

## **Chapter 7: Looking to the West (Section 1 & 2)**

The settlers of the American West had many reasons for giving up their old, sometimes comfortable, lives for a new start in the wilderness. With the help of the American government, Americans and immigrants settled the region west of the Mississippi in a major migration during the second half of the 1800's.

- I. Moving West
  - A. The Lure of the West
    - 1. The US government encouraged attempts to take Native Americans lands.
    - 2. The Morrill Land Grant Act and the Homestead Act provide settlers ways to acquire western lands.
      - a. A key requirement of the Homestead Act was they had to farm the land for five years in a row.
    - 3. Expanding railroads had a great effect on Native Americans and white settlers.
      - b. Native Americans were negatively affected by the expansion of the railroad system.
      - c. The railroads brought more white settlers who wanted to take the Native Americans lands.
      - d. Railroads had a positive effect for white settlers, as they were farmers and ranchers that needed the transportation to get their product to market.
      - e. The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad contributed to the closing of the western frontier.

American expansion into the west led to the near destruction of Native American societies. The Native Americans faced their fate in varying ways – with blood thirsty anger, solemn faith, and cautious compromise, these all give way to resignation, fatigue, and heartbreak.

- II. Conflict with Native Americans
  - A. Many agreements between Native Americans and the federal government fell apart because of differing concepts of land ownership.
  - B. Key Battles: The Massacre at Wounded Knee, American soldiers killed over 200 unarmed Sioux.
  - C. New Policies
    - 1. Indian Rights movements grow out of outrage over how the federal government is treating Native Americans.
  - D. Native Americans and white homesteaders used land very differently
    - 1. Native Americans mainly lived off the Buffalo that roamed the lands.
    - 2. Native Americans did little to change the land from its natural state.
    - 3. Settlers grew crops and raised domestic livestock, which changed the land a great deal.

## **Chapter 7: Looking to the West (Section 3 & 4)**

Along with the armies of Custer and Sherman came a virtual army of miners, ranchers, and farmers. Mining, ranching, and farming developed from individual and family enterprises into major industries, transforming the west.

- III. Mining, Ranching and Farming
  - A. Once all the loose gold had been mined from streams, large mining corporations moved in to get at the gold that was below the surface. This required much more industrial techniques.
  - B. Expansion of the railroads leads to a cattle ranching boom.
  - C. New farming technologies helped farmers in the Great Plains save time and money.
  - D. Life was hard on the Great Plains. Many farmers built house made of mud, because there were not trees and no transportation to bring in lumber.
  - E. Bonanza farms were a combination of big business and new agricultural techniques.

Economic crises led to organized protest by farmers seeking government relief. Economic reform became an election issue and led to the rise of Populism.

- IV. Populism
  - A. The Farmers Complaints
    - 1. High tariffs led to higher cost and a smaller market for farmers.
    - 2. Farmers protested high tariffs.
    - 3. Farmers supported inflation because it increased crop prices.
    - 4. Western farmers want "Free Silver" as they thought it would increase crop prices
  - B. Populist Reforms
    - 1. Increased circulation of money
    - 2. Unlimited minting of silver
    - 3. Progressive income tax
    - 4. Government ownership of communication and transportation systems