

# The Closing of the Western Frontier

*Presented by: Mr. Anderson, M.Ed., J.D.*

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## Essential Questions

1. What national issues emerged in the process of closing the western frontier?
2. Why does the West hold such an important place in the American imagination?
3. In what ways is the West romanticized in American culture?

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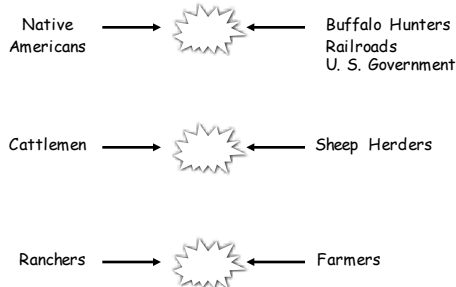
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## Key Tensions




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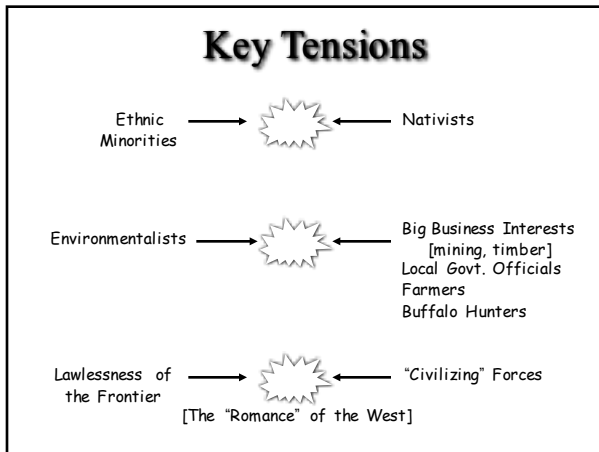
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# The Railroad Builders

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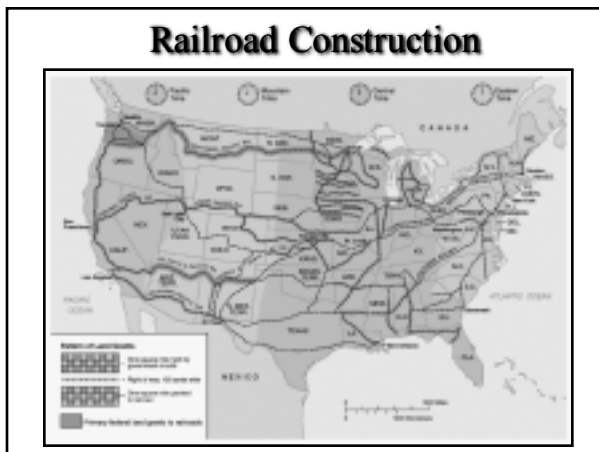
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### **"The Big Four" Railroad Magnates**



**Charles Crocker**



**Collis Huntington**



**Mark Hopkins**



**Leland Stanford**

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### **Promontory Point, UT (May 10, 1869)**



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# **The Cowboys**

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*The Bronc Buster*  
Frederick Remington



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**Black Cowboys**



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**The**  
**GUNSLINGERS**

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### Colt .45 Revolver



*God didn't make men equal.  
Colonel Sam Colt did!*

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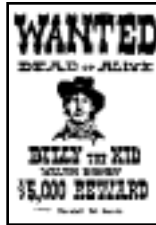
### Legendary Gunslingers & Train Robbers



Jesse James



Billy the Kid



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### Dodge City Peace Commission, 1890\*



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# The MINERS

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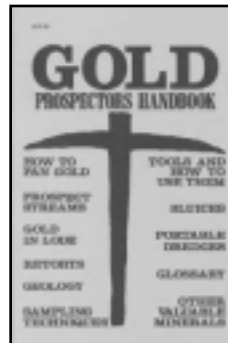
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## Prospecting




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## Mining Centers: 1900




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**Anaconda Copper Mining Co. (MT)**



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**Mining ("Boom") Towns--  
Now Ghost Towns**



**Calico, CA**

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**The  
Cattlemen  
& The  
Sheep Herders**

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## The Cattle Trails



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## Land Use: 1880s



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## New Agricultural Technology



**"Prairie Fan"  
Water Pump**

**Steel Plow ["Sod Buster"]**



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## Barbed Wire



**Joseph Glidden**

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## The Range Wars



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# Minority Groups in the West

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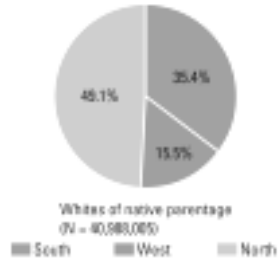
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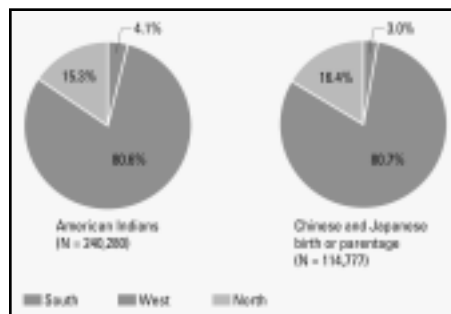
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### Regional Population Distribution by Race: 1900

[illegible]

### Regional Population Distribution by Race: 1900



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# Black "Exoduster" Homesteaders



**All Colored People**  
PLEASE WRITE TO  
**GO TO KANSAS,**  
 On September 5th, 1877,  
 Can do so for \$5.00  
 IMMIGRATION.

[illegible]

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## Blacks Moving West



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## The Buffalo Soldiers on the Great Plains



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## A Romantic View



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## The Buffalo Soldiers & the Indian Wars



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## The “Chinese Question”



- **Exclusion Act (1882)**
  - **Oriental Exclusion Act**
  - **Chinese Exclusion Act**

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## The Tong Wars: 1850s-1920s



**Began in San Francisco in 1875.**

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## African American & Chinese

Populations:  
1880-1900

State or Territory	Blacks		Chinese	
	1880	1900	1880	1900
Arizona Terr.	955	1,845	1,036	1,419
California	8,018	11,845	79,132	45,783
Colorado	2,438	8,370	672	589
Idaho	50	290	3,379	1,467
Kansas	43,107	52,000	18	39
Montana	346	1,820	1,788	1,739
Nevada	2,388	8,269	18	180
Nevada	498	134	5,416	1,252
New Mexico Terr.	1,815	1,810	57	341
North Dakota	113	886	64	32
Oklahoma Indian Terr.	NA	86,684*	NA	21
Oregon	487	1,308	9,918	10,287
South Dakota	998	465	NA	165
Texas	890,364	899,702	136	896
Utah	232	872	918	872
Washington	323	2,816	3,188	3,829

NA—not available.

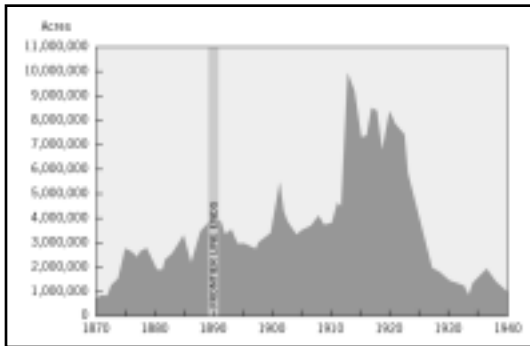
\*Combined total for Indian and Oklahoma territories.

# The Farmers

## Frontier Settlements: 1870-1890



### Homesteads From Public Lands




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**1887  
Land  
Promotion  
Poster  
for the  
Dakota  
Territories**

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### What is the Message of this Picture?




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### **The Realty--A Pioneer's Sod House, SD**



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### **Rain Follows the Plow!**



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### **Frederick Jackson Turner**



*The Significance of the Frontier  
in American Society (1893)*

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## Newlands Reclamation Act (1902)



**Francis Newlands**

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# The Plains Indians

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**Treaty of Ft. Laramie (1851)**

**Colorado  
Gold Rush (1859)**

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### Colonel John Chivington



*Kill and scalp all, big and little!*

**Sandy Creek, CO  
Massacre**

**November 29, 1864**

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### Capt. William J. Fetterman



**80 soldiers massacred  
December 21, 1866**

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Treaty of  
Ft. Laramie (1868)**

**Treaty of Medicine  
Lodge Creek (1867)**

**Reservation  
Policy**

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# Gold Found in the Black Hills of the Dakota Territory!

1874

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## The Battle of Little Big Horn 1876



Chief Sitting Bull



Gen. George  
Armstrong  
Custer

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## Chief Joseph

*I will fight no  
more forever!*



### Nez Percé tribal retreat (1877)

[illegible]

## Geronimo, Apache Chief: Hopeless Cause

[illegible]

## Helen Hunt Jackson



***A Century of Dishonor (1881)***

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**Susette La Flesche**



**Omaha Indian → lecture tour on Native American issues in the 1870s**

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**Dawes Severalty Act (1887):  
Assimilation Policy**



**Carlisle Indian School, PA**

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**Arapahoe "Ghost Dance", 1890**



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**Chief Big Foot's Lifeless Body  
Wounded Knee, SD, 1890**



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**Indian Reservations Today**



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**Crazy Horse Monument:  
Black Hills, SD**



**Lakota Chief**

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**Korczak Ziolkowski, Sculptor  
Crazy Horse Monument**



**His vision of the finished  
memorial.**

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**Mt. Rushmore: Black Hills, SD**



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**The Myth  
& Legend  
of the West**

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### **The Traditional View of the West**



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### **William "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West Show**



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### **"Buffalo Bill" Cody & Sitting Bull**



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**Legendary Female Western Characters**



**Calamity Jane**



**Annie Oakley**

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*The Fall of the Cowboy*  
**Frederick Remington**



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**What were the  
long-term effects  
of the Westward  
experience?**

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## Destruction of the Buffalo Herds



The near extinction of the buffalo.

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## Yellowstone National Park



First national park established in 1872.

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## National Parks



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## Conservation Movement



**John Muir**



**With President  
Theodore Roosevelt**

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## Sierra Club



**Founded in 1892**

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