifty-niners" or "Pikes Peakers" rushed to Rockies, but there were more miners than minerals
 - Many gold-grubbers with "Pikes Peak or Bust" inscribed on covered wagons going, creaked back with "Busted, by Gosh"
 - Some stayed to strip away silver deposits
 - Others to farm grain

Mining Centers: 1900



Prospecting

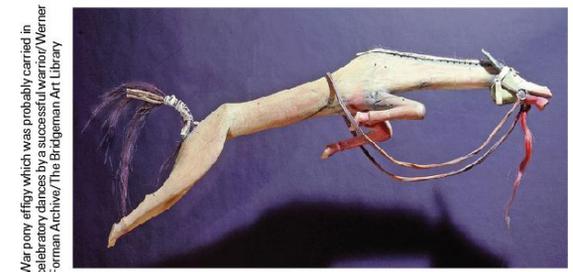


Anaconda Copper Mining Co. (MT)



25-5 MINING: FROM DISHPAN TO ORE BREAKER
(SLIDE 2 OF 5)

- "Fifty-niners" also poured into Nevada in 1859:
 - After fabulous Comstock Lode discovered
 - Gold and silver worth about \$340 million mined by "Kings of the Comstock," 1860–1890
 - Scantly populated state of Nevada, "child of Comstock Lode":
 - Prematurely railroaded into Union in 1864
 - Partly to provide three electoral votes for President Lincoln
- Montana, Idaho, and other western states:
 - "Lucky strikes" drew frantic gold and silver seekers
 - Boomtowns or "Helldorados" sprouted up on desert sands
 - Every third cabin a saloon



25-5 MINING: FROM DISHPAN TO ORE BREAKER
(SLIDE 3 OF 5)

- Lynch law and vigilante justice tried to preserve crude semblance of order
- When "diggings" petered out, gold-seekers decamped, leaving "ghost towns"—Virginia City, Nevada
- Begun with a boom, these towns ended with a whimper
- Age of business came to **mining industry**:
 - Impersonal corporations with costly machinery and trained engineers replaced former miners and mining
 - Once-independent gold-washer became just another day laborer



25-5 MINING: FROM DISHPAN TO ORE BREAKER
(SLIDE 4 OF 5)

- Mining frontier played vital role in conquering continent:
 - Magnet-like, it attracted population and wealth
 - While advertising wonders of Wild West
 - Women and men found opportunities
 - Running boardinghouses or working as prostitutes
 - **With frontier equality, women won right to vote:**
 - **Wyoming (1869), Utah (1870), Colorado (1893), Idaho (1896)—long before women in East could vote**



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25-5 MINING: FROM DISHPAN TO ORE BREAKER
(SLIDE 5 OF 5)

- Amassing precious metals:
 - Helped finance Civil War
 - Facilitated building railroads
 - Intensified bitter conflict between whites and Indians
 - Enabled Treasury to resume specie payments (1879)
 - Injected silver issue into American politics
- Mining frontier added to American folklore and literature: Bret Harte and Mark Twain



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the cowboys

25-6 BEEF BONANZAS AND THE LONG DRIVE
(SLIDE 1 OF 4)

- Problem of cattle marketing on Plains:
 - How to get cattle to market:
 - Solved by transcontinental railroads
 - Cattle could now be shipped live to stockyards
 - Under "beef barons" like Swifts and Armour's:
 - Highly industrialized meatpacking business sprang into existence as a main pillar of economy
 - In gigantic stockyards at Kansas City and Chicago, meatpackers shipped fresh products to East Coast in newly perfected refrigerator cars



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The Bronc Buster Frederick Remington



Black Cowboys



100,000 Exodusters leave the South and get involved with the ranching industry in Texas and Oklahoma.





25-6 BEEF BONAZAS AND THE LONG DRIVE (SLIDE 2 OF 4)

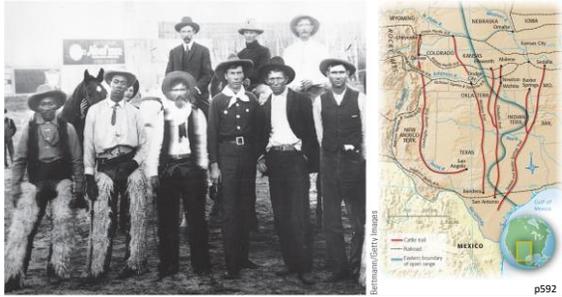
- Spectacular feeder of new slaughterhouses was "Long Drive" (see Map 25.3)
- Texas cowboys (black, white, and Mexican) drove herds of 1,000 to 10,000 cattle over unfenced and unpeopled plains to a railroad terminal
- Beasts grazed en route on free government grass
- Favorite terminal points were fleyesped "cow town"
- Steer was king in Cattle Kingdom richly carpeted with grass. Lush grass made Long Drive profitable
- 1866–1888, more than four million cattle moved by Long Drive

25-6 BEEF BONAZAS AND THE LONG DRIVE (SLIDE 3 OF 4)

- Railroads made Long Drive, and railroads unmade Long Drive
- Same rails that bore cattle from open range brought out homesteaders and sheepherders:
 - Intruders too numerous to be cut down by cowboys
 - Terrible winter of 1886-1887 left thousands of cattle starving and freezing
- Overexpansion and overgrazing took toll, as cowboys slowly gave way to plowboys
 - Only escape for stockman was to make cattle-raising a big business and avoid perils of overproduction

25-6 BEEF BONAZAS AND THE LONG DRIVE (SLIDE 4 OF 4)

- Breeders learned:
 - To fence their ranches and lay in winter feed
 - Import prize bulls; produce fewer and meatier animals
 - To organize: Wyoming Stock-Growers' Association (1880s) virtually controlled state and its legislature
- Heyday of cowboys:
 - Equipment of cowhand served useful purpose
 - Could justifiably boast of his toughness
 - Bowlegged Knights of Saddle became part of American folklore
 - Many cowboys were blacks, who enjoyed freedom of open range



25-7 THE FARMERS' FRONTIER (SLIDE 1 OF 6)

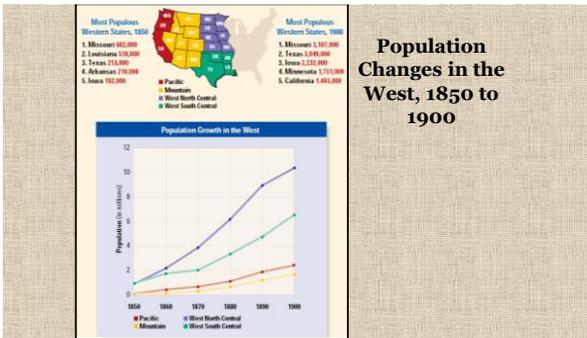
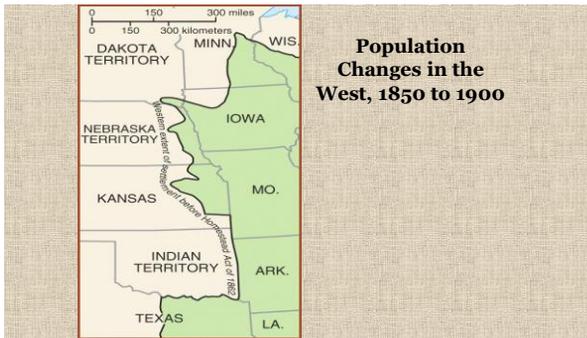
- Sober sodbuster wrote final chapter of frontier history:
 - **Homestead Act (1862):**
 - Allowed a settler to acquire as much as 160 acres of land (a quarter-section) by living on it for five years, improving it, and paying nominal fee of about \$30
 - Marked drastic departure from previous policy:
 - Before act, public land had been sold for revenue
 - Now given away to encourage rapid filling of empty space
 - Provide stimulus to family farm—"backbone of democracy"

25-7 THE FARMERS' FRONTIER (SLIDE 2 OF 6)

- A godsend to farmers who could not afford to buy large holdings
- About 500,000 families took advantage of Homestead Act to carve out new homes
- Yet five times that many families *purchased* land from railroads, land companies, or states (see Figure 25.1)
- Homestead Act often turned out to be a cruel hoax
 - Standard 160 acres frequently proved inadequate on rain-scarce Great Plains
 - Thousands of homesteaders forced to give up struggle against drought

HOMESTEAD ACT

- **Homestead Act** was a law developed in 1862 by Congress to promote settlement of the Great Plains.
- Age 21 and the head of the family could have **160 acres of land** if they improved it in five years
- Could buy it for a small amount of **\$\$\$**
- The US Government encouraged westward expansion and the **Homestead Act** allowed thousands of settlers to move west and start new lives.



Daniel Freeman was the first person to acquire land under the Homestead Act. Beatrice, Nebraska in 1863.

As the story goes, Freeman persuaded an official to open the land office at Brownville, Nebraska, shortly after midnight on January 1, 1863, the day the law took effect. Freeman, a Union soldier on furlough, claimed land near Beatrice, Nebraska. Freeman's homestead is preserved as Homestead National Monument, administered by the National Park Service.



Daniel Freeman - First Homesteader

Application } Homestead
No. 1. } Land Office
Brownville, Neb. January 1st 1863

I Daniel Freeman of Gage County Nebraska Territory do hereby apply to later under the provisions of the act of Congress approved May 20th 1862 entitled an act to secure Homesteads to actual settlers on the Public Domain the South half of N 36 1/2 W 1/2 of N 19 W 1/2 of R 10 E Sec 26 in Township 36 N Range 10 E East containing 160 acres Having filed my Declaration of Intent on the 8th day of September 1862
Daniel Freeman

Land Office at

Brownville, Neb. January 1st 1863

I Richard W. Barrett, Register of the Land Office do hereby certify that the above application is for desired Land of the Class which the applicant is legally entitled to take under the Homestead act of May 20th 1862 and that there is no prior valid adverse Right to the same

Richard W. Barrett's
Register

PROOF REQUIRED UNDER HOMESTEAD ACTS MAY 20, 1862, AND JUNE 21, 1866.

WE Joseph Gruffy Samuel Kipatnik do solemnly swear that we have known Daniel Freeman for five years last past; that he is head of family consisting of wife and two children and is a citizen of the United States; that he is an inhabitant of the 8th W 1/2 of N 36 1/2 N 19 W 1/2 of R 10 E of section No. 26 in Township No. 4 N Range No. 10 E and that no other person resided upon the said land entitled to the right of Homestead or Pre-emption.

That the said Daniel Freeman entered upon and made settlement on said land on the 1st day of January 1863 and has built a house thereon four log four plank 12 by 20 feet one story with two doors 15 7 0 windows shingle roof board floor and is a comfortable house to live in

and has lived in the said house and made it his exclusive home from the 1st day of January 1863 to the present time, and that he has since said settlement ploughed, sowed, and cultivated about 30 acres of said land, and has upon the following improvements thereon, to wit: built a stable a shed 100 feet long can crib and had 40 apple and about 400 peach trees set out eight grain animals Kipatnik

I Henry M. Atkinson do hereby certify that the above affidavit was taken and subscribed before me this 20 day of January 1863
Henry M. Atkinson
Register

We certify that Joseph Gruffy and Samuel Kipatnik whose names are subscribed to the foregoing affidavit, are persons of respectability.
Henry M. Atkinson Register
John C. Carson Receiver

HOMESTEAD.

Land Office at Amundt Neb
January 20 1863.

CERTIFICATE } APPLICATION
No. 1 } No. 1

It is hereby certified, That pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress, approved May 20, 1862, entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain,"

Daniel Freeman has made payment in full for Section 26 of the 8th W 1/2 of N 36 1/2 N 19 W 1/2 of R 10 E in Township 4 N Range 10 E containing 160 acres.

That, therefore, by it known, That on presentation of this Certificate to the COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, the said Daniel Freeman shall be entitled to a Patent for the Tract of Land above described.
Henry M. Atkinson Register

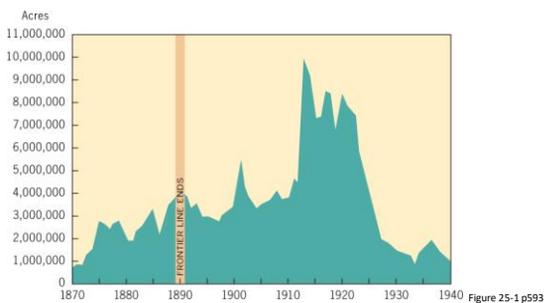
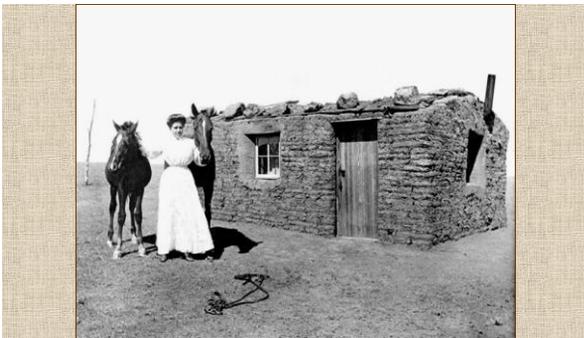


Figure 25-1 p593

25-7 THE FARMERS' FRONTIER (SLIDE 3 OF 6)

- Fraud spawned by Homestead Act and similar laws:
 - More land gained by speculators, than actual farmers
 - Corporations used "dummy" homesteaders to grab best properties
 - Settlers would swear they had "improved" property by erecting a "twelve by fourteen" dwelling, which turned out to measure twelve by fourteen inches
- Railroads played major role in developing agricultural West:
 - Largely through profitable marketing of crops
 - Railroad companies induced Americans and European immigrants to buy cheap land

25-7 THE FARMERS' FRONTIER (SLIDE 4 OF 6)

- "Sodbusters" built homes from very sod they dug from ground
- Some pushed farther onto marginal lands beyond 100th meridian
- Area separated two climatological regions:
 - A well-watered area to east
 - A semiarid area to west (see Map 25.4)
- Many went broke west of 100th meridian
- "Dry farming" eventually took root on plains:
 - Shallow cultivation supposedly adapted to arid West
 - Overtime, "dry farming" created finely pulverized surface soil
 - Contributed to notorious "Dust Bowl" later

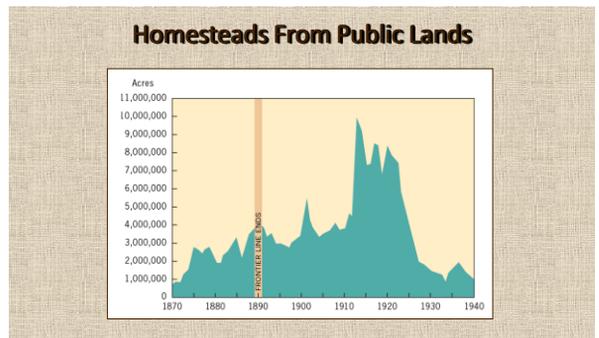
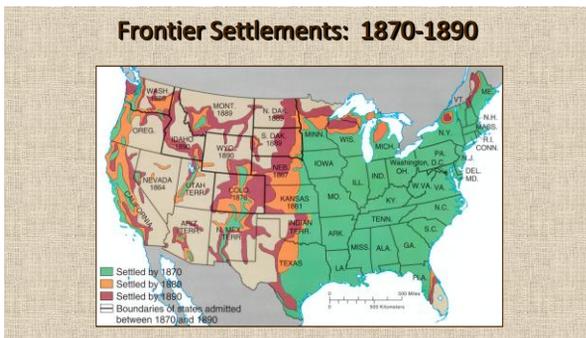


Map 25-4 p594

The Farmers

LIFE ON THE GREAT PLAINS

- Settlers adapted to the difficult lifestyle of living on the Great Plains.
- Newer advancements in agricultural technology helped settle the Plains.





1887
Land
Promotion
Poster
for the
Dakota
Territories

What is the Message of this Picture?



What is the Message of this Picture?



The Realty--A Pioneer's Sod House, SD

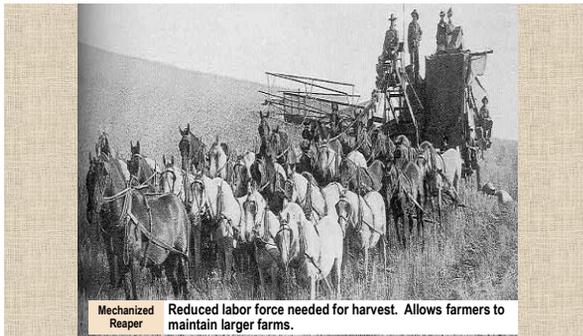


Rain Follows the Plow!

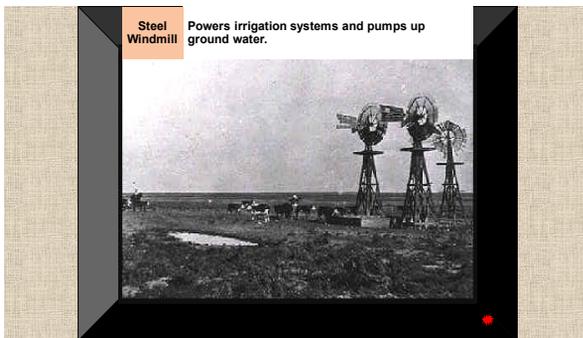


Steel Plow Allowed farmers to cut through dense, root-choked sod.





Mechanized Reaper Reduced labor force needed for harvest. Allows farmers to maintain larger farms.



Steel Windmill Powers irrigation systems and pumps up ground water.

25-7 THE FARMERS' FRONTIER (SLIDE 5 OF 6)

- Other adaptations to western environments more successful:
 - Tough strains of wheat imported from Russia
 - Wise farmers abandoned corn for sorghum and grains
 - Barbed wire, perfected by Joseph F. Glidden (1874), solved problem of building fences on treeless plains
 - Federally financed irrigation projects caused Great American Desert to bloom:
 - Arching dams tamed Missouri and Columbia Rivers
 - 45 million acres irrigated in 17 western states
- Hydraulic engineers had more to do with shaping modern West than all trappers, miners, cavalrymen, and cowboys (see Map 25.5)

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25-8 THE FAR WEST COMES OF AGE (SLIDE 1 OF 2)

- Great West experienced fantastic surge in migration from 1870s to 1890s:
 - Parade of new western states joined Union:
 - **Colorado, 1876—“the Centennial State”**
 - **1889–1890—six new states:** North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming
 - **After Mormon Church banned polygamy in 1890, Utah admitted in 1896**

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25-8 THE FAR WEST COMES OF AGE
(SLIDE 2 OF 2)

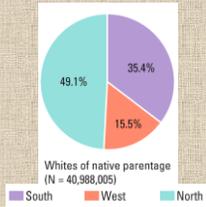
- **Oklahoma, "the Beautiful Land:"**
 - Scores of overeager and well-armed "sooners" illegally entered Oklahoma Territory
 - Had to be evicted repeatedly by federal troops
 - All was ready legally on April 22, 1889 and some 50,000 "boomers" poised expectantly on boundary line
 - At noon, a horde of "eighty-niners" poured in
 - That night, city of Guthrie, with more than 10,000 people, born
 - End of 1889, Oklahoma boasted 60,000 inhabitants, and Congress made it a territory
 - In 1907 it became "Sooner State"



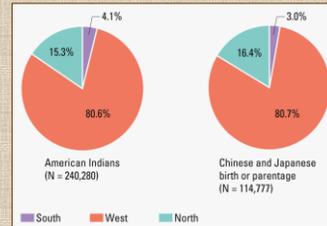
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Minority groups in the West

Regional Population Distribution by Race: 1900



Regional Population Distribution by Race: 1900



Black "Exoduster" Homesteaders



All Colored People
THAT WANT TO
GO TO KANSAS,
On September 5th, 1877,
Can do so for \$5.00

IMMIGRATION.

Whitman, Wm, the colored people of Louisiana, Ky., knowing that there is an abundance of cheap land now being offered by the Government, have organized, exclusively for the purpose of locating on said lands. Therefore,

Be it Remembered, That we do now regard ourselves as a Colony, as follows—

Any person willing to become a member of this Colony can do so by paying the sum of one dollar (1.00), and this money is to be paid by the first of September, 1877, in such sums of twenty-five cents as a rule, or otherwise as may be desired.

Remember, That this Colony has agreed in connection therewith with the Missouri, Texas, Schuette Valley, Graham County, Kansas, and can only do so by entering the vacant land now in their hands which will be free.

Remember, That this Colony shall consist of every African-American, White, Protestant, Quaker, Transient, and Free Settler, Protestant, Catholic, St. Basil, Via-Paradise, —that Father, Southern-W, J. John, Southern—David Clarke, Prussian—Jerry Lee, William James, and Alton Warner.

Remember, That this Colony shall have first claim to the best land, water, and soil, in the same way as regards to best price and order, and any transfer, selling, or lease, or any, or otherwise, of being in company with the above name in any particular, will not be recognized or professed by this Colony.

Racist American History

19th-century historian **James Ford Rhodes'** work was part of a dangerous trend in American history. He claimed:

"the blacks made no move to rise...and remained patiently submissive and faithful to their owners."

This is a racist lie and it allows for the racist view that slavery wasn't really that bad and that the Blacks in the South were actually better off. This is complete nonsense.



Antiracist Historian Dr. Nell Irvin Painter

Dr. Painter is one of America's most celebrated American historians. She is one of the many historians who have totally debunked Rhode's idea that "Blacks made no attempt to rise."

Her book *The Exodusters* highlights **Black Agency*** and the stories of freedman who refused to submit to re-enslavement after Reconstruction failed.



The Exodusters

* *Exodus* is the book of the Bible that tells the story of God's chosen people fleeing slavery in Egypt. Based on this story, Black migrants to Kansas were called "Exodusters."

This is the story of the courageous people who risked everything to flee what historian Dr. Nell Irvin Painter describes as "re-enslavement"



St. Louis

"The Exodusters fled the South and moved beyond the grasp of re-enslavement. They travelled up the Mississippi River and out of the Deep South... following the Biblical analogy, St. Louis was the Red Sea and Kansas was Negro Cannon." - Dr. N.L. Painter

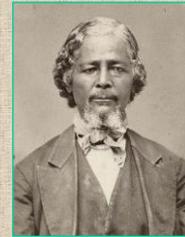


Refugees wait along the banks of the Mississippi River in the Deep South, waiting for their ride north.

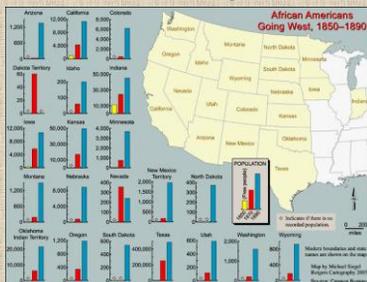


Benjamin "Pap" Singleton

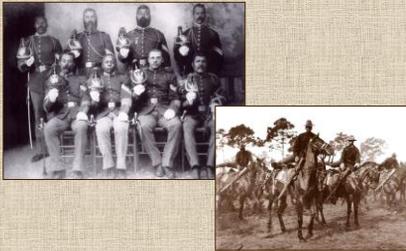
- Father of Exoduster Movement, AKA the "Moses of the Exodusters"
- Escaped slavery as a young man
- Ran a boarding house in Canada for escaped slaves
- Reading about the massacres of Black Americans in the South during Reconstruction, he came to the realization that the only path for Black success would be to leave the South
- Helped thousands of people move to Kansas



Blacks Moving West



The Buffalo Soldiers on the Great Plains



A Romantic View



The Buffalo Soldiers & the Indian Wars



The "Chinese Question"



- Exclusion Act (1882)
- Oriental Exclusion Act
- Chinese Exclusion Act

The Tong Wars: 1850s-1920s



Began in San Francisco in 1875.

African American & Chinese Populations: 1880-1900

State or Territory	Blacks		Chinese	
	1880	1900	1880	1900
Arizona Ter.	155	1,846	1,630	1,419
California	6,018	11,045	75,132	45,753
Colorado	2,435	8,570	612	599
Idaho	53	293	3,379	1,467
Kansas	43,107	52,003	19	39
Montana	346	1,523	1,765	1,739
Nebraska	2,385	6,269	18	180
Nevada	488	134	5,416	1,352
New Mexico Ter.	1,015	1,610	57	341
North Dakota	113	286	NA	32
Oklahoma Indian Ter.	NA	56,654*	NA	31
Oregon	487	1,105	9,510	10,397
South Dakota	288	465	NA	165
Texas	393,384	620,722	136	836
Utah	232	672	510	572
Washington	325	2,514	3,186	3,629

NA—not available.
*Combined total for Indian and Oklahoma territories.

FEAR of FOREIGNERS

A History of Nativism in America

A production of **The Lowdown** by Andy Warner

Donald Trump has said some extreme things about undocumented immigrants from Mexico:



6/16/15

His statements about Muslims have also made headlines:



12/7/15

Some Americans find his rhetoric alarming, but it follows a long tradition of anti-immigrant public discourse

Even though immigration is a big part of almost every American family's story (except Native Americans), we still sometimes have a tendency to blame newcomers for national problems, especially in response to tough economic times and threats to national security



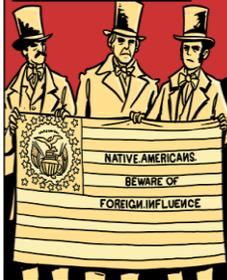
Throughout its history, the U.S. has gone through various periods of **nativism** - the practice of disparaging immigrants to supposedly protect the interests of established residents.

In 1755, before America even gained its independence, Benjamin Franklin warned:



Observations Concerning the Increase of Mankind, Peopling of Countries, etc., 1755

1850s: Germans and Irish



A century later, a new wave of Irish and German immigration gave rise to the short-lived "Native American Party."

Popularly dubbed the "Know Nothings," the party capitalized on growing anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant sentiment by promising to crack down on the newcomers.

In the mid-1850s, the party won six governorships (including in California) and gained control of multiple state legislatures before dividing over the issue of slavery and eventually fizzling out.

During an economic downturn in the early 1880s, Chinese immigrants became the newest scapegoats.

For decades, a steady stream of them traveled West to work as cheap laborers in the mines and railroads.

But amid an economic downturn in the early 1880s, jobs grew scarce and tensions arose.

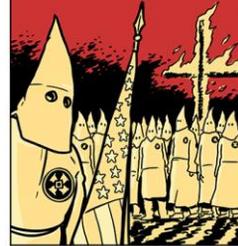
In response, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, halting Chinese immigration and blocking those already here from citizenship.

The first law preventing a specific ethnic group entering the U.S., it wasn't officially repealed until 1943





1890s - 1930s: Italians



Starting in the late 1800s, Italian immigrants escaped economic hardship by moving to East Coast cities.

In response, anti-Catholic groups proliferated, including the Ku Klux Klan, which recruited millions of members in its efforts to scare off minority communities.

In an effort to further preserve the ideal of U.S. homogeneity, Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1924, which sharply limited entry from Southern and Eastern Europe, and placed an outright ban on Asian immigration. These quotas remained in place until 1965.

Around the same time, thousands of Eastern European and Russian Jews fleeing persecution made their way to American shores, only to find themselves targeted by the KKK as well.

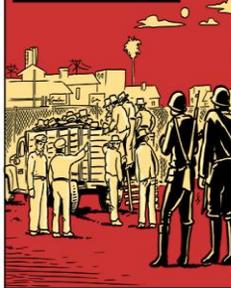
Anti-Semitic sentiment was further spread by influential public figures like auto magnate Henry Ford, who purchased his hometown newspaper and used it to rail against "the Jewish plan to control the world."

Legendary aviator Charles Lindbergh also famously disparaged American Jews, and later became a mouthpiece for a large nativist, isolationist group called America First.

1890s - 1930s: Jews



1929 - 1936: Mexicans



As millions of Americans struggled during the Great Depression many — including President Herbert Hoover — pointed angry fingers at low-wage Mexican workers.

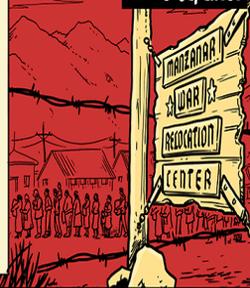
Between 1929 and 1936, as many as 2 million people of Mexican descent, many of whom were U.S. citizens, were forcibly 'repatriated' to Mexico.

In 2005 California became the only state to officially apologize for its role in violating the civil liberties of Mexican-Americans during this period.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Japanese-Americans on the West Coast were demonized by the government and labeled a security risk.

More than 100,000, the majority of them citizens who had lived here for generations, were rounded up and forced to live in internment camps until the end of World War II.

1940s: Japanese



1994: The Undocumented



Even as recently as 1994, in the wake of an economic slowdown, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 187, an effort to deny most state services, including public education, to undocumented immigrants.

Called the "Save Our State" initiative, it also required public service workers and teachers to verify the legal status of their clients and report anyone without documentation.

Ultimately, though, a federal court ruled the measure unconstitutional, and it never went into effect.

In 2010, Arizona passed a similarly restrictive anti-immigrant law, but much of it was struck down by the Supreme Court.

Today, as millions of Americans still struggle economically and the nation remains on edge after recent ISIS-inspired attacks, it's not surprising that Mexican immigrants and Muslim communities are the targets of this recent bout of nativism.

But if history is any guide, it's worth remembering that the anti-immigrant fervor of the moment usually fades.

And, more often than not, those targeted newcomers are eventually woven into the patchwork quilt of American society.



Sources:
 Bennett, David Harry. *The Party of Fear: From Nativist Movements to the New Right in American History*. New York: Vintage, 1996.
 "This Land is Our Land." *The Economist*, 18 Nov. 2015.
 U.S. State Department, Office of the Historian.
 Schwag, Peter. *Not Fit for Our Society: Nativism and Immigration*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2010.

<https://www.kqed.org/hoodwin/2016/09/12/fear-of-foreigners-a-cartoon-history-of-nativism-in-america/#p-carousel-23834>

25-9 THE FADING FRONTIER (SLIDE 1 OF 6)

- In 1890—a watershed date
 - Superintendent of census announced:
 - For first time in America's experience, a frontier line no longer discernible
 - "Closing" of frontier inspired one of most influential essays ever written about American history
 - Frederick Jackson Turner's "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" in 1893
- Secretary of war prophesied in 1827 that five hundred years would be needed to fill West

Frederick Jackson Turner



The Significance of the Frontier in American Society (1893)

TURNER THESIS

- With Indians on the reservation by 1890, the United States Census Bureau announced the official end of the frontier.
- The population in the West had become dense, and the days of free western land had come to an end.
 - In 1893, historian Frederick Jackson Turner claimed that the frontier had played a key role in forming the American character.
- The Turner Thesis, stated that frontier life created Americans who were socially mobile, ready for adventure, bent on individual self-improvement, committed to democracy and able to withstand difficult times to accomplish the American Dream...

↓

"RUGGED INDIVIDUALIST"

The frontier created the American character of one who was self-sufficient, persistent and able to withstand difficult times to accomplish the American Dream...



Frederick Jackson Turner



p596

25-9 THE FADING FRONTIER (SLIDE 2 OF 6)

- Nation soon recognized that land not inexhaustible:
 - Actions taken to preserve vanishing resources
 - Government set aside land for national parks—first Yellowstone in 1872, followed by Yosemite and Sequoia in 1890
- Frontier more than a place:
 - Also a state of mind; a symbol of opportunity
 - Its passing ended romantic phase of nation's internal development
 - Created new economic and psychological problems
- Frontier as "safety valve:"
 - Theory that when hard times came, unemployed who cluttered city moved west, took up farming, and prospered

25-9 THE FADING FRONTIER (SLIDE 3 OF 6)

- **Truth about "safety valve":**
 - Few city dwellers migrated to frontier during depressions
 - Most didn't know how to farm
 - Few could raise enough money to transport themselves west and then pay for livestock and expensive machinery
- **Does have some validity:**
 - Free acreage did lure to West a host of immigrants farmers
 - Very *possibility* of western migration may have induced urban employers to maintain wage rates high enough to discourage workers from leaving
- Real safety valve by late nineteenth century in cities like Chicago, Denver, and San Francisco:

25-9 THE FADING FRONTIER (SLIDE 4 OF 6)

- Where failed farmers, busted miners, and displaced easterners found ways to seek their fortunes
- After 1880, area from Rocky Mountains to Pacific Coast most urbanized region in America
- Trans-Mississippi West formed a distinct chapter:
 - Native Americans waged their last and most desperate struggle against colonization
 - Where most Native Americans live today
- There "Anglo" culture collided most directly with Hispanic culture for dominance in New World
 - Southwest remains most Hispanicized region in America

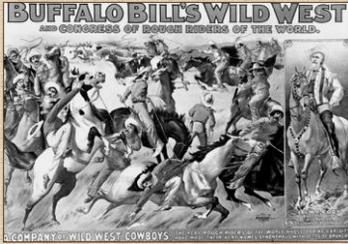
the myth & legend of the west

Facts, Myths & Legends of the West

- **The Wild West:** Some elements of the frontier myths were true.
- Yet, many wild towns of the West calmed down fairly quickly or disappeared.
- By the 1880s, the frontier had many churches and a variety of social groups.
- Major theatrical productions toured growing western cities.
- The East had come West.



**William "Buffalo Bill"
Cody's Wild West Show**



"Buffalo Bill" Cody & Sitting Bull



Legendary Female Western Characters



Calamity Jane



Annie Oakley

***The Fall of the Cowboy*
Frederick Remington**

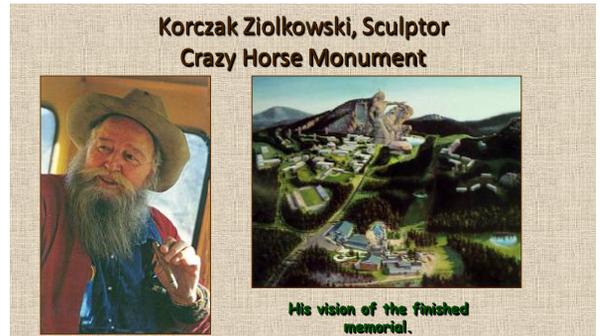
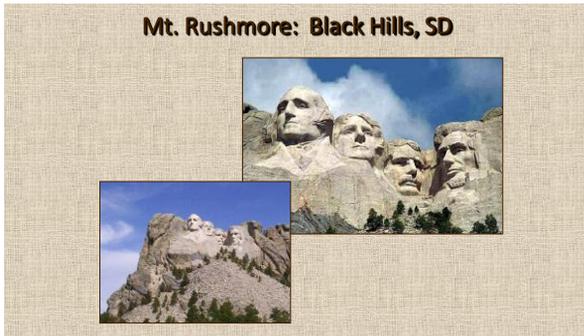


what were the
long-term effects
of the westward
experience?

Destruction of the Buffalo Herds



The near extinction of the buffalo.



25-9 THE FADING FRONTIER (SLIDE 5 OF 6)

- There Americans faced across Pacific to Asia, and there most Asians American dwell today
- Severity of environment there:
 - Posed largest challenges to human abilities
 - Its aridity and still-magical emptiness, continues to mold social and political life
- In no other region has federal government:
 - With its vast landholdings, its subsidies to railroads, its massive irrigation projects played so conspicuous a role in economic and social development

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25-9 THE FADING FRONTIER (SLIDE 6 OF 6)

- Mystical proportions in American mind:
 - Immortalized by:
 - Writers such as Bret Hare, Mark Twain, Helen Hunt Jackson, Francis Parkman
 - Painters such as George Catlin, Frederic Remington, Albert Bierstadt
 - For better or worse, pioneers planted seeds of American civilization in immense western wilderness
 - The life we live, they dreamed of; the life they lived, we can only dream

CHRONOLOGY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ca. 1700-1800 New Indian peoples arrive into Great Plains 1808 Pikes Peak gold rush 1820 Nevada Comstock Lode discovered 1822 Homestead Act 1842 Sand Creek massacre Nevada admitted to Union 1846 Battle of the Little Bighorn Colorado admitted to Union 1877 "Six Peace" war 1881 Helen Hunt Jackson publishes "A Century of Dishonor" 1884 Federal government oustans Indian Sage Thrush 1885 Canadian Pacific Railway first transcontinental rail line, completed across Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1857 Dimes-Silver Act 1889 Oklahoma opened to U.S. citizen settlement 1889-1890 North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Washington, Idaho, and Wyoming admitted to Union 1890 U.S. Census declares frontier line ended 1891 Construction of Trans-Siberian Rail- road begins 1893 Frederick Jackson Turner publishes "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" 1907 Oklahoma admitted to Union 1924 Indians granted U.S. citizenship 1934 Indian Reorganization Act

the GUNSLINGERS

The Traditional View of the West



Colt .45 Revolver and the Winchester Repeating Rifle



God didn't make men equal. Colonel Colt did!

"The weapons which won the West"

Legendary Gunslingers & Train Robbers



Jesse James



Billy the Kid



Jesse James



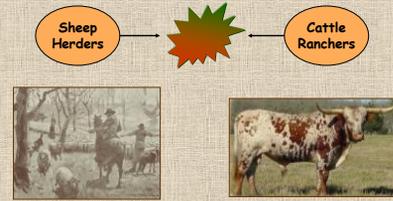
Billy the Kid



LIFE ON THE GREAT PLAINS

- ***Barbed wire fence*** was a lifesaver because of the lack of wood in the dry plains of America.
- ***Barbed wire*** also solved the problems between farmers and ranchers.

The Range Wars



Newlands Reclamation Act (1902)



Francis Newlands