

UNIT 1 NOTES: WESTWARD EXPANSION

1. Manifest Destiny

- a. Westward Expansion occurred mid to late 19th century (1865-1930)
- b. Manifest Destiny is the idea that drove westward expansion
- c. Manifest Destiny is the belief that it was the countries destiny and duty to expand and possess all the territory west to the Pacific Ocean

2. Texas Revolution

- a. By the 1830s Texas was under the control of Mexico who was led by Santa Anna
- b. Stephen F. Austin (leader of the Texas colony) petitioned the Mexican government for more independence from Mexico and was arrested by Santa Anna for inciting a revolution
- c. Austin returned to Texas in 1835 convinced the only answer was war
- d. Lt. Col. Williams Travis led rebels at the Alamo against the Mexican government & Texas settlers fought valiantly for 13 days before losing & 187 men died
- e. Sam Houston led 900 men against Santa Anna and his forces. They attacked & killed 630 troops and captured Santa Anna
- f. Houston forced Santa Anna to sign the Treat of Velasco, granting independence to Texas. Houston was elected president of the Republic of Texas
- g. Texas did not get admitted into the U.S. until 1845 by President Polk because of political debates over slavery. Soon after, this annexation of Texas led to war with Mexico

3. Oregon Territory

- a. In Northwest U.S.
- b. Oregon Trail blazed in 1836 and stretched from Independence, MO to Oregon City, OR
- c. This territory was originally a joint territory of the U.S. and Great Britain
- d. In 1846 (when Polk was President), Oregon became a U.S. territory when Great Britain and the U.S. agreed on the 49th parallel as the border between the U.S. and present day Canada
- e. The Oregon Territory consisted of present day states: Washington, Oregon, and Idaho

4. Southwest Territories

- a. The U.S. defeated Mexico in the Mexican American War (1848) and they signed a treaty
 - b. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
 - i. Agreed the Rio Grande river would be the border between Texas and Mexico
 - ii. Required Mexico to surrender parts of New Mexico and California territories in exchange for 15 million dollars
 - C. Gadsden Purchase
 - i. President Pierce sent James Gadsden to settle a dispute with Mexico over additional territory
 - ii. Gadsden purchased parts of New Mexico and Arizona in exchange for an additional 10 million dollars
5. California
- a. The U.S. had already acquired the territory of California from Mexico through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ó the Gold Rush of 1849 is what helped California become a state
 - b. Gold was discovered in 1848 and by 1849; gold seekers came from all over the U.S. and the world to get rich.
 - c. Most people never get rich, but overall, 2 billion dollars worth of gold was harvested out of the Sierra Nevada Mountains
 - d. This gold rush helped Congress admit California into the U.S. because of the population boom
 - e. The gold rush was over by 1853
6. Great Plains
- a. The Great Plains is an area of grasslands extending through the west-central portion of the United States; lots of prairies ó this was the area where westward expansion began
 - b. Two main groups of people affected by expansion
 - i. Native Americans ó who lived in the plains
 - ii. Easterners ó (mainly European descent) who sought to expand the in to the plains
 - C. The Horse and Buffalo for Indians in the Great Plains
 - i. Buffalo were the center of Native Americans' lives; the buffalo provided everything for their basic needs (food, shelter, clothing)

- ii. Horses were introduced to the Native Americans by the Europeans. Horses allowed for better hunting, speed, and mobility

d. The Roles of Great Plains Indians

- i. Role of Men ó hunters, warriors
- ii. Role of Women ó butcher game (game = animals hunted), prepare hides, cook
- iii. Education for Children ó through stories, myths, games, and by example
- iv. Leaders ruled by council, not force ó no one person dominated

7. Settlers Pushing into Native American Lands

- a. Native American thoughts on land: “Land is a sacred gift that could not be owned by anyone,“ it belongs to everyone
- b. Three reasons for settlers moving West
 - 1. Lure of gold and silver ó in places like Colorado and California; this led to the creation of mining towns all over the West on Native American land
 - 2. Desire to own land ó they took it from the Native Americans
 - 3. Spread religious beliefs (missions) ó tried to take away Native American culture

8. Native American Restrictions on Land

- a. U.S. government began to restrict Native Americans to protect settlers
 - i. 1834 ó Great Plains designated as one big reservation
 - ii. By 1850s ó tribes restricted to particular areas
- b. Development of railroad also influenced government decisions
- c. Native Americans response: anger and ignored restrictions
- d. Result: clashed with settlers and miners

9. Sand Creek Massacre

- a. 1864 ó took place in Colorado
- b. U.S. army attacked and killed 150 natives ó mostly women and children

10. Bozeman Trail

- a. The trail ran through Native American hunting ground in the Big Horn Mountains
- b. Native Americans (the Sioux Indians in particular) attacked settlers along the trail to defend their hunting grounds

- C. Led to the Treaty of Fort Laramie
 - i. This treaty closed Bozeman Trail and made the Sioux Indians live on a reservation
 - ii. Sitting Bull (leader of the Sioux) refused to sign it
- 11. Custer's Last Stand/Little Big Horn
 - a. Miners discovered gold in Black Hills; Sioux leaders protested the mining for gold
 - b. Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse (both Sioux leaders) attacked and defeated Custer (American) and his troops at Little Big Horn River
 - C. This was one of the few victories for Native Americans
- 12. Battle of Wounded Knee
 - a. Sioux leaders refused to surrender for years until the Battle of Wounded Knee
 - b. December 1890 ó Custer's old regiment (troops) rounded up 350 Sioux and took them to Wounded Knee, SD
 - C. An unknown shot led to a cannon being shot and the deaths of 300 unarmed Native Americans ensued
 - d. This event officially marks the end of the "Indian Wars"
- 13. Destruction of the Buffalo
 - a. Tourists and fur traders shot buffalo for sport and profit, thus destroying one of the main ways Native Americans sustained life
 - b. 1800 ó 65 million buffalo
 - C. 1890 ó less than 1000 buffalo
- 14. Assimilation
 - a. Plan under which Native Americans give up their beliefs and way of life to become part of white culture
- 15. Dawes Act
 - a. "Americanize"
 - b. U.S. attempted to assimilate Native Americans ó break up reservation life and introduce American life
 - C. Gave land to individual Native Americans by household; the rest of the land was sold off to settlers
 - d. 1932 ó 2/3rds of land committed to Native Americans had been sold with no money given to the Native Americans for the land sold

16. Transcontinental Railroad

- a. 170 million acres of land given to railroads by the Federal Government to build Central and Union Pacific Railroads; received 10-20 square miles of land for every mile of track laid

17. Homestead Act

- a. 1862 Congress passed the Homestead Act which allowed 160 free acres of land to any head of household
- b. Law abused by speculators (people who resell land for profit)
- c. Only about 10% of the land was actually settled by families

18. Oklahoma Sooners

- a. Early participants in the land rushes which initially opened the Oklahoma Indian Territory to non-native settlement
- b. 1889 land rush attracted thousands
- c. In less than a day, 2 million acres were claimed

19. Exodusters

- a. Exodusters more than 15,000 African Americans who moved from post-Reconstruction South to Kansas
- b. Former sharecroppers that took advantage of the opportunity for land

20. Hardships of the New Land

- a. Droughts
- b. Floods
- c. Blizzards
- d. Fires
- e. Locust plagues
- f. Bandits

21. Dugouts and Soddies

- a. Most settlers built their homes from the land itself or very few trees
- b. Pioneers often dug their homes out of the sides of ravines or hills (Dugouts)
- c. Those in the flat plains made freestanding homes made of turf (Soddies)

22. New Technology

- a. 1837 John Deere created steel plow that could slice through heavy soil

- b. Other inventions included a grain drill (1841) to plant seeds, barbed wire (1874), corn binder (1878) and reaper (1890)
 - c. 1830 ó a bushel of grain took 183 minutes
 - d. 1900 ó a bushel of grain took 10 minutes
- 23. End of the Frontier
 - a. By 1890 with developments in farming and the ease of transportation through railroads, the Department of the Interior closed and announced that the country no longer had a frontier line
- 24. Agricultural Education
 - a. Federal government financed agricultural education to help improve farming practices and technology
 - b. Morrill Acts ó gave federal land to states to help finance agricultural colleges (EX: LSU and Texas A&M)
 - c. Hatch Act ó created agricultural experiment stations
- 25. Farmers Debt
 - a. Railroads and investors created bonanza farms ó single crop farms that were very large in size
 - b. 1885-1890: droughts bankrupted single-crop operations
 - c. Falling crop prices and rising costs of shipping pushed farmers into debt. Farms began being foreclosed
 - d. Railroads conspired to keep costs artificially high which farmers resented and did not like
 - e. New equipment/inventions for farming were expensive, so farmers were forced to borrow money to stay in business
- 26. Farmers and Populists Movement
 - a. The government began to take greenbacks out of circulation, upsetting the farmers
 - b. The hard money left in circulation was worth more than the money the farmers borrowed causing them to have to repay more than they borrowed
 - c. Additionally, the price of wheat fell, so the farmers could not sell their crops for as much money
 - d. Farmers pushed for more money in circulation to solve the problem
 - e. Railroads were also a problem for the farmers ó the railroads abused the prices they would charge farmers because of the lack of competition

- f. Farmers began to create alliances and cooperatives to help each other and gather support for their cause
- 27. Greenbacks
 - a. During the Civil War the U.S. printed money with green ink that was not backed by silver or gold
 - b. Farmers borrowed Greenbacks to finance the purchase of equipment etc. during and briefly after the Civil War, but the banks would not accept greenbacks as repayment. They only accepted "hard money" printed in yellow ink that could be exchanged for gold
- 28. Free Silver
 - a. During the debate over currency, Silverites wanted the free coinage of silver by the Federal government
- 29. The Grange
 - a. Most popular and successful farmers alliance
 - b. Started in 1867 by Oliver Hudson Kelley
 - c. Began as an alliance called the Patrons of Husbandry
 - d. Helped isolated farms/farmers with education/techniques/equipment
 - e. Spent most of their time fighting the railroads
- 30. Populist Reforms
 - a. Populist Party is born
 - i. Farm leaders (Grangers) needed a base of political power to cause real change
 - ii. Populist (or People's) Party formed (1892) & proposed economic, political and workforce reforms
 - b. Populist Reforms
 - i. Increase money supply
 - ii. Increase crop prices
 - iii. Graduated income tax
 - iv. Federal loan program
 - v. Direct election of Senators
 - vi. Single term for presidents
 - vii. 8 hour workday

Viii. Reduced immigration

31. Panic of 1893

- a. Railroads went bankrupt (expanded too fast)
- b. Government's gold supply thin from having to purchase silver
- c. People trade money for gold
- d. Stock market lost value
- e. 15,000 businesses & 500 banks collapsed (went under)
- f. 3 million people out of work (20% unemployment rate)

32. Two Sides of the Election

a. Silverites

- i. Favored using both metals (bimetallism)
- ii. William Jennings Bryan gave famous "Cross of Gold" speech in support
- iii. Supported by Democrats
- iv. Supported by farmers and laborers
- v. Puts more money in circulation, but money is worth less
- vi. Products sold at higher prices
- vii. Wanted free Silver
- viii. Effects: prices rise, value of money decreases, more people have money, more money available to stimulate the economy

b. Gold Bugs

- i. Republican President Cleveland supports
- ii. William McKinley Republican Presidential candidate supports
- iii. Bankers and businesses supports
- iv. Less money in circulation
- v. Loans would be repaid in stable money that is worth more
- vi. Effects: prices fall, value of money increases, fewer people have money

33. Presidential Election of 1896

a. William Jennings Bryan (Democrat)

- i. Supported by Populists
- ii. Supported in South and Midwest

- iii. Wanted Bimetallism & Free Silver

- b. William McKinley (Republican) ó WINNER OF ELECTION

- i. Supported in North and East

- ii. Gold Bug

- iii. Supported by businesses

- 34. End of Populism/Legacy of Populists

- a. McKinley's election killed the rise of the Populist Party

- b. People get the idea that the downtrodden can organize and be heard

- c. An agenda of reforms for the nation ó many of which would be enacted in the 20th century