

Chapter 26

The Great West and the Agricultural Revolution, 1865-1890

A. True or False

Where the statement is true, mark T. Where it is false, mark F, and correct it in the space immediately below.

- ___ 1. Cultural conflicts and population loss to disease weakened the Plains Indians' ability to resist white encroachment onto their lands.
- ___ 2. The Plains Indians were rather quickly and easily defeated by the U. S. Army.
- ___ 3. A crucial factor in defeating the Indians was the destruction of the buffalo, a vital source of food and other supplies.
- ___ 4. Humanitarian reformers respected the Native Americans' traditional culture and tried to preserve their tribal way of life.
- ___ 5. Individual gold and silver miners proved unable to compete with large mining corporations and trained engineers.
- ___ 6. During the peak years of the Long Drive, the cattlemen's prosperity depended on driving large beef herds great distances to railroad terminal points.
- ___ 7. More families acquired land under the Homestead Act than from the states and private owners.
- ___ 8. In 1890, the Census Bureau declared that there was no longer a clear line of frontier settlement.
- ___ 9. Although very few city dwellers ever migrated west to take up farming, the frontier "safety valve" did have some positive effects on eastern workers.
- ___ 10. The farmers who settled the Great Plains were usually single-crop producers dependent on unstable distant markets for their livelihoods.
- ___ 11. The greatest problem facing the farmers was their inability to produce enough grain on western prairies lands that were more difficult to cultivate.
- ___ 12. The fundamental problem of the Farmers' Alliance was their inability to overcome the racial division between white and black farmers in the South.

- ___ 13. The Populist Party grew out of the earlier rural protests of the grange and the Farmers' Alliances
- ___ 14. The economic crisis of the 1890s strengthened the Populists' belief that farmers and industrial workers should form an alliance against economic and political oppression.
- ___ 15. Republican political manager Mark Hanna struggled to raise enough funds to combat William Jennings Bryan's pro-silver campaign.
- ___ 16. Bryan's populist campaign failed partly because he was unable to persuade enough urban workers to join his essentially rural-based cause.
- ___ 17. McKinley's victory in 1896 ushered in an era marked by Republican domination, weakened party organization, and the fading of the money issue in American politics.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

- ___ 1. Western Indians offered strong resistance to white expansion through their effective use of
 - a. artillery and infantry tactics.
 - b. their alliance with remaining Mexican resisters in the West.
 - c. nighttime and winter campaigning.
 - d. repeating rifles and horses.
- ___ 2. Intertribal warfare among Native Americans increased in the late nineteenth century because
 - a. the attempt of the Chippewas to gain dominance over all other groups.
 - b. the confining of several different groups within a single reservation.
 - c. growing competition for the rapidly dwindling hunting grounds.
 - d. the rise of the "Ghost Dance" among some Indian groups.
- ___ 3. The federal government's attempt to confine Native Americans to certain areas through formal treaties was largely ineffective.
 - a. the nomadic Plains Indians largely rejected the idea of formal authority and defined territory.
 - b. Congress refused to ratify treaties signed with the Indians.
 - c. the treaties made no effective provisions for enforcement.
 - d. the largest tribe, the Sioux, refused to sign any treaties with the whites.
- ___ 4. The warfare that led up to the Battle of the Little Big Horn was set off by
 - a. white intrusion into the previously reserved Indian territory of Oklahoma.
 - b. Indian attacks on the transcontinental railroad construction crews.
 - c. white intrusions after the discovery of gold in the sacred Black Hills.
 - d. a conflict over the interpretation of the second Treaty of Fort Laramie

- ___ 5. Indian resistance was finally subdued because
- most of the effective Indian leadership was bought off.
 - the coming of the railroad led to the destruction of the buffalo and the Indians' way of life.
 - most Indians lost the will to resist.
 - the army developed effective techniques of guerrilla warfare.
- ___ 6. The federal government attempted to force Indians away from their traditional values and customs by
- instructing them in white farming methods.
 - creating a network of children's boarding schools and white "field matrons."
 - establishing scholarships for Indian students at white colleges.
 - developing programs of bilingual education in reservation schools.
- ___ 7. Both the mining and cattle frontiers saw
- an increase of ethnic and class conflict.
 - a loss of economic viability after an initial boom.
 - a turn from large-scale investment to the individual entrepreneur.
 - a movement from individual operations to large-scale corporate business.
- ___ 8. The problem of developing agriculture in the arid West was solved most successfully through
- concentrating agriculture in the more fertile mountain valleys.
 - the use of small-scale family farms rather than large "bonanza" farms.
 - the use of irrigation from dammed western rivers.
 - the turn to desert crops like olives and dates.
- ___ 9. The "safety valve" theory of the frontier holds that
- Americans were able to divert the most violent elements of the population to the West.
 - the conflict between farmers and ranchers was relieved by the Homestead Act.
 - unemployed city dwellers could move west and thus relieve labor conflict in the East.
 - political movements such as the Populists provided relief for the most serious grievances of western farmers.
- ___ 10. Which of these factors did *not* make the Trans-Mississippi West a unique part of the American frontier experience?
- The large numbers of Native Americans, Hispanics, and Asian-Americans in the region
 - The problem of applying new technologies in a hostile wilderness
 - The scale and severity of environmental challenges in an arid environment
 - The large role of the federal government in economic and social development
- ___ 11. By the 1880's, most western farmers faced hard times because
- free land was no longer available under the Homestead Act.
 - they were unable to increase grain production to keep up with demand.
 - they were being strangled by excessive federal regulation of agriculture.
 - they were forced to sell their grain at low prices in a depressed world market.

- ___ 12. The first organization to work on behalf of the farmers was the
a. Grange. b. Populist Party c. Greenback Labor Party d. American Farm Bureau
- ___ 13. One of the political goals of the Grangers was
a. to gain control of the Republican Party.
b. to regulate railway rates and gain-storage fees through state laws.
c. to develop federal loan programs for farmers.
d. to push for deregulation and greater competition among the railroads.
- ___ 14. Despite substantial gains in the election of 1892, the Populists in 1892 were unable to win a majority because
a. most farmers in the Midwest were too attached to the Republican party.
b. southern black farmers were uninterested in Populist issues.
c. white southern farmers were too attached to the Democratic party and racial segregation.
d. both the Republicans and the Democrats accepted their main platform proposals.
- ___ 15. Which of the following was NOT among the political goals advocated by the Populist Party in the 1890s?
a. Nationalizing the railroad, telegraph, and telephone
b. Creation of a national system of unemployment insurance and old-age pensions
c. A graduated income tax
d. Free and unlimited coinage of silver money
- ___ 16. The U.S. government's response to the Pullman strike aroused great anger from organized labor because
a. it seemed to represent "government by injunction" designed to destroy labor unions.
b. it broke apart the growing alliance between urban workers and farmers.
c. it undermined efforts to organize federal workers like those in the postal service.
d. it turned their most effective leader, Eugene V. Debs, into a cautious conservative.
- ___ 17. William Jennings Bryan gained the Democratic nomination in 1896 with his strong support of
a. unlimited coinage of silver in order to inflate the currency.
b. higher tariffs in order to protect the American farmer.
c. government ownership of the railroads and the telegraph system.
d. a coalition between white and black farmers in the South and Midwest.
- ___ 18. McKinley defeated Bryan primarily because he was able to win the support of
a. white southern Farmers.
b. eastern wage earners and city dwellers.
c. urban and rural blacks.
d. former Populists and Greenback Laborites.

C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

- _____ 1. Major Northern Plains tribe that fought and eventually lost a bitter war against the U.S. Army, 1876-1877
- _____ 2. Southwestern tribe led by Geronimo that carried out some of the last fighting against white conquest
- _____ 3. Generally poor areas where vanquished Native Americans were eventually confined under federal control
- _____ 4. Indian cult, originating out of the sacred Sun Dance, that the federal government attempted to stamp out in 1890
- _____ 5. Federal law that attempted to dissolve tribal land holding and establish Native Americans as individual farmers.
- _____ 6. Huge silver and gold deposits that brought wealth and statehood to Nevada
- _____ 7. General term for the herding of cattle from the grassy plains to the railroad terminals of Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming
- _____ 8. Federal law that offered generous land to poorer farmers but also provided the unscrupulous with opportunities for hoaxes and fraud
- _____ 9. Improved type of fencing that enabled farmers to enclose land on the treeless plains
- _____ 10. Former "Indian Territory" where "sooners" tried to get the jump on "boomers" when it was open for settlement in 1889.
- _____ 11. The theory that the availability of the frontier lessened social conflict in America by providing economic opportunities for eastern workers.
- _____ 12. Farmers' organization that began as a secret social group and expanded into such activities as profarmer politics and lawmaking
- _____ 13. Short-lived profarmer third party that gained over a million votes and elected fourteen congressmen in 1878
- _____ 14. Broad-based organizations of the 1880's that drew both black and white agriculturalists into social, economic, and political activity
- _____ 15. Third political party that emerged in the 1890's to express rural grievances and mount major attacks on the democrats and republicans

- _____ 16. Popular pamphlet written by William Hope Harvey that portrayed pro-silver arguments triumphing over the traditional views of bankers and economics professors
- _____ 17. Bitter labor conflict in Chicago that brought federal intervention and the jailing of union leader Eugene V. Debs
- _____ 18. Spectacular convention speech by a young pro-silver advocate that brought him the Democratic presidential nomination in 1896
- _____ 19. Popular term for those who favored the “status quo” in metal money and opposed the pro-silver Bryanites in 1896

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Sand Creek, Colorado | A. Ohio industrialist and organizer of McKinley’s victory over Bryan in the election of 1896 |
| ___ 2. Little Big Horn | B. Leader of the Nez Percé tribe who conducted a brilliant but unsuccessful military campaign in 1877 |
| ___ 3. Sitting Bull | C. Author of the popular pro-silver pamphlet “Coin’s Financial School” |
| ___ 4. Chief Joseph | D. Former Civil War general and Granger who ran as the Greenback Labor party candidate for president in 1880 |
| ___ 5. Geronimo | E. Leader of the Sioux during wars of 1876-1877 |
| ___ 6. Helen Hunt Jackson | F. Explorer and geologist who warned that traditional agriculture could not succeed west of the 100 th meridian |
| ___ 7. John Wesley Powell | G. Leader of the Apaches of Arizona in their warfare with the whites |
| ___ 8. William Hope Harvey | H. Site of the Indian massacre by militia forces in 1864 |
| ___ 9. Eugene Debs | I. Massachusetts writer whose books aroused white sympathy for the plight of the Native Americans |
| ___ 10. James B. Weaver | J. Site of major U.S. Army defeat in the Sioux War of 1876-1877 |
| ___ 11. Mary E. Lease | K. Railway union leader who converted to socialism while serving jail time during the Pullman strike |
| ___ 12. Mark Hanna | L. Eloquent Kansas Populist who urged farmers to “raise less corn and more hell” |

E. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

| <u>Cause</u> | <u>Effect</u> |
|---|---|
| ___ 1. The encroachment of white settlement and the violation of treaties with the Indians | A. Laid the groundwork for the more aggressively political populists |
| ___ 2. Railroad building, disease, and the destruction of the buffalo | B. Created severe deflation and forced farmers deeper into debt |
| ___ 3. Reformers' attempts to make Native Americans conform to white ways | C. Created new psychological and economic problems for a nation accustomed to a boundlessly open West |
| ___ 4. The coming of big-business mining and stock-raising to the West | D. Ended the romantic, colorful era of the miners' and cattlemen's frontier |
| ___ 5. "Dry farming", barbed wire, and irrigation | E. Decimated Indian populations and hastened their defeat at the hands of the advancing whites |
| ___ 6. The passing of the frontier in 1890 | F. Led grain and cotton growers to turn from economics to politics as a solution for their grievances |
| ___ 7. The growing economic specialization of western agriculturalists | G. Made the farmers vulnerable to vast industrial and market forces beyond their control |
| ___ 8. The rise of the Populist Party in the early 1890s | H. Made it possible to farm dry, treeless areas of the Great Plains and the West |
| ___ 9. The economic depression that began in 1893 | I. Further undermined Native Americans' traditional tribal culture and morale |
| ___ 10. The return of prosperity after 1897 and new gold discoveries in Alaska, South Africa, and elsewhere | J. Led to nearly constant warfare with the Plains Indians from 1868 to about 1890 |