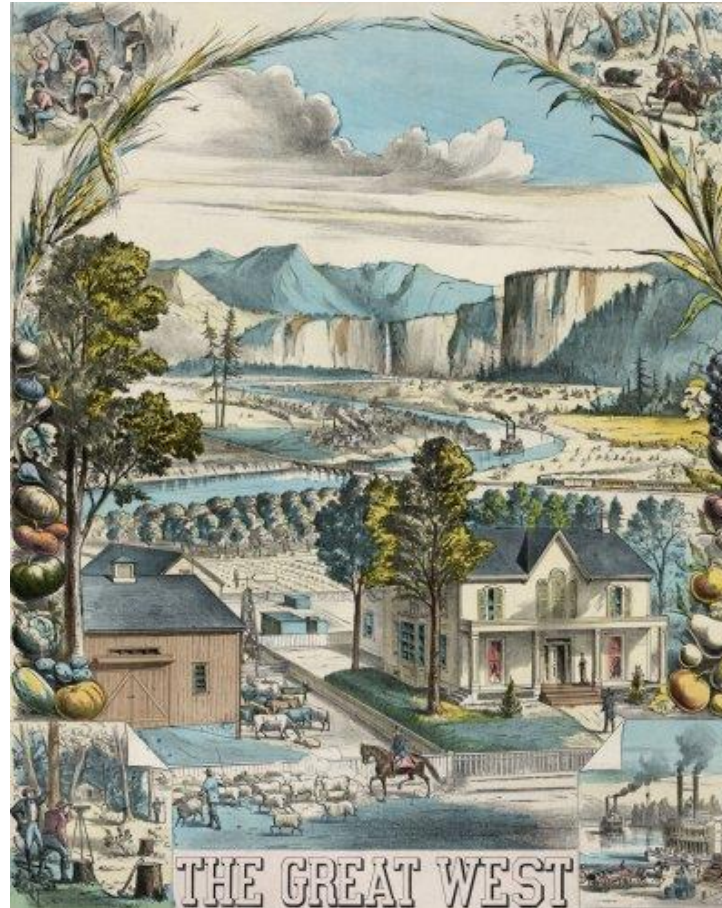


Chapter 16

Conquering a Continent

1844-1877



The Republican Vision

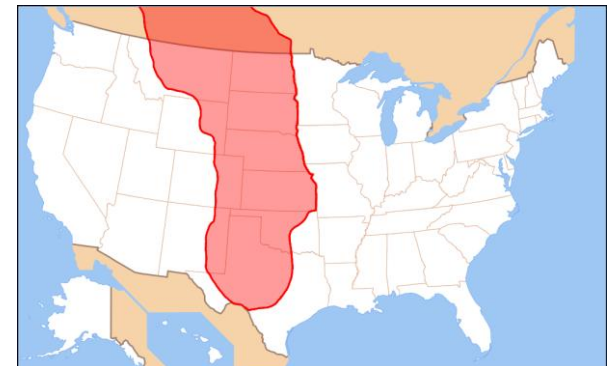
- Andrew Jackson's Destruction of the National bank caused financial chaos. Failure to fund transcontinental railroad had left different regions of the country disconnected.
- While Civil War was taking place, protective tariffs and tariff revenues increased.

The Union and the World

- U.S. collected \$15 million in damages from England because England allowed Confederate ships to be built there during the Civil War.
- U.S. Navy and private shippers wanted more refueling points in the Caribbean and Pacific.
 - Treaty of Kanagawa- 1854 U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry forced Japan to open its isolated ports to U.S. trade and refueling of its ships.
 - Following the example of French invasion of Mexico, the U.S. began a policy of economic imperialism in Latin America and Asia.
 - Japan, Hawaii, Panama Canal, China, Philippines
 - Burlingame Treaty- guaranteed rights of missionaries in China and established official terms for the emigration of Chinese laborers.

The West: Settlement of the Last Frontier

- During the post-Civil War era most of the large-scale industrial development took place in the Northeast and Midwest.
- Before 1860, the vast territory in the west was undeveloped, dry, and non-arable.
- In 35 years, the Great Plains changed dramatically
 - Buffalo herds wiped out
 - Open lands fenced in by homesteads and ranchers
 - New towns and railroads
 - Damaged environment
 - Exodusters- African Americans migrating from the south to the west
 - American Indians displaced, killed, and undermined



The Mining Frontier

- A series of gold and silver strikes in Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, and South Dakota increased movement out west.
- Gold boom in NV led to its statehood in 1864. Mining booms in Idaho and Montana led to their statehood.
- Rich strikes created “boomtowns” overnight-towns that became infamous for saloons, dance-hall girls, and vigilante justice. Many became ghost towns within a few years after the gold or silver ran out.

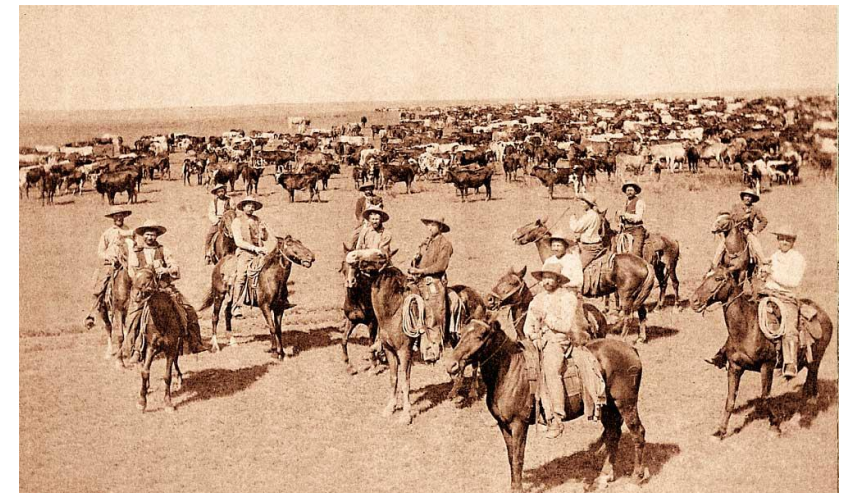
Chinese Exclusion Act

- As mines developed, miners from Europe, Latin America, and China came to the U.S. About one-third were from China in the 1860s.
- Discrimination
 - Miner's Tax in CA- tax on all foreign born miners
 - Chinese Exclusion Act- the first act of Congress to restrict immigration based on nationality or race. Passed in 1882, it banned further immigration to the U.S. by Chinese laborers.



The Cattle Frontier

- The economic potential of the vast open grasslands that reached from Texas to Canada was realized by ranchers in the decades after the Civil War.
- Traditions of the cattle business were borrowed from Mexicans.
- Easy business to get into because the cattle and grass were free.
- Cattle was sold for a high price in Chicago.
- Cowboys, many of whom were African American or Mexicans, received a dollar a day for dangerous work herding cattle.
- Long cattle drives ended in the 1880s because of:
 - Overgrazing
 - Blizzards
 - Fencing cut off access of frontier



The Farming Frontier

- The Homestead Act of 1862-
 - 500,000 families took advantage of it
 - the best land ended up in the hands of railroad companies and speculators

Problems and Solutions

- Severe weather
- falling prices of crops
- Expensive machinery
- Two-thirds of homesteaders failed by 1900



The Closing of the Frontier

- OK territory opened for settlement in 1889
 - Once set aside for Native Americans was now settled by Americans
- By 1890 the western frontier was closing and the dominance of rural America was also on the decline. Aaaaaawwwwww...Poor Thomas!

American Indians in the West

- Diverse Native American tribes occupied the West
- About two thirds lived on the Great Plains. Mostly nomadic tribes
- Skillful horse riders and buffalo hunters

Reservation Policy

- Andrew Jackson's Indian removal policy was intended to keep an isolated place for them to live, away from Americans. As Americans migrated this ended.

Indian Wars

- Settlements of thousands of miners, ranchers, and homesteaders on American Indian lands led to violence
- Gold led to Americans taking Indian land
- The Indian Appropriation Act of 1871 nullified treaties and ended recognition of tribes as independent nations by the federal government
- The Ghost Dance was the last effort for Native Americans to resist the U.S. government. The famous Sioux medicine man, Sitting Bull was killed during his arrest. The U.S. Army gunned down 200 men, women, and children in the massacre of Wounded Knee in the Dakotas. This final tragedy marked the end of the Indian Wars on the crimsoned prairie.



Assimilationists

- The book *Century of Dishonor* (1881) written by Helen Hunt Jackson created sympathy for American Indians, especially in the eastern U.S., it also generated support for ending Indian culture through assimilation.

Dawes Severalty Act (1887)

- Dawes Act- designed to break up tribal organizations, which many felt kept them from becoming “civilized”
- It divided up tribal lands into plots up to 160 acres each
- The U.S. granted citizenship for those who stayed on the land for 25 years and “adopted the habits of civilized life”.
- Often the best land was sold to white settlers
- Indian population was reduced to 200,000 by 1900 because of disease and poverty
 - Took that L; Act was a failure for Native Americans

Changes in the 20th Century

- In 1924 the federal government granted U.S. citizenship to all Native Americans. The Indian Reorganization Act (1834) promoted the reestablishment of tribal organization and culture.

Women in the West

- Early miners, lumbermen, and cowboys were overwhelmingly male
- But homesteading was more family oriented
 - 5-20% of land claims were by single women
- Settlers were intolerant to Mormons in west
- In 1870 with pressure from the Mormon women in UT received full voting rights (second to Wyoming)
 - Increased their political power
 - Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon, a physician and Mormon plural wife became the first woman to serve in a state senate.
- UT's women experienced a combination of severe frontier hardship and new opportunities.

The Latino Southwest

- 1848 the Spanish speaking landowners of CA and Southwest were guaranteed their property rights and granted citizenship.
- However, legal proceedings resulted in the sale or loss of lands to new Anglo arrivals
- Mexican Americans moved to find work in sugar beet fields, mines of CO, and railroad building.

The Conservation Movement

- The concerns over deforestation led to conservation movement and the creation of national parks
- First National Park was Yellowstone in 1872
- “conservationists” vs. “preservationists”



The New South

Economic Progress

- The growth of cities and improved railroads symbolized the creation of the “new south”.
- NC and SC overtook New England as chief producers of textiles
- Birmingham, AL became one of the country’s leading steel producers
- Memphis, TN became a center of the lumber industry
- The South became integrated into the national railroad network

Continued Poverty

- Remained the poorest region. Northern investors controlled 75% of the southern railroads and most of the steel industry by 1900
- Most profits from new industries went to the north
- The South earned half of the national average
- Poverty was caused by 1)the South’s late start at industrialization 2) a poorly educated workforce

Segregation

- Democratic politicians “Redeemers”, won support from the business community and white supremacists
- Separating or segregating public facilities for blacks and whites in the south
- They discovered that they could exert political power by playing on the racial fears of whites (sound familiar?)

Discrimination and the Supreme Court

- Civil Rights Cases of 1883 ruled that the federal government could not interfere in racial discrimination on the state level
- Plessy vs. Ferguson 1896- landmark case requiring “separate but equal accommodations”; not a violation of 14th Amendment
- Jim Crow Laws-

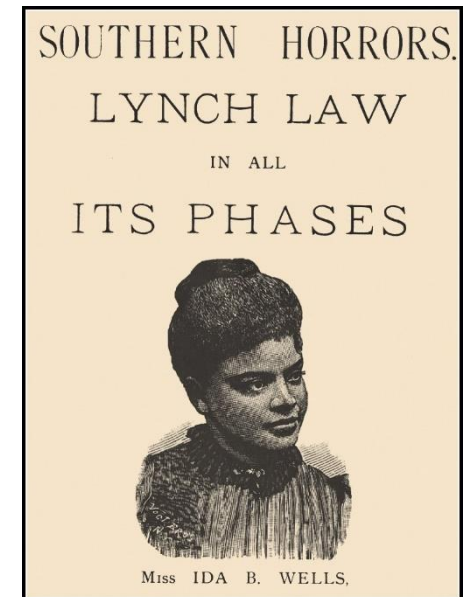
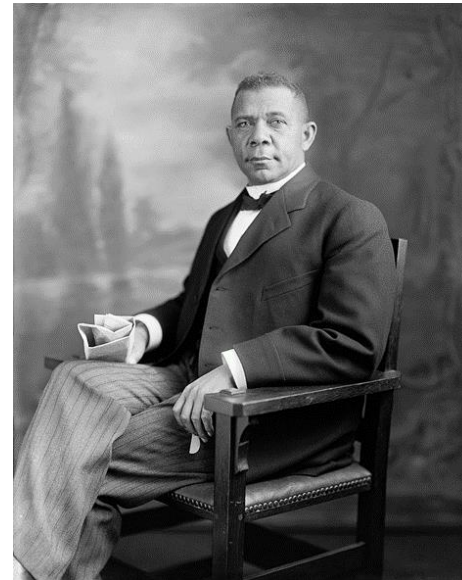
Loss of Civil Rights

- Legal devices were created to prevent southern blacks from voting
 - Literacy tests, poll taxes, grandfather clauses, and random exam qualifications
- African Americans couldn't serve on juries in the south
- Stiffer penalties than whites
- Lynch mobs murdered over 1400 men during the 1890s
- Economic discrimination, kept out of skilled professions
- Remained engaged in farming and low paying domestic work



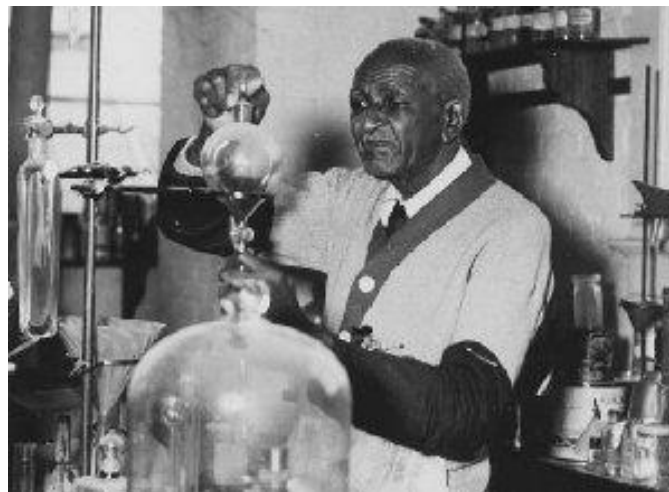
Responding to Segregation

- Confrontation- Ida B. Wells black editor of “Memphis Free Speech” , a black newspaper, campaigned against lynching and Jim Crow
- Migration- many fled the south and moved to KS or OK
- Accommodation- Booker T. Washington, former slave established industrial and agricultural school in Tuskegee, AL. He advocated hard work and economic self-help. “The agitation of the questions of social equality is the extremist folly.”
 - Criticism- W.E.B. Du Bois
 - Praise- Andrew Carnegie and President Theodore Roosevelt



Agriculture

- Southern post war economy remained in cotton industry. Its production doubled between 1870-1890.
- Cotton prices declined as global competition increased
- Many southern farmers went into debt
- George Washington Carver, an African American scientist at Tuskegee Institute in AL, promoted the growing of such crops as peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. This played a significant role in shifting southern agriculture towards a more diverse base
- Economic interests of the upper class and powerful racial attitudes of whites stood in the way of black and unification that would have helped solve economic issues.



Farm Problems: North, South, and West

- By end of 1800s, farmers became a minority

Changes in Agriculture

- Farming became more specialized. Most people bought food from stores or franchises like Montgomery Ward or Sears Roebuck
- More dependent on large expensive machines

Falling Prices

- Due to competition in Argentina, Russia, and Canada
- Results were more debt, foreclosures by banks, and more independent farmers forced to become tenants and sharecroppers

Rising Costs

- Industrial corporations made expenses higher for farmers. Railroads and warehouses took what little profit remained by charging high rates to store and transport food.
- Local and state governments taxed property and land but did not tax stocks and bonds.

Fighting Back

National Grange Movement

- Grange Movement was founded in 1868 primarily as a social and educational organization for farmers and their families. Most every state had them, mostly in the Midwest.
- Defended members against trusts, railroads, and middlemen (warehouses)
- Successfully lobbied their state legislatures to pass laws regulating the rates charged by railroads
- Munn v. Illinois (1877)- upheld the right of a state to regulate business of a public nature, such as railroads. Protected by the 14th Amendment

Interstate Commerce Act (1886)

- Wabash v. Illinois (1886)- reinforced that states could not regulate interstate commerce
- Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)- federal commission that could investigate and prosecute discriminatory practices by corporations that cross state lines

Farmers' Alliances

- Formed in regions and states to help each other with scientific methods of farming, economic, and political action

Ocala Platform

- 1890 national organization of farmers met in Ocala, FL to address the problems of rural America
 1. Direct election of U.S. senators
 2. Lower tariff rates
 3. Graduated income tax
 4. New banking system regulated by federal government
- Proposed federal storage for farmers' crops and federal loans
- Grange and farmers' alliances would become part of the Populist movement in 1892 and 1896