

# *Westward Expansion*

## A. Manifest Destiny

1. In 1845, John L. O'Sullivan coined the term *Manifest Destiny* to help explain American expansion west of the Mississippi River
  - a. *Manifest Destiny* was the belief held by many Americans that God intended the U.S. to extend its borders from the Atlantic to the Pacific
    - (1)
    - (2)
  - b. This concept did not end with the reaching of the Pacific, but has since been used as justification to develop overseas colonies
2. In 1801, the U.S. sent Robert Livingston to France in hopes of purchasing New Orleans & securing traveling rights on the Mississippi River
  - a. At this time, the U.S. would sail ships down the Mississippi River with goods that would be unloaded at New Orleans for shipment to the Atlantic Coast & Europe
    - (1)
    - (2)
  - b. The *Louisiana Purchase* was a vast territory extending from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, which nearly doubled the size of the nation
3. Starting in 1822, many Americans began settling in Texas, which was owned by Mexico
  - a. Quickly the American population in Texas outnumbered the Mexicans & in late 1835, Texans rebelled
    - (1)
    - (2)
  - b. Shortly after Texas became a state, Mexico claimed the Nueces River rather than the Rio Grande River was the boundary between Texas & Mexico & refused to recognize the annexation of Texas
    - (1)

(2)

- c. In the *Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)*, Mexico gave up all claims to Texas & surrendered a vast territory known as the *Mexican Cession*

(1)

(2)

- 4. Around the 1840s, American churches sent missionaries to the Oregon Territory to convert Native Americans

- a. As missionaries began to settle, they discovered the great fertility of the soil

(1)

(2)

- b. In 1846, a treaty was agreed upon that divided Oregon between the U.S. & Britain along the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel

- 5. In 1853, the *Gadsden Purchase* completed the expansion of the contiguous U.S.

a.

b.

## B. The Plains War

- 1. By 1865, 250,000 Native Americans lived in the region west of the Mississippi River with the most numerous & nomadic were the Plains Indians

- a. The Plains Indians were expert horsemen & hunters that depended on the millions of buffalo that roamed the Great Plains as a source for lodging, clothing, food, & tools

(1)

(2)

- b. On May 10, 1869, the first *transcontinental railroad* (a railway that links the Pacific to the Atlantic) was finished & consequently, the extermination of the buffalo shortly followed

(1)

(2)

(3)

- c. Starting in 1851, the U.S. began negotiating treaties with Native Americans where they would move to reservations

(1)

(2)

2. When government officials attempted to force American Indians from an area granted to them *forever* 10 years earlier, the ***Plains Wars*** broke out
- a.

- b. On November 29, 1864, a group of 700 Colorado militia led by Col. John Chivington came upon an unarmed camp of Cheyenne & Arapaho Indians who were under U.S. Army protection at Sand Creek

(1)

(2)

- c. In the ***Treaty of Medicine Lodge (1867)*** & the ***Fort Laramie Treaty (1868)***, several Plains Indians tribes agreed to move to reservations with support from the federal government in exchange for the promise of no further intrusion of their lands

(1)

(2)

- d. On June 25, 1876, Gen. George Armstrong Custer & the U.S. Army 7<sup>th</sup> Calvary reached a Sioux camp led by ***Crazy Horse*** & ordered an immediate attack

(1)

(2)

- e. In 1877 in Idaho, the government decided to move the Nez Percés to a smaller reservation to make room for white settlers
  - (1)
  - (2)
- f. In 1890, as many Native Americans welcomed a religious revival based on the Ghost Dance, government officials became concerned & ordered the arrest of Sioux leader *Sitting Bull*
  - (1)
  - (2)
- g. The resulting *Massacre at Wounded Knee* ended with at least 150 dead Sioux & marked the end of the *Plains War* conflict
- 3. Policy makers hoped to force Native Americans to assimilate to American culture by becoming farmers & abandoning their traditional ways of life
  - a.
  - b. The *Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887* became the U.S.'s official plan to force Native Americans to become farmers & adopt the lifestyles of non-Indian settlers by replacing the reservation system with an allotment system
    - (1)
    - (2)
  - c. Sadly, the *Dawes Act* resulted in the end of many tribes legal existence

### C. The Mining Frontier

- 1. The mining frontier began with the *California Gold Rush* in 1848, which saw the mass migration of about 80,000 '49ers coming by the end of the next year
  - a. Soon after the original California discovery, gold, silver, & other precious metals were found throughout the West
    - (1)
    - (2)
  - b. These mining towns became some of the most violent places in the U.S. during the late 1800s
    - (1)

(2)

- c. These mining camps attracted businesses eager to feed, clothe, & house miners

(1)

(2)

- d. When mines were exhausted, everyone would immediately desert town, leaving behind *ghost towns*

- 2. Miners looking to strike it rich quick became replaced by big businesses mining minerals

- a. These well-financed companies brought in geologists & engineers that located the ore & instructed on how to best extract the minerals

- b. While experts instructed on how to extract the minerals, mining proved to be very dirty & dangerous work

(1)

(2)

#### D. The Cattle Boom

- 1. After the Civil War, cattlemen realized they could purchase cattle in Texas at \$4 a head, transport them to the *railheads*, & sell them for \$30-40 a head

- a. To transport the cattle to the railroad lines, ranchers made *long drives*

(1)

(2)

(3)

- b. These early cattle towns had a general store, a hotel, a railroad depot, & a stockyard, but towns that attracted enough business grew into permanent settlements

(1)

(2)

- 2. The cattle industry was troubled by many difficulties, which caused this boom to last a mere 20 years

- a. Steers could go blind from drought, drown in flash floods, die in stampedes, or die of disease, & were sometimes stolen by rustlers or shot by angry homesteaders trying to protect their crops  
(1)

(2)

- b. Severe winters & droughts helped to end the *long drives*  
(1)

(2)

#### E. Western Farming

- 1. Following the Civil War, agriculture varied greatly depending upon geographic location

- a.

- b. The South's agriculture had been crippled by the war with the destruction of much of their farm equipment, the killing of 1/3 of its animals, & the end of the plantation system

- (1)

- (2)

- c. Western farming tended to yield wheat & corn, but the farmers faced many hardships

- 2. Western farming tended to have many setbacks, especially water, efficient shelter, & heating

- a. The ***Homestead Act of 1862*** encouraged many to move West despite the hardships

- (1)

- (2)

- b. The Great Plains lacked trees, so many settlers build ***sod houses***, where 3-foot sections of sod were cut & stacked like bricks

- (1)

- (2)

- c. The development of barbed wire, a plow, the grain drill, the windmill used to tap underground water, & dry-farming techniques enabled farmers to succeed out West
    - (1)
    - (2)
  - d. Buffalo chips many times replaced wood as a source of heat for pioneers
3. The last major land rush took place in 1889 when Oklahoma Territory was opened to homesteaders
- a. The 1890 national census concluded that there was no longer a square mile of the U.S. that did not have at least a few white residents
    - (1)
    - (2)
  - b. Turner claimed that the frontier served as a “safety valve” that siphoned off potential discontent among Americans. Therefore, advocates of Turner’s thesis used it to urge overseas expansion as a way to keep the “safety valve” open & avoid internal conflict