



Chapter Eighteen

**Conquest and
Survival:
1860–1900**




Part One:



Introduction



Conquest and Survival

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- ✦ How does this painting illustrate the many facets of conquest and survival in the West?

Chapter Focus Questions

- ✦ What was the impact of western expansion on Indian societies?
- ✦ How did new technologies and new industries help the development of the West as an “internal empire”?
- ✦ How were new communities created and old communities displaced?
- ✦ What was the myth and legend of the West?



Part Two:

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American Communities

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The Oklahoma Land Rush

✧ Map: Oklahoma Territory

- ✧ Thousands gathered for the Oklahoma land rush.
- ✧ Land promised to Indians who had been forcibly relocated in the 1830s was first opened to white settlement in 1889.
- ✧ In a little over two months settlers filed 6,000 homestead claims.
- ✧ The land rush symbolized the movement toward white settlement and the reconstruction of the West.
- ✧ This transformation came at the expense of Indian peoples.



Part Three:

**Indian Peoples under
Siege**

On the Eve of Conquest

- ✦ Indians had occupied the plains for more than 20,000 years, developing diverse ways of adapting themselves to the environment.
- ✦ The Europeans brought disease and the need for Indians to adapt to European ways.
- ✦ Tribes in the West were able to survive due to geographic isolation and adaptability.
 - ◆ The Plains Indians learned to ride horses and shoot guns.
 - ◆ Some tribes learned English and converted to Christianity.
- ✦ Legally, tribes were supposed to be regarded as autonomous nations residing within American boundaries.
 - ◆ Treaties were negotiated but force was often used instead.

Reservations and the Slaughter of the Buffalo

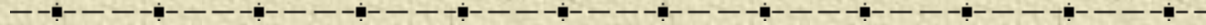
- ✦ Map: Major Indian Battles and Indian Reservations,
p. 533
- ✦ The federal government had pressured Indian tribes to migrate West into a permanent Indian Territory.
 - ◆ Whites' desires for western land led the federal government to pressure western Indians to move to reservations.
- ✦ Farmers found that the reservation lands were inadequate for the subsistence farming.
- ✦ Nomadic tribes found their freedom curtailed and their buffalo destroyed both by the railroad and white hunting.

The Indian Wars

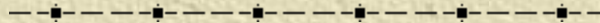
- ✦ A treaty granted the Black Hills to the Sioux.
 - ◆ The discovery of gold brought prospectors to the hills.
 - ◆ The Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho formed an alliance to protect the Black Hills, wiping out Custer's regiment before being defeated by the army.
- ✦ One of the bloodiest conflicts was the Red River War of 1874–1875.
- ✦ In the Southwest, Apaches under Geronimo waged a 10-year guerilla war.
- ✦ Clashes erupted when whites violated treaties.
- ✦ Even tribes like the Nez Perce, who tried to cooperate with whites, were betrayed.



Part Four:



The Internal Empire



Empire-Building in Perspective

✦ Map: Railroad Routes, Cattle Trails, Gold and Silver Rushes, 1860–1900, p. 539

✦ Settlers found themselves subjects of an “internal empire” controlled from the East.

Mining Towns

- ✦ Mining fostered western expansion.
- ✦ Gold discoveries brought thousands of fortune seekers.
- ✦ Most fortunes went to corporations that bought out the smaller claims.
- ✦ Although some mine communities eventually became permanent settlements, most were short-lived boomtowns.

Western Labor

- ✦ The western labor movement emerged in this rough and often violent climate.
- ✦ Unions refused membership to Chinese, Mexican, and Indian workers.
- ✦ Unions were unable to stop owners from closing down mines when the ore ran out, leaving ghost towns and environmental blight.

Mormon Settlements

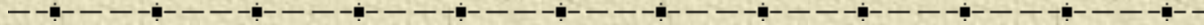
- ✦ Map: Mormon Cultural Diffusion, ca. 1883, p. 540
- ✦ Mormons migrated to the Great Basin in Utah beginning in 1846.
- ✦ They shared land and water as they built agricultural communities.
- ✦ The federal government assumed control of the Utah territory.
- ✦ Mormon society soon resembled the individualist East the original settlers had sought to escape.

Mexican Borderland Communities

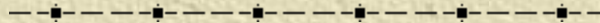
- ✦ The Southwest saw a series of clashes between Anglos and Mexicanos over control of the land.
- ✦ Some Mexicano elites continued to maintain wealth and power.
- ✦ The majority of Mexicans found themselves trapped in poverty and turned to migratory work or moved to urban areas to work for wages.
- ✦ Mexicanos maintained key elements of their traditional culture.



Part Five:



The Open Range



The Long Drives

- ✦ The destruction of buffalo opened the path for the western cattle industry.
- ✦ Cowboys rounded up herds for \$30 a month (at best) and lived under harsh circumstances, stimulating efforts to unionize.
 - ◆ Workday lasted from sunup to sundown with night shifts to watch the cattle.
 - ◆ There was no protection from the elements.
 - ◆ Poor diet often led to disease.
 - ◆ The drive could be as far as 1,500 miles.
- ✦ One-fifth to one-third of cowboys were Indian, Mexican, or African American.

The Sporting Life

- ✦ Few women worked on the open range.
- ✦ Some 50,000 women worked as prostitutes in the West during the second half of the nineteenth century.
 - ◆ There were few jobs for women and many resorted to prostitution simply to pay the bills.
- ✦ Their life was quite harsh and seldom paid well.

Community and Conflict

- ✦ Personal violence was commonplace in the cattle towns and mining camps.
- ✦ Horse theft rose rapidly during the peak years of the cattle drives.
- ✦ During the 1870s, range wars turned violent when farmers, sheep ranchers, and cattle ranchers battled over the same land.
- ✦ By the mid-1880s the cattle business went bust.
 - ◆ Overstocking led to herds depleting sparse grasslands.
 - ◆ Bad weather from 1885 to 1887 killed 90 percent of western cattle, and prices plummeted.



Part Six

**Farming Communities on
the Plains**

The Homestead Act

- ✦ 160 acres were given to any settler who lived on the land for at least 5 years and improved it.
 - ◆ Nearly half of all homesteaders failed to improve the land and lost their claims.
 - ◆ Homesteaders had their greatest success in the central and upper Midwest where the soil was rich and the weather was relatively moderate.
- ✦ This act sparked the largest migration in U.S. history but only 10 percent of all farmers got their start under its terms (most farmers bought their land outright).
 - ◆ Railroads and speculators were able to cash in by selling land to farmers.
 - Farmers were willing to pay hefty prices.

Populating the Plains

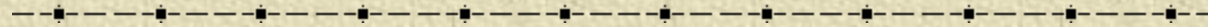
- ✦ Railroads held great power in developing and settling the West.
 - ◆ Railroads delivered crops and cattle to eastern markets and brought back goods.
- ✦ Railroads put communities “on the map.”
 - ◆ Railroads in the West preceded settlement.
 - ◆ Professional promoters were sent to Europe and throughout the United States to recruit settlers.
 - ◆ Towns along the railroad lines flourished.
- ✦ Immigrants formed tight-knit communities.
 - ◆ Many groups retained their native languages and customs.

Work, Dawn to Dusk

- ✦ Farm families survived and prospered through hard work.
 - ◆ Men's work tended to be seasonal.
 - ◆ Women's activities were usually more routine.
 - ◆ Children worked running errands and completing chores by about age nine.
- ✦ Community was an important part of life.
 - ◆ People depended on neighbors for help in times of need and for a break from the hard work and harsh climate.
- ✦ The barter system developed due to lack of cash.



Part Seven:



The World's Breadbasket



New Production Technologies

- ✦ Preparing western lands for cultivation was a difficult process because of the tough sod.
- ✦ New technologies greatly increased the amount of land that could be farmed.
- ✦ Through federal aid, land-grant colleges, and other sources of scientific research, farmers developed new techniques for cultivation.

Producing for the Market

- ✦ Farmers always had to cope with natural forces that were not always cooperative.
- ✦ Most farmers produced primarily for the cash market and adapted their crops.
- ✦ Pioneers to new areas frequently achieved considerable success; latecomers often found that the choice land was gone.
- ✦ Startup costs for a farm could keep a family in debt for decades.
 - ◆ The large capitalized farmer had the advantage over the small one.

California Agribusiness

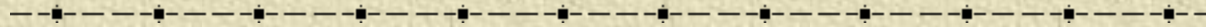
- ✦ California led the way toward large-scale commercial farming that defined agribusiness.
- ✦ By the turn of the century California had become the showcase for heavily capitalized farm factories employing large numbers of tenant and migrant workers.
- ✦ Fruit and vegetable growers manipulated consumer tastes to create new markets for their products.

The Toll on the Land

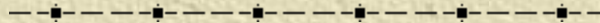
- ✦ Map: National Parks, p. 552
- ✦ Farmers destroyed existed plant and animal species and introduced new ones.
- ✦ Replacing buffalo with cattle and sheep, introduced animals that ate grasses down to the roots and created the possibilities of huge dust storms.
- ✦ Commercial agriculture took a heavy toll on existing water supplies.
- ✦ The federal government created the Forest Service to safeguard watersheds.



Part Eight:



The Western Landscape



Nature's Majesty

- ✦ Writers described in great detail the wonder of nature's majesty in the West.
- ✦ The federal government created national parks in 1871, and sent a team of scientists and photographers to record the region's beauty.
- ✦ Landscape painters from the Rocky Mountain School piqued the public's interest in the West.

The Legendary Wild West

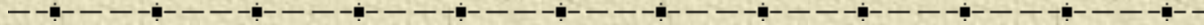
- ✦ More popular presentations emphasized the West as a source of “vigorous manhood.”
- ✦ Thousands of “dime novels” appeared that portrayed the region in romantic, heroic terms.
- ✦ Wild West show promoters like “Buffalo Bill” Cody brought the legendary West to millions of people around the world.

The “American Primitive”

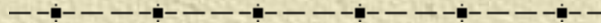
- ✦ The West continued to captivate American imagination.
- ✦ The public sought depictions of bold cowboys and exotic savages.
- ✦ Charles Schreyvogel, Charles Russell, and Frederic Remington helped to shape Americans’ perception of the region.
- ✦ Scholars like Lewis Henry Morgan and Alice Cunningham Fletcher studied Indians and began to develop a scientific understanding of their lives.
- ✦ The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts incorporated a large dose of tribal lore into their character-building programs.



Part Nine:



**Transformation of
Indian Societies**



Reform Policy and Politics

- ✦ The federal government's tradition of treating Indian tribes as separate nations ended in 1871.
- ✦ Reformers like Helen Hunt Jackson advocated policies designed to promote Indian assimilation and eradicate distinct tribal customs.
- ✦ The Dawes Severalty Act of 1887 was a disaster for most Indians and undermined tribal sovereignty.
 - ◆ Individuals were granted land if they chose to sever from their tribes.
 - ◆ Indian religions and sacred ceremonies were banned along with the telling of Indian myths.
 - ◆ "Indian schools" forbade Indian clothing styles, language, and even hair fashions.

The Ghost Dance

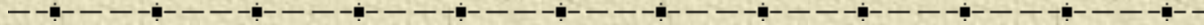
- ✦ A Paiute prophet, Wovoka, had a vision that a divine judgment was coming and led the Sioux to practice the Ghost Dance.
 - ◆ White authorities grew fearful and demanded an end to the practice.
- ✦ An incident led whites to gun down 200 people at Wounded Knee.

Endurance and Rejuvenation

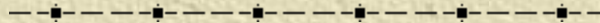
- ✦ Those tribes that survived best were those living on land unwanted by whites.
- ✦ A majority of tribes dwindled to the brink of extinction; some even disappeared.
- ✦ The Navajo, Hopi, and northwestern tribes managed to adapt to the new situation or were sufficiently isolated to survive.
- ✦ The traditional way of life for most was gone.
- ✦ It was several generations before a resurgence of Indian sovereignty occurred.



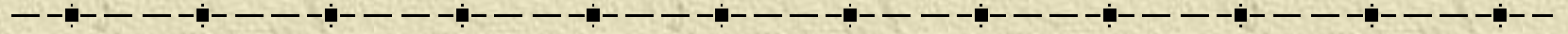
Part Ten:



Conclusion



Conquest and Survival



✦ Media: Chronology, p. 560