

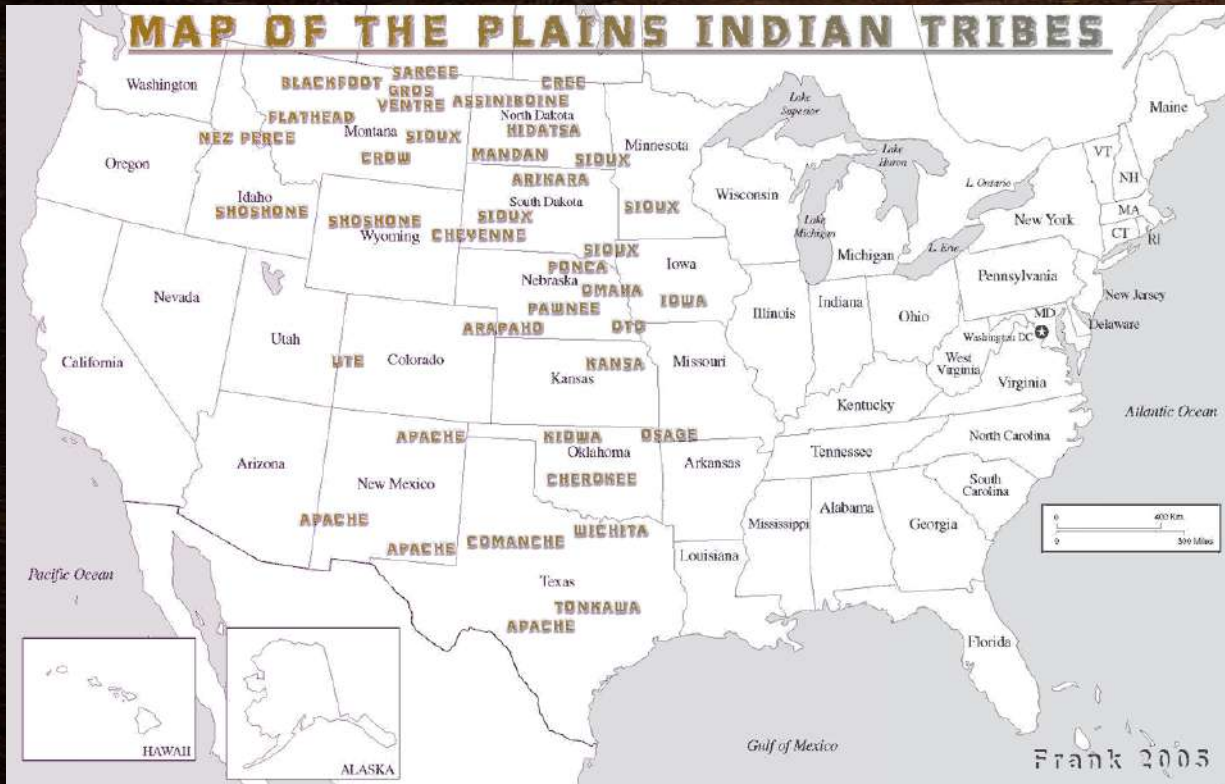
The Great West and the Agricultural Revolution

AP U.S. HISTORY

Essential Question

- To what extent did post-Civil War America see a rebirth of American idealism?
 - (to effectively answer this question you must first define what “American idealism” means to you).

The Clash of Cultures on the Plains



Indians had been displacing each other in North America since the 18th Century – one tribe, like the Comanches, driving another tribe, like the Apaches, off their ancestral land - as White settlers gained control of the Eastern part of the U.S.

As white soldiers and settlers edged onto the Great Plains, intertribal warfare among Plains Indians increased in the late nineteenth century because of growing competition for the rapidly dwindling hunting grounds, including the dwindling buffalo herds.



The Clash of Cultures on the Plains



MAP 17.1 Indian Reservations This map indicates the location of most western Indian reservations in 1890, as well as the Great Sioux Reserve before it was broken up and severely reduced in size. Note how the development of a large reservation on the northern Plains and another on the southern Plains opened the central Plains for railroad construction and agricultural development.

The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 and the Fort Atkinson Treaty of 1853 were attempts to pacify the Plains Indians. Those treaties had the added benefit of opening the middle of the plains to railroad development and trails for wagon trains.

The federal government's attempt to confine Indians to certain areas through formal treaties was largely ineffective because the nomadic Plains Indians largely rejected the idea of formal authority and defined territory. The stage was set for warfare between Indians and the U.S. Army



Receding Native Population

The Indian Wars in the West were savage. Colonel Chivington murdered 400 innocent Cheyenne, including women praying for mercy and bashing out the brains of children, in Sand Creek, Colorado.

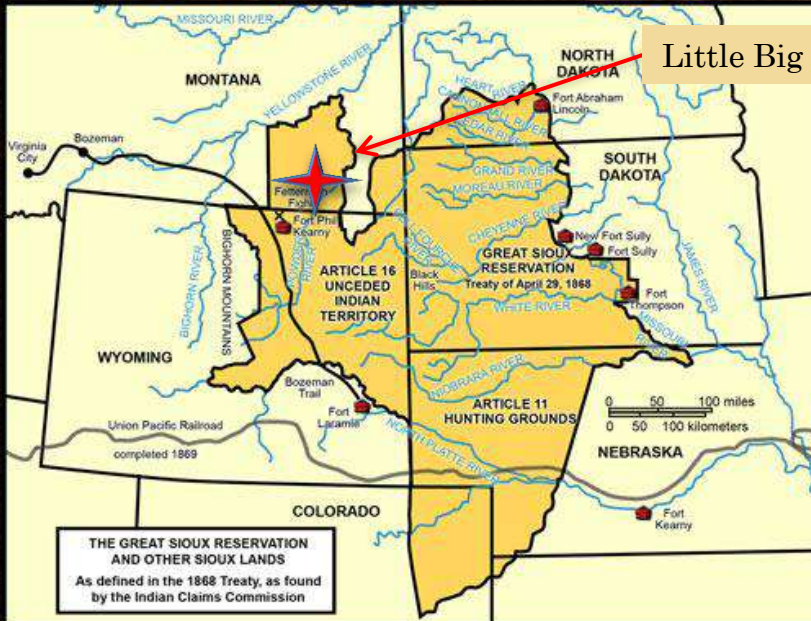


Western Indians offered strong resistance to white expansion through their effective use of repeating rifles and horses. In 1866 a Sioux war party ambushed 81 Army soldiers and civilians in Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains – the Indians mutilated every corpse, including a soldier's face with 105 arrows.



Two Content Layout with SmartArt

The Sioux were promised a sprawling “Great Sioux reservation” under the Treaty of Fort Laramie, but pioneers seeking gold flooded onto their reservation in violation of the treaty.



Sitting Bull



We never get credit – lame.



20% of all soldiers, called buffalo soldiers by the Indians, in the frontier were African American.

Dying sucks.



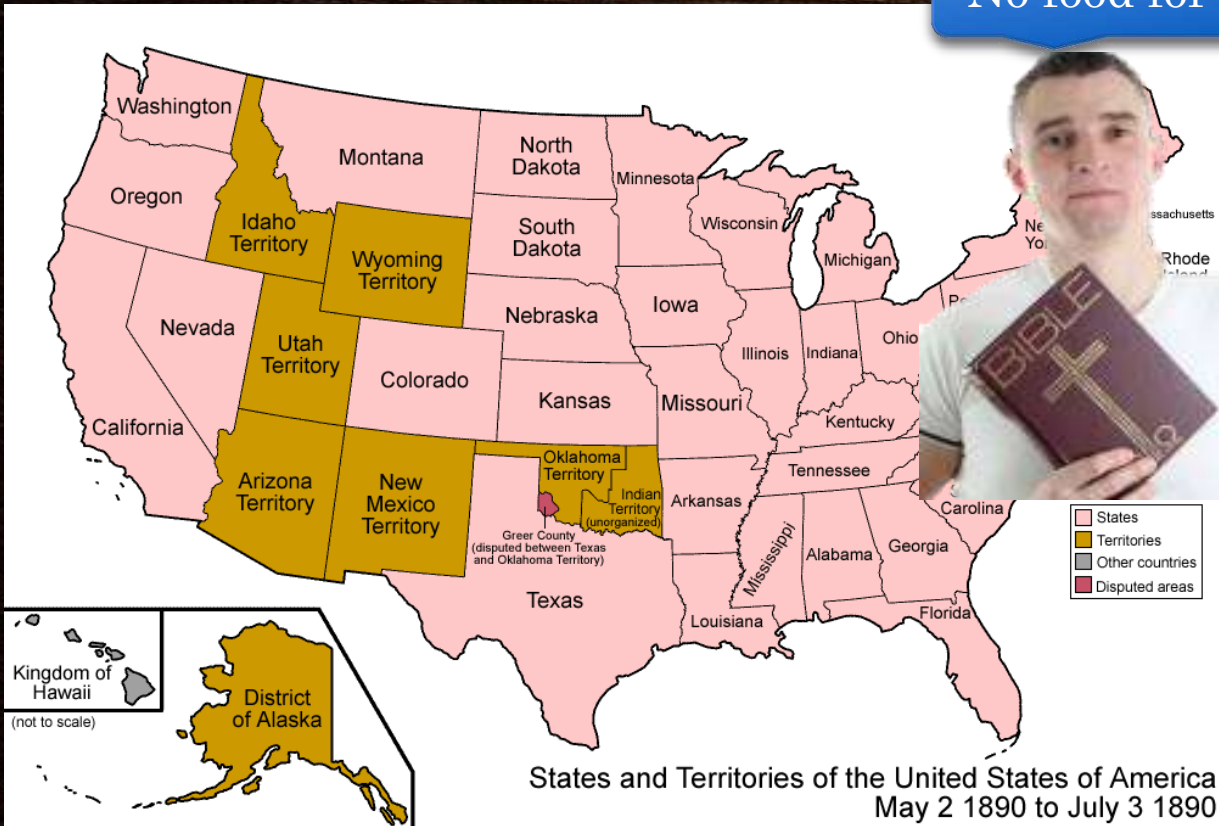
Colonel Custer

The warfare that led up to the Battle of the Little Big Horn was set off by White intrusions after the discovery of gold in the sacred Black Hills. Colonel Custer’s 7th Cavalry, about half of them immigrants, thought he could suppress the local Sioux, who were harassing the gold-seekers. He didn’t expect to ride upon 2,500 well-armed Sioux warriors, led by Sitting Bull. Let’s just say it worked out poorly for Custer and his soldiers.

The End of the Trail

By the 1880s, reformers debated the best way to deal with the Indians. Some Christian reformers withheld food to force Indians to assimilate to white society.

No food for you!



Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce learns the terms of the Dawes Act. He learned that land not allotted to the Indians was sold to railroads and white settlers, with profits used to educate and “civilize” the native peoples.



The federal government attempted to force Indians away from their traditional values and customs under the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887 by instructing them in white farming methods. Indian families received 160 acres of land. If they behaved themselves, they would get citizenship in 25 years (full citizenship was finally granted in 1924).

Mining: From Dishpan to Ore Breaker

With the Indians conquered and the coming of the railroads in full swing, mining towns out West boomed. But, there was a price to pay for population explosion out West – the Old West changes.

Barbed wire doomed the cowboy way of life.



I can't afford fancy machinery! Us old-timers will be a memory now too.

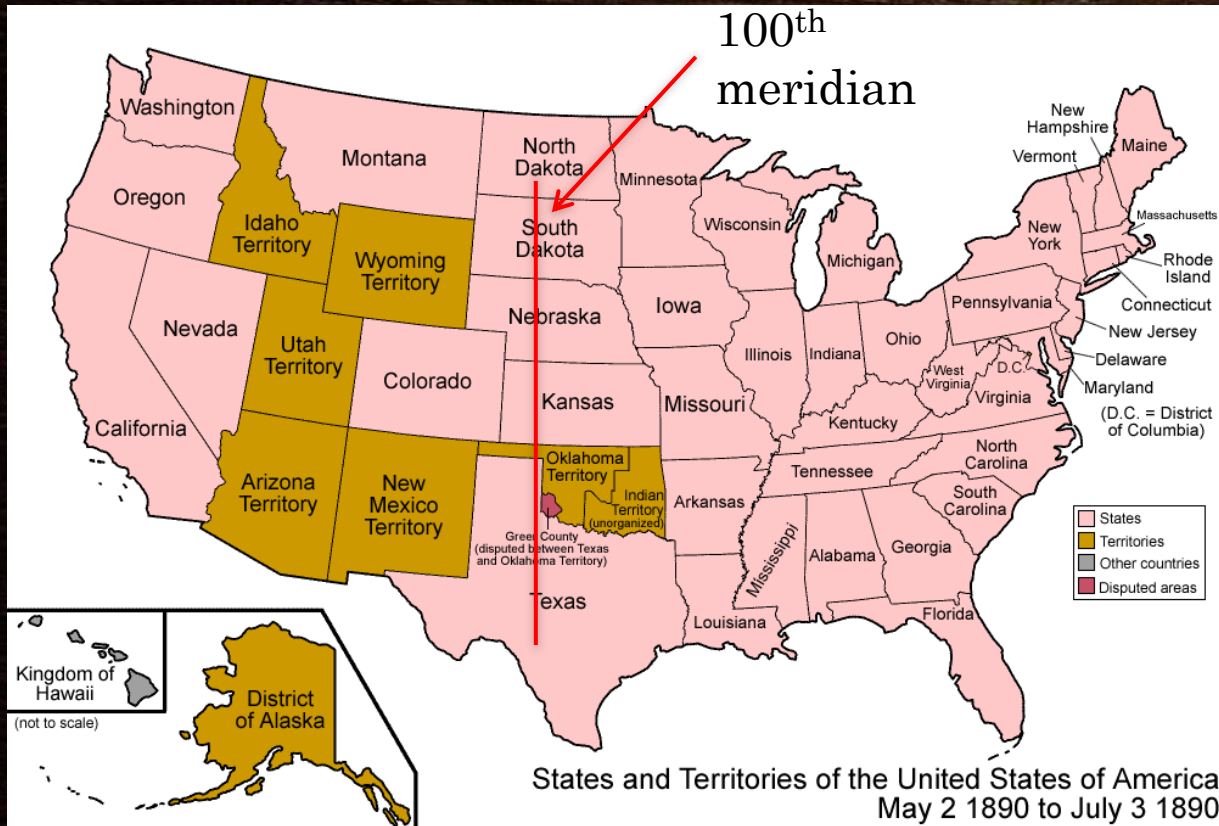


Chief Big Foot after the killings at Wounded Knee, in which a tribe of Sioux were massacred because they performed a “Ghost Dance” (the Sioux felt dancing to the memory of their killed family members would bring their old way of life back).

Both the mining and cattle frontiers saw a movement from individual operations to large-scale corporate businesses. Ore-breaking machinery smashed rock looking for hard-to-reach minerals and with the railroads brought homesteaders and shepherders who fenced-in the plains and bred meatier cattle.

The Farmers' Frontier

Land West of the 100th meridian was much more arid than the prairie in the east. The problem of developing agriculture in the arid West was solved most successfully through the use of irrigation from dammed western rivers. Lake Powell, named after the explorer of the Colorado River, was created in order to support a growing population and farming industry in Arizona.



INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME OF YOUR OWN EASY PAYMENTS

PERFECT TITLE POSSESSION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST
IRRIGATED GRAZING AGRICULTURAL DRY FARMING

In 1890 the Department of the Interior Sold Thirty Six Thousand Acres of Public Land as follows:

State	Acres	Price	State	Acres	Price
Colorado	5,311.32	\$7.21	Washington	54,804.60	\$29.14
Idaho	17,613.00	24.85	Oregon	2,820.00	15.45
Montana	7,084.50	13.85	South Dakota	170,435.00	10.55
Nebraska	23,694.00	8.80	Utah	4,875.00	41.17
North Dakota	2,643.00	35.05	Wyoming	8,855.00	17.08
	22,616.70	9.95		805.00	20.04

FOR THE YEAR 1890 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 350,000 ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

WALTER L. FISHER, ROBERT G. VALENTINE,

Oklahoma –Indian Territory – was made available to settlers in 1889.

PRODUCTS WILL PAY FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS!

MILLIONS OF ACRES

Use an Act of God, before God and Earth, representing holy and sacred Public Land in America.

IOWA NEBRASKA LANDS

FOR SALE ON 10 YEARS CREDIT

By the **Burlington & Missouri River R.R. Co.**

AT 6 PER CT. INTEREST AND LOW PRICES.

Only One Seventh of Principal Due Annually, beginning Four Years after purchase. 50 PER CENT. OF PRINCIPAL PAID IN YEARS FOUR, FIVE AND SIX.

LAND EXPLORING TICKETS SOLD

and Cost allowed in First Installment paid, on Land bought in 30 days from date of ticket.

Address **GEO. S. HARRIS, LAND COMMISSIONER**
or **T. H. LEAVITT, Asst. Land Commr., Burlington, Iowa.**

Or apply to

FREE ROOMS for buyers in Hotel Burlington are provided at Burlington and Lincoln.

The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed a settler to acquire as much as 160 acres of land by living on it for five years and paying about \$30.

The Fading Frontier

The “safety valve” theory of the frontier holds that unemployed city dwellers could move west and thus relieve labor conflict in the East. Kind of true, some immigrants went West because they knew how to farm, but few city dwellers knew how to farm or had the money to go west or pay for livestock or machinery. But, the possibility of westward migration probably convinced urban employers to raise wages.

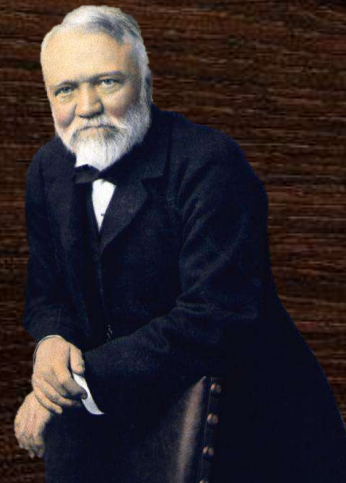
We have no money.
How do we go
West?



I seriously have no
idea how to farm.



Stick around the
factory boys, it's
your best bet.



Andrew Carnegie

The frontier is
what made
America unique.
What happens
without it?



Frederick Jackson
Turner came up with
the “safety valve”
theory.

Deflation Dooms the Debtor

By the 1880s, most western farmers faced hard times because they were forced to sell their grain at low prices in a depressed world market. Although...

Buy American,
y'all!

Vee grow de
wheat too.
Dah!

Russian
farmer

A combination of government policies and farmer behavior helped create some of their own problems.

1. The Homestead Act encouraged Americans to settle in more arid regions, like in western Kansas, eastern Colorado, and eastern Montana.
2. Constant droughts in the arid region led farmers to adopt “dry farming,” which turned the soil into a fine powder by the 1930s (Dust Bowl).
3. Mechanization, like the combine, allowed for more crops to be grown by fewer people, so output increased.
4. Farmers, especially large corporate farms, chose to grow the most profitable crops, like wheat or corn.
5. Relying on a one-crop economy left farmers especially susceptible to the world market – if crop prices fell a farmer could lose everything.
6. There were no tariffs to protect farmers, so farmers were completely at the mercy of a world market. Thus, overproduction would drop the value of a crop drastically.



Mechanized farming in Washington State

Prelude to Populism

To make matters worse for the farmers, the states assessed high taxes on farmland, whereas wealthy easterners could hide their profits in stocks and bonds.



Isn't that a bag of poop?

Farmers were at the mercy of the combine harvester trust, the barbed-wire trust, the fertilizer trust, and the railroad trusts.

I heart the A F of L



Samuel Gompers

Boo-hoo. Cry me a river

Farmers, individualistic by nature, didn't have a Carnegie to consolidate farming or a Gompers to unionize them.

We exclude blacks from joining, just sayin'.

Out of the Farmers' Alliance came the People's Party – also known as the Populist Party.

1. Nationalize the railroads, telephone, and telegraph.
2. Institute an income tax.
3. Government loans to farmers
4. Free and unlimited coinage of silver.



Cornelius Vanderbilt



Farmers slowly began to unite, first with the National Grange, and then with the Farmers' Alliance.



Farmers' Alliance member

Coxey's Army and the Pullman Strike



The president breaking strikes is "government by injunction!" not cool.



William Jennings Bryan

The U.S. government's response to the Pullman strike aroused great anger from organized labor.

Unions are dangerous to democracy!



Eugene V. Debs, a socialist leader of the American Railway Union, led a strike of the Pullman Palace Car Company. President Cleveland crushed the strike with federal troops and put Debs in jail for six months.

A F of L stays out of this one – we're not socialists.



Samuel Gompers



The panic of 1893 united the farmers and laborers and strengthened the Populist arguments of economic and political oppression. Jacob S. Coxey led a peaceful protest in Washington D.C., who advocated government intervention in the economy. He was ignored by Congress.

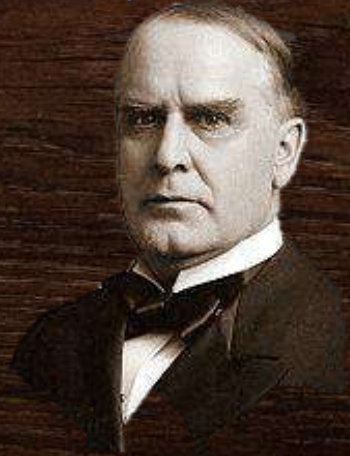
Golden McKinley and Silver Bryan

America is
nothing without
farmers!



In 1896, the Democratic Party chose to abandon Grover Cleveland and endorse William Jennings Bryan for presidential candidate because Bryan advocated the unlimited coinage of silver to inflate currency in his Cross of Gold speech.

Independence and
hard work, not
government
handouts!



The Republican Party chose William McKinley to run for president. He promised to ensure a strong economy and stable currency under his leadership.

We love
McKinley



Marcus Alonzo
Hanna



Cornelius
Vanderbilt



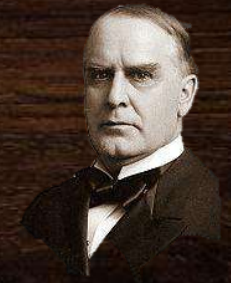
Andrew Carnegie

The leaders of industry and eastern conservatives gave large sums of money to McKinley's campaign in order to prevent William Jennings Bryan from winning the presidential election.

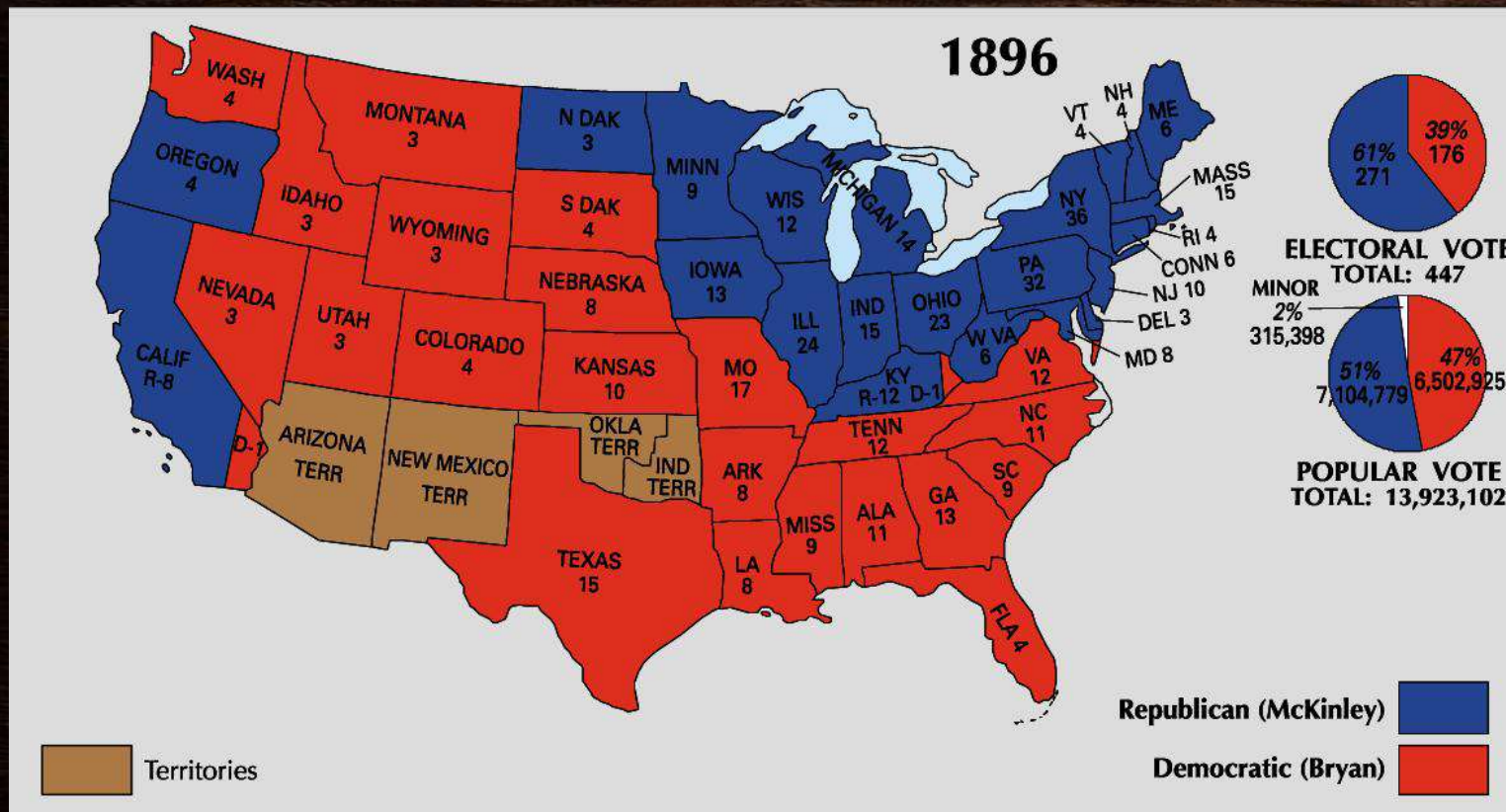
Class Conflict: Plowholders versus Bondholders

The election of 1896 wasn't really about the rich against the poor or the country against the city because not nearly enough of the underprivileged banded together to support Bryan. McKinley defeated Bryan primarily because McKinley was able to win the support of eastern wage earners and city dwellers. The future of presidential politics lay in the growing cities with middle-class populations, not in class warfare.

Republicans rule!



The economy improved in 1897 and the Populist Party faded.



We have fixed wages, so inflation would hurt our buying power.

Plus, the big business tariffs ensure we have jobs.



City voters

Questions to Consider

1. Was Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis true in any way? If so, what? If not, why not?
2. What changes occurred in the political parties after the election of 1896?
3. What hardships did farmers in the West experience?
4. What advantages did eastern elites have in the American political and economic system?
5. What were the effects of westward expansion on the various Native American tribes?
6. What forces encouraged westward expansion?