



CHAPTER 16  
CONQUERING A  
CONTINENT

APUSH – Mr. Muller

# AIM: WHAT TROUBLES AMERICANS AS THEY MOVE WESTWARD?

Do Now: “American social development has been continually beginning over again on the frontier. This perennial rebirth, this fluidity of American life, this expansion westward with its new opportunities, its continuous touch with the simplicity of primitive society, furnish the forces dominating American character. The true point of view in the history of this nation is not the Atlantic Coast, it is the Great West.” -Frederick Jackson Turner, 1893

Questions 1–3 refer to the excerpt below.

“Though we have had war, reconstruction, and abolition as a nation, we still linger in the shadow and blight of an extinct institution. Though the colored man is no longer subject to be bought and sold, he is still surrounded by an adverse sentiment . . . In his downward course he meets no resistance, but his course upward is resented and resisted at every step of his progress. . . .

“If liberty, with us, is yet but a name, our citizenship is but a sham, and our suffrage thus far only a cruel mockery, we may yet congratulate ourselves upon the fact that the laws and institutions of the country are sound, just, and liberal. There is hope . . . But until this nation shall make its practice accord with its Constitution and its righteous laws, it will not do to reproach the colored people of this country.”

—Frederick Douglass, Speech, September 24, 1883

1. Which of the following would in part cause Douglass’s view that for African Americans, “citizenship is but a sham”?
  - (A) 14th Amendment
  - (B) Black Codes**
  - (C) Freedmen’s Bureau
  - (D) Election of Ulysses S. Grant
2. Which best provides an example of how the “Constitution and its righteous laws,” according to Douglass, provide hope for the “colored people of this country”?
  - (A) Wade-Davis Bill
  - (B) Amnesty Act of 1872
  - (C) Civil Rights Act of 1866**
  - (D) 16th Amendment

# WESTERN EXPANSION

1830-40s  
settlers to  
fertile  
Oregon  
territory

1847: Mormons  
had traveled west  
seeking religious  
refuge in Utah

1848: CA Gold  
Rush brought  
thousands of  
settlers to  
Bay area



**The federal government actively  
promoted economic development and  
the movement west**

# WESTERN SETTLEMENT

- Homestead Act (1862)** offered public land (160 acres) to any person who lived on it & improved it for 5 years.
  - Intended to encourage settlement of western land
  - Difficulties & Limitations**
    - 1) quality of land 2) high cost of supplies 3) mother nature 4) fraud 5) fluctuating crop prices
- Pacific Railroad Act (1862)**- authorized the building of transcontinental railroad along a northern route.
  - Federal government provides money and land (subsidies) to the RR companies to construct.
  - Transcontinental Railroad completed in 1869

HOMESTEAD.  
Land Office at *Brownville Neb*  
*January 20<sup>th</sup> 1868.*

CERTIFICATE, }  
*No. 1* }

APPLICATION,  
} *No. 1*

It is hereby certified, That pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress, approved May 20, 1862, entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain,"

*Daniel Korman* has  
made payment in full for *Section 26* of *Township 4 N. R. 5 E.* of *SW 1/4 of NE 1/4* of  
Section *26* in Township *fourth N*  
of Range *five E* containing *160* acres.

Now, therefore, be it known, That on presentation of this Certificate to the COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, the said *Daniel Korman* shall be entitled to Patent for the Tract of Land above described.

*Daniel Korman*



# ECONOMY OF THE WEST

- **Boom and bust cycle** of the economy

## Mining Industry

- Examples: 1) 1858 gold in Pike's Peak, Colorado 2) 1859 Comstock Lode in Nevada (Nevada enters Union)
- Conditions: Extremely dangerous, nearly half population foreign born
- Impact: 1) Environmental destruction (hydraulic mining) 2) Loss of Native land

## Cattle Industry

- Mexican cowboys (vaqueros) had been running the cattle business in Texas
- Vast open grasslands
- Railroads open up new markets
- Bust- bad winter, prices drop, overgrazing, farmers put up barbed wire



# Myth vs. Reality of the West

- **Romanticized view** of the American west in literature, paintings, and dime novels.
  - Land of cowboys roaming the unexplored frontier
  - Oftentimes ignored the complexities of Native American life, reality of western life.
- **Melting Pot nature of the American West**
  - **Chinese** immigration
    - CA Gold Rush
    - Work for the railroads
  - **African American & Mexican** cowboys
  - **Utah** enters union in 1896 (after they drop **polygamy**)
- **Women's suffrage** was more common in the west
  - Wyoming is first to grant women the right to vote



# Life in the Trans-Mississippi West

- Life for the plains Indians had dramatically changed
  - Heavily reliant on hunting bison
  - European introduction of horse, firearms, alcohol, & disease
- Increasing pressure on Native life
- Severe decline in the population of **bison**.
  - Undermine Native American resistance
  - Demand for buffalo hides
  - Impact of railroad expansion
- The biggest impact of western expansion will take place upon the lives of **Native Americans** in the **trans-Mississippi west**.







- **Land and loan subsidies** given by the **federal government** to the railroad companies
- New **business practices** introduced by RR companies such as establishing the modern stockholder corporation, business management strategies, financing, and regulation of competition
- **Consolidation** leads to **standardization** of the industry: steel rail, standard gauges

# WESTERN EXPANSION



**Age of Railroads happens at same time as settlement of the Great Plains**

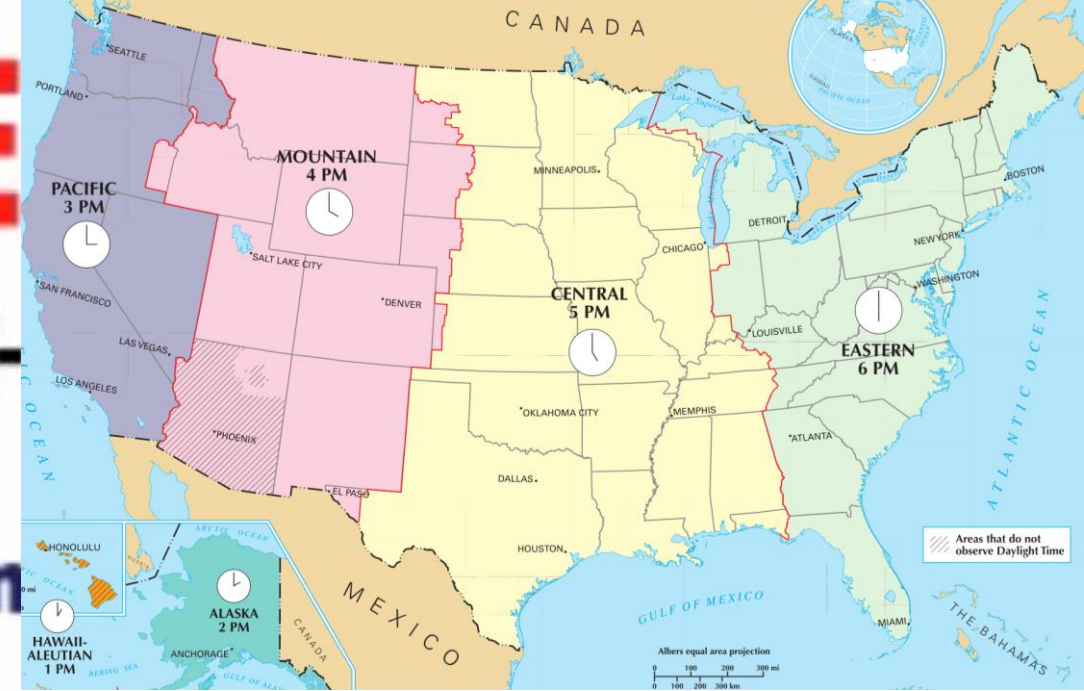
# First Transcontinental Railroad

- **Pacific Railroad Act (1862)**
- **Union Pacific:** Built from Omaha, Nebraska to the West
  - Irish workers
- **Central Pacific:** Sacramento to Sierra Nevada
  - Chinese laborers
- Two come together at **Promontory Point**  
**May 10 1869**



# IMPACT OF THE

- **Unified the domestic market-market for goods**
- **Allowed for mass distribution of manufactured goods**
- **Encouraged mass production, mass consumption, and economic specialization**
- **Helped promote the growth of other industries (coal, steel, etc) and lead to growth of new cities**
- **Facilitated immigration both internally and externally**



# America, We've got a Problem!

- **Railroad Tycoons** became extremely powerful
- Federal land grants and friendly loans led the rampant **corruption within the government**
- Frequent **speculative** bubbles would burst
  - Speculators attempt to sell **overvalued stock** to the public
  - Overbuilding was common
  - Mismanagement and fraud plagued the industry
- **Rebates** (discounts) were oftentimes given to favored shippers
  - **Small farmers** were often charged much higher rates
- **“Pools”**- secret agreements between companies to fix rates and share profits

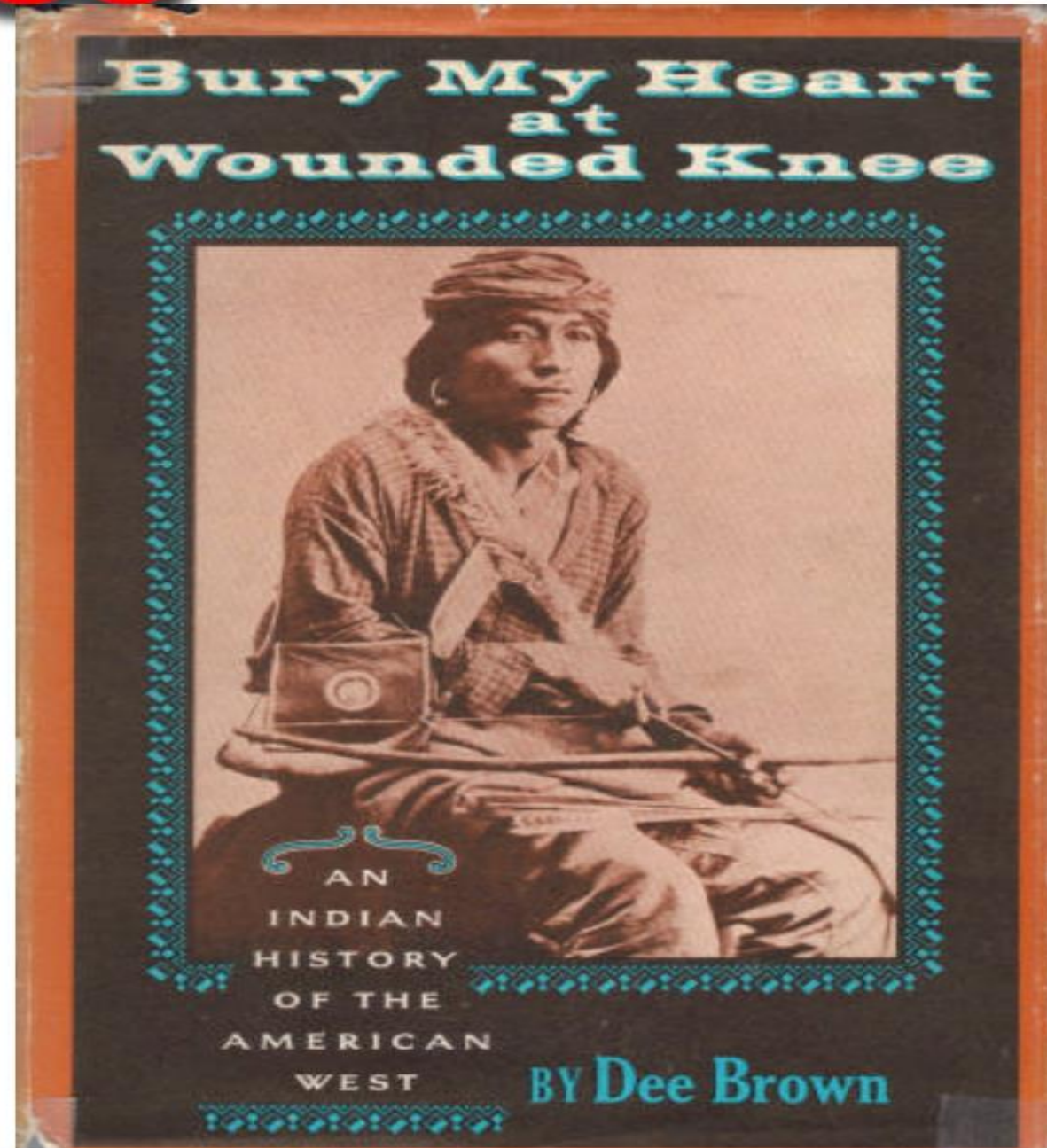
# CONFLICT: INDIAN WARS

- Violence occurs as homesteaders, miners, and ranchers move west onto Native land.
- **Sand Creek Massacre (1864):** Colorado Militia attack and kill over 100 Native people
- **Battle of Little Big Horn (1876):** The Sioux tribe (Inspired by **Sitting Bull**) kill Custer and his men in the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (**Custer's Last Stand**)
- **Chief Joseph** attempted to lead members of the **Nez Percé** tribe into Canada
  - Surrendered in 1877



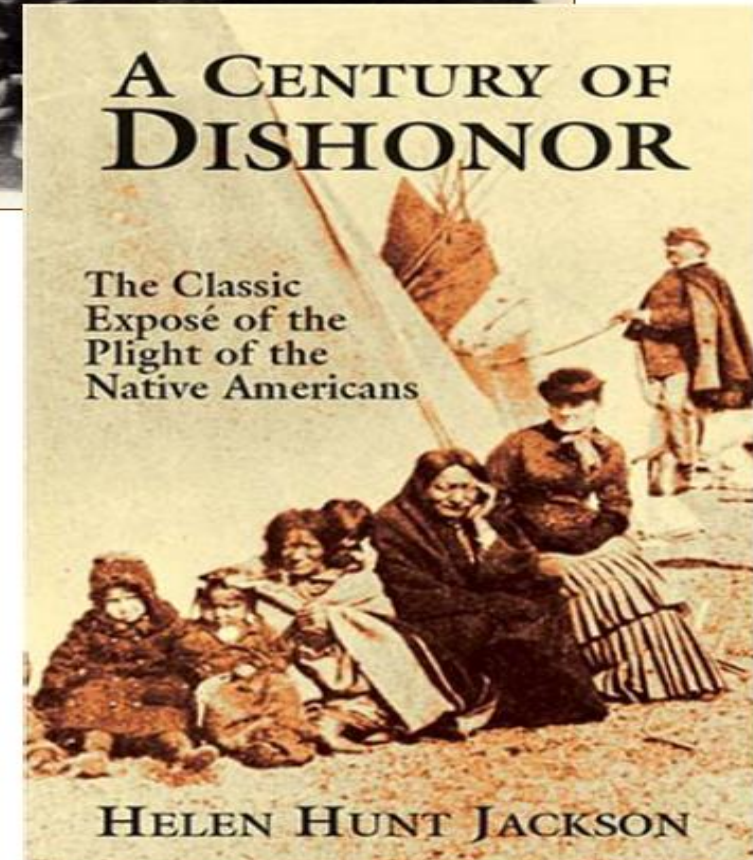
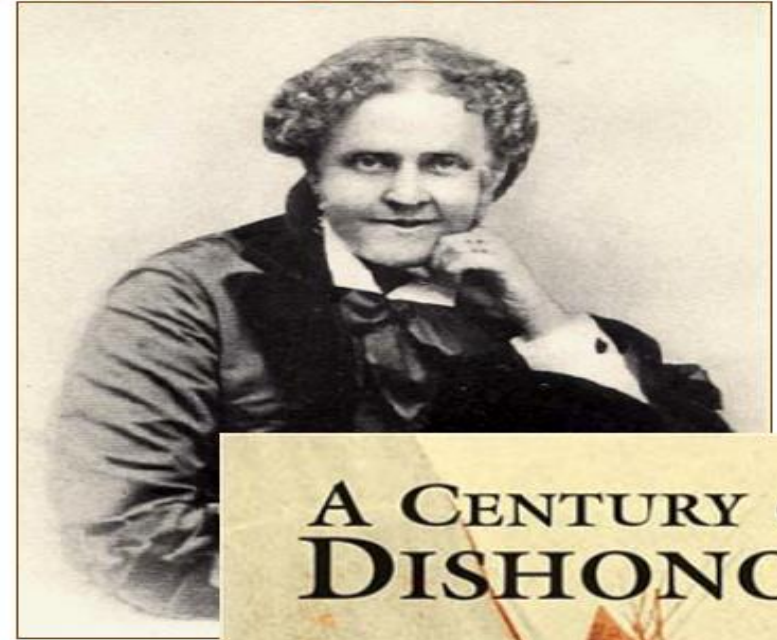
# Wounded Knee

- **Ghost Dance** movement begins amongst the Sioux in Dakota territory
  - Cultural / Religious Revival
  - Thought would get rid of the white settlers & return prosperity to the tribe
  - Federal government wants this to stop
- **Battle of Wounded Knee** (1890) U.S. army go into the Dakotas and killed over 200.
- The “battle” was really a **massacre**
- Marks the **end** of the major Native American frontier wars



# Attempts at Assimilation

- Helen Hunt Jackson **“A Century of Dishonor”** (1881) documented mistreatment by the federal government of Native people
- Boarding schools such as **Carlisle Indian School** were intended to assimilate Native people
- **Dawes Severalty Act** (1887) End tribal ownership of land
  - Reservations split into 160 acre private farms
  - Natives had the potential to receive citizenship if they lived on land for 25 years and “adopted the habits of civilized life.”
  - Remaining reservation land sold to white settlers (oftentimes the best land)





# **DESTRUCTION OF NATIVE LIFE**

- **Tremendous population and territorial decline**
  - **Disease**
  - **Numerous wars in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century**
  - **decline of bison population**
  - **Failed treaty agreements and forced removal to reservations**

# “Closing” of the Frontier

- Oklahoma Territory was opened up to settlement in 1889
  - Great land rush takes place
- **Frederick Jackson Turner** writes **“The Significance of the Frontier In American History”** (1893)
  - argues frontier ended in 1890
  - Emphasizes the importance of the frontier on American identity
  - Safety valve theory: could head west when the times were tough
  - Ignores contributions of people already there, women, fact people by 1890s moving to urban areas
- Connection: Overseas expansion in 1890s

**Frederick Jackson  
Turner**



**The Significance of the  
Frontier in American History**

# FARMERS ORGANIZE

- Farming was becoming more commercialized and specialized.
- **Problems for farmers:** 1) Falling prices 2) unfair railroad business practices 3) high cost of machinery 4) tight money supply 5) high tariffs
- The **Grange Movement:** organized social and educational activities. Later demanded collective reforms.
- **Want:** government regulation and ownership of business
  - Lobbied state legislatures for reforms
- **Munn v. Illinois** (1877) upheld law: states could regulate railroads
- **Wabash Case** (1886) states cannot regulate **interstate commerce**
  - Leads to passage of **Interstate Commerce Act** (1887)
- **Farmers Alliance:** Founded in Texas (1870s)- excluded blacks, ignored tenant farmers
- Significant 3<sup>rd</sup> Party: **Populist Party**
  - Platform: Government ownership of railroads
  - Free & unlimited coinage of silver (increase \$\$\$ supply)
  - Graduated Income tax (rich pay more)
  - Direct election of Senator, use of initiatives and referendums

# Closing out the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Growing frustration over the laissez faire capitalist system**

- **Farmers are organizing: Grange, Alliance, Populist**
- **Industrial Problems:**
  - **Homestead Strike (1892):** Workers at Carnegie's steel plant are defeated
  - **Panic of 1893:** as a result of overspeculation the stock market crashes.
  - **Grover Cleveland continues laissez faire approach**
  - **Coxey's Army (1894):** unemployed march to D.C. demanding the fed government hire jobless for public works jobs
  - **Pullman Strike (1894):** President Cleveland uses the army and court injunction to defeat the strike.
  - **Election of 1896:** William McKinley (R) vs. William Jennings Bryan (D)- **Cross of Gold Speech**, Populist fade, Republican McKinley wins

Questions 1–3 refer to the excerpt below.

“I attended a funeral once in Pickens County in my State. . . . They buried him in the heart of a pine forest, and yet the pine coffin was imported from Cincinnati. They buried him within touch of an iron mine, and yet the nails in his coffin and the iron in the shovel that dug his grave were imported from Pittsburgh. . . . The South didn’t furnish a thing on earth for that funeral but the corpse and the hole in the ground. There they put him away and the clods rattled down on his coffin, and they buried him in a New York coat and a Boston pair of shoes and a pair of breeches from Chicago and a shirt from Cincinnati, leaving him nothing to carry into the next world with him to remind him of the country in which he lived, and for which he fought for four years, but the chill of blood in his veins and the marrow in his bones.”

—Henry Grady, Editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, 1889

1. The key idea in the excerpt is that Grady believes
  - (A) the Civil War damaged the southern economy
  - (B) former Confederate soldiers deserved better treatment
  - (C) the secession of the Confederacy was justified
  - (D) the South needed to industrialize
2. Which of the following best demonstrates Henry Grady’s vision for the South?
  - (A) Birmingham, Alabama, became one of the nation’s leading steel producers
  - (B) Former slaves achieved semi-independence as tenant farmers
  - (C) Northern investors controlled three-quarters of southern railroads
  - (D) The southern economy remained mainly tied to agriculture
3. Henry Grady’s comments best express the viewpoint of which group of people?
  - (A) Advocates of a New South
  - (B) Progressives
  - (C) Redeemers
  - (D) Supporters of Congressional Reconstruction