

LOOKING TO THE WEST

America hitches up the wagon train

PUSH-PULL FACTORS IN WESTWARD MIGRATION

- Events or conditions that either force (push) or entice (pull) people to move elsewhere.
- Push: Civil War displacement, Farmland in East costly (especially for former slaves or immigrants), failed business people starting over, religious freedoms, outlaws.
- Pull: Government. Gave away or sold land cheaply.
 - Homestead Act: People could have 160 Acres for a small fee and met other conditions.
 - Immigrants especially were attracted by the prospect of cheap land!

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

- The west was still occupied by Millions of Native Americans.
- White settlers' ideas of how to use the land contrasted with the traditions of Native American tribes.
- The American government made treaties with native tribes, restricting their movement.
- Often these treaties were signed by members of the tribe who did not represent the will of the majority. These treaties were usually written in English and often not well explained.

CHANGES IN POLICY

- Wars between the government and native tribes raged from 1861-1890.
- During and after this time, many Americans felt that Native Americans needed to be "civilized" and assimilated into white society.
- Boarding schools were set up to educate native children away from their cultures. Reservations were divided into individual plots to encourage private ownership of land over community ownership (Dawes Act).

OPENING INDIAN TERRITORY

- Indian Territory (Oklahoma+) contained 2 million acres of unassigned farmland.
- Congress agreed to buy out Native claims on the area.
- The land was opened to claims on April 22, 1889 at noon. By nightfall, almost all of the 2 million acres and been claimed.
- The area known as Indian territory would be entirely opened to settlement in a few years. Only a few reservations remain.

OPENING "INDIAN TERRITORY" - THE OKLAHOMA LAND RUSH

SOONERS: PEOPLE WHO CHEATED IN THE OKLAHOMA LAND RUSH

38 - # OF WARS BETWEEN CIVIL WAR AND 1923 BETWEEN US AND NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

SAND CREEK MASSACRE

Sand Creek Massacre - 1864

133 Native Americans killed, 105 were women and children

25 US Soldiers died, possibly as a result of drunkenness and friendly fire.

Before Chivington and his men left the area, they plundered the tipis and took the horses. After the smoke cleared, Chivington's men came back and killed many of the wounded. They also scalped many of the dead,

regardless of whether they were women, children or infants. Chivington and his men dressed their weapons, hats and gear with scalps and other body parts, including human fetuses and male and female genitalia.[33] They also publicly displayed these battle trophies in Denver's Apollo Theater and area saloons.

US Military led by Col John Chivington, previously am methodist minister. “Damn any man who sympathizes with Indians! ... I have come to kill Indians, and believe it is right and honorable to use any means under God's heaven to kill Indians. ... Kill and scalp all, big and little; nits make lice.”

— Col. John Milton Chivington

LITTLE BIG HORN

George Armstrong Custer - Civil War commander, temporarily a Major General. Present at surrender of Robert E. Lee.

The U.S. 7th Cavalry, including the Custer Battalion, a force of 700 men led by George Armstrong Custer, suffered a severe defeat. Five of the 7th Cavalry's twelve companies were annihilated; Custer was killed, as were two of his brothers, a nephew, and a brother-in-law. The total U.S. casualty count, including scouts, was 268 dead and 55 injured.

Under 700 US Troops vs as many as 3000 Native American warriors.

"Hurrah boys, we've got them! We'll finish them up and then go home to our station."

—Reportedly said by General Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE

“When I look back now from this high hill of my old age, I can still see the butchered women and children lying heaped and scattered all along the crooked gulch as plain as when I saw them with eyes young. And I can see that something else died there in the bloody mud, and was buried in the blizzard. A people's dream died there. It was a beautiful dream ... the nation's hope is broken and scattered. There is no center any longer, and the sacred tree is dead.”

—Black Elk, Oglala Lakota Medicine Man

Custer's old regiment killed 300 unarmed Native Americans at Wounded Knee. Picture above shows a mass grave.

"There was a woman with an infant in her arms who was killed as she almost touched the flag of truce ... A mother was shot down with her infant; the child not knowing that its mother was dead was still nursing ... The women as they were fleeing with their babies were killed together, shot right through ... and after most all of them had been killed a cry was made that all those who were not killed or wounded should come forth and they would be safe. Little boys ... came out of their places of refuge, and as soon as they came in sight a number of soldiers surrounded them and butchered them there.”

—American Horse, Oglala Sioux Chief

“...helpless children and women with babies in their arms had been chased as far as two miles from the original scene of encounter and cut down without mercy by the troopers. ... Judging by the slaughter on the battlefield it was suggested that the soldiers simply went berserk. For who could explain such a merciless disregard for

life? ... As I see it the battle was more or less a matter of spontaneous combustion, sparked by mutual distrust...”

— Hugh McGinnis, First Battalion, Company K, 7th Cavalry

DECIMATION OF THE BUFFALO/BISON

DAWES ACT OF 1887

BOARDING SCHOOL

FARMING BUT NOT GROWING

CLOSING OF THE FRONTIER

- Each year the “frontier line” moved a bit more westward as settlers came to the west.
- Miners, farmers, ranchers and others came to make their living in the American west.
- By 1890, after giving away and selling cheaply hundreds of millions of acres of land, the U.S. Government “closed” the Frontier. This meant that there would be no more cheap land given away by the government, because the west was now well divided into civilized but isolated bodies of settlement.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

- Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company and Edwin Drake were the first to drill for oil, much more efficient than harvesting and refining from whales or waiting for oil to seep above ground.
 - Kerosene was the fuel of the day for lamps and heating. It’s by-product, gasoline, was seen as a waste product and thrown away.
- Thomas Edison invented the incandescent light bulb, allowing for indoor light without oil lamps. Edison also built the first power plant to provide electricity to many buildings.

TRANS-CONTINENTAL RAILROAD

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

- Edison’s electricity could be used to power machines that and been powered by physical, animal or other types of power.
 - Factories could produce more materials in less time. Profits increased, more people could be employed.
- Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, allowing for voice communication between two different places, in 1876. Bell’s American Telephone and Telegraph company was building long distance phone lines by 1885.

TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

- Railroad that reached from coast to coast.
- Investors did not see the potential in this, so the federal government subsidized the project. The railroad companies received 10 miles of land for every mile of track they laid.
- 1883 due to railroads, America adopted time zones, which we still use today.
- Railroads could quickly transport goods and people , lowered costs of production, created national markets for goods, and stimulated other industries.

THE GROWTH OF BIG BUSINESS

Robber Barons, Labor Unions, and the growth of 'Murica! ROBBER BARONS OR CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY

- Robber Baron: Term used to describe business leaders in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Implies that these men gained their power and fortune by stealing from the public:
 - Natural resources
 - Corruption of elected officials
- The term "Captains of Industry" implies that these men served the country well, by building factories, increasing the supply of goods, expanding markets and creating jobs.

NEW BUSINESS AND MARKET STRUCTURES

- Oligopoly - an industry controlled by a few large powerful firms. (Today, think breakfast cereals, batteries, oil). These firms can fix prices amongst each other.
- Monopoly - industry controlled by a single powerful firm. That firm usually either buys out its competition or drives them out of business, leaving the firm free then to raise prices.
- Cartel - an alliance of businesses or producers who work together to limit supply of a good to keep prices high. (OPEC)

ROCKEFELLER

- John D. Rockefeller: Formed the "Standard Oil Company", gaining control over almost the entire oil industry, creating a "monopoly". He used "horizontal consolidation", bring together and buying many other companies in the same business.
- Rockefeller and his partners got around monopoly laws by forming the company in a "trust", managed by trustees. The companies were managed together, but never officially merged.

ANTI-TRUST LAWS

- The federal government, in response to Rockefeller's Standard Oil Trust, passed the "Sherman Antitrust Act". The law supposedly outlawed combinations of companies that interfered with interstate trade.
- In reality the law was not very effective in stopping companies like Standard Oil. It was vaguely worded and lawyers could maneuver around it.
- It was invoked to control labor unions. Federal lawyers argued that unions allowed workers an unfair advantage.

ANDREW CARNEGIE

- Gospel of Wealth: People should be free to make as much money as they can or want. They should also give that wealth away. Carnegie gave billions to charities.
- The Carnegie steel company owned all aspects of the steel manufacturing: from mining to production to transportation of goods. Vertical Consolidation
- Because he owned all aspects of production, Carnegie could produce more and charge less (economies of scale). Smaller companies were at a disadvantage.

WORKERS

- Between 1860 and 1900, 14 million people emigrated to the United States.
- 8-9 million Americans moved to cities by the end of the 1800s, escaping poor conditions in rural areas. They came to work in factories

- Much factory work was paid as “piecework”, a worker would get paid for each thing they produce, not the hours they work. These were really the worlds first sweatshops.

NEW METHODS & PRACTICES

- In the past, workers had done many different tasks to make an item, often working on it from start to finish.
- The idea of “Division of Labor” was that each worker only do one small part of a process, and do it over and over. This could increase production.
- Relationships between workers and employers changed as well. As businesses grew, workers saw less and less of their employers, leading to an adversarial relationship.

DISPARITY OF WEALTH

- By 1890, the wealthiest 9% of Americans held 75% of the nations wealth.
- As factory owners lived extravagant lifestyles, their workers survived on a few hundred dollars a year, barely making ends meet.
- Some workers began to be drawn to a european philosophy called “socialism”, which favored public control of the economy and production.
- Others came to believe that workers needed to band together to egt what they needed, and formed labor unions.

UNIONS

- National Labor Union formed in Baltimore in 1866. This union represented 60,000 workers, but did not survive a national economic recession.
- Knights of Labor - 1869 - wanted to organize skilled and unskilled labor into one union.
- One of the first groups to pursue an 8 hour work-day, equal pay and other issues.
- After a series of violent strikes, membership tailed off.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

- AFofL - 1886 - Organized skilled workers. Craft Union.
- Gained 250,000 members between 1886 and 1892.
- Tried to force employers into “collective bargaining”, where workers negotiate as a group with their employers.
- AFofL called for “closed shops” where only union members could work.

THE IWW, OR WOBBLIES

- The Industrial Workers of the World, or IWW focused on unskilled labor and was a more radical union than the AFofL.
- IWW strikes were violent, and there were many socialist leaders in the union.
- IWW was kicked out of Butte, Montana during World War I for attempting to incite rebellion. Frank Little, an IWW leader was actually hung from a railroad trestle.

EMPLOYER RESPONSE

- Forbid union meetings
- Fired organizers
- “Yellow Dog” contracts
- Refused collective bargaining

- Refused to recognize unions

STRIKES

- Great Railroad Strike of 1877 - July, Baltimore and Ohio Railroads cut wages by 10%, the second wage cut in 8 months, due to a recession.
- Railroads also began running “double header” trains with 2 engines that could pull twice the cars with less staff.
- Workers in West Virginia called a strike, and tried to prevent other workers from running the trains. They clashed with local militia
- The striking and violence spread to other mid-western cities, eventually ending with President Hayes calling in the army.
- After this strike, troops were used to quell labor unrest and put down strikes.

MORE STRIKES

- 24,000 strikes hit American industry from 1881 - 1900. These strikes were violent.
- Haymarket - 1886 - workers demonstrated in support of an 8-hour work-day. A few days later strikers clashed with “Scabs” at Chicago’s McCormick reaper factory.
 - Anarchists also tried to persuade the strikers to their side at a Haymarket Square rally.
 - One of the anarchists threw a bomb at police, killing an officer.

HOMESTEAD STRIKE

- 1892 - Henry Frick, a partner in Carnegie steel, tried to cut employee wages. The union in Homestead, Pennsylvania, called a strike.
- Frick called in “The Pinkertons”, a private strike breaking group. During the night, they moved up the river and conflicted with strikers, shooting and killing several.
- Public sentiment was with the strikers until an anarchist, unconnected with the strike, tried to kill Frick.
- Without public support the union was forced to abandon the strike after 4 months.

PULLMAN STRIKE

- 1894 - Workers in Pullman Illinois built a special railroad car (the Pullman Sleeper) that was larger than other cars.
- The town was built for the workers, with all possible amenities.
- Workers felt, however, that the rules and restrictions in the town were too strict, including a ban on alcohol.
- In the Panic of 1893, Pullman reduced wages and laid off employees, but kept the rent and food prices in the town at the same levels.

PULLMAN STRIKE

- In response to worker concerns, 4 workers were sent to speak with George Pullman. Pullman fired 3 of the workers.
- The workers decided to strike, and Pullman shut down his plant rather than bargain with the union.
- Workers joined the new American Railroad Union. Called for boycott of the Pullman cars nationwide. Workers were not supposed to disrupt the U.S. Mail, but eventually the strike did.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- Railroad managers and owners appealed to the federal government, arguing that the mail had to get through.

- The Attorney General won a ruling based on the Sherman Antitrust Act, banning any union activity that disrupted the railroads.
- The strike was over within a week, after President Cleveland sent in federal troops.
- Set a precedent of management appealing to the federal government, and gaining court orders against unions. These activities would continue for 30 years.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- Federal Intervention
- Sherman Antitrust Act
 - Strike over in 1 week - President Cleveland sent Troops
-