

America: Pathways to the Present

Chapter 7

Looking to the West (1860–1900)

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Chapter 7: Looking to the West (1860-1900)

Section 1: Moving West

Section 2: Conflict With Native Americans

Section 3: Mining, Ranching, and Farming

Section 4: Populism

Moving West

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 1

- **What conditions lured people to migrate to the West?**
- **Where did the western settlers come from?**
- **How did the American frontier shift westward?**



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The Lure of the West

When geographers study reasons for major migrations, they look at what they call **push-pull factors**-events and conditions that either force (push) people to move elsewhere or strongly attract (pull) them to do so. Here are some push-pull factors for moving west.

“Push” Factors

- The Civil War had displaced thousands of farmers, former slaves, and other workers.
- Eastern farmland was too costly.
- Failed entrepreneurs sought a second chance in a new locations.
- Ethnic and religious repression caused people to seek the freedom of the west.
- Outlaws sought refuge.

“Pull” Factors

- **The Pacific Railway Acts of 1862 and 1864**
- **Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862**
- **Land speculators**
- **Homestead Act, 1862**
- **Legally enforceable property rights**



Settlers From Far and Wide

Chapter 7, Section 1

- **German-speaking immigrants arrived seeking farmland. They brought the Lutheran religion with its emphasis on hard work and education.**
- **Lutherans from Scandinavia settled the northern plains from Iowa to Minnesota to the Dakotas, many pursuing dairy farming.**
- **Irish, Italians, European Jews, and Chinese settled in concentrated communities on the West coast. They took jobs in mining and railroad construction that brought them to the American interior.**
- **After the Civil War, thousands of African Americans rode or walked westward, often fleeing violence and exploitation.**
- **Benjamin “Pap” Singleton led groups of southern blacks on a mass “Exodus,” a trek inspired by the biblical account of the Israelites’ flight from Egypt to a prophesied homeland. Hence, the settlers called themselves Exodusters. Some 50,000 or more Exodusters migrated west.**



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Moving West—Assessment

Chapter 7, Section 1

Which one of these choices was not a factor in people's decision to move west?

- (A) Eastern farmland was too costly.
- (B) The soil in the East and the South was no longer good for planting.
- (C) People were looking to escape ethnic and religious repression.
- (D) The Civil War had displaced thousands of farmers.

Why did so many African Americans move west?

- (A) They hoped to start over.
- (B) They were escaping the racism and violence in the South.
- (C) The West offered affordable land to farm.
- (D) All of the above.

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Moving West—Assessment

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Conflict With Native Americans

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 2

- **What caused changes in the life of Plains Indians?**
- **How did government policies and battlefield challenges affect the Indian wars?**
- **What changes occurred in federal Indian policies by 1900?**



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The Life of the Plains Indians

Chapter 7, Section 2

- Before the eastern settlers arrived, changes had affected the lives of Native Americans on the **Great Plains**, the vast grassland between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains.
- Relations with the French and American fur traders allowed the Plains Indians to trade buffalo hides for guns. Guns made hunting for buffalo easier.
- The introduction of the horse brought upheaval. Warfare among Indian nations rose to new intensity when waged on horseback.
- Many Native Americans continued to live as farmers, hunters, and gatherers. Others became **nomads**, people who travel from place to place following available food sources, instead of settling in one location.
- The rise of warrior societies led to a decline in village life, as nomadic Native Americans raided more settled groups.



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Indian Wars and Government Policy

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 2

- Before the Civil War Native Americans west of the Mississippi continued to inhabit their traditional lands.
- Settlers' views of land use contrasted with Native American traditions. Settlers felt justified in taking the land because they would use it more productively. Native Americans viewed them as invaders.
- Government treaties tried to restrict movement of Native Americans by restricting them to **reservations**, federal lands set aside for them.
- Some federal agents negotiated honestly; others did not.
- Many settlers disregarded the negotiations entirely and stole land, killed buffalo, diverted water supplies, and attacked Indian camps.
- Acts of violence on both sides set off cycles of revenge.



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Key Events in the Indian Wars, 1861-1890

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Chapter 7, Section 2

Wars/Battles	Native American Nations/Homelands	Key Players	Description/Outcome
Apache and Navajo Wars (1861-1886)	Apache in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado territories; Navajo in New Mexico, Colorado territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geronimo• Col. Christopher "Kit" Carson	Carson kills or relocates many Apache to reservations in 1862. Clashes drag on until Geronimo's surrender in 1886. Navajo told to surrender in 1863, but before they can, Carson attacks, killing hundreds, destroying homelands. Navajos moved to New Mexico reservation in 1865.
Sand Creek Massacre (1864)	Southern Cheyenne, Arapaho, in central plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black Kettle• Col. John Chivington	Cheyenne massacres prompt Chivington to kill up to 500 surrendered Cheyenne and Arapaho led by Black Kettle.
Red River War (1874-1875)	Comanche and southern branches of Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Arapaho, in southern plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comanche war parties• Gen. William T. Sherman• Lt. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan	Southern plains Indians relocated to Oklahoma Indian Territory under 1867 Treaty of Medicine Lodge. After buffalo hunters destroy the Indians food supply, Comanche warriors race to buffalo grazing areas in Texas panhandle to kill hunters. Sherman and Sheridan defeat warriors and open panhandle to cattle ranching.



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Key Events in the Indian Wars, 1861-1890

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Chapter 7, Section 2

Wars/Battles	Native American Nations/Homelands	Key Players	Description/Outcome
Battle of Little Bighorn (1876)	Northern plains Sioux in Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sitting Bull• Crazy Horse• Red Cloud• Lt. Col. George A. Custer	U.S. tries to buy gold-rich Black Hills from Sioux. Talks fail. Custer's 7th Cavalry is sent to round up Sioux, but meets huge enemy force. Custer and some 200 men perish in "Custer's Last Stand."
Nez Perce War (1877)	Largest branch of Nez Perce, in Wallowa Valley of Idaho and Washington territories and Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief Joseph• Gen. Oliver O. Howard• Col. Nelson Miles	Howard orders Nez Perce to Idaho reservation; violence erupts. Joseph leads some 700 men, women, and children on 1,400-mile flight. His 200 warriors hold off Miles's 2,000 soldiers until halted 40 miles short of Canada. Sent to Indian Territory, many die of disease. In 1885, survivors moved to reservation in Washington Territory.
Battle of Wounded Knee (1890)	Sioux at Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sitting Bull• U.S. 7th Cavalry	Ghost Dance raises fears of Sioux uprising; Sitting Bull killed in attempted arrest. His followers surrender and camp at Wounded Knee. Shots are fired; some 200 Sioux die.



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Attempts to Change Native American Culture

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 2

- Many people believed that Native Americans needed to give up their traditions and culture, learn English, become Christians, adopt white dress and customs, and support themselves by farming and trades.
- This policy is called **assimilation**, the process by which one society becomes a part of another, more dominant society by adopting its culture.
- In 1887 the **Dawes Act** divided reservation land into individual plots. Each family headed by a man received 160 acres.
- Many Native Americans did not believe in the concept of individual property, nor did they want to farm the land. For some, the practices of farming went against their notion of ecology. Some had no experience in agriculture.
- Between 1887 and 1932, some two thirds of this land became white owned.



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The Opening of Indian Territory

- Fifty five Indian nations were forced into Indian Territory, the largest unsettled farmland in the United States.
- During the 1880s, squatters overran the land, and Congress agreed to buy out the Indian claims to the region.
- On April 22, 1889, tens of thousands of homesteaders lined up at the territory's borders to stake claims on the land.
- By sundown, settlers called **boomers** had staked claims on almost 2 million acres.
- Many boomers discovered that some of the best lands had been grabbed by sooners, people who had sneaked past the government officials earlier to mark their claims.
- Under continued pressure from settlers, Congress created Oklahoma Territory in 1890. In the following years, the remainder of Indian Territory was open to settlement.



Conflict With Native Americans

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 2

What changed the lives of the Plains Indians before the arrival of the eastern settlers?

- (A) The introduction of farming and ranching.**
- (B) The introduction of horses and guns.**
- (C) The introduction of slavery and land ownership.**
- (D) The introduction of mining and railroads.**

Why didn't Native Americans appreciate the land granted to them by the Dawes Act?

- (A) They thought they were entitled to more land.**
- (B) They wanted to combine individual plots to build a town.**
- (C) They did not believe in the notion of individual property and were not interested in farming.**
- (D) They wanted to sell their land to speculators.**

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Mining, Ranching, and Farming

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 3

- **How did mining spread in the West?**
- **What caused the western cattle boom?**
- **What was life like for a cowboy on the Chisholm Trail?**
- **How did settlers overcome barriers in farming the Plains?**



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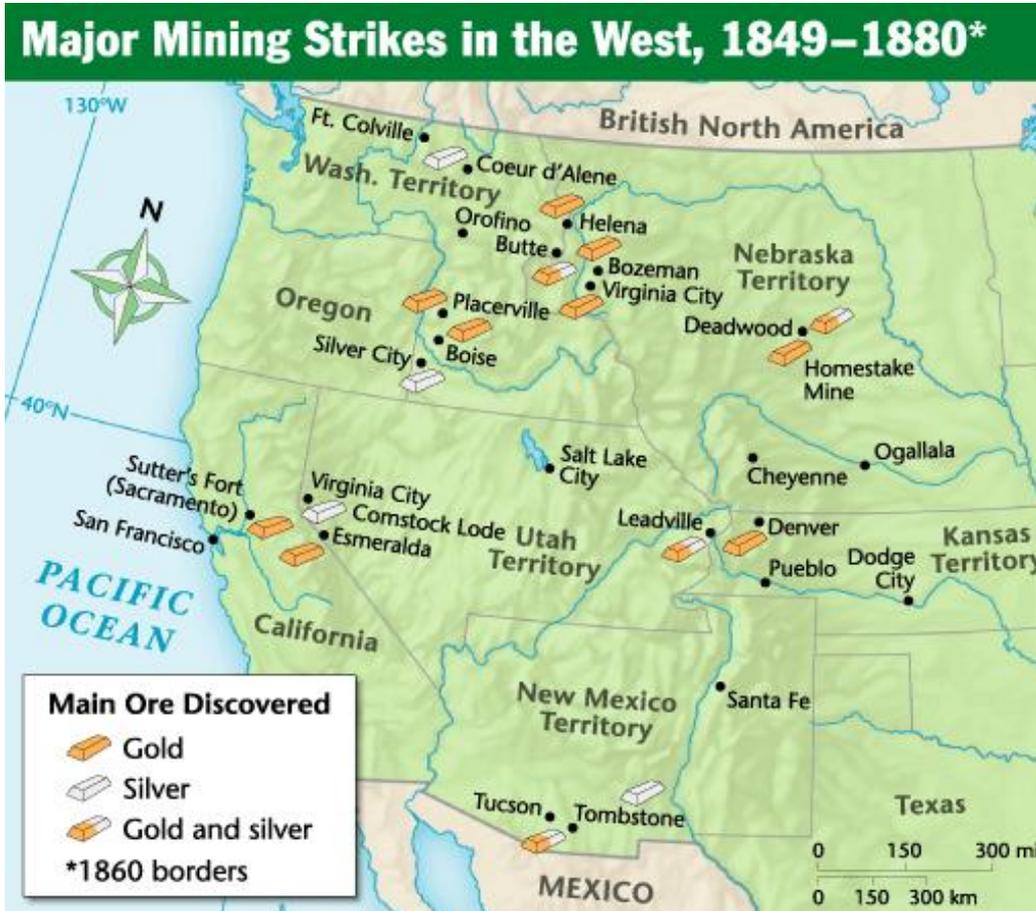
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The Spread of Western Mining



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Early Mining and Mining Towns

- At first, miners searched for metal in surface soil or in streambeds. The simplest tool was a shallow pan in which the miner scooped dirt and water, and then swished it around. Lighter particles washed over the edge while the gold stayed in the bottom of the pan.
- A technique called **placer mining** used this method on a larger scale. Miners shoveled loose dirt into boxes and then ran water over the dirt to separate it from the gold or silver particles.



The Cattle Boom

- **Mexicans taught Americans cattle ranching. The Americans adopted Mexican ranching equipment, and dress and began raising Texas longhorn cattle.**
- **Before the Civil War, pork had been Americans' meat of choice. But then cookbooks snubbed pork as "unwholesome" and the nation went on a beef binge.**
- **Beef shipments became less expensive with the invention of refrigerated railroad cars.**
- **Destruction of the buffalo made more room for cattle ranching.**
- **Abilene, Kansas, became the first "cow town," a town built specifically for receiving cattle.**



A Cowboy's Life: Cattle Drive on the Chisholm Trail

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 3

- Cowboys herded thousands of cattle to railway centers on the **long drive**.
- The Chisholm Trail was one of several trails that linked grazing land in Texas with cow towns to the north.
- Cowboy life was hard. The men were up at 3:30 in the morning and were in the saddle up to 18 hours a day. They had to be constantly alert in case of a stampede.
- The leading cause of death was being dragged by a horse. Diseases such as tuberculosis also killed many cowboys.



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Farming the Plains

- For most **homesteaders**— those who farmed claims under the Homestead Act— life was difficult.
- Most homesteaders built either a dugout or a soddie for homes. A **soddie** was a structure with the walls and roof made from strips of grass with the thick roots and earth attached.
- There was backbreaking labor, bugs that ravaged the fields, money troubles, falling crop prices and rising farm debt. Many homesteaders failed and headed back east.
- Settlers had to rely on each other, raising houses and barns together, sewing quilts and husking corn.



New Technology Eases Farm Labor

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 3

Mechanized Reaper	Reduced labor force needed for harvest. Allows farmers to maintain larger farms.
Barbed Wire	Keeps cattle from trampling crops and uses a minimal amount of lumber, which was scarce on the plains.
Dry Farming	Allows cultivation of arid land by using drought-resistant crops and various techniques to minimize evaporation.
Steel Plow	Allows farmers to cut through dense, root-choked sod.
Harrow	Smooths and levels ground for planting.
Steel Windmill	Powers irrigation systems and pumps up ground water.
Hybridization	Cross-breeding of crop plants, which allows greater yields and uniformity.
Improved Communication	Keeps cattle from trampling crops and uses a minimal amount of lumber, which was scarce on the plains.
Grain Drill	Array of multiple drills used to carve small trenches in the ground and feed seed into the soil.
Bonanza Farm	Farms controlled by large businesses, managed by professionals, raised massive quantities of a single cash crop.



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Frontier Myths

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 3

The Wild West: Some elements of the frontier myths were true. Yet, many wild towns of the West calmed down fairly quickly or disappeared.

Taming the Frontier

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.

The End of the Frontier

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.

Turner's Frontier Thesis

In 1893, historian Frederick Jackson Turner claimed that the frontier had played a key role in forming the American character. The **Turner Thesis**, as his view came to be called, stated that frontier life created Americans who were socially mobile, ready for adventure, bent on individual self-improvement, and committed to democracy.

Myths in Literature, Shows, and Song

The Wild West remains fixed in popular culture and continues to influence how Americans think about themselves. Many **stereotypes**—exaggerated or oversimplified descriptions of reality, and frontier myths persist today despite our deeper understanding of the history of the American West.



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Mining, Ranching, and Farming—Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 3

What invention made beef transportation less expensive?

- (A) The Chisholm Trail**
- (B) Barbed wire**
- (C) Hybridization**
- (D) Refrigerated railroad cars**

What material were most homesteaders' homes made of?

- (A) Wood**
- (B) Buffalo hide**
- (C) Sod**
- (D) Stone**

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Mining, Ranching, and Farming—Assessment

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- **Why did farmers complain about the federal post-Civil War economic policies?**
- **How did the government respond to organized protests by farmers?**
- **What were the Populists' key goals?**
- **What was the main point of William Jennings Bryan's Cross of Gold speech?**
- **What was the legacy of Populism?**



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The Farmers' Complaint

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 4

Farmers and Tariffs

Tariffs helped farmers by protecting them against competition from farm imports. But, they also hurt farmers because they raised the prices of manufactured goods, such as farm machinery, and kept foreigners from earning U.S. money with which to buy American crops.

The Money Issue

Farmers wanted an increase in the **money supply**, the amount of money in the national economy. As a result, the value of every dollar drops, leading to a widespread rise in prices, or inflation. This trend would benefit people who borrow money (farmers), but it would not be good for money lenders (banks). A decrease in the money supply would cause **deflation**. **Monetary policy**, the federal government's plan for the makeup and quantity of the nation's money supply, thus emerged as a major political issue.

Gold Bugs

Before 1873 U.S. currency was on a **bimetallic standard**, consisting of gold and silver. Then Congress put the currency on a gold standard which decreased the money supply. "Gold bugs" (big lenders) were pleased.



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The Bland-Allison Act of 1878

- The move to a gold standard enraged the “silverites,” mostly silver-mining interest and western farmers. Silverites called for free silver, the unlimited coining of silver dollars to increase the money supply.
- Required the federal government to purchase and coin more silver, thereby increasing the money supply and causing inflation
- Vetoed by President Hayes because he opposed the inflation that it would cause
- Congress overrode the veto.
- The Treasury Department refused to buy more than the minimum amount of silver required by the act. The act had limited effect.

Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890

- Increased the amount of silver that the government was required to purchase every month
- The law required the Treasury to buy the silver with notes that could be redeemed for either silver or gold.
- Many people turned in their silver Treasury notes for gold dollars, thus depleting the gold reserves.
- In 1893, President Cleveland repealed the Silver Purchase Act.



Organizing Farmer Protests

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 7, Section 4

The Grange

Organized in 1867 in response to farmers' isolation, it helped farmers form cooperatives which bought goods in large quantities at lower prices. The Grange also pressured government to regulate businesses on which farmers depended.

Farmers' Alliance

Another powerful political group, the Farmers' Alliance called actions that many farmers could support. The alliance won support for women's rights. The African Americans worked through a separate but parallel "Colored Farmers' Alliance."

Government Response

In 1887 President Cleveland signed the Interstate Commerce Act. It regulated prices that railroads charged to move freight between states. It also set up the Interstate Commerce Commission to enforce laws.



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The Populists

Chapter 7, Section 4

- The Farmers' Alliances formed a new political party, The People's Party or the **Populists**. Their platform called for
 - An increased circulation of money
 - Unlimited minting of silver
 - A progressive income tax which would put a greater financial burden on the wealthy industrialists and a lesser one on farmers.
 - Government-owned communications and transportation systems
 - An eight-hour work day
- The Populists sought to unite African American and white farmers.
- The Populist candidate for President, William Jennings Bryan, won most of the western and southern states but lost the election. However, populist ideas lived on. In the decades ahead, reformers known as Progressives applied populist ideas to urban and industrial problems.



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Bryan's "Cross of Gold"

- Populist presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, a former silverite Congressman, faced off against moderate Republican William McKinley.
- During the 1896 Democratic Convention in Chicago, Bryan closed the debate over party platform with his **Cross of Gold speech**.
- Using images from the Bible, he stood with his head bowed and arms outstretched and cried out:
 - “You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold!”
- So impressive was his speech that both Democrats and Populists nominated him for President.



Populism—Assessment

Which of these economic policies was not beneficial for farmers?

- (A) An increase in money supply
- (B) A decrease in money supply
- (C) Free silver
- (D) The gold standard

Which one of these proposals was not a part of the Populist platform?

- (A) The eight-hour work day
- (B) A progressive income tax
- (C) Government ownership of communications and transportation systems
- (D) Increased tariffs on imported goods

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Populism—Assessment

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