

The West

Was violence a principle factor in the settlement of the West? How was the west won?

Late Arizona historian Bert Fireman, was on the mark when he wrote, "The West was not won by guns. It was won by shovels and sweat."

I. 1877

- A. year reconstruction ended
- B. Also year, Crazy Horse killed by US army
- C. 1877 draw together disparate themes.
- D. In a broad survey course, it can at times seem like the only thing going on is what we're focusing on at the moment, the Civil War. But there are always multiple important events occurring. Past couple lectures and discussions we've been talking about the south, slavery, and the state of freedmen. You might get the sense that is the only thing going on. But as we've been talking about that equally important things have been unfolding across America. In lectures toggle back and forth, move chronologically and thematically. But part of your job in this class is to try to create in your own mind an integrated picture of what's happening
- E. 1877 end of Reconstruction Era, as well as the end to Crazy Horse's life. But also the beginning of a new narrative.
- F. Indian Wars and the Conquest of the West
 - 1. Most events in history don't have such a clear cut end as Reconstruction.
 - 2. The civil war brings up a lot of political first in American history, assassination of Lincoln. First impeachment, impeachment of Johnson. 1868. First national crisis caused by an election thrown to Electoral College. Hayes
 - 3. Interest faded. Other events drawing attention away from south to the west.
 - 4. What do we mean by the west/
 - a. Talking about unorganized territory. West of Mississippi, California, Texas, way more than half of the country
 - b. West is multicultural and multiracial
 - c. In comparison with life in west, life in east, east is like a family reunion, everyone looks the same
 - d. Photos, stereotypical, Indians, buffalo soldiers, the Calvary, 30% AA.

- e. AF cowboys
- f. AA fight native Americans
- g. Chinese American railway workers
- h. Completion of transcontinental railroad in 1889
- i. 10000 Chinese workers imported and stayed helped complete railroad
- j. Impact on agriculture b/c techniques and technology
- k. Mexicanos
- l. Huge amount of cross-cultural border flow from Mexico
- m. Mexico still battles in Texas to get land
- n. Also women in the west
- o. Prostitute, huge percentage of women in west settled in west.
- p. Some came with their families
- q. Buffalo bill, Creole culture
- r. Specific regional histories

5.

G. Native American Experience

1. Attitudes that structured encounters between native Americans and whites
2. Important themes Innocence and ignorance. Innocence, because despite all the destruction most of the white settlers make strong claim of innocence it is not what they meant to do. But claims of innocence could be questioned, seems more like ignorance of other cultures and values, how other people chose to live their lives. Innocence reminds us for vast majority of settlers it wasn't a blood thirsty conquest. It was something that unfolded out of ignorance and misunderstanding. There was plenty of violence. Other aspect of innocence, the west tended to draw out a lot of utopian thinking. If you think of the myths we outlined and the images shown indicates west became open field where imagination run wild.
3. Rain Follows the Plow, phrase created by a publisher encouraging people to settle the west. Prior to this era of settlement, the many called the west the great American desert. How get people to settle, so come up with outrageous idea, rain follows plow. Idea if you plow rain will come and you'll be successful farmer. Bit of truth to claim b/c 1880

extraordinary rainfall. Great American desert made to bloom. Underlies tendency to pull out dreamy utopian ideas. Idea land unsettled. West will benefit nation. Frontier is what makes America, America and Americans, American. The battle against savagery creates individuality and ruggedness. You may recall idea of manifest destiny from other classes. Promoted 1840s and 50s destiny of white Americans to span from Atlantic to Pacific. Still prevalent 1880s. Myths distort our understanding of west. Generations of Americans played cowboys and Indians. I think we can imagine very few American children play master and slave. That is not a fun relationship. We play cowboys and Indians, no problem. Not that big a difference between the two. Innocence, not everyone coming in with intention to do things with cruelty.

4. Indians wars. Context for death of chief Crazy Horse
 - a. A lot of moments that lead up to the narrative.
 - b. 1850s 60s mark end of 40 year period of peace between whites and Indians. Most battles ended with Andrew Jackson's Indian removal policies. 5 civilized tribes, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek, Seminoles relocated pushed west onto reservations. At this point, developed idea, previously idea held that Indians were sovereign nations, but now idea adopted that they are domestic dependencies, autonomous and dependent.
 - c. Essential this policy established Native American nations as responsibility of federal government. But the federal government did not have full control of situation because couldn't control white settlers. Because what we see is that the actions of white settlers can't be controlled or managed. Really changes dynamic of how government deals with the Indian problem. Find growing popularity of idea of reservation. Make treaties of Indians being confined to certain territories. But idea of reservation is contradictory. On one hand it is meant to protect Indians against degradation of white settlers, but also meant to control them. Few of assimilation, how assimilate if herd and isolate. Imbedded lots of contradictions. Starting 1856- relations deteriorate fast and full out war across plains reason.
 - d. Competition
 - i. Tons of white settlers flooding in. increase emphasis on building railroad. Desire for land and resources, and Indians are in the way.
 - ii. Another aspect of it is the army. Huge federal gov't. When Hayes withdraws troops from south, sends them west. Military presence causes problems. But its job is also to pacify Native Americans.
 - e. William Sherman, Sherman's march to the sea granting land to African Americans in 1860s railroad national enterprise and we must protect it. **This railroad is a national enterprise, and we are forced to protect the men during its survey and construction,**

through, probably, the most warlike nation of Indians on this continent, who will fight for every foot of the line.”

- f. As hostilities develop. All Indians not on the reservation are considered hostile. Don't distinguish between different Indians. All Indians not on reservations hostile. So many Indian tribes who didn't want to be involved in this and just wanted to stay on their own land, were accosted by military as they came upon them. In many cases kill those who came across, torture, take their property. All tribes in contact with army treated badly, creates enormous hostility towards army among Indians.
 - g. White settlement ravaging the resources Indians lived on, buffalo, salmon, etc. changing alliances. It is changing balance of power between tribes, eating away at livelihood.
 - h. Buffalo source of meat, in cosmology clothes
 - i. When railroad built, shoot out window at buffalo, slaughtered millions by 1870 almost distinct
 - j. One point buffalo fundamental part of Native American culture.
 - k.
5. Indian wars, 3 kinds
- a. Expanding Native American nations vs. the expanding federal government. These wars rage mostly over north and southern central plains. Native American groups don't hesitate to expand and conquer other Indians. Close to what U.S. gov't doing. Conquer those in way.
 - b. Import. Part of mythology of the west, peaceful nature loving people, Indians. No not really. In fact, quite warlike, many of them, committed just as many atrocities as US gov't when had a chance. A lot of power from conquering other tribes. 1st type of Indians war two expansive nations fighting each other.
 - c. Type war 2, federal gov't stops Indians raids. Raids of livestock on white settlers, no more buffalo. So raid for cows pigs. Sub-set of wars to stop raiding
 - d. 3rd, smaller tribes attempting to maintain independence or neutrality against US government. Mostly in Pacific Northwest. # of tribes trying to stay neutral but being swept in
 - e. Focus on type 1
 - i. Battle of Little Bighorn (PHOTO)
 - ii. 1864 Colorado gov peace with Cheyenne but had his eye on Washington. Thought fight of inlanders to get there. No sooner had he negotiated peace than 600 soldiers, mostly drunk show up, following orders, burning villages and

kill Cheyenne wherever and whenever found. Kill 130 Cheyenne, including 105 women and children. So basically a defenseless camp

- iii. Escaping Cheyenne runner take war pipe to Lakota Sioux the Arapaho and remaining Cheyenne camp whole area goes into warfare. Start of 20 year of warfare. In retaliation Indians go about burning and terrorizing all settler camps. If seen westerns and white settlers afraid, this kind of conflict talking about. 1864, some characteristics of war and Sioux and us govt. b/c Sioux warlike people and conquering so many other tribes, lots of these tribes willing to take side of gov't, like Pawnee ally with U.S. gov't to take revenge on tribal enemies. Another aspect of war, us didn't have to defeat Sioux in battle to win war, all had to do was prevent them from resuming their usual way of life, which was hunting and gather. If hunting and trapping and us constantly fighting them, too busy to hunt and gather, so combination of attacks, Indian allies who knew hunting grounds, kept the pressure on, so even if win battles, outfoxing us, in end about survival about steady pressure and surrender
- iv. Eventually in 1868 fought to stand still and signed treaty with Red Cloud. Signed strategic treaty, wanted peace with U.S. so could expand against Pawnee and others. At this point also war, like violence against African Americans, violence, people in east appalled by violence against Indians. So pressure on gov't for diplomacy. Gov't begins putting more emphasis on treaties. Grant created board of Indian commissioners to develop new policy. No way could policy keep pace with events. So after negotiation treaty no way to maintain, final round of violence breaks out in 1874
- v. This is when General Custer came to the black hills of Nebraska, sacred hills to the Sioux, and discovered gold. PHOTO
- vi. moved in started taking gold
- vii. Immediately. Attacked. Because this was sacred land to the Sioux. And it was in a treaty that whites were not allowed to enter this area. Soon as gold discovered. Treaty out window.
- viii. So 1874 have battle of little big horn, also known as Custer's last stand. Custer stumbled on encampment of 12000 Sioux with only 600 men. The outcome is pretty clear. Two thousand warriors shouting atypical battle cry. This is a good day to die. For Custer and his men. It sure was they were all killed every single one of them. This is what I mean; Indians could win a battle but not the war. Pursued by U.S. military form alliance with Cheyenne and crows. Crazy horse escapes to Canada but eventually has to give up. A lot of it is b/c

this constant pressure. Always on the run. So can't hunt, etc. won battle, but will lose the war. Not just this Sioux.

- ix. Geronimo in southwest. PHOTO surrender scene Geronimo in and out of custody about 4 times. Kept escaping and being recaptured. While in war with Mexico for expansion. Eventually surrenders. A lot of this ends not with a bang but a whimper. Lost way of life. Were fighting for simply by pressure of hostilities.
 - x. One last gasp of Indian resistance. Ghost dance movement peaks 1890
 - xi. Starts with a prophecy by a priest Wovoka, prophecy in spring the earth will be covered with high grass soil and it will be covering all the white men. Covered with grass, running water trees, buffalo and horses restored. All Indians who danced ghost dance would be taken up in air and be suspended there and then be replaced with ancestors on new earth without white men. To bring about this prophecy there were a number of mystic rituals and songs. Term ghost dance comes from white settlers who saw it. Another key part it promised Indian warriors immunity bullets. Revitalization movement political religious movement happens to prominent society under severe stress under colonial conquest or race and class exploitation. Promises and end to the troubles and domination. And return to a promise land of past. Ghost dance one of most commonly cited ones. Also among Delaware Indians 1760s. effort to resist colonial power, but also an effort to reassert strength and ways of Indian culture
 - xii. Terrifies white settlers suspect attack and resurrection of violence
 - xiii. 1890 south Dakota army came across an unarmed Sioux encampment, in context of fear of resistance and ghost dance, Indian hostilities, slaughter 146 unarmed, mostly women and children, men who were there found , battle of wounded knee. One way of member, bury my heart at Wounded Knee. Bury my heart it is really over.
 - f. Other Indian types of wars end similarly, U.S. Gov't ratchet up violence, confine Navajo. Subdue independent and neutral tribes. All Indian tribes trickle to same sad ending, even relocated to western reservations in 1830s eventually broke into smaller unions under policy assimilation, "kill the Indians save the man
6. Assimilation developed out of good intentions. A policy started, predicated upon ability to see other group of people as full members of human race. Strong religious impulse, same as southern education, and reform against natives. They are heathens need to be Christianized for own good, even if looks painful and invasive. So Ulysses S. Grant invites

eastern churches to staff the reservations to help assimilate Indians. Board of Indian affairs stacked by church leaders

- H. Helen Hunt Jackson embodies this in 1881 published a century of dishonor. Referring to us gov't treatment of Native Americans. In Boston in 1879 and heard Chief Standing Bear of Ponca tribe talk about removal of his people from ancestral land to reservation in the west. Horrified, she began her own research and wrote this book. She is opposed to gov't treatment, atrocity, and dishonor. Solution is to make Indians white, bring them into Anglo-American mainstream. But her policy and those like her, destroys the Indians as a distinct civilization
- I. Comes out in Dawes Severalty Act of 1877 reformers, and then have actions of gov't. in Dawes Act. Breaks up reservations in to 150 acre parcels given to family heads. Effort to make native Americans adhere to land practices of European Americans. Native America land held collectively, no idea of private property of selfishness. Gov't and reformers try to promote these ideas. They need to learn to work for themselves, promote own selfish interest and have private party. Program of larger plan of assimilation by gov't and reformers. Well intentioned?
- J. PHOTO Sioux vs. Indian school
- K. Assimilation through schools, one way individual property owners. Eliminate customs of Indians ways and cultural life.
- L. 1883 ban La Kota sun dance. Central religious ritual. Patrol on La Kota reservations to stop.
- M. 6 years later ban la kola bundles, ceremonial ritual. Persons hair cut, placed in bundle. Kept in bundle for a year and at the end of the year offering of good accumulate over year. Chanel souls to afterlife. Banned it. Like banning a funeral and how explain after life. ban them b/c hedonistic. Trying to Christianize them.
- N. Another way did this through educating children. Young children brought into schools. Taught white men's ways and moved from native culture entirely. Photo of student before and after. Same person right? Indian killed and man saved.
- O. Ironies of this. Indians didn't really get any land out of this policy. 1881 Indians own 155000 acres of western land. In 1890 held 104k by 1900 77000. Losing land holding b/c organization an individual land ownership done. Land not claimed sold. Indians duped out of it. Get land, b/c citizen. Land made them more dependent. Can't continue to hunt and gather. Net affect Indian dependence. Wards of government, as children. Ultimate irony is that land taken is hard work for western settlers.