

APUSH 1865-1896 CONQUERING THE WEST & THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION REVIEWED!

American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 26
American History (Brinkley) Chapter 16
America's History (Henretta) Chapter 16

WESTERN EXPANSION

1830-40s settlers to fertile Oregon territory

1847: Mormons had traveled west seeking religious refug in Utah

1848: CA Gold Rush brought thousands of settlers to Bay area

The federal government actively promoted economic development and the movement west

WESTERN SETTLEMENT

- **Homestead Act (1862)** offered public land (160 acres) to any person who lived on it & improved it for 5 years.
 - Intended to encourage settlement of western land
 - **Difficulties & Limitations**
 - 1) quality of land 2) high cost of supplies 3) mother nature 4) fraud 5) fluctuating crop prices
- **Pacific Railroad Act (1862)-** authorized the building of transcontinental railroad along a northern route.
 - Federal government provides money and land (subsidies) to the RR companies to construct.
 - Transcontinental Railroad completed in 1869

ECONOMY OF THE WEST

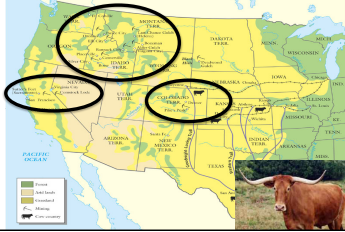
- **Boom and bust cycle** of the economy

Mining Industry

- Examples: 1) 1858 gold in Pike's Peak, Colorado 2) 1859 Comstock Lode in Nevada (Nevada enters Union)
- Conditions: Extremely dangerous, nearly half population foreign born
- Impact: 1) Environmental destruction (hydraulic mining) 2) Loss of Native land

Cattle Industry

- Mexican cowboys (vaqueros) had been running the cattle business in Texas
- Vast open grasslands
- Railroads open up new markets
- Bust- bad winter, prices drop, overgrazing, farmers put up barbed wire



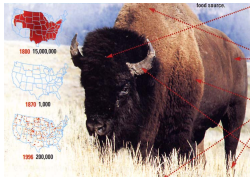
Myth vs. Reality of the West

- **Romanticized view** of the American west in literature, paintings, and dime novels.
 - Land of cowboys roaming the unexplored frontier
 - Oftentimes ignored the complexities of Native American life, reality of western life.
- **Melting Pot nature** of the American West
 - **Chinese immigration**
 - CA Gold Rush
 - Work for the railroads
 - **African American & Mexican cowboys**
 - **Utah enters union in 1896 (after they drop polygamy)**
- **Women's suffrage** was more common in the west
 - Wyoming is first to grant women the right to vote



Life in the Trans-Mississippi West

- Life for the plains Indians had dramatically changed
 - Heavily reliant on hunting bison
 - European introduction of horse, firearms, alcohol, & disease
- Increasing pressure on Native life
- Severe decline in the population of **bison**.
 - Undermine Native American resistance
 - Demand for buffalo hides
 - Impact of railroad expansion
- The biggest impact of western expansion will take place upon the lives of **Native Americans** in the **trans-Mississippi west**.



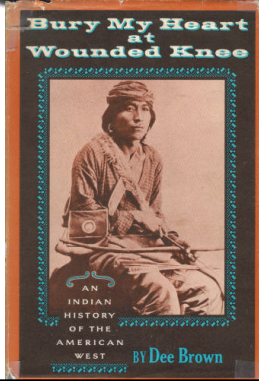
CONFLICT: INDIAN WARS

- Violence occurs as homesteaders, miners, and ranchers move west onto Native land.
- **Sand Creek Massacre** (1864): Colorado Militia attack and kill over 100 Native people
- **Battle of Little Big Horn** (1876): The Sioux tribe (Inspired by **Sitting Bull**) kill Custer and his men in the 7th Cavalry (**Custer's Last Stand**)
- **Chief Joseph** attempted to lead members of the **Nez Percé** tribe into Canada
 - Surrendered in 1877



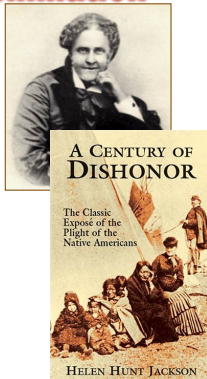
Wounded Knee

- **Ghost Dance** movement begins amongst the Sioux in Dakota territory
 - Cultural / Religious Revival
 - Thought would get rid of the white settlers & return prosperity to the tribe
 - Federal government wants this to stop
- **Battle of Wounded Knee** (1890) U.S. army go into the Dakotas and killed over 200.
- The "battle" was really a **massacre**
- Marks the **end** of the major Native American frontier wars



Attempts at Assimilation

- Helen Hunt Jackson **"A Century of Dishonor"** (1881) documented mistreatment by the federal government of Native people
- Boarding schools such as **Carlisle Indian School** were intended to assimilate Native people
- **Dawes Severalty Act** (1887) End tribal ownership of land
 - Reservations split into 160 acre private farms
 - Natives had the potential to receive citizenship if they lived on land for 25 years and "adopted the habits of civilized life."
 - Remaining reservation land sold to white settlers (oftentimes the best land)



DESTRUCTION OF NATIVE LIFE

- **Tremendous population and territorial decline**
 - **Disease**
 - **Numerous wars in the late 19th century**
 - **decline of bison population**
 - **Failed treaty agreements and forced removal to reservations**

“Closing” of the Frontier

- Oklahoma Territory was opened up to settlement in 1889
 - Great land rush takes place
- **Frederick Jackson Turner** writes **“The Significance of the Frontier In American History”** (1893)
 - argues frontier ended in 1890
 - Emphasizes the importance of the frontier on American identity
 - Safety valve theory: could head west when the times were tough
 - Ignores contributions of people already there, women, fact people by 1890s moving to urban areas
- Connection: Overseas expansion in 1890s

Frederick Jackson Turner



The Significance of the Frontier in American History

FARMERS ORGANIZE

- Farming was becoming more commercialized and specialized.
- **Problems for farmers:** 1) Falling prices 2) unfair railroad business practices 3) high cost of machinery 4) tight money supply 5) high tariffs
- The **Grange Movement:** organized social and educational activities. Later demanded collective reforms.
- Want: government regulation and ownership of business
 - Lobbied state legislatures for reforms
- **Munn v. Illinois** (1877) upheld law: states could regulate railroads
- **Wabash Case** (1886) states cannot regulate **interstate commerce**
 - Leads to passage of **Interstate Commerce Act** (1887)
- **Farmers Alliance:** Founded in Texas (1870s)- excluded blacks, ignored tenant farmers
- Significant 3rd Party: **Populist Party**
 - **Platform:** Government ownership of railroads
 - Free & unlimited coinage of silver (increase \$\$\$ supply)
 - Graduated Income tax (rich pay more)
 - Direct election of Senator, use of initiatives and referendums

Closing out the 19th Century

Growing frustration over the laissez faire capitalist system

- **Farmers are organizing: Grange, Alliance, Populist**
- **Industrial Problems:**
 - **Homestead Strike (1892):** Workers at Carnegie's steel plant are defeated
 - **Panic of 1893:** as a result of overspeculation the stock market crashes.
 - Grover Cleveland continues **laissez faire** approach
 - **Coxey's Army (1894):** unemployed march to D.C. demanding the fed government hire jobless for public works jobs
 - **Pullman Strike (1894):** President Cleveland uses the army and court injunction to defeat the strike.
 - **Election of 1896:** William McKinley (R) vs. William Jennings Bryan (D)- **Cross of Gold Speech**, Populist fade, Republican McKinley wins