

- War for the West
  - Congress used West for development
    - Policy: encourage migration = develop
    - Consequence = 2nd most tragic outcome of 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Indians lives transformed before whites arrive
    - Tribes of Great Plains = most drastic transformation
      - Minority = sedentary tribes
      - Majority = Nomadic tribes
    - Plains Indians viewed land differently then settlers
  - US Indian policy evolved slowly
    - Washington made treaties; granted domestic sovereignty
    - Jackson changes policy; drive west
    - 1840s & 1850s = Manifest Destiny
      - Feds reduce Indian land holdings
    - 1851 = new Indian policy
    - Post Civil War: Trans-continental RRs = new policy
      - Bureau of Indian Affairs in charge of reservations
      - Indians trapped
      - Feds encourage buffalo hunters
      - Nomadic Plain's Indians' way of life = doomed
    - Mid-1868 new reservation progressing
      - Some Plains tribes refuse

- 1868 - William T. Sherman = Commander of the Army of the Plains
  - Launches Winter Campaign of 1868-69
  - Philip Sheridan oversees
- Grant's "Peace" Indian policy
  - Aim = minimize military conflict w/ Indians
  - Grant hoped to "civilize" then grant US citizenship
  - Indians - stay on reservations
  - Army's job was to force them back.
  - Goal = assimilate Indians into American society
- 1876 = violence renews in Northern Plains
  - Great Sioux War 1876-77
  - Gen. Sheridan directs troops to Powder River Region
  - Most famous part = led by Lt. Col. George A Custer
    - » Little Big Horn
  - Sheridan launches retaliation; Indians scatter
  - Troops run Indians down
  - Crazy Horse & Sitting Bull surrender
- Gov't cut up Great Sioux Reservation for settlement
- Small groups occasionally left reservations
  - Ex. Chief Joseph
- Last sizable group to refuse to reservation = Geronimo's band of Apache
- Last major armed confrontation in 1890s

- Trigger by new religion – the “Ghost Dance”
- End at Wounded Knee
- Dawes Act (1887) = defined US Indian Policy until 1934
  - Tribes broken; reservations divided
- Great American West opened with end of Indian resistance
  - US policy = exploiting natural wealth of West
  - Industrial Revolution & rapid urbanization = need for food & resources
- Ex. 1 - Agricultural Frontier
  - Expansion in post-Civil War decades = extraordinary
  - Experienced revolution in machinery, transportation, & marketing
  - Congress encourages w/ legislation:
    - Homestead Act of 1862
      - » Flaws
      - » High costs
  - To help ease problems, Congress passes more legislation
    - Timber Culture Act 1873
    - Desert Land Act 1877
    - Timber & Stone Act 1878
  - 1870-90 = farmers more than double landholdings
  - Feds granted land to states = Morrill Act 1862
  - Feds also granted lands to RRs
    - RRs opened own land-development & lending companies

- RRs also opened own bureaus of immigration
- NOTE: Western states & steamship companies also recruited settlers
  - Campaigns = remarkably successful
- America Fever swept Western & Central Europe
- NOTE: Post Civil War = 1000s of Cotton belt blacks moved west
  - Called Exodusters
- Obstacles confronting ALL = immense
  - Both men & women worked equally hard.
  - Worst problem = loneliness of prairie life
  - Shelter & water
- Some Farmers used “dry farming”
- Production = limited by how much they could harvest in time
  - Mechanization of farming
- NOTE: 1874 New invention also impacted west = barbwire.
- Region received boost 1870s
  - Europe suffers bad harvests
  - Russo-Turkish War 1877-78
  - Farm tech coincides w/ Euro need
  - Good times didn't last