

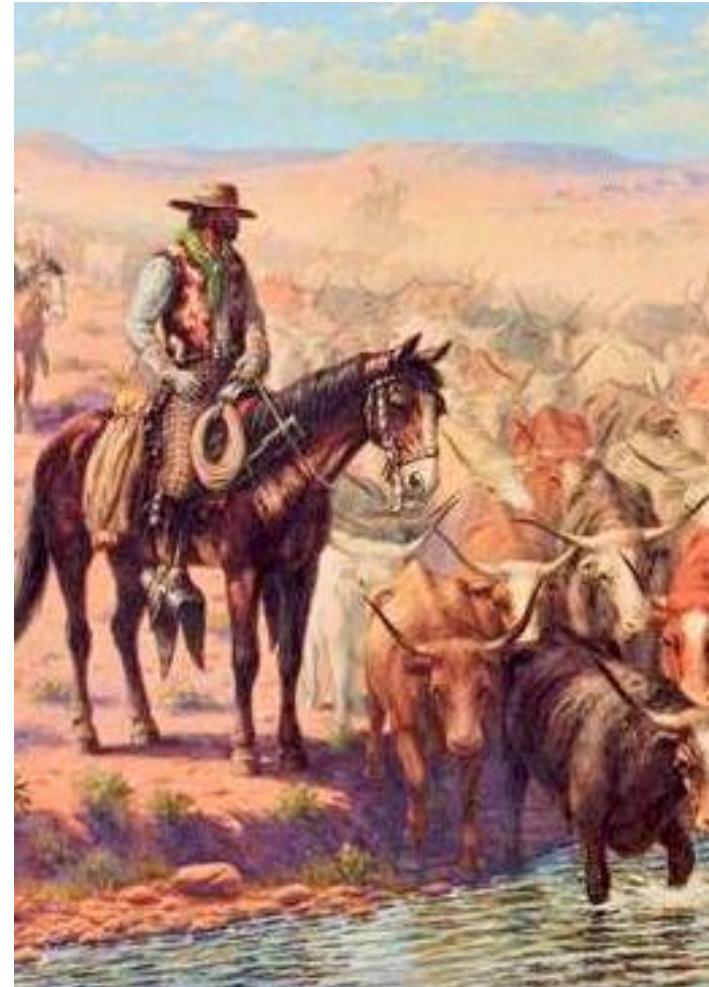
The West: Settlers

Unit 1: The Gilded Age (1870-1920)



Cowboys

- Growing demand from cities > boom in cattle industry, ranchers used cowboys to get cattle to RRs
 - long drive, Chisholm Trail
 - refrigerator cars
- Cowboy life romanticized, in reality was very tough
 - Buffalo Bill and Calamity Jane
- Barbed wire helped farmers but led to range wars, closed frontier
 - conservation movement
 - Turner thesis: bad for Americans?



Miners



- Gold rushes in CA, Colorado, Black Hills
- Comstock Lode silver rush in Nevada
- Prospectors: veterans, immigrants, African Ams
- Boom towns were dangerous, ruled by vigilante justice
- Most disappointed, few struck it rich

Farmers

- Homestead Act: land to 600,000 families
 - Land rushes, Sooners
 - Soddy, drought, locusts
- New Technology
 - McCormick and Deere
 - Morrill Act: colleges, research
- Debt and Bankruptcy
 - Large bonanza farms failed
 - Small farmers ended up in debt due to overproduction, expensive equipment, RR charges



Minorities

- African Americans
 - Exodusters
 - Buffalo soldiers: all-black Army regiment used during Indian Wars
- Mexican immigrants
 - Vaqueros
 - Debt peonage
- Chinese immigrants
 - Gold rush
 - Many used to build transcontinental RR
 - After it was finished, increasing nativism resulted in the Chinese Exclusion Act

All Colored People
THAT WANT TO
GO TO KANSAS,
On September 5th, 1877,
Can do so for \$5.00



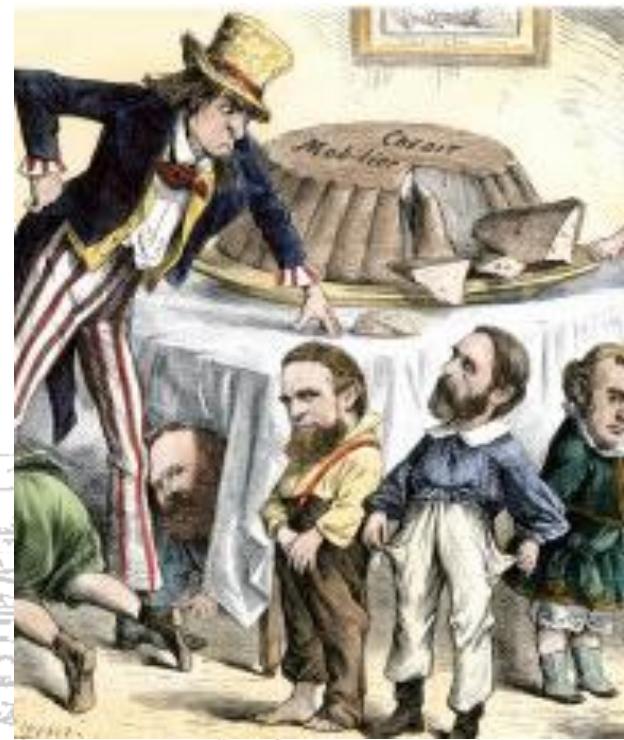


FEDERAL LAND GRANTS TO RAILROADS AS OF 1871

170 million acres, and a significant portion of the Homestead Act land

Railroads

- Workers
 - Conditions were dangerous and poor, most were unemployed veterans and immigrants
 - Pullman towns house/control
- Corruption
 - Land grant misuse: Crédit Mobilier
 - Price fixing and discrimination
- Regulation
 - Granger laws at state level: *Munn v. Illinois*
 - Interstate Commerce Act create the ICC for federal regulation, but was weak



Panic of 1893



- Railroad bubble bursts due to speculation and shaky financing > bank failures and a run on the gold supply
 - Coxley's march on Washington
 - Pullman strike
- Led to consolidation of railroads and the Free Silver movement
 - greenbacks > deflation after Civil War
 - new mines flooded market with silver

People's Party

- Omaha Platform based on issues of farmer and industrial workers (“common man”)
 - direct election of senators, graduated income tax, 8-hr workday, bimetallism
 - “Silverites” supported bimetallism, the government backing money with silver in addition to gold in order to increase the money supply and stimulate the economy
 - “Goldbugs” wanted to keep the current gold standard, which was more stable and benefited bankers and businesses
- Fusion with the Democratic Party
 - William Jennings Bryan’s “Cross of Gold” speech earned him the nomination of both parties
 - Lost to Republican William McKinley

