

Far from being empty and unknown, the West was populated by Indians and Mexicans long before the post-Civil War boom. Even after the waves of white occupation and in face of significant prejudice from those whites, large numbers of Mexicans and Asian Americans continued to live in the West.

White settlement developed in initial boom and decline patterns in three industries that would do much to shape the region in the long run: mining, ranching, and commercial agriculture. Asians, Mexicans, and African Americans provided much of the labor force for these industries.

In the late nineteenth century, the South and West were underdeveloped regions with an almost colonial relationship to the industrial, heavily populated Northeast and Midwest. Except for a few pockets in the far West, the frontier line of agricultural settlement in 1860 stopped at the eastern edge of the Great Plains. Hostile Plains Indians and an unfamiliar environment combined to discourage advance. By the end of the century, the Indian barrier to white settlement had been removed, cattlemen and miners had spearheaded development, and railroads had brought farmers, who, despite nagging difficulties, had made significant adaptations to the Great Plains.

### **Review Questions**

These questions are to be answered with essays. This will allow you to explore relationships between individuals, events, and attitudes of the period under review.

1. Explain how the mining, cattle, and farming frontiers followed something of a boom-and-bust pattern. Evaluate the long-term impact of these frontier activities.
2. What was the role of women in the far western mining and railroad towns and on the ranches and farms? How did the role change with time?
3. How did the white racial, ethnic, and cultural prejudice against Indians, Mexicans, and Asians shape the development of the West? What were the similarities and differences in the experiences of these three groups?

### **Chapter Self Test**

After you have read the chapter in the text and done the exercises in the Study Guide, take the following self test to see if you understand the material you have covered. Answers appear at the end of the Study Guide.

### **MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

Circle the letter of the response that best answers the question or completes the statement.

1. Because the area was arid to semiarid and thought to be unfit for Anglo-European civilization, many nineteenth-century Americans called the Far West the:
  - a. Trans Mississippi Wasteland.
  - b. Intermountain Barrens.
  - c. Prairie Wilderness.
  - d. Great American Desert.

2. Indian Territory, to which several eastern Indian tribes including the Cherokees and Creeks were removed, is now the state of:
  - a. South Dakota.
  - b. Kansas.
  - c. Oklahoma.
  - d. Wyoming.
3. Which of the following best represents the "caste system" that prevailed in the American Southwest before the arrival of Anglo-European settlement? (highest status first)
  - a. Pueblos, Spanish/Mexicans, Apaches/Navajos
  - b. Apaches/Navajos, Pueblos, Spanish/Mexicans
  - c. Spanish/Mexicans, Pueblos, Apaches/Navajos
  - d. Spanish/Mexicans, Apaches/Navajos, Pueblos
4. What northern Plains Indian nation was the strongest?
  - a. Comanche
  - b. Sioux
  - c. Pawnee
  - d. Blackfeet
5. The groups of local businessmen and politicians who had Washington connections and who dominated the government of New Mexico and other territories were often called
  - a. "range bosses."
  - b. "territorial rings."
  - c. "ranch kings."
  - d. "capitol cowboys."
6. What happened to the *californios* who dominated California prior to the gold rush of 1849?
  - a. Most died due to epidemic diseases brought in by the miners.
  - b. The ones who could speak English adapted well and continued to dominate real estate ownership.
  - c. Most emigrated back to Mexico or Arizona.
  - d. Many lost status and land and were excluded from the prosperity of the statehood period.
7. Which of the following was *not* a reason for Anglo-American resentment of Chinese immigrants?
  - a. They tended to congregate together and maintain Chinese culture.
  - b. Some secret societies ("tongs") engaged in crime.
  - c. Many of the early female Chinese immigrants had been sold into prostitution.
  - d. The Chinese were perceived as lazy slackers who would not work hard.
8. Which of the following was *not* a flaw in the Homestead Act?
  - a. One hundred sixty acres was not enough land in the West.
  - b. The law did not provide capital for machines and the like.
  - c. The land was too costly for most settlers.

9. Which type of mining came first as new fields opened?
- placer (pan)
  - quartz (lode)
  - strip (open pit)
  - hydraulic (water pressure)
10. Which of the following states/territories did *not* experience significant mining development from the 1850s to 1880s?
- Nevada
  - Colorado
  - Kansas
  - South Dakota
  - Montana
11. The "long drive" in the open-range cattle industry referred to the process of:
- rounding up the cattle from great distances all over the range for branding in the spring.
  - moving the cattle south to Texas in the winter and north to Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana in the spring to take advantage of the best pasture.
  - using cattle as oxen to pull covered wagons for settlers seeking homesteads in the West.
  - herding cattle from the ranges in Texas and other remote areas to the nearest accessible railroad loading point so that the cattle could be shipped to slaughterhouses in the East.
12. What *two* groups constituted most of the cowboys in the open range era? (Mark *two* letters.)
- southern Whites
  - Native Americans
  - African Americans
  - Hispanics
  - Chinese
13. The historian who influenced many with his paper on "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" was:
- Oliver Wendell Holmes.
  - C. W. McCune.
  - Albert Bierstadt.
  - Frederick Jackson Turner.
  - Charles A. Beard.
14. The federal government agency vested with management of Indian relations and the reservations was the:
- Indian Lands Commission.
  - Native American Administration.
  - Office of Assimilation and Concentration.
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs.

15. Who were the two principal Indian chiefs who led the forces that massed in the northern plains in 1875-1876 following the Black Hills gold rush? (Mark two letters.)
- a. Black Kettle
  - b. Sitting Bull
  - c. Crazy Horse
  - d. Geronimo
  - e. Red Eagle
16. The purpose of the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887 was to:
- a. weaken tribes, allot land to individual Indians, and promote assimilation.
  - b. geographically disperse the reservations so it would be more difficult for Indian warrior forces to unite.
  - c. increase tribal loyalty and reduce violence by allowing chiefs and tribal councils to act autonomously on the reservations.
  - d. restore economic viability to the nomadic way of Plains Indian life by revitalizing the bison herds.
17. Construction of the early transcontinental railroad lines was financed mainly by:
- a. European investors excited about the developing American West.
  - b. Wall Street investors with close ties to cattle and mining interests.
  - c. small investors such as farmers and local merchants who wanted to attract rail lines to their communities.
  - d. government subsidies in the form of favorable loans and land grants.
18. What fencing material revolutionized agriculture on the prairie and plains?
- a. split rails
  - b. chain link
  - c. pickets
  - d. barbed wire
19. By the end of the century, agriculture on the Great Plains was increasingly:
- a. subsistence in nature.
  - b. commercially oriented.
  - c. truck farming.
  - d. being displaced by industry.
20. Which of the following are listed in the text as farmers' three principle grievances? (Mark three letters.)
- a. High interest charges
  - b. Persistent production shortfalls
  - c. Inequitable freight rates
  - d. Inadequate currency
  - e. Poor-quality farm machinery produced by American factories

Read each statement carefully. Mark true statements "T" and false statements "F".

1. As late as 1900, the Far West remained essentially outside America's capitalist economy.
2. Except in warfare, American Indian tribal culture made little distinction between the genders in family and work roles.
3. Although most historians have previously presented the buffalo (bison) as critical to Plains Indian culture prior to the 1880s, recent anthropological work has revealed that this is a myth and that the buffalo was actually relatively unimportant for these tribes.
4. Prior to the arrival of significant numbers of English-speaking settlers, an elite group of large landowning Hispanics dominated life in New Mexico.
5. A *barrio* was a Mexican American who cooperated with Anglo settlers and often supervised poor farm workers.
6. "Coolies" were Chinese indentured servants whose status was close to slavery.
7. In the late nineteenth century, most white Californians favored increased Chinese immigration because there was a labor shortage and the Chinese would work cheaply.
8. The Timber Culture Act, Desert Land Act, and Timber and Stone Act provided avenues for westerners to acquire larger tracts of land than were allowed under the Homestead Act.
9. By 1900 all of the present states except Alaska, Hawaii, and Utah had been admitted to the Union.
10. The working class in the American West was racially diversified and stratified.
11. Vigilantes were groups of citizens in mining towns organized to enforce justice in the absence of official legal authority.
12. Prostitution was common in the mining "boom towns."
13. When the "long-drive" era began, there was an excess of cattle in Texas, so cowboys drove huge herds to rail centers in Louisiana, especially New Orleans, for shipment to the East.
14. Since the majority of western cowboys were veterans of the Confederate army, African Americans were seldom allowed to work on ranches or the long drives.
15. The so-called "Range Wars" were fought between the big railroad companies and their workers over harsh working conditions and low wages.
16. The text regards Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis of the West as an empty, uncivilized frontier awaiting settlement and which was essentially settled by 1890, as the best explanation for the region's transformation.
17. Although the Bureau of Indian Affairs was chronically under funded and understaffed, the reform-minded whites who ran it established a solid reputation for honesty, efficiency, and sincere concern for the well-being of the Native Americans they served.
18. On the West Coast, in California in particular, whites sometimes hunted down Indians and killed them without provocation.
19. Although small, the Nez Percé tribe was composed of particularly effective warriors who engaged in raids throughout the southern plains until Chief Joseph was finally captured in 1877.
20. The first transcontinental railroad was completed shortly before the beginning of the Civil War, but due to the war the railroad didn't carry much traffic until the end of the 1860s.

- 17. F
- 20. F
- 21. T

**Chapter Sixteen**

**MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

- 1. d
- 2. c
- 3. c
- 4. b
- 5. b
- 6. d
- 7. d
- 8. c
- 9. a
- 10. c
- 11. d
- 12. a,c
- 13. d
- 14. d
- 15. b,c
- 16. a
- 17. d
- 18. d
- 19. b
- 20. a,c,d

**TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS**

- 1. F
- 2. F
- 3. F
- 4. T
- 5. F
- 6. T
- 7. F
- 8. T
- 9. F
- 10. T
- 11. T
- 12. T
- 13. F
- 14. F

15. F  
16. F  
17. F  
18. T  
19. F  
20. F

## **Chapter Seventeen**

### **MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUIZ**

1. d  
2. b  
3. a  
4. d  
5. a