# Chapter 26 The Great West & the Agricultural Revolution

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## **Expanding Into the Great Plains**

- Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and "Indian Territory," or Oklahoma
  - Areas in which settlers turned out in record numbers
- A clash of cultures on the plains
  - Native Americans numbered about 360,000 in 1860
- As Whites expand westward Native Americans are forced to scatter
  - Numbers severely decline
- Buffalo hunted to near extinction through wholesale butchery by whites



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# **Expanding Into the Great Plains**

- Native Americans are forced onto reservations
- Small pockets of humanitarians advocated for the kind treatment of the Indians although they had no more respect for traditional Indian culture than those who sought to exterminate them
- United States military is sent in to move or exterminate Native Americans
  - "Buffalo Soldiers" were African American soldiers who served in the United States Calvary



## **Expanding Into the Great Plains**

- Native Americans strike back
  - Fetterman Massacre Sioux war party attempting to block construction of the Bozeman Trail
  - Massacred and mutilated 81 soldiers
  - General Custer leads an expedition into the Black Hills of South Dakota in search for gold
     The aggrieved Sioux took to the warpath, inspired by the influential and wilk Sitting Bull
  - wily Sitting Bull
  - Custer is completely wiped out by Sitting Bull's war party
     one of very few Indian victories in the Great Plains wars

    - United States Military hunts down and destroys all Native Americans involved



# **Expanding Into the Great Plains**

- Apache tribes led by Geronimo were the most difficult to subdue (AZ and
  - Apache women were exiled to Florida ultimately causing the Apache to give in
  - The settled in OK and became successful farmers
- The Dawes Act 1887
- Dissolved many tribes as legal entities
- Tried to make rugged individualists of the Indians
- Wiped out tribal ownership of land
- Promised Indians US citizenship in 25 years
- American culture and religion forced upon the Native Americans





#### **Expanding Into the Great Plains**

- After exploring much of the West, geologist John Wesley Powell warned in 1874 that land west of the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian could not be farmed without extensive irrigation
- In 1890, when the superintendent of the census announced that a stable frontier line was no longer discernible, Americans were disturbed because the idea of an endlessly open West had been an element of America's history from the beginning



Western cities like Denver and San Francisco served as safety valves by providing home for economically struggling farmers, miners and easterners

Most Western cities become safety valves

# **Expanding Into the Great Plains**

- The Farm becomes a factory
  - In the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the volume of agricultural goods increased and the price of these goods decreased
  - Farmers were slow to organize and promote their interest because they were, by nature, highly independent and individualistic
  - Farmers had to specialize in one crop which presented many problems
     Farmers become extremely unhappy

  - The National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry— better known as the Grange-was organized in 1867
    - Original purpose was to stimulate self-improvement through educational and social activities



#### **Expanding Into the Great Plains**

- The Farmers' Alliance
  - Originally formed to break the economic grip of the railroads through farmers' cooperatives
  - Unfortunately, the Alliance weakened itself by ignoring the plight of landless tenant farmers, share- croppers, and farm workers
  - Even more debilitating was the Alliance's exclusion of blacks, who counted for nearly half the agricultural population of the South — Out of the Farmers' Alliance is born a new
  - political party known as the Populists
  - The severe economic depression of the 1890's strengthened the Populists' argument that wage earners and farmers alike were victims of an oppressive economic system



## **Expanding Into the Great Plains**

- Coxey's Army and the Pullman Strike
  - Jacob Coxey marches on Washington DC to fight for the rights of the unemployed

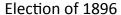
    The Pullman Palace Car Company was hit
- hard by depression
  The workers finally struck—in some places
  overturning Pullman cars—and paralyzed
  railway traffic
- Grover Cleveland sends in federal troops to break up the strike on the grounds that it was preventing the transit of US mail

  - was preventing the trainst to Small

    Richard Olney US attorney general who
    brought in federal troops to crush the strike

    Eugene V. Debs Head of the American Railway
    Union that organized the strike

    George Pullman Owner of the "palace railroad
    car" company and the company town where the
    strike began
  - John P. Altgeld Governor of Illinois who sympathized with the striking workers



- Republican William McKinley defeats Democrat William Jennings Bryan
  - Major issue of the Election of 1896 was the free and unlimited coinage of silver

  - Populists supported Bryan which essentially had them abandoning their identity
     Populists who stayed true to their colors supported Mark Hanna because they feared the radicalism of William Jennings Bryan and his free silver cause
  - The outcome was a resounding victory for big business, the big cities, middle-class values, and financial conservatism
  - The 1896 election marked the last time a serious effort to win the White House would be made with mostly agrarian votes
  - Bryan goes on to lose three presidential elections



The Pullman Strike



#### Ch. 26 Quiz – Period 3

- What animal was hunted to near extinction during this time?
- What were "Buffalo Soldiers?"
- What tribe did Geronimo lead?
- What Native American chief lead the charge to defeat General Custer?
- What was the Dawes Act?

# Ch. 26 Quiz – Period 5

- What animal was hunted to near extinction during this time?
- What were "Buffalo Soldiers"?
- What tribe did Geronimo lead?
- What Native American chief lead the charge to defeat General Custer?
- What was the Dawes Act?

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