**Chapter 16: The American West: Expanded Timeline**

1849 California gold rush

The discovery of gold near modern Sacramento encouraged thousands to seek quick fortunes

in California. The territory's population grew explosively, as San Francisco became the

commercial center of an expanding mining empire in the Far West. Trans- continental travel

increased rapidly, generating pressure on the environment of the Great Plains, the traditional

life of native Americans, and on the federal government, which financed a transcontinental

railroad.

Chinese migration begins

Driven by poverty at home, the Chinese migrated throughout the Pacific Ocean area,

thousands of them coming to America. First employed in the gold fields and on the railroads,

they made up nearly 10 percent of California's population by 1880. The Chinese were regarded

as good workers by business leaders but were the targets of vicious racism and discrimination.

1862 Homestead Act

This act provided 160 acres of public land virtually free to settlers who were willing to live on it

for five years and "improve" (build a small dwelling) on it. An enormous inducement to

agricultural settlement, the act hastened the dispossession of native Americans and the

environmental transformation of the Great Plains.

1864 Yosemite Valley reserved as public park

Congress granted the valley to the state of California as an area set aside for public pleasure

and recreation in response to the destruction caused by early economic development. As the

earliest foundation of the national parks system, the establishment of this park was a milestone

environment.

1865 Long Drive of Texas longhorns begins

The longhorns were the wild descendants of Spanish cattle that had been brought to the New

World centuries earlier. Creating a makeshift bridge over gaps in the developing railroad system,

ranchers and cowboys drove large herds a thousand miles from Texas to Kansas railheads,

where they could be loaded on to trains bound for Chicago slaughterhouses.

1867 Patrons of Husbandry (the Grange) founded

Farmers first organized the Grange to create an opportunity for social and educational

activities. But the organization also gave them opportunities to discuss their agricultural

businesses and became a vehicle for cooperative economic enterprises and political activity.

U.S. government adopts reservation policy for Plains Indians

Settlement patterns in the West inevitably encroached on the large, nomadic native American

population. After warfare with the Plains tribes began, the government dealt with the issue by

forcing Indians onto designated lands, restricting them to those areas, and treating them as

dependent wards of the state.

1868 Indian treaty confirms Sioux rights to Powder River hunting grounds

According to the terms of this treaty, the western Sioux ceded to the whites all lands outside

the Dakota reservation; in return, the Sioux would retain their traditional rights to hunt along

the Powder River in modern Wyoming and Montana.

1869 Union Pacific-Central Pacific transcontinental railroad completed

This first, rather rickety passenger route eventually had to be completely rebuilt, but it bridged

the vast territory of the West. It also contributed to the dispossession of native Americans and

the environmental transformation of the region.

1874 Barbed wire invented

Invented by an Illinois farmer, this inexpensive fencing was made by twisting short pieces of

pointed wire around ordinary fence wire. Because the sharp points prevented cattle from

knocking down the fencing, it was possible for farmers to protect their crops from an invasion

of cattle from the range.

1875 Sioux ordered to vacate Powder River hunting grounds; war breaks out

The Indian Office of the United States government gave an order that violated the 1868

treaty, and western tribes began to organize in an attempt to preserve some freedom of

movement on the plains. This resistance, spearheaded by the Sioux Sitting Bull, led to the

Battle of the Little Big Horn and other struggles.

1876 Battle of Little Big Horn

Popularly known as "Custer's last stand," this Sioux and Cheyenne victory against the U.S.

Army's Seventh Cavalry shocked Americans and convinced the government that it had to carry

out a coherent policy that would settle, once and for all, "the Indian problem." The policy

adopted further restricted the size of reservations and encouraged educational efforts to make

Indians live as whites lived.

1877 San Francisco anti-Chinese riots

White mobs attacked Chinese immigrants and threatened to burn the docks where they

disembarked. Both Republicans and Democrats in California sought and ultimately obtained

federal legislation that barred Chinese laborers from entering the United States.

1879 Exoduster migration to Kansas

Fearing racial discrimination in the post-Reconstruction South, thousands of African Americans

from Mississippi and Louisiana migrated to Kansas. By 1880, there were 40,000 Exodusters in

the state.

1882 Chinese Exclusion Act

In response to the anti-Chinese agitation of California's white workers, Congress passed this

law, which prevented the immigration of Chinese laborers to the United States.

1884 Helen Hunt Jackson's novel Ramona

This novel, intended to plead the case for the Indians, unintentionally led to a series of

sentimental works romanticizing the culture of old California and contributing to the

incorporation of this sentimentalized heritage into popular thinking about the state.

1886 Dry cycle begins on the Great Plains

Early plains farmers were aware that the weather on the plains ran in wet and dry cycles, but

the barely adequate rainfall of the previous decade did not prepare them for the drought years.

Farmers who had gone into debt in order to enlarge their holdings found it more difficult than

ever to bring a crop to market.

Wabash v. Illinois:This Supreme Court decision declared that states had exceeded their power when they regulated railroad rates in response to Grange pressure, because the railroads were engaged in interstate commerce.

1887 Dawes Severalty Act

This act sought to integrate the Indians into American agricultural life by dividing their

reservations into individually owned farms, with each head of household receiving 160 acres of

land, the same acreage allowance of the 1862 Homestead Act. But since the Indians were not

farmers, and since the land left over was declared to be "surplus" and sold off to whites, the

system eventually led to sharp reductions of Indian land ownership.

Interstate Commerce Act

Responding to calls for railroad regulation following the Wabash v. Illinois decision, Congress

made it possible for the federal government to regulate rates in interstate commerce and

created the Interstate Commerce Commission, the first federal regulatory agency.

1889 Oklahoma opened to white settlement

Originally designated as an Indian Territory, Oklahoma was now placed under the Homestead

Act, which allowed whites to claim the land. On April 22, the entire district was staked out and

two large tent cities were constructed within a matter of hours.

1890 Indian massacre at Wounded Knee, South Dakota

In December, the U.S. Army attacked an encampment of Sioux who were seeking to surrender,

killing more than 146 men, women, and children. It was the last episode in the pacification of

the Plains Indians.

U.S. Census declares end of the frontier

In the decennial census of that year, the government stated that the patterns of settlement in

the West were now so widespread that there was no longer a recognizable frontier line

separating settled and unsettled parts of the continent.

Chapt. 16& 18 : **The New South**

Where Historians Disagree: **The Origins of Segregation**

1.Early views...not much attention before CRts movement, post WWII

Separation natural result of abolition of slavery

reaction to failure of Reconstruction, weakness & poverty of blacks,

white supremacy attitudes

2. C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (1956)

Important southern historian, southern liberal

1st scholarly look at segregation

thesis :segregation result of reaction to set of particular circumstances, not long tradition. Blacks lost social and political ground as reaction to Populist movement of 1890s

Fear of alliance between blacks and Populists

Jim Crow Laws estab legal basis of seg and disenfranchisement

Laws could be made and UNMADE.

Thesis that laws could shape social behavior...not all agreed

3. Joel Williamson, *After Slavery* (1956) ...study of South Carolina

thesis :Jim Crow laws only codified circumstances already

firm by end of Reconstruction

By 1870s 2 societies (churches, schools, business, neighborhoods)

Just different from of racial separation estab under slavery

4. Howard Rabinowitz, *Race Relations in the Urban South* (1978)

thesis: seg result of attempt to estb race relations in new urban South

Attempt to create public facilities for blacks where non had existed. Most whites didn’t even consider shared facilities

Alternative not integration...exclusion

5. John Cell, *The Highest Stage of White Supremacy* (1982)

Revised look in comparison to apartheid in South Africa

Thesis: urbanization main factor, different motives than Rabinowitz

Jim Crow laws continuation of whites attempt to control blacks

Still white supremacy, new challenges to maintain.

Rural, informal power structure must adapt to urban life...

Required more rigid, formal system of control...“Highest stage”

Chapter 16 & 18: The New South

Post-Reconstruction South: The New South

Attempt to industrialize AND rebuild agrarian economy

Limited success

1900 “New South” still poor, agrarian area, behind North all econ areas

Why? Some national econ issues, major reason

WHITE RACISM HALTED GROWTH AND REFORM

I. Return of White Bourbon Rule...Redeemers

southern politics and govt “redeemed” by oligarchy of conservative,

white, Democrats

much corruption...as elsewhere

lowered taxes, spending, state services

Reconstruction programs dismantled (esp. education)

“Readjuster” movement dissent...esp. Va.

Control Va. Legislature, governorship, US Senate for short time

mostly poor white support

power over by mid 1880s

Bourbons exploited race issue to reestab control

II. “New South” ....read 16.4 in class

Henry Grady editor  *Atlanta Constitution*

leading spokesman for New South

advocated industry, hard work, progress

Many thought lack of industry reason South lost Civil War

Many still fantasized about “lost cause”

Nostalgic myths held South back

Ex: Chandler Harris, *Uncle Remus* (1880)

Facing future with foot in the past

III. Industrialization...dramatic expansion

A. Railroad...miles doubled decade after Reconstruction

Adopted northen gauge

B. Textile...(NC, SC, GA)

Mills increased 900% by 1900

low wages, long hours

Blacks only day laborers, janitors, etc

C. Tobacco...(NC esp)

James B. Duke...American Tobacco Company

virtual monopoly with cigarette rolling machine

whites in factories, blacks in fields

D. Iron...(Birmingham, AL) Later steel industry too

E. Lumber/ wood products

only industry with equal mix race work force

extensive exploitation pine forests

F. Work force

Entire families worked in mills

high % female workers, esp textiles

half wages of northern workers

Company towns...control housing, food , supplies

Black/white mix, not equality of conditions

“Convict-lease” system of gang labor removed lowest jobs

G. Economic Retardation... “colonial” economy

despite Grady vision of New South, indust growth well behind North

1900...2/3 agricultural ...same as 1870

much (not all) capitol from North

cheap labor greatest advantage, BUT, held back tech econ

Low-wages...why replace with machines? Inhibited investment in ed. Labor-intensive industires.

Labor market “insulated”...north workers, immigrants not interested.

No flow of workers. “Tributary” econ...supplier on unequal

Terms with advanced industrial North

WHY DIDN’T SOUTHERN WORKERS LEAVE?

**Race Relations in the South**

I. Military Recon ends 1877

II.Circumvention of 14th and 15th Amend

A. State Actions

1.Poll tax, literacy tests “understanding” clauses, “grandfather   
 clauses”

1. Example: 1896-1904, La. 99% reduction in black registered voters

B. Supreme Court actions

1. Upheld literacy test, segregation in public places, etc

2. Civil Rights Cases (1883)

a. Civil Rights Acts of 1865 unconstitutional

b. rights guaranteed under 14th Amend applied only to **state**

actions.

1. *Plessy v Ferguson* (1896)
   1. estab. *de jure* segregation (Jim Crow laws)
   2. concept of “separate but equal” basis of *de jure* segregation until *Brown v Board of Ed* (1954)

III. Progress in Black education halted

1. Philanthropic support for some segregated Black schools
   1. Hampton Institute (VA)
   2. Tuskegee Institute (AL)
2. Education allowed if supported subservient, docile philosophy

IV. Southern Black responses

1. Little support for black militancy or separatism
   1. Better than slavery
   2. Average standard of living doubled for southern Blacks 1865-1900
2. Booker T. Washington and the Atlanta Compromise Speech (1895)
   1. Founder of Tuskegee Institute
   2. Accommodationist philosophy
      1. “Dignify and glorify common labor”
      2. “Cast down your bucket where you are.”
   3. Popular support throughout the nation
   4. Behind the scenes worked for greater equality
   5. After 199 W.E.B. DuBois demanded equal rights and end to segregation

V. Escalation of violence

A. 1890-1910, @ 100 Blacks lynched each year(not legal executions)

B. Violence and intimidation drove Black men away form voting booth and other public

Places.

C. Black women assumed many leadership roles (less threatening)