

13.1

I. The American West

A. Culture of the Plains Indians

1. Northern Plains Indians, Sioux, Blackfoot, and Cheyenne
2. lived as nomads, traveling on horseback trailing the Buffalo
3. concept of land ownership different than white Americans
4. Government policy on Indians changes
 - a. under Jackson, Indians were moved westward to Indian territory
 - b. after 1850, the federal government began seizing their lands for white settlement and moving the Indians to reservations
 - c. most Americans (white) agreed with federal policy
5. movement to reservations for the Plains Indians threatened to destroy their lifestyle.
6. their culture was dependent on the Buffalo
 - a. in 1800, there were an estimated 60 million buffalo living on the plains of America
 - b. by 1894 they were nearly extinct
 - c. several causes for the reduction in buffalo population
 - i. policy of U.S. Army encouraging the destruction of the buffalo
 - ii. hunting of buffalo for sport
 - iii. railroad sponsor hunting trips from the rail

B. Indian Wars – a series of conflicts between whites and Indians that would sweep Indians from most of the western U.S.

1. Sand Creek Massacre

- a. Army offered amnesty for past attacks if they returned to reservation
- b. Black Kettle accepts offer
 - i. Colonel John Chivington arrives at Sand Creek
 - ii. Black Kettle raises American & white flag of peace
 - iii. Chivington's 700 troops attack and kill 150 Cheyenne men, women and children
 - iv. many Americans outraged
 - v. Cheyenne and Sioux step up their raids on whites

2. Sioux Chief Red Cloud asked for an end to white encroachment on their hunting grounds

- a. Sioux attack a wagon train near Ft. Kearny (NE) on the Bozeman Trail
- b. Army tries to drive off the war party but is destroyed
- c. Sioux sign the 2nd Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1868
 - i. Fed. Government agrees to close the trail
 - ii. Sioux agree to live on a reservation on the Missouri River

3. Sitting Bull Chief of Cheyenne and Crazy Horse Chief of Lakota Sioux meet Col. George Custer at Little Big Horn

- a. approximately 2,000 Cheyenne, Sioux and Arapaho had gathered near the Little Big Horn River (Montana)
- b. Col. George Custer splits his troops (200+), Major Marcus Reno (175±) attack the Indian village in separate skirmishes

- c. Reno pull his troops back before they can be encircled but Custer and his men are trapped in a separate action and wiped out at the Battle of the Little Big Horn
 - d. Victory for the Indians but the defeat of Custer serves only to increase the government's resolve to put down Indian resistance (1876)
- 4. Texas Panhandle, Col. Ranald McKenzie discover Comanche, Kiowa and Cheyenne preparing to encamp for the winter (1874)
 - a. McKenzie orders his troops to attack
 - b. they kill 1,000 ponies and destroy the food stores
 - c. these tribes are then moved to reservations in Indian Territory (Oklahoma)
- 5.) Wounded Knee – Paiute shaman Wovoka
 - a. Wovoka receives a vision in 1889 that the Indian dead would live again, the buffalo would return and the whites would leave their territory
 - b. his vision leads to a religious movement – Ghost Dance
 - c. whites fear the Ghost Dance will lead to an uprising
 - d. Army tries to arrest Sitting Bull and he is killed in a skirmish
 - e. his people, the Sioux, surrender and move to Wounded Knee (SD)
 - f. the tribe prepares in secret to engage in the Ghost Dance but are confronted by troops ordering them to disperse and give up their arms
- 5. Wounded Knee Massacre, 300 men, women and children are killed when shots are fired
 - a. some bodies are found as far as 3 miles from the beginning of the skirmish
 - b. many Americans are shocked at the killing
 - c. leader of the troops is disciplined, others involved receive the Medal of Honor for their involvement
- 6. the Massacre at Wounded Knee marks the end of armed violence between the Army and the Indians (1889)
- C. Resistance in the West (1855)
 - 1. Nez Percé agreed to move on a reservation in Idaho and Oregon
 - 2. by 1863 gold miners and settlers began to move on their land and the government takes back most of their land
 - 3. in 1877 their leader Chief Joseph agrees to move on to land in Idaho
 - a. violence breaks out between the Nez Percé and settlers
 - b. Chief Joseph leads his people away towards Canada
 - c. he leads a fighting retreat followed by the Army
 - d. just short of Canada he is forced to surrender

"I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed . . . It is cold, and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death . . . My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever."

--- Chief Joseph, 1877

- D. resistance in the Southwest U.S. (1870s)
 - 1. Apache in Arizona
 - 2. after the Army interferes in a religious ceremony a Apache leader Geronimo flees with dozens of followers

3. moves between Mexico and Arizona 1881
 - a. briefly moves back to reservation in 1884
 - b. resumes raids on whites
 - c. Geronimo captured in 1886 when Army uses Apache scouts to lead them to his hideout
 - d. Geronimo and 450 followers are sent to Florida
 - e. Geronimo is moved and held at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma
 - f. he died in 1909 and was buried at Ft. Sill as a prisoner of war where his grave can still be viewed



E. Life on the reservations

1. reservations served two purposes
 - a. control over western territories
 - b. control over the Indian
2. Americanization of the Indian peoples
 - a. Indian policy changes in the 1870s
 - b. encouraged Indians to adopt the culture of the whites and abandon their own culture
 - c. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

"You are therefore directed to induce your male Indians to cut their hair, and both sexes to stop painting (their faces) . . . The wearing of citizens' clothing, instead of the Indian costume and blanket, should be encouraged." - -

- BIA letter to Greenville Indian School, California, 1902

- d. Indian schools are opened through out the west including a number of schools in Oklahoma
- e. while at school they could only speak English and were prohibited in participating in Indian culture or religion
3. Dawes Act 1887
 - a. began to break up most reservations and move Indians towards private property ownership
 - b. the hope was to encourage incentive to succeed in a white culture

- c. often the Indians were given the least productive lands while the better land was sold.

13.2

II. Mining and Ranching

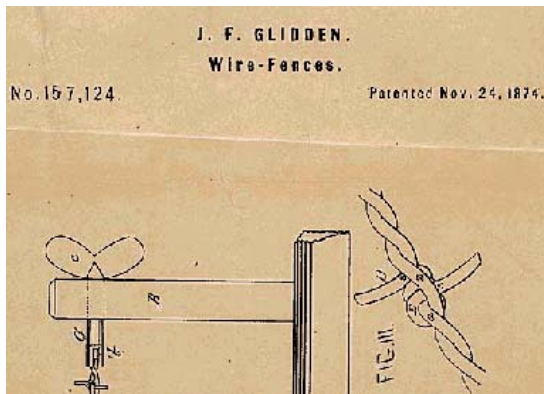
A. Mining

1. discovery of gold and silver in the west, California discovery in 1849 was only the first of many discoveries in the west
2. miners would race from one discovery to the next in hope of striking it rich (Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Black Hills of the Dakota's, Arizona and Colorado)
3. 1858 gold discovered near Pikes Peak, Colorado (Colorado Springs, Co)
4. Carson River Valley, Nevada – Comstock Lode, famous silver strike, over 20 years nearly \$500 million from this strike
5. Klondike gold rush, Klondike River in Yukon Territory, Canada 1897, another discovery was made across the border in Alaska
 - a. 100,000 Americans head to Canada
 - b. Canadian officials require that miners bring a years worth of supplies to enter
6. most miners, as was true in California leave disappointed
7. Mining camps
 - a. most miners are men
 - b. competition often leads to violence
 - c. vigilante law is usually all that is available
 - d. some camps develop into towns as women and children arrive
8. Mining develops into big business
 - a. pacer mining – ore found loose in sand or gravel by panning
 - b. hydraulic mining – water under pressure used to wash away sand and gravel looking for ore
 - c. hard-rock mining – cutting shafts in solid rock looking for veins of ore

B. Western Ranching

1. first ranches in the West were Spanish who brought cattle to the new world from Spain in the 1500s
2. cattle were interbred to develop a breed that thrived in the Plains: Texas Longhorn
 - a. hardy
 - b. travel long distances with little water
 - c. disease resistant
3. Spanish also introduced sheep to the West
 - a. Navajos and Pueblos in the Southwest
 - b. New England textile mills increased the demand for wool
4. Conflict between cattle and sheep ranchers as they competed for grazing rights on open range
5. demand for beef increases after the Civil War in cities in the East
 - a. 1866 a steer in Texas valued at , but back east \$40
 - b. cattle drives begin moving cattle from Texas to railroads
 - c. Chisholm Trail, San Antonio, Ft. Worth, across Oklahoma into Kansas and the railheads near Wichita or Dodge City

- d. Texans would attempt to use the prairies of Oklahoma to fatten their stock on the way to Kansas
 - i. this would be in conflict with the Federal government
 - ii. this was Indian land controlled by the BIA
 - iii. trading posts were established to benefit from the trail drives
 - iv. drive would take 3± months to complete
 - v. large number of cowboys were African Americans or of Hispanic origin even a few were women disguised as men
- 6. Ranching as Big Business
 - a. keeping track of cattle on the open range a problem
 - b. Joseph Glidden receives patent for barbed wire



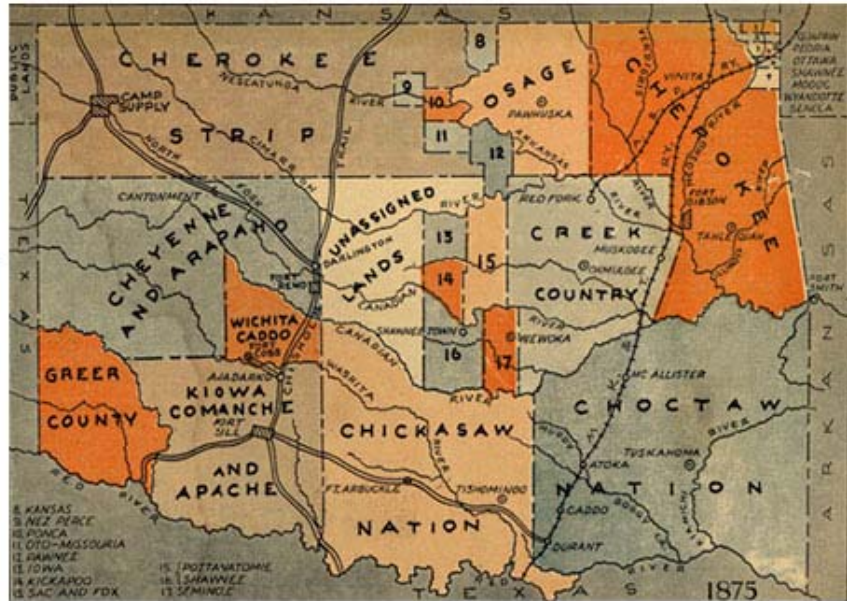
- c. barbed wire would lead to small privately owned cattle ranches across the Great Plains
- d. enclosure of the open range would lead to violence between landless cattle owners and ranchers and farmers
- e. severe winter of 1885-86 followed the next winter of 1886-87 cause staggering losses in the cattle business, Big Die-up caused by cattle trapped by drift fences

13.3

III. Farming the Plains

- A. Zebulon Pike first describes the plains as the “Great American Desert”
 - 1. Homestead Act, encouraged Americans to move west
 - a. claim 160 acres
 - b. make improvements to the land
 - c. live there for 5 years before gaining full ownership
 - 2. Pacific Railway Act, land in exchange for construction of railroad and telegraph lines
 - 3. Morrill Act, 1862, land to encourage states to provide colleges for “Agriculture and Mechanic Arts”
 - a. some states use the land to build A&M colleges
 - b. other states sell the land to fund higher education
 - 4. Railroad expansion encourages settlement, land they were granted was sold to individuals
 - 5. Oklahoma Land Run of 1889, two million acres were discovered that had not been assigned to any tribe

Boomer Movement
 First Land Run, 1889
 Second Land Run, 1891
 Third Land Run, 1892
 Fourth Land Run, 1893
 Fifth Land Run, 1895
 Land Lottery, 1901
 Land Auction, 1906
 Statehood, 1907



- a. unassigned lands, run July of 1889
 - b. second run, Pottawatomie, Shawnee, Sac and Fox and Iowa run of 1891 (map sections 13 & 15)
 - c. third run 1892 (map # 14)
 - d. fourth run 1893, Cherokee Strip
 - e. fifth run 1895 Kickapoo Run (map section # 16)
 - f. those that crossed the starting line early to claim land illegally were called “Sooners”
- B. Closing American Frontier
1. Turner Thesis, Frederick Jackson Turner
 - a. Turner’s thesis said that it was the ever present frontier in America that made America distinctive
 - b. this challenge to move west made Americans different from their European predecessors
 - c. his ideas would be debated by historians to follow
 - d. some wonder about the term frontier being applied to an area inhabited by aboriginal Americans
 2. Westward migration
 - a. white settlement mainly by middle class farmers or business persons
 - b. African American settlement, Exodusters escaping rise of KKK and racism in the “New” South
 - c. European settlement, Scandinavians move to the northern plains
 - i. Irish that build railroad stay to farm
 - ii. Russian immigrants settle on the northern plains
 - iii. German create settlements in central Texas
 - iv. Chinese from gold rush and railroad construction work as agricultural workers, a few owning their own land, fruit orchards in California
 3. New ways of farming

- a. harsh climate
- b. water scarce
- c. shortage of lumber leads to building of sod houses
- d. new equipment developed by James Oliver



Oliver Plows like this were used to open up the Plains of North America. The company that produced them was founded by a Roxburghshire (Scotland) Shepherd. By the 1870s Oliver plows were being exported back to Scotland the land of his birth.

- e. other machines also improved efficiency, harvesters
 - f. equipment was expensive and caused farmers to go into debt
4. Farming as big business
- a. bonanza farms, operated like factories
 - b. during good years were very profitable
 - c. by 1890 and a series of poor harvests most had been broken up



At the Starting Signal at High Noon

Thomas Croft & P. A. Miller, Associates of William S. Prettyman, Cherokee Outlet, September 16, 1893



Seconds After the Start

Thomas Croft & P. A. Miller, Associates of William S. Prettyman, Cherokee Outlet, September 16, 1893

Robert E. Cunningham Collection, 2000.005.7.0540C