

American History At the Western Frontier Transcript

00:02female announcer: THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATION IS

00:04BROUGHT TO YOU BY DISCOVERY EDUCATION,

00:06LEADING THE WORLD OF DIGITAL AND VIDEO LEARNING.

00:09DISCOVERY EDUCATION, CONNECT TO A WORLD OF LEARNING.

00:16female narrator: SADDLE UP, BECAUSE ASSIGNMENT DISCOVERY

00:18IS HEADING WEST IN "AT THE WESTERN FRONTIER."

00:24male narrator: FIRST, WE'LL EXPLORE HOW SETTLERS CLASHED

00:26WITH NATIVE AMERICANS IN "CHANGES IN THE WEST."

00:32female narrator: THEN, WE'LL SEE HOW THE GOLD RUSH

00:34CARRIED A FLOOD OF HOPEFUL MINERS

00:36IN "FROM BOOMTOWN TO GHOST TOWN."

00:41male narrator: NEXT, WE'LL TRACE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LAND

00:44THAT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE WILD WEST

00:47IN "LIVING THE FRONTIER LIFE."

00:51female narrator: FINALLY, WE'LL INVESTIGATE THE TRUTH

00:53BEHIND SOME OF OUR PERCEPTIONS

00:54IN "FACT VS. FICTION: MOVIES OF THE OLD WEST."

01:00male narrator: GOLD SEEKERS AND GUNSLINGERS, COMING UP NEXT.

01:55male narrator: AFTER THE CIVIL WAR,

01:56THE NATION TURNED ITS ATTENTIONS

01:58 TO SETTLE ITS WESTERN FRONTIER.

02:01 AS A GOLD RUSH TOOK HOLD IN CALIFORNIA,

02:03 NEW TOWNS BEGAN TO SPRING UP AROUND MINES.

02:06 GOLD FEVER WAS DRAWING THOUSANDS OF HOPEFUL MINERS

02:09 TO CALIFORNIA AND ELSEWHERE.

02:11 BEFORE LONG, THE WEST HAD BECOME VITAL

02:14 TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

02:20- SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE ME LEAVE

02:22 WOULD BE LIKE THE HOLOCAUST IN 1940s

02:25 WHERE THE JEWS AND OTHER PERSECUTED GROUPS

02:26 HAD TO LEAVE EUROPE.

02:28- I WOULD MOVE TO ANOTHER PLACE IF MY FREEDOM WAS TAKEN AWAY.

02:31- IF LIVING THERE WAS CHEAPER.

02:34- WHEN I GO TO COLLEGE, I WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE DIFFERENT.

02:37- A GOVERNMENTAL OVERTHROW OR AN INVASION.

02:41- IF I MOVE TO A BIGGER HOUSE.

02:42- IF THERE WAS A DISASTER.

02:44- IF YOU RECEIVED A NEW JOB OFFER,

02:45 AND YOU WANTED TO GO THERE.

02:47- I LIKE MY HOME AND MY LIFE THE WAY THEY ARE NOW.

02:49 I DON'T REALLY WANT IT TO CHANGE AT ALL.

02:54 male narrator: THE WESTERN FRONTIER STRETCHED

02:56FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

02:57ALL THE WAY TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

02:59ITS LANDSCAPE INCLUDED MOUNTAINS, DESERTS,

03:02DENSE FORESTS, PRAIRIES, AND COASTAL PLAINS.

03:06WHILE SETTLERS BUILT HOMES AND FARMS,

03:08THOUSANDS OF PROSPECTORS FLOCKED TO CALIFORNIA,

03:11WHERE GOLD AND SILVER WERE ABUNDANT.

03:14SOON MERCHANTS, RESTAURANTS, BOARDING HOUSES, AND SALOONS

03:17APPEARED IN TOWNS CLOSE TO THE MINES.

03:20MANY SUCH BOOMTOWNS REAPED THE REWARDS OF MINING LIFE.

03:24DESPITE THE EXCITEMENT OF THE GOLD RUSH,

03:27FEW PROSPECTORS EVER GREW RICH.

03:29THEY FOUND THAT SILVER AND GOLD WERE EXPENSIVE TO EXTRACT.

03:33MANY SOLD THEIR CLAIMS CHEAPLY TO LARGE MINING COMPANIES.

03:37[train whistle blowing]

03:38THE GROWING POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA

03:41NEEDED A CHEAPER, EASIER WAY

03:42TO BRING IN FOOD AND CLOTHING

03:44AND TO SHIP GOLD AND SILVER BACK EAST.

03:48LELAND STANFORD, A MERCHANT,

03:50DREAMED OF BUILDING A TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

03:52TO UNIFY THE COUNTRY.

03:55HE TOOK HIS IDEA TO CONGRESS.

03:57CONGRESS APPROVED THE IDEA

03:59AND OFFERED RAILROAD COMPANIES TEN SQUARE MILES OF LAND

04:02FOR EVERY MILE OF TRACK LAID.

04:05THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

04:08BUILT A LINE EAST FROM SAN FRANCISCO,

04:10AND THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD BUILT WEST FROM OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

04:14THOUSANDS OF MEXICANS, AFRICAN-AMERICANS,

04:16CHINESE IMMIGRANTS, AND NATIVE-BORN WHITES

04:19LABORED THROUGH THE SUMMER HEAT AND WINTER COLD

04:21TO BUILD THE RAILROAD.

04:23ON MAY 10, 1869,

04:25THE TWO LINES MET IN PROMONTORY POINT, UTAH.

04:29AS THE RAILROADS MOVED WEST,

04:31COWHANDS BEGAN HERDING WILD CATTLE

04:33AND DRIVING THEM TO RAIL TOWNS,

04:35TO BE SHIPPED BACK TO CITIES FARTHER EAST.

04:39AT THE SAME TIME, FARMERS WERE MOVING INTO THE GREAT PLAINS.

04:43THEY PLANTED HUNDRED OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES

04:45OF WHEAT AND CORN.

04:46BUT THE SHARP INCREASE OF CROP PRODUCTION LED TO AN OVERSUPPLY,

04:50SO PRICES FELL.

04:52ALL THESE FORCES--

04:54MINERS, RAILROADS, COWHANDS, AND FARMERS--

04:56THREATENED THE NATIVE AMERICANS

04:58WHO HAD LIVED IN THE WEST FOR CENTURIES.

05:01THOSE WHO LIVED ON THE PLAINS RELIED ON THE BUFFALO

05:04THAT ROAMED THE VAST GRASSLANDS.

05:06THEY USED THESE ANIMALS FOR FOOD, CLOTHING, AND SHELTER.

05:10THEY LIVED IN TEPEES MADE OF ANIMAL HIDE.

05:13THEY ALSO USED THE HORNS AND BONES FOR TOOLS

05:15AND TENDONS FOR THREAD.

05:18THE GOVERNMENT SIGNED TREATIES WITH THE NATIVE AMERICANS,

05:21PROMISING TO PROTECT THE LAND FOR THEM.

05:23BUT WHITES CONTINUED TO MOVE ONTO THOSE LANDS,

05:26BREAKING THOSE TREATIES.

05:29IN THE 1870s, GOLD STRIKES BROUGHT MINERS ONTO SIOUX LAND

05:33IN MONTANA AND NEBRASKA.

05:39OUTRAGED, MANY NATIVE AMERICANS FOUGHT BACK.

05:42THEY BURNED HOMES, KILLED SOLDIERS,

05:44AND ATTACKED SUPPLY TRAINS.

05:48IN 1876, COLONEL GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER

05:52ADVANCED ON THE LITTLE BIGHORN VALLEY IN MONTANA

05:55TO SETTLE THE LAND

05:56AND FORCE THE SIOUX INDIANS BACK ONTO THEIR RESERVATION.

06:00NATIVE AMERICANS KILLED CUSTER AND ALL OF HIS MEN,

06:03BUT THE GOVERNMENT JUST SENT MORE SOLDIERS.

06:06THE ARMY PROVED TOO NUMEROUS AND TOO STRONG

06:09FOR THE PLAINS INDIANS.

06:10EACH NATIVE AMERICAN NATION WAS DEFEATED AND SENT TO LIVE

06:14ON A RESERVATION.

06:16THE SAME HAPPENED IN THE SOUTHWEST,

06:17WHERE THE NAVAJO AND APACHE PEOPLE

06:19WERE FORCED ONTO RESERVATIONS.

06:22NATIVE AMERICANS TRIED TO CONTINUE THEIR WAY OF LIFE,

06:25EVEN WHILE LIVING ON THE RESERVATIONS.

06:28THEY PRACTICED THEIR CUSTOMS AND PRESERVED THEIR RITUALS.

06:32THE SIOUX PRACTICED THE GHOST DANCE,

06:34CHANTING AND TALKING TO THE GHOSTS OF THEIR ANCESTORS.

06:37THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THE GHOST DANCE A THREAT.

06:41THE ATTEMPT TO STOP THEM LED TO A FIGHT

06:44AT WOUNDED KNEE, SOUTH DAKOTA.

06:46NEARLY 200 SIOUX WERE KILLED IN THE RESULTING CONFLICT.

06:51THE BATTLE OF WOUNDED KNEE

06:52MARKED THE END OF THE INDIAN WARS.

06:57DID YOU KNOW?

06:58 DURING THE CIVIL WAR,

07:00 CONGRESS PASSED THE HOMESTEAD ACT,

07:02 WHICH GAVE 160 ACRES TO SETTLERS WHO PAID A SMALL FEE

07:05 AFTER WORKING THE LAND FOR FIVE YEARS.

07:09 female narrator: MANY TOWNS IN THE WEST

07:10 APPEAR TO SPRING UP OVERNIGHT.

07:13 NEW ARRIVALS PROVIDED BIG BUSINESS

07:15 FOR SHOPS, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, AND OTHER BUSINESSES.

07:19 MOST SETTLERS CAME LOOKING FOR ONE THING: GOLD.

07:27- IT'S AN ELUSIVE THING.

07:29- BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT LOOKED. - IT'S SHINY.

07:30- IT GAVE A STANDARDIZATION TO TRADE AND TO MONEY.

07:32 IT PROBABLY HELPED DEVELOP, YOU KNOW, WHAT WE KNOW TODAY

07:35 AS AN ECONOMY.

07:36- IT'S LIKE DIAMONDS. YOU DON'T FIND IT THAT OFTEN.

07:40- SO IT'S THE SCARCITY OF IT AND THE SUPPLY AND THE DEMAND.

07:43 IT JUST MAKES IT A GOOD THING TO HAVE.

07:44- GOLD HAS PROBABLY CAUSED MANY WARS.

07:47- 'CAUSE IT'S WORTH A LOT.

07:48- SO IT'S MORE THE NONAVAILABILITY OF THE GOLD

07:50 THAT MAKES IT SO SPECIAL.

07:54 female narrator: IN THE LATE 1800s WITH THE CIVIL WAR OVER,

07:57THE NATION TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO THE WESTERN FRONTIER.

08:00WHEN GOLD AND SILVER WERE DISCOVERED IN MANY AREAS,

08:03MINING BECAME AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY IN THE WEST.

08:06EACH TIME A NEW GOLD OR SILVER STRIKE WAS FOUND,

08:09MINERS FLOCKED TO THE AREA.

08:11MINING CAMPS FULL OF MINERS SEEKING THEIR FORTUNES

08:14SPRANG UP ALMOST OVERNIGHT.

08:17AT FIRST, THESE CAMPS WERE NOTHING MORE THAN TENT CITIES,

08:20BUT THEY DID NOT STAY THAT WAY FOR LONG.

08:23WHEN PROSPECTORS WENT, OTHERS FOLLOWED.

08:25MERCHANTS SET UP BUSINESSES SELLING THE MINERS

08:28THE TOOLS, FOOD, AND CLOTHING THEY NEEDED.

08:30SOON, HOTELS, STORES, AND OTHER WOOD-FRAMED BUILDINGS APPEARED.

08:34WOMEN JOINED THE MINING BOOM TOO.

08:37THEY COULD MAKE A GOOD LIVING BY OPENING RESTAURANTS,

08:39WASHING CLOTHES, OR SETTING UP BOARDING HOUSES FOR THE MINERS.

08:43THESE CAMPS GREW INTO BOOMTOWNS.

08:46SUMPTER, OREGON, IN THE STATE'S EASTERN GOLDFIELDS

08:49WAS ONE OF THESE BOOMTOWNS.

08:52SUMPTER'S POPULATION PEAKED AT 4,000 IN 1903

08:55AFTER ITS MINES PRODUCED JUST UNDER \$9 MILLION.

08:59THAT WOULD BE MORE THAN \$1 BILLION TODAY.

09:02 AT ITS HEIGHT, SUMPTER WAS A BUSTLING COMMUNITY
09:05 WITH ELECTRICITY, A RAILROAD, A HOSPITAL, 16 SALOONS,
09:09 FIVE HOTELS, AND TWO BANKS.
09:13 BUT SUCCESS DID NOT LAST FOREVER IN SUMPTER
09:15 OR IN THE OTHER BOOMTOWNS.
09:19 MINING TOWNS DID NOT LAST LONG
09:22 ONCE ALL THE ORE HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE NEARBY MINES.
09:25 WHEN THE GOLD WAS GONE, THE MINES WERE SHUT,
09:27 AND MINERS MOVED AWAY IN SEARCH OF RICHES ELSEWHERE.
09:31 WITH FEW CUSTOMERS,
09:32 BUSINESSES FAILED AND THE MERCHANTS LEFT.
09:35 BOOMTOWNS BECAME GHOST TOWNS.
09:38 THEIR STORES ABANDONED AND THEIR STREETS EMPTY.
09:41 SUMPTER SUFFERED DECADES OF NEGLECT.
09:43 THEN IN 1917, DISASTER STRUCK.
09:47 THAT YEAR, A FIRE STARTED AT A HOTEL
09:49 AND 12 BLOCKS BURNED DOWN.
09:52 THE FLAMES MIGHT HAVE TURNED HOPE INTO ASHES,
09:55 BUT THE RESIDENTS OF SUMPTER, OREGON, FOUGHT BACK.
09:57 THOUGH IT TOOK THEM MANY DECADES TO ONCE AGAIN FIND SUCCESS,
10:01 TODAY SUMPTER IS DOING VERY WELL.
10:04 LIKE SOME OTHER GHOST TOWNS,

10:06IT IS NOW A THRIVING TOURIST AREA.

10:08DURING THE MINING BOOM,

10:10THE SUMPTER VALLEY RAILROAD CARRIED ORE

10:12TO THE SMELTER FROM NEIGHBORING MINES.

10:14TODAY, THE RESTORED RAILWAY CARRIES TOURISTS

10:17AROUND ITS TRACKS,

10:20BUT THE MAIN ATTRACTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN

10:23THE SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE.

10:25IT MOVED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS' WORTH OF GOLD

10:27FROM THE VALLEY FLOOR.

10:28TODAY, EVEN THOUGH THE FAMOUS DREDGE IS NO LONGER FUNCTIONAL,

10:32TOURISTS STILL COME TO SEE IT IN ALL ITS GLORY.

10:37IN THE LATE 1800s,

10:39GOLD AND SILVER DISCOVERIES BROUGHT MINERS TO THE WEST

10:42AND LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOOMTOWNS.

10:44TODAY, SOME OF THOSE TOWNS ARE PROSPERING

10:47BY RELIVING THE OLD DAYS.

11:15female narrator: IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE

11:17ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE JUST SEEN,

11:18GO ONLINE OR CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.

11:43female narrator: IN 1850,

11:44AMERICA'S WESTERN FRONTIER INCLUDED ALL THE TERRITORY

11:48BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

11:51THE LANDSCAPE CONSISTED OF PRAIRIES, MOUNTAINS,

11:54DESERTS, FORESTS, AND COASTAL PLAINS.

11:56AMERICANS SAW THE WEST AS A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY

12:00WHERE THEY COULD FULFILL THEIR DREAMS TO OWN LAND.

12:07- LAND IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOUR HOME IS,

12:10AND YOUR HOME IS YOUR SANCTUARY.

12:11- IT GIVES YOU THE CHANCE

12:12TO FEEL LIKE YOU POSSESS SOMETHING

12:14AND THAT NO ONE CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU,

12:15AND IT REALLY GIVES YOU A FEELING OF STABILITY.

12:17- HOME IS JUST LIKE A PLACE OF COMFORT, YOU KNOW?

12:20JUST LIKE WHEN YOU'RE STRESSED OUT, YOU GO BACK HOME.

12:22YOU CAN RELAX.

12:23- HOME FOR ME IS BASICALLY MY MOTHER AND MY THREE BROTHERS.

12:27WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER.

12:28- WHEN I WAS LITTLE,

12:30I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO HAVE THE GREAT HOME

12:31THAT SOME PEOPLE DO.

12:33AND WHEN I MOVED IN WITH MY DAD, EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR ME.

12:35AND HOME JUST BECAME THIS PLACE WHERE I KNEW I WAS SAFE.

12:38- LAND DOESN'T REALLY MEAN THAT MUCH TO ME

12:40 BECAUSE AS LONG AS MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS ARE WITH ME,

12:43 I'M COMPLETELY FINE.

12:51- IN 1893,

12:53 THE HISTORIAN FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER DEFINED THE FRONTIER

12:56 AS OPPORTUNITY IN THE FORM OF LAND, AND HE WAS RIGHT.

13:04 I'M ROGER KENNEDY.

13:06 FOR EUROPEANS, THE OWNERSHIP OF A PIECE OF LAND

13:09 HAS BEEN THE ASPIRATION OF EVERY TOILER IN THE FIELDS

13:13 AND EVERY SWEATING TOWNSMAN.

13:16 AMERICA FOR EUROPEANS MEANT LAND OF YOUR OWN.

13:20 IT DIDN'T MEAN THAT FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

13:22 WHO DWELLED UPON THE LAND,

13:24 WHO FOUGHT TO DEFEND IT FROM OTHER TRIBES,

13:26 BUT NOT LAND FOR THEM.

13:28 FOR THEM, LAND WASN'T LOOT--

13:31 IT WAS SPACE FOR LIVING.

13:35 A FRONTIER LOST.

13:40 IN 1803, AFTER PURCHASING THE LOUISIANA TERRITORY,

13:44 THOMAS JEFFERSON SENT MERIWETHER LEWIS AND WILLIAM CLARK

13:47 UP THE MISSOURI RIVER.

13:50 JEFFERSON HAD AN IMPERIAL VISION FOR AMERICA

13:54 STRETCHING TO THE PACIFIC.

13:57TO SECURE HIS OBJECTIVE,
13:59LEWIS AND CLARK WERE INSTRUCTED
14:01TO CULTIVATE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE INDIANS.
14:06- MERIWETHER LEWIS, 27 OCTOBER, 1804.
14:10I WALKED UP AND SMOKED A PIPE WITH THE CHIEFS OF THE VILLAGE.
14:13THEY WERE ANXIOUS THAT I WOULD STAY AND EAT WITH THEM.
14:16MY INDISPOSITION PREVENTED MY EATING,
14:18WHICH DISPLEASED THEM UNTIL A FULL EXPLANATION TOOK PLACE.
14:22I RETURNED TO THE BOAT
14:24AND SENT TWO CARROTS OF TOBACCO FOR THEM TO SMOKE
14:26AND PROCEEDED ON.
14:31- LEWIS AND CLARK SPENT THEIR FIRST WINTER
14:33WITH THE MANDAN INDIANS.
14:34CARL WHITMAN, A FORMER TRIBAL CHAIRMAN,
14:37IS A DESCENDENT OF THOSE PEOPLE,
14:39AND MEMBERS OF HIS TRIBE SPEAK TO US IN THE SETTING
14:41RECREATED MUCH AS IT WAS FOR LEWIS AND CLARK.
14:44- LEWIS AND CLARK GAVE MY FORBEARER,
14:48WHO WAS A CHIEF AT THAT TIME
14:49AND TOLD HIS PEOPLE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM
14:54AND GIVE THEM WHATEVER THEY WANTED.
14:58SEE, THE MANDAN CULTURE IS-- AS A MATTER OF FACT,

15:02GENERALLY THE INDIANS' CULTURE IS BASED UPON GENEROSITY.

15:08THEY DIDN'T GIVE FOR GAINS.

15:13THEY DID IT TO ESTABLISH THEIR STATUS IN THEIR SOCIETY.

15:16A WHITE MAN ESTABLISHES STATUS IN HIS SOCIETY

15:20BY WHAT HE ACCUMULATES,

15:22BUT THE INDIAN IS BY WHAT HE GIVES AWAY.

15:26SO USUALLY, A CHIEF WAS NOT ALWAYS THE RICHEST MAN.

15:30HE WAS USUALLY THE POOREST MAN

15:31BECAUSE HE TAKES CARE OF HIS PEOPLE.

15:34- INDIANS HAD THEIR OWN IDEAS OF THE FRONTIER.

15:37AS THEY DO, OF A CHIEF.

15:39- FRONTIER IS A WORD THAT'S INVENTED BY THE WHITE MAN.

15:45WELL, I THINK IT'S ALWAYS KIND OF A UNILATERAL DECISIONS

15:48ABOUT THE MARCHING ON.

15:52WHEN YOU WANTED LAND, WELL, THE INDIANS GAVE IT.

16:04- EVEN BEFORE LEWIS AND CLARK'S EXPEDITION,

16:07BRITISH, FRENCH, RUSSIAN, AND AMERICAN TRAPPERS

16:09WORKED THE TERRITORY WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI

16:12FOLLOWING INDIAN TRAILS TO THE NORTHWEST, TO OREGON,

16:15CALIFORNIA, AND THE SOUTHWEST.

16:18THEN CAME MINERS BETWEEN 1849 AND 1875,

16:22TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD,

16:24AND FINALLY, MILLIONS OF FARMERS AT THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

16:29IN 90 YEARS, THOMAS JEFFERSON'S GOAL

16:32TO CREATE A NATION FROM SEA TO SEA WAS REALIZED.

16:39WITH THE EUROPEANS CAME DISEASES

16:41AGAINST WHICH THE MANDANS AND OTHER INDIANS HAD NO RESISTANCE.

16:45SOME TRIBES DIED OUT.

16:47AND AS THEY WERE DYING, PAINTERS PAINTED THEM.

16:51GEORGE CATLIN WAS AMONG THE MOST FAMOUS OF THEM

16:53PAINTING MORE THAN 600 IMAGES OF INDIANS BETWEEN 1832 AND 1840.

17:00- I HAVE CONTEMPLATED THE NOBLE RACES OF RED MEN

17:03WHO ARE MELTING AWAY AT THE APPROACH OF CIVILIZATION,

17:06AND I HAVE FLOWN TO THE RESCUE OF THEIR LOOKS AND THEIR MODES.

17:10THAT PHOENIX-LIKE

17:11THEY MAY RISE FROM THE PAINTER'S PALETTE

17:14AND LIVE AGAIN ON CANVAS.

17:24THE FRONTIER STILL EXISTS

17:26IN BOTH THE REAL AND VISIONARY SENSE,

17:28FOR JIM CARRIER, A REPORTER FOR "THE DENVER POST."

17:32- THE FRONTIER DURING THE 1800s WAS A LINE

17:34THAT CREPT ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

17:37IT WAS DEFINED BY THE CENSUS BUREAU

17:39AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO LIVED ON IT.

17:41 MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE PER SQUARE MILE WAS CONSIDERED CIVILIZED,

17:45 IF YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT.

17:47 LESS THAN THAT WAS STILL FRONTIER.

17:49 AND IT WAS A DEFINABLE LINE UNTIL ABOUT 1890.

17:51 FOR THE FIRST 150 YEARS OF THIS COUNTRY,

17:54 PEOPLE BUILT UP ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE APPALACHIANS.

17:57 ALMOST TO A BURSTING POINT.

18:00 AND AFTER THE REVOLUTION, THEY SPILLED OVER.

18:02 AND THE FRONTIER WAS UPSTATE NEW YORK.

18:07 IT WAS TENNESSEE.

18:09 IT BECAME THE 100TH MERIDIAN,

18:12 THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT,

18:14 AND THEN ULTIMATELY CALIFORNIA AND OREGON.

18:16- JIM, YOU TRAVEL THE WEST A LOT.

18:18 WHAT HAS THE FRONTIER COME TO MEAN TO YOU?

18:21- I REMEMBER A QUOTE FROM A TEXAS RANCHWOMAN WHO SAID,

18:26 "OUT HERE, MY NEAREST NEIGHBOR IS GOD."

18:31 TO ME, IT'S SPACE.

18:33 IT'S AN OPENNESS.

18:35 THERE ARE MANY PLACES I DRIVE

18:38 WHERE I LITERALLY FEEL MY SPIRIT OPENING WHEN I POP OVER A BROW

18:43 AND SEE A MOUNTAIN VIEW,

18:44OR COME ACROSS A PRAIRIE LIKE THIS AND FEEL THAT I'M ALONE.

18:49I THINK WHAT IT DOES, AND IT MAY BE AN ILLUSION,

18:52IS THAT IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I OWN IT.

18:58- OTHERS WANTED TO OWN THAT LAND

19:01IN A HARD-FISTED WAY.

19:03THE EXPLORER JOHN CHARLES FREMONT PROMOTED THE IDEA

19:06OF MANIFEST DESTINY--

19:07DESTINY TO OWN THE WEST.

19:10HE TRAVELED TO THE ROCKIES

19:12AND WROTE A BOOK DESIGNED TO MOVE AMERICANS WEST,

19:15AND CONGRESS PRINTED 10,000 COPIES.

19:18JOHN CHARLES FREMONT, 15 AUGUST, 1842.

19:22"WHILE WE WERE SITTING ON THE ROCK,

19:24A SOLITARY BEE CAME WINGING

19:26AND LIT ON THE KNEE OF ONE OF THE MEN.

19:28IT WAS A STRANGE PLACE--

19:31THE ICY ROCK AND THE HIGH PEAKS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

19:35FOR A LOVER OF WARM SUNSHINE AND FLOWERS.

19:38AND WE PLEASED OURSELVES WITH THE IDEA

19:41THAT HE WAS THE FIRST OF HIS SPECIES

19:43TO CROSS THE MOUNTAIN BARRIER.

19:45I BELIEVE THAT A MOMENT'S THOUGHT

19:47 WOULD HAVE MADE US LET HIM CONTINUE HIS WAY UNHARMED,
19:52 BUT WE CARRIED OUT THE LAW OF THIS COUNTRY
19:55 AND SEIZED HIM IMMEDIATELY."
20:00 FREMONT WORSHIPPED THE BEAUTY OF THE LAND,
20:03 BUT HIS ULTIMATE GOAL LIKE THAT OF MANIFEST DESTINY
20:07 WAS TO POSSESS IT,
20:08 TO CONTROL IT,
20:10 TO MAKE IT HIS OWN.
20:14 SEIZING THE LAND WAS NOT EASY.
20:16 THE POWERFUL SIOUX NATIONS LIVED IN NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA,
20:19 NEBRASKA, AND PARTS OF WYOMING, MONTANA, AND CANADA.
20:22 THEY WERE THERE, AND THEY INTENDED TO STAY THERE.
20:27 THE FRONTIER WAS A MONEYMAKING PROPOSITION,
20:30 AND EASTERN MONEY DEVELOPED WESTERN BUSINESS.
20:32 EVEN FOR THE FIRST EUROPEAN INVESTORS,
20:35 THE PROFIT COULD BE GREAT.
20:37 BEAVER PONDS WERE THE FIRST FRONTIER FOR THE EUROPEANS
20:41 FROM THE CATSKILLS AND THE ADIRONDACKS
20:43 TO THE FLANKS OF THE ROCKIES.
20:45 THE FRENCH WERE HERE IN THE 1740s AND '50s,
20:49 AND THAT'S HOW LEWIS AND CLARK KNEW WHERE THEY WERE GOING.
20:51 THEY WERE USING FRENCH MAPS 60 YEARS OLDER.

20:54AFTER LEWIS AND CLARK CAME HORDES OF AMERICAN FUR TRADERS

20:57MAKING FORTUNES FOR PEOPLE LIKE JOHN JACOB ASTOR,

21:01THE GERMAN-BORN FINANCIAL GENIUS WHO ORGANIZED

21:04THE AMERICAN FUR COMPANY IN 1808.

21:07BUT FOR TRAPPERS LIKE KIT CARSON, JEDEDIAH SMITH,

21:09AND JEREMIAH JOHNSON,

21:11IT WAS THE LIFE OF HARDSHIP AND ADVENTURE.

21:18ED MADDOX AND DAN DEUTER ARE TRAPPERS THEMSELVES

21:21AND LIVING HISTORY INTERPRETERS HERE AT FORT UNCOMPAHGRE,

21:24A RESTORED 19TH CENTURY TRADING STATION IN DELTA, COLORADO.

21:30- A LOT OF TIMES THERE'D BE THREE MEN WORKING A CAMP--

21:33TWO TRAPPERS AND ONE CAMP KEEPER.

21:35THE TRAPPERS BRING 'EM IN.

21:36THE CAMP KEEPER SKINS 'EM AND STRETCHES THE HIDE.

21:38IT'S A TOUGH PROCESS EVEN FOR THE TRAPPERS.

21:42YOU'RE OUT THERE IN THAT COLD WATER EVERY DAY.

21:45AND WITHIN A FEW YEARS,

21:47THEY SAID THAT EVEN A YOUNG MAN LOOKED LIKE HE WAS 60 YEARS OLD

21:50BECAUSE OF THE COLD, AND THAT'S HOW IT AFFECTED THEM.

21:53[men mumbling]

21:59- AFTER THE TRAPPERS...

22:00[explosion]

22:02CAME THE MINERS.

22:06THE MAGIC LURE OF GOLD BROUGHT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WEST

22:09TO CALIFORNIA'S HIGHLANDS, NEVADA'S DESERTS,

22:12AND COLORADO'S MOUNTAINS.

22:14THEY CAME TO COLORADO IN 1859

22:16AFTER GOLD WAS FOUND HERE IN CLEAR CREEK.

22:20GOLD FEVER STILL INFESTS THE ROCKIES.

22:23- IT'S A FEVER BASICALLY IS WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO.

22:26IT'S A FEVER THAT CONSUMES YOU.

22:27YOU WANT TO BE OUT THERE ALL THE TIME

22:29LOOKING FOR GOLD AND LOOKING FOR GOLD.

22:30AND THE MORE GOLD YOU GOT, THE MORE YOU WANT.

22:34narrator: THE ARGO GOLD MILL,

22:35NOW RUN AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION BY A MINER, DARRELL CHAUNCEY,

22:39WAS THE VERY HEART OF THE COLORADO GOLD RUSH.

22:42ONCE NICKNAMED "THUNDER IN THE MOUNTAIN,"

22:44ITS NOISE SHOOK THE EARTH AS IT STAMPED AND SEPARATED,

22:48GROUND AND CLASSIFIED,

22:51CRUSHED, AMALGAMATED,

22:53CULLED, SKIMMED, AND LEACHED THE PRECIOUS ORE FROM 800 MINES.

23:02PRECIOUS METALS PRODUCED GREAT FAMILY FORTUNES

23:05LIKE THAT OF THE TABORS OF COLORADO,

23:07BUT FEW OF THOSE FORTUNES LASTED VERY LONG.

23:12- IF IT WASN'T FOR THE FACT

23:14THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE OUT HERE FINDING GOLD,

23:16FINDING THEIR FAMILY FORTUNES,

23:17IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED THE WAY IT IS TODAY.

23:20IT WAS THE LURE.

23:21IT WAS WHAT BROUGHT PEOPLE OUT HERE.

23:26- IN 50 YEARS, BEGINNING WITH THE CALIFORNIA RUSH OF 1849,

23:30PEOPLE RUSHED AROUND THE WORLD AFTER GOLD.

23:33MINERS RACED FROM CALIFORNIA TO COLORADO, TO THE YUKON,

23:37SOUTH AFRICA, AND TO AUSTRALIA.

23:43THESE HILLS WERE ONCE CRAWLING WITH MINERS

23:46FROM WALES, ENGLAND, ITALY, GERMANY, AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

23:51- MINER, 1848.

23:53THE WHOLE COUNTRY RESOUNDS WITH A SORDID CRY OF,

23:56"GOLD, GOLD, GOLD,"

23:58WHILE THE FIELD IS LEFT HALF-PLANTED,

24:00THE HOUSE HALF-BUILT,

24:01AND EVERYTHING NEGLECTED

24:03BUT THE MANUFACTURE OF SHOVELS AND PICKAXES.

24:07- IT WAS 1862, THE YEAR OF THE HOMESTEAD ACT,

24:10AND THE RUSH WAS ON.

24:12BETWEEN 1870 AND 1890,

24:14MILLIONS OF FARMERS RACED WESTWARD TO OCCUPY THE LAND.

24:18TRAILS OF THE FIRST WAGON TRAINS,

24:20LIKE THOSE OF THE TRADERS AND MINERS BEFORE THEM,

24:22THEN BECAME THE ROADS OF THE IRON HORSE.

24:26[train whistle blowing]

24:30GREAT STRETCHES OF THE IMMIGRANT FRONTIER WERE CONTROLLED

24:33BY THE RAILROADS.

24:35THE RAILROADS WERE THE NATION'S FIRST TRULY BIG BUSINESS

24:39LAYING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MILES OF STEEL RAILS

24:42ACROSS THE WEST

24:44PERFORATING THE FRONTIER, EXTENDING THE FRONTIER,

24:47AND THEN PENNING IN THE FRONTIER

24:49WITH THE BARBED WIRE BROUGHT BY SETTLERS--

24:52THEMSELVES BROUGHT HERE BY THE MOST SUCCESSFUL

24:55AND BEGUILING ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN IN HISTORY.

25:01RAILROAD ADVERTISING THROUGH POSTER ART

25:04EMPLOYED SOME OF THE BEST KNOWN PAINTERS OF THE WEST

25:08TO DEPICT WESTERN GLORIES.

25:10PAINTERS AS PROMOTERS BROUGHT SETTLERS.

25:13AND IN SOME INSTANCES, LIKE THE CREATION BY THE SANTA FE ROAD

25:17OF WHAT WE STILL CALL THE TAOS STYLE,

25:20BRINGING A BRAND-NEW WAY OF ENVISAGING THE WEST ITSELF.

25:33THE FRONTIER IS AN AMALGAM OF VISIONS--

25:37NONE OF THEM MORE ENDURING THAN THOSE OF THE NATIVE AMERICANS.

25:42- THERE WERE 60 MILLION BUFFALO HERE

25:45AND 10 MILLION PEOPLE

25:47DURING THE TIME THAT I CONSIDER THE FRONTIER.

25:50AND WHAT THAT SAYS TO ME

25:52IS THAT THIS LAND AND THE PEOPLE THAT WERE ON IT

25:54WERE IN TOTAL BALANCE.

25:57I THINK, IN COMPARISON,

25:58WE'RE A LOT FURTHER OUT OF BALANCE

26:01THAN THOSE PARTICULAR PEOPLE WERE AT THAT TIME.

26:03SO I THINK WE COULD LEARN A VERY VALUABLE ECOLOGICAL LESSON

26:07FROM THOSE PEOPLE IN HOW THEY RELATED TO

26:09AND REACTED TO THE LAND.

26:11[soulful acoustic music]

26:14- [singing] FROM ALL SIDES, WE HAVE COME

26:20IMMIGRANTS, EVERYONE

26:25BOTH TO TAKE AND TO GIVE

26:31PEOPLE LEARNING TO LIVE

26:35- THE FRONTIER IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN

26:37THE LAND FOUGHT OVER, DREAMED ABOUT,

26:40SEWED, TENDED, MINED, AND EXPLORED.

26:44BUT AS A VISION, IT HAS NEVER CLOSED.

26:48IT'S ALWAYS THERE.

26:51- [singing] LET THE SPIRIT COME FORTH

26:56female narrator: DID YOU KNOW?

26:57THE HISTORIAN FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER BELIEVED

27:01THAT THE FRONTIER PLAYED A MAJOR PART

27:02IN SHAPING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

27:05TURNER STATED THAT SETTLERS ON THE FRONTIER GREW

27:07SELF-RELIANT AND DISTRUSTFUL OF OUTSIDE AUTHORITIES.

27:10THIS CONTRIBUTED TO A NATIONAL CHARACTER

27:13THAT VALUES INDIVIDUALISM AND EGALITARIANISM.

27:18male narrator: COWBOYS, INDIANS, OUTLAWS, AND LAWMEN

27:21RIDING INTO THE SUNSET.

27:22MUCH OF WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW ABOUT THE OLD WEST

27:25COMES FROM THE MOVIES.

27:26BUT WHAT WE'VE SEEN ON FILM IS NOT NECESSARILY

27:29A REALISTIC PORTRAYAL OF LIFE IN THE AMERICAN WEST.

27:40- THERE ARE COWBOYS AND INDIANS.

27:41- I THINK OF THE WILD WEST AS, LIKE, A BIG DESERT

27:44WITH A BUNCH OF PEOPLE ON HORSES AND SPURS.

27:46- BAR FIGHTS. THE SHERIFF'S COMING INTO TOWN.

27:48HE'S GONNA DRIVE OUT THE LOCAL CRIMINAL.

27:50- THE MOVIE "WILD WILD WEST" WITH WILL SMITH.

27:52- I THINK OF THE DESERT AND, LIKE, CACTI.

27:55- DESERT AND COWBOYS AND HORSES.

27:57- THEY'VE CONTRIBUTED TO THE COWBOY CHIC LOOK.

28:00- JOHN WAYNE. - BILLY THE KID.

28:02- A LOT OF PEOPLE WENT TO CALIFORNIA FOR THE GOLD RUSH.

28:05- NOT A LOT OF POLICE ENFORCEMENT,

28:08AND I GUESS JUST WILDNESS.

28:14male narrator: THE WESTERN FRONTIER WAS A DANGEROUS PLACE

28:16FOR MANY TO LIVE UNTIL CHANGES WERE MADE

28:18IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS AND FREEDOM.

28:21- IT WAS IN PLACES LIKE THIS

28:23THAT THE HISTORY OF THE WEST WAS MADE.

28:25BUT THE WESTERN HISTORY

28:26THAT WE CARRY AROUND IN OUR HEADS WASN'T MADE HERE.

28:30IT WAS MADE HERE IN HOLLYWOOD.

28:33[gunshots]

28:38UNTIL THEY FELL OUT OF FASHION IN THE 1970s,

28:41A FULL 1/3 OF ALL THE MOVIES

28:42TURNED OUT BY HOLLYWOOD WERE WESTERNS

28:45PERMANENTLY INFLUENCING THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT THE WEST.

28:53MOVIEMAKERS, TO THEIR CREDIT,
28:55DID MORE TO INFORM PEOPLE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE WEST
28:57THAN ANYBODY ELSE.
28:58UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S ALSO TRUE
29:00THAT THEY DID MORE TO MISINFORM PEOPLE TOO.
29:03- STEADILY UNCHECKED, IRRESISTIBLE,
29:06THE MOVEMENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SPREAD THEIR HOMES
29:09OVER THE VAST REACHES OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.
29:11- IN THE HANDS OF THE MOVIEMAKERS,
29:13THE STORY OF THE WEST WAS LARGELY THE STIRRING TALE
29:15OF FREEDOM AND PROGRESS.
29:17IT WAS THE STORY OF INDIVIDUALISTIC PIONEERS
29:20BREAKING VIRGIN GROUND IN OPEN TERRITORY.
29:23- IN 1842, THE FIRST LONG TRAIN OF COVERED WAGONS
29:26HAD LEFT MISSOURI FOR FAR-OFF OREGON.
29:28THUS, THE WESTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE WHITE RACES
29:30BEGUN CENTURIES AGO FULFILLED ITS DESTINY
29:33IN THE REACHES THAT LAY BEYOND THE MISSISSIPPI.
29:36- UNFORTUNATELY, IT WASN'T THAT SIMPLE.
29:38THE LAND WASN'T OPEN AND FREE.
29:40THERE WERE PEOPLE ALREADY LIVING THERE:
29:42INDIANS.

29:49BUT THE MOVIEMAKERS, LIKE THE PIONEERS THEMSELVES,
29:52DIDN'T REALLY ADMIT THAT.
29:59THE THINKING SEEMED TO BE
30:00SINCE THE INDIANS HADN'T DIVIDED UP THE LAND
30:02INTO NEAT LITTLE FARM PLOTS
30:03THE WAY WHITE AMERICANS WOULD HAVE,
30:05THE TERRITORY WAS ANYBODY'S FOR THE TAKING.
30:08- AND THERE IS ROOM HERE-- ROOM FOR A MAN TO FARM.
30:12ROOM TO CARVE OUT A NEW LIFE.
30:14- I MEAN YOU CAN SAY IT'S THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITION.
30:17- HISTORIAN CLYDE MILNER HAS MADE THE STUDY OF THE WEST
30:19HIS LIFE'S WORK.
30:21- THIS IS HOW THE LAND SHOULD BE.
30:23THE LAND SHOULD BE FRUITFUL. IT SHOULD BE FARMED.
30:29[dramatic music]
30:34- THE MOVIES' OWN STORYLINES PROVED
30:36THAT THE LAND WASN'T FREE.
30:37EVERY OTHER SCENE,
30:38INDIANS SHOWED UP TO LAY CLAIM TO THE LAND
30:40THE PIONEERS WERE PLOWING.
30:42BUT IN THE UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD OF THE MOVIES,
30:44THIS JUST SHOWED HOW DARN ARROGANT THOSE INDIANS WERE.

30:52 THE FACT IS ONE OF THE CHIEF STORIES OF WESTERN HISTORY

30:55 IS HOW THE PIONEERS ENCROACHED ON THE INDIANS' LAND

30:57 OR, TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, STOLE MUCH OF IT.

31:00 BUT WESTERNS HURRIED PAST THIS ASPECT OF HISTORY

31:02 IN ORDER TO GET TO THE STORY THEY REALLY WANTED TO TELL:

31:05 HOW WHITE PIONEERS SUFFERED

31:07 WHEN ATTACKED BY MARAUDING INDIANS,

31:09 WHICH AMAZINGLY, TURNED THE WHITES INTO THE VICTIMS.

31:16 WHY IN THE WORLD DID HOLLYWOOD NEGLECT THE OBVIOUS STORY

31:19 OF THE INDIANS' LOSS OF THEIR HOMELANDS?

31:21 WELL, IT WAS BECAUSE OF RACISM.

31:24 [chanting]

31:26 IN HOLLYWOOD'S VIEW,

31:28 THE INDIANS' MASSIVE LOSS OF LAND DIDN'T MATTER

31:31 AS MUCH AS THE WHITES' OCCASIONAL LOSS OF LIFE

31:33 IN THE CONQUEST OF THAT LAND.

31:36 INDIANS, OF COURSE, LOST THEIR LIVES AS WELL,

31:38 BUT THAT HARDLY COUNTED AT ALL.

31:40 WHEN INDIANS DIED, IT WAS PROGRESS.

31:43 [chanting]

31:46 HISTORIAN ALVIN JOSEPHY

31:47 IS ONE OF THE NATION'S LEADING AUTHORITIES ON INDIAN HISTORY.

31:50- IT WAS JUST THAT TERRIBLE RACISM

31:53THAT REALLY STARTED AT THE TIME OF COLUMBUS

31:55AND WAS INHERITED BY GENERATIONS AFTER GENERATIONS--

31:59THAT THE INDIANS BASICALLY ARE INFERIOR PEOPLE,

32:03AND WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET RID OF THEM

32:05OR PUSH THEM AWAY

32:06OR LOCK THEM UP OR SOMETHING.

32:08[gunshot]

32:10- IT SO HAPPENS THAT WHILE BOTH INDIANS AND WHITES

32:12LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF THE WEST,

32:15MOST OF THE TIME THEY GOT ALONG PEACEFULLY.

32:17- WAGON, HO!

32:20- THE REALITY IS THAT SOME 400,000 PEOPLE TRAVELED

32:24ON THE OVERLAND TRAILS FROM 1842 TO 1859.

32:29OF THOSE 400,000,

32:31FEWER THAN 400 WERE KILLED BY NATIVE AMERICANS.

32:35- THE MOVIES, OF COURSE,

32:36MADE IT SEEM AS IF INDIANS WERE CONSTANTLY ATTACKING WHITES.

32:40AN OLD MOVIE WAGON TRAIN

32:41COULDN'T HEAD WEST ON THE OVERLAND TRAIL

32:43WITHOUT RUNNING INTO SO-CALLED HOSTILES.

32:46HORSEBACK RIDING, BOW AND ARROW SHOOTING,

32:48WAR-PAINTED, WAR-WHOOPING INDIANS.

32:51YALE HISTORIAN JOHN FARAGHER IS ONE OF THE YOUNG SCHOLARS

32:54WHO'S REWRITING THE STORY OF THE WEST.

32:56- CONTACT AND RELATIONS WITH INDIANS ON THE OVERLAND TRAIL

33:00WERE FAR MORE LIKELY TO BE FRIENDLY

33:02THAN THEY WERE TO BE HOSTILE.

33:04INDIANS RAN FERRIES.

33:05THEY FREQUENTLY CAME INTO CAMP TO SELL GAME,

33:08ET CETERA, ET CETERA, ET CETERA.

33:10[all yelling]

33:13- IT TURNS OUT NEARLY EVERYTHING

33:15THAT HOLLYWOOD SAID HAPPENED ON THE WAGON TRAILS WEST DIDN'T.

33:18- FORM A CIRCLE.

33:23- WAGON TRAINS DIDN'T EVEN CIRCLE WHEN UNDER ATTACK.

33:27- THIS IS JUST NOT SOMETHING THAT A SENSIBLE INDIAN WOULD DO.

33:31YOU KNOW, TO GET ON HIS HORSE

33:32AND RIDE AROUND AND AROUND THE WAGONS TO BE SHOT DOWN

33:35LIKE A SITTING DUCK.

33:43- SO WHERE DID MOVIEMAKERS EVER GET THE IDEA

33:45OF THE CIRCLING WAGON TRAINS?

33:47FROM THAT WILD WEST MYTHMAKER,

33:49ONE-TIME PONY EXPRESS RIDER AND FRONTIER SCOUT

33:52"BUFFALO BILL" CODY...

33:57THE FOUNDER OF THE WILD WEST SHOW,

33:58WHICH WAS SO SUCCESSFUL IN ITS 30 YEAR RUN

34:01THAT TO THIS DAY

34:02IT INDIRECTLY INFLUENCES THE WAY AMERICANS THINK

34:05ABOUT THE FATAL CLASH BETWEEN COWBOYS AND INDIANS.

34:09- BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW WAS USUALLY STAGED

34:11IN A CIRCUS RING.

34:13AND THUS, THE WAGONS WERE CIRCLED,

34:16AND THE INDIANS RODE AROUND THE WAGONS

34:19SO THAT THEY COULD BE SEEN BY THE AUDIENCE.

34:21WE BECAME SO ACCUSTOMED TO THINKING ABOUT INDIANS

34:24ATTACKING WAGON TRAINS IN THAT WAY

34:26THAT IT WAS LATER READ BACK INTO THE PAST.

34:29- BUT IF THE SCENE WAS FAKE,

34:30THE WAY THE WILD WEST SHOWS ENDED WAS REAL.

34:33ALL TOO REAL.

34:36- THIS INDIANS ALWAYS LOST IN THESE THINGS.

34:38THEY WERE TROTTED OUT LIKE WILD ANIMALS ARE IN THE ZOOS.

34:43"COME SEE WHAT WE'VE CAPTURED.

34:44COME SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT IN THE CAGE."

34:47- IT SO HAPPENS AMERICANS HAVE A HISTORY

34:49OF THINKING OF INDIANS AS ANIMALS.

34:51BACK IN COLONIAL TIMES,

34:53BEN FRANKLIN THOUGHT OF INDIANS THAT WAY.

34:55IN PART, THIS WAS BECAUSE IT WAS USEFUL TO DEMONIZE THEM,

34:58BUT THE MAIN REASON IS SCALPING.

35:02- BUT SECRETLY, I'M SURE I'LL BE SCALPED.

35:04- IF YOU SEE INDIANS IN A WESTERN,

35:05YOU CAN ALMOST BE CERTAIN BEFORE THE END OF THE MOVIE

35:08THEY'LL BE STEALING THEIR ENEMY'S SCALPS.

35:10- YOU'LL BE FRIGHTENING THE LITTLE ONES

35:11WITH THAT KIND OF TALK.

35:12- INDIANS DID SCALP.

35:14THEY INVENTED SCALPING,

35:15BUT THE MOVIES COMPLETELY OVERLOOKED THE FACT

35:17THAT EUROPEANS WERE DEEPLY IMPLICATED

35:19IN THE PRACTICE AS WELL.

35:21- AND THERE'S GOOD EVIDENCE THAT THE EUROPEANS INTRODUCED IT

35:25TO SOME OF THE TRIBES.

35:26AND SO WE KNOW THAT THERE WERE MANY, MANY TRIBES

35:28THAT NEVER SCALPED

35:30AND UNTIL WHITES CAME ALONG AND BEGAN PAYING BOUNTIES

35:34FOR SCALPS OF THEIR ENEMIES.

35:36- AND JUST TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT,
35:38WHITES WERE GUILTY OF PRACTICES EVERY BIT AS OFFENSIVE
35:40AS SCALPING.
35:41IN COLONIAL TIMES, THE BRITISH WOULD GIVE THE INDIANS
35:44BLANKETS USED BY SMALLPOX VICTIMS
35:45TO DELIBERATELY INFECT THEM.
35:48AND IN COLONIAL MASSACHUSETTS,
35:49THEY DID SOMETHING EVEN WORSE.
35:51THEY USED KILLER DOGS TO WIPE OUT WHOLE INDIAN COMMUNITIES.
35:55[dogs growling and barking]
35:57THE DOGS, ENGLISH MASTIFFS WEIGHING OVER 150 POUNDS,
36:01WERE BRED TO BE FIERCE,
36:03AND THEY COULD TEAR A MAN APART IN MINUTES.
36:06BENJAMIN FRANKLIN RECOMMENDED LOCKING THE DOGS UP
36:08IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO AN ATTACK,
36:10SO, "THEY'LL BE FRESHER AND FIERCER
36:13"FOR HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY CONFINED,
36:15"AND WILL CONFOUND THE ENEMY A GOOD DEAL
36:17AND BE VERY SERVICEABLE."
36:20THE STORY OF THE KILLER DOGS IS AS MUCH A PART OF THE STORY
36:22OF THE FRONTIER AS SCALPING,
36:24BUT THE MOVIES HAVE IGNORED IT.

36:26SO HAVE THE PAINTERS FOR THAT MATTER.

36:28TELLINGLY, THE ONLY WAY WE COULD SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENED

36:30WAS TO HIRE AN ARTIST OURSELVES TO DO A SKETCH.

36:34HOLLYWOOD OCCASIONALLY PRETENDED TO BE SYMPATHETIC

36:37TO THE INDIANS.

36:38- WILL NOT GIVE UP THE BLACK HILLS.

36:41FOR THERE, THE SPIRITS OF OUR FATHERS DWELL.

36:44- THE POPULAR 1942 MOVIE "THEY DIED WITH THEIR BOOTS ON,"

36:47STARRING ERROL FLYNN AS GENERAL CUSTER,

36:49KNOWN AS LONG HAIR,

36:51POSITIVELY GUSHES WITH SYMPATHY FOR THE POOR RED MAN.

36:54- IF THE GREAT WHITE FATHER GIVES WORD

36:56TO MY BROTHER'S PEOPLE,

36:58THEN LONG HAIR AND HIS LONG KNIVES WILL DEFEND BLACK HILLS

37:03AGAINST ALL WHITE MEN WHO SEEK TO PROFANE THEM.

37:06THAT IS THE WORD OF LONG HAIR.

37:08- IN THE MOVIE,

37:09CUSTER HEROICALLY TRIES TO STOP GOLD DIGGERS

37:11FROM INVADING THE SIOUX NATION'S SACRED GROUNDS

37:14IN THE BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

37:15WHEN HE FAILS,

37:17HE TRIES TO MOVE THEM FOR THEIR OWN GOOD TO A RESERVATION.

37:20- FIGHT ON FOOT!

37:21- BUT GOOD INTENTIONS GO AWRY.

37:23AND IN THE END, CUSTER AND 260 OR SO OF HIS TROOPS

37:26ARE SLAUGHTERED.

37:28- AND WHEN HE FAILS AND HE DIES,

37:30THE LAST SCENE HAS HIS WIFE LIBBIE CUSTER

37:33VISITING GENERAL SHERIDAN AND SAYING

37:37THAT HER HUSBAND LEFT THIS LAST LETTER...

37:40- I HAVE HERE A LETTER.

37:42- ASKING THAT GENERAL SHERIDAN WILL BE SURE

37:45TO TAKE CARE OF THE INDIANS

37:47AND SEE THAT THEY HAVE THEIR LANDS PROTECTED AGAINST WHITES.

37:51- THE INDIANS MUST BE PROTECTED IN THEIR RIGHT TO AN EXISTENCE

37:54IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

37:55- AND ALL'S GENERAL SHERIDAN SAYS TO HER...

37:59- I HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ANSWER THAT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

38:01FROM THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF.

38:03- "AND HE ASSURES ME THE INDIANS WILL BE SAFE ON THEIR LANDS.

38:06SO YOU SEE MY DEAR, CUSTER DID NOT DIE IN VAIN."

38:11WHICH IS TOTAL REVERSAL OF EVERYTHING IN HISTORY.

38:15CUSTER WENT IN AND FOUND THE GOLD IN THE BLACK HILLS,

38:18TRUMPETED TO THE WORLD,

38:19AND THEN WENT AFTER THE INDIANS

38:22TO DRIVE THEM OUT OF THE BLACK HILLS AND ONTO RESERVATIONS

38:26AND WAS CERTAINLY NO FRIEND OF THE INDIANS.

38:29- MOST EVERYBODY THESE DAYS UNDERSTANDS

38:31THAT WE TOOK THE INDIANS' LAND.

38:33THE REVISIONISTS HAVE SEEN TO THAT.

38:34BUT FEW PEOPLE SEEM TO REALIZE WE ALSO TOOK THE MEXICANS' LAND:

38:38CALIFORNIA AND MUCH OF THE SOUTHWEST--

38:40ABOUT HALF OF THEIR COUNTRY.

38:42IN THE SCHOOLBOOKS,

38:43THEY SAY WE GOT THE LAND IN THE MEXICAN WAR,

38:45WHICH MAKES IT SOUND LIKE WE GOT IT FAIR AND SQUARE,

38:47BUT WE DIDN'T REALLY.

38:49WE DELIBERATELY PROVOKED THE MEXICANS TO GO TO WAR

38:52SO WE COULD GRAB THEIR LAND.

38:54- WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT'S A VERY AGGRESSIVE WAR.

38:58MEXICANS SEE IT AS AN INVASION.

39:00narrator: IN HIS WAR MESSAGE, THE PRESIDENT, JAMES K. POLK,

39:03TOLD THE PUBLIC THE MEXICANS STARTED THE WAR

39:06BY ATTACKING ARMY TROOPS UNDER ZACHARY TAYLOR,

39:09"SHEDDING AMERICAN BLOOD ON AMERICAN SOIL,"

39:12BUT THIS WAS AN OUTRIGHT LIE.

39:15THE TROOPS WERE ON MEXICAN SOIL

39:17ON THE BANK OF THE RIO GRANDE NEAR MATAMOROS

39:19MORE THAN 100 MILES SOUTH OF THE RECOGNIZED BORDER.

39:24ABE LINCOLN, THEN A CONGRESSMAN, WAS OUTRAGED.

39:27IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL THE STORY OF THE WEST

39:30WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WE KIND OF STOLE A CHUNK OF IT

39:32FROM MEXICO.

39:33IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY LATIN AMERICANS

39:35ARE SO LEERY OF U.S. MOTIVES.

39:37IN THE 19TH CENTURY, WE INVADED.

39:39OF COURSE, WE CALLED IT MANIFEST DESTINY.

39:41THEY CALLED IT, HOWEVER, IMPERIALISM.

39:44IT'S ONE OF THE DARK PERIODS OF OUR HISTORY.

39:46BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, WE DON'T FOCUS ON IT.

39:48INSTEAD, WE TALK ALL ABOUT THE GOOD THINGS

39:50THAT SEEMED TO HAPPEN LIKE THE ALAMO.

39:54YOU REMEMBER THE ALAMO.

39:55- IT'S HERE AT LAST.

39:5613 GLORIOUS DAYS OF THE SIEGE HISTORY WILL NEVER FORGET.

40:00- THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE IN 1836,

40:02A 189 OR SO BRAVE PATRIOTS FOUGHT OFF AN ARMY OF THOUSANDS

40:07BEFORE FINALLY BEING DEFEATED IN A MEMORABLE BATTLE

40:09 THAT HELPED TEXAS WIN ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM MEXICO.

40:13 IT'S A GREAT STORY.

40:15 BUT THERE'S THE HOLLYWOOD VERSION

40:16 AND THEN THERE'S THE TRUTH.

40:18 THE THREE-HOUR HOLLYWOOD VERSION DIRECTED BY JOHN WAYNE,

40:22 PRODUCED BY JOHN WAYNE,

40:23 AND STARRING JOHN WAYNE AS DAVY CROCKETT

40:25 IS A LITTLE BIT OF A CROSS

40:27 BETWEEN A DOCUDRAMA AND A MUSICAL,

40:29 IMPROBABLY FEATURING SINGER FRANKIE AVALON.

40:32- THERE'S SMITTY, YOUNGEST OF THE ALAMO DEFENDERS.

40:35- TO HELP SET IT STRAIGHT ABOUT THE TRUTH,

40:37 WE WENT TO MARSHALL DEBRUHL, THE BIOGRAPHER OF SAM HOUSTON.

40:40- WELL, JOHN WAYNE'S FILM "THE ALAMO" GETS HISTORY WRONG

40:43 ON ALMOST EVERY COUNT, ALAS.

40:45 I MEAN, WAYNE OBVIOUSLY WAS MAKING AN ENTERTAINMENT,

40:48 WHICH HE DID IN SPADES.

40:51 [orchestral music]

40:54- THE MOVIE GETS THE SCENERY RIGHT.

40:56 SO RIGHT THAT THE MOVIE SET, NOW A TOURIST ATTRACTION,

40:59 SEEMS MORE AUTHENTIC

41:01 THAN THE ACTUAL SHRINE IN SAN ANTONIO

41:03LOCATED A COUPLE OF HOURS AWAY, SEE?

41:06[buzzing]

41:07ding!

41:08AND IT STARTS OFF WELL ENOUGH, TOO,

41:10EXPLAINING TO THE AUDIENCE

41:11THAT THE TYRANNICAL DICTATOR SANTA ANA

41:13IS SWEEPING NORTH ACROSS MEXICO CRUSHING ALL WHO OPPOSE HIM.

41:16AS IN REAL LIFE,

41:18THE PATRIOTS THEN GO ABOUT DEFENDING THE ALAMO.

41:20BUT THE MOVIE INSISTS DEFENDING THE PLACE WAS A WISE DECISION.

41:23IT'S INDICATED THAT IN DOING SO

41:25THE TEXANS BOUGHT INVALUABLE TIME FOR SAM HOUSTON,

41:28WHO'S WAY OFF SOUTH SOMEWHERE TRYING TO ORGANIZE AN ARMY.

41:31BUT HOUSTON DIDN'T WANT THE ALAMO DEFENDED.

41:34- WELL, HOUSTON HAD ORDERED THE ALAMO

41:38TO BE ABANDONED AND BLOWN UP.

41:40AND THE ARMS AND THE MEN TO COME AND JOIN HIM IN THE EAST.

41:45- FOR 13 DAYS THE PATRIOTS HOLD OUT

41:47KNOWING THEY'LL DIE IN THE END,

41:48BUT CONFIDENT THAT THEY'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING.

41:50BUT HOLDING THE FORT WAS ACTUALLY FOLLY.

41:53- OH, IT WAS TOTAL FOLLY, OF COURSE, THE ALAMO.

41:56IT WAS AN INDEFENSIBLE POSITION.

41:58IF THEY HAD OBEYED HOUSTON AND GOT ALL THOSE MEN OUT,

42:02IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN ENORMOUS HELP TO THE BUDDING TEXAS ARMY--

42:05THE ARMY HE WAS TRYING TO BUILD.

42:07narrator: THE ALAMO, THE EVENT, NOT THE MOVIE,

42:10IS WORTH REMEMBERING.

42:11BUT IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WHAT CAME LATER

42:14AND HARDLY ANYBODY DOES.

42:15TEXAS IMMEDIATELY UPON BECOMING INDEPENDENT

42:18DEPORTED THE STATE'S FREE BLACKS AND LEGALIZED SLAVERY,

42:21WHICH THE MEXICANS HAD ABOLISHED.

42:24SO WHAT HAPPENED AT THE ALAMO WASN'T EXACTLY

42:26AN UNQUALIFIED TURNING POINT IN THE HISTORY OF LIBERTY.

42:30- THAT SAID, I THINK THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY AN ACT

42:34OF GREAT COURAGE ON THE PART OF THESE MEN.

42:35IT ALSO GAVE THE TEXANS A GREAT RALLYING CRY

42:37AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

42:39"REMEMBER THE ALAMO" HAS BEEN USED IN EVERY WAR SINCE,

42:42OF COURSE.

42:43- ONE OTHER MATTER WE SHOULD CLEAR UP AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE:

42:45THE CONFUSION OF DAVY CROCKETT AND DANIEL BOONE.

42:48THESE WERE TWO DIFFERENT GUYS.

42:49 DANIEL BOONE WAS THE NOBLE KENTUCKY PATHFINDER

42:52 WHO LIVED AMONG THE INDIANS

42:53 IN THE EARLY PART OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

42:56 A REAL HERO-TYPE.

42:57- MY PARTY COMES IN PEACE, CAPTAIN BILL.

42:59 THERE'S ENOUGH HERE FOR BOTH WHITE AND RED MAN.

43:03- AND DAVY CROCKETT? HE'S A TENNESSEAN.

43:05 COMES ALONG A GENERATION LATER AND FIGHTS AT THE ALAMO.

43:08 NOT SO HEROIC.

43:10 HE DESERTED HIS WIFE AND WAS BARELY LITERATE.

43:12 BUT PEOPLE GET THESE TWO GUYS CONFUSED ALL THE TIME.

43:15 A BIG REASON FOR THE CONFUSION

43:17 IS THAT THE SAME MAN PLAYED BOTH FIGURES:

43:19 THIS MAN, FESS PARKER.

43:21 IN THE 1950s, HE PLAYED DAVY CROCKETT FOR DISNEY.

43:24 IN THE '60s, HE PLAYED DANIEL BOONE ON NBC.

43:27 DAVY CROCKETT, DANIEL BOONE.

43:29 YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE SINGLEHANDEDLY RESPONSIBLE

43:31 FOR THE AMERICAN CONFUSION OF THESE TWO GUYS.

43:37 TODAY, FESS PARKER OWNS A WINERY IN CALIFORNIA.

43:42- IT'S KIND OF FUN HERE AT THE WINERY.

43:44 PEOPLE COME IN AND YOU CAN TELL THE AGE

43:46BECAUSE THE PERSON COMES IN AND THEY TALK ABOUT DAVY CROCKETT.

43:50WELL, YOU KNOW, IF YOU LOOK AT THEM

43:52YOU CAN TELL WHETHER THEY WATCHED IT

43:53IN THE 20TH YEAR OF THE RERUN

43:56OR IF THEY SAW IT FROM, YOU KNOW, IN THE 1950s.

44:00- OH, AND ONE OTHER MATTER:

44:02CROCKETT'S DEATH AT THE ALAMO.

44:03IT SEEMS HE DIDN'T DIE FIGHTING AS LEGEND WOULD HAVE IT.

44:06AT THE END, HE SURRENDERED.

44:09- THERE'S EVEN EVIDENCE

44:10THAT HE WAS PERHAPS HIDING UNDER A BED WHEN HE WAS FOUND.

44:13IRREGARDLESS, HE CERTAINLY PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE.

44:16HE THEN WAS DISCOVERED LATER, TAKEN PRISONER,

44:20AND EXECUTED WITH A LARGE GROUP OF PRISONERS.

44:22[fast string music]

44:31- WHILE AMERICANS HAVE GENERALLY TRIED TO PRETTIFY

44:33THE STORY OF THE WEST

44:35LEAVING OUT A LOT OF THE UGLY DETAILS,

44:38THEY HAVE PRACTICALLY BOASTED OF ONE HUGE PROBLEM...

44:41[gunshots]

44:42VIOLENCE.

44:46IN TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA,

44:47SIGHT OF THE FAMOUS SHOOTOUT AT THE O.K. CORRAL,

44:49THEY'VE CAPITALIZED ON THE LEGEND OF VIOLENCE

44:52TO ATTRACT TOURISTS.

44:53BRAGGING THAT THEIRS IS A TOWN TOO TOUGH TO DIE.

44:56["Overture" from Rossini's "William Tell"]

45:00- \$2.14.

45:04- THEY REGULARLY REENACT THE GUNFIGHT AT THE O.K. CORRAL.

45:14- YOU MEN HAVE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT,

45:16AND NOW WE'RE GONNA GIVE YOU ONE.

45:17- NO, MR. WYATT, I DON'T WANT A FIGHT.

45:19[gunshots]

45:29- THEY HAVE EVEN FOUND HUMOR IN THE VIOLENCE.

45:31AT THE INFAMOUS BOOT HILL CEMETERY

45:33WHERE THE TOWN'S NOTORIOUS MURDERERS AND THIEVES

45:35ARE BURIED,

45:37THERE'S THE COMICAL TOMBSTONE OVER GEORGE JOHNSON'S GRAVE.

45:39POOR GEORGE JOHNSON.

45:41HE DOESN'T BELONG HERE.

45:42HE WAS HANGED BY MISTAKE.

45:45IT IS ONE OF OUR FIRM CONVICTIONS AS AMERICANS

45:47THAT THE WEST WAS A VIOLENT PLACE.

45:49ASK ANYBODY.

45:50- IT WAS AT ONE TIME EVIDENTLY LOOKIN' AT THIS CEMETERY HERE.

45:54- A LOT OF IT WAS JUST BLATANT MURDER.

45:56SHOOTIN' PEOPLE IN THE BACK.

45:58- I THINK THERE WAS A LOT OF VIOLENCE.

46:00- THE WEST WAS A VIOLENT PLACE. THAT'S A FACT.

46:03BUT THE IMPRESSION THAT SOMEBODY WAS BEING BLASTED

46:06INTO THE NEXT WORLD EVERY FIVE MINUTES OR SO

46:08IS A MYTH CREATED BY WESTERNERS THEMSELVES

46:11AND EXPLOITED BY HOLLYWOOD.

46:13[gunshots]

46:16HISTORIAN ROGER MCGRATH.

46:18- THE OLD WEST IN MANY WAYS WAS VERY HIGHLY CIVILIZED.

46:20THE CITIZENRY WAS HIGHLY ARMED

46:23AND THAT PREVENTED ANY KIND OF CRIMINAL CLASP

46:28FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PEACEFUL LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.

46:32- THE TRUTH IS, EXCLUDING DEATHS FROM THE INDIAN WARS,

46:35MORE PEOPLE HAVE DIED IN HOLLYWOOD WESTERNS

46:37THAN EVER DIED IN THE REAL WEST.

46:39- ANYBODY ELSE HANKERIN' FOR AN ARGUMENT?

46:42- MUCH AS WE'D LIKE TO,

46:43WE CAN'T BLAME OUR VIOLENCE TODAY ON THE OLD WEST.

46:46- WELL, I SEE ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION--

46:48LINEAR, CAUSAL, OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER--

46:51BETWEEN THE VIOLENCE THAT OCCURRED IN THE OLD WEST

46:53AND VIOLENCE IN AMERICA TODAY.

46:55VIOLENCE IN THE OLD WEST WAS ALMOST ALWAYS

46:57BETWEEN WILLING GUNMEN.

47:00TODAY IN AMERICA,

47:02VIOLENCE IS ALMOST ALWAYS DIRECTED AT THE INNOCENT.

47:05IN THE OLD WEST IF THAT EVER HAPPENED,

47:07IF AN INNOCENT WAS ATTACKED,

47:08THE REACTION OF THE GENERAL CITIZENRY WAS VIOLENT

47:13IN THE FORM OF VIGILANTISM.

47:14- IN THE MOST HOMICIDAL YEAR IN THE WILD WEST HISTORY

47:17OF DODGE CITY FOR INSTANCE,

47:19NINE PEOPLE DIED, BUT THAT WAS THE FIRST YEAR.

47:22THE WORST YEAR AFTER THAT, JUST FIVE DIED.

47:24IN DEADWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA, JUST FOUR DIED.

47:27AND IN TOMBSTONE, ONLY FIVE.

47:30- WELL, YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER, THEY HAD VERY SMALL POPULATIONS.

47:33SO ACTUALLY THAT'S A PRETTY LARGE PROPORTIONAL POPULATION

47:35THAT WAS SHOT TO DEATH IN GUNFIGHTS.

47:37THERE'S A NUMBER OF OTHER MEN THAT WERE WOUNDED IN GUNFIGHTS,

47:41AND THERE WERE A NUMBER OF GUNFIGHTS WHERE NOBODY WAS HIT.

47:44SO ACTUALLY GUNFIGHTS WERE QUITE COMMON.

47:47HOWEVER, THEY WERE ONLY COMMON AMONG

47:50USUALLY YOUNG, SINGLE, ADVENTUROUS,

47:52AND INTOXICATED MEN.

47:53[clock ticking]

48:08- OF ALL THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON THE FRONTIER,

48:11HOLLYWOOD'S MADE THE MOST OF THE SHOOTOUT AT HIGH NOON.

48:13WHEN THE GOOD GUY AND THE BAD GUY SQUARE OFF

48:16IN A DEADLY DUEL THAT USUALLY ENDS IN THE TRIUMPH OF THE STAR

48:19OVER THE SUPPORTING ACTOR.

48:21[gunshots]

48:31GREAT STUFF, ONLY IT APPARENTLY NEVER HAPPENED.

48:34NOT EVEN WYATT EARP EVER ENGAGED IN A CLASSIC SHOOTOUT.

48:38IN FACT, HE'D HAVE BEEN CRAZY TO.

48:40IN THE CLASSIC SHOOTOUT,

48:41THE BAD GUY IS GIVEN A FAIR CHANCE.

48:45- DID WYATT EARP CALL THEM OUT INTO THE STREET

48:48WHERE THEY COULD HAVE A FAIR FIGHT?

48:49FORGET ABOUT IT.

48:50HE WOULD COME UP BEHIND THEM

48:51AND HIT THEM OVER THE HEAD WITH HIS COLT.

48:54HE'D CLUB THEM.

48:55HE CALLED IT "BUFFALOING THE COWBOYS."

48:58YOU KNOW, HE WOULD KNOCK THEM OUT AND DRAG THEM INTO JAIL.

49:00IF HE COULD AVOID A CONFRONTATION,

49:02THAT'S WHAT HE WOULD DO.

49:04- MILLER!

49:05[gunshots]

49:10- WHY DO MOVIEMAKERS INSIST ON STAGING THE SHOOTOUT

49:13OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN?

49:15WELL, BECAUSE AUDIENCES LOVE IT.

49:17AND WHEN THEY SEE A WESTERN, THEY EXPECT IT.

49:19THE MOVIEMAKERS COMPLY.

49:21THAT BOTHERS LOTS OF FOLKS, BUT NOT MARK CARNES.

49:24A FILM HISTORIAN,

49:25CARNES REGULARLY REVIEWS THE ACCURACY OF HISTORICAL DRAMAS.

49:29- WELL, THE QUESTION GOES TO WHY DO THEY MAKE MOVIES?

49:32WHY DO THEY MAKE MOVIES ABOUT THE PAST?

49:34AND A NEW ONE SEEMS TO COME OUT EVERY WEEK OR TWO.

49:38IS IT BECAUSE THEY LOVE THE PAST?

49:41IS IT BECAUSE THEY HAVE AN EDUCATIONAL SENSE OF MISSION

49:45THAT THEY THINK IT'S NECESSARY TO INFORM US OF OUR PAST?

49:48NOT AT ALL.

49:50MOVIEMAKERS MAKE MOVIES ABOUT THE PAST

49:52FOR THE SAME REASON THEY MAKE MOVIES ABOUT

49:53JUST ABOUT ANY SUBJECT.

49:54THERE'S MONEY TO BE MADE.

50:00- BUT HOW IN THE WORLD

50:01DID THE MOVIEMAKERS EVER GET THE IDEA

50:03THAT PEOPLE DIED IN SHOOTOUTS AT HIGH NOON?

50:05THEY READ IT IN A BOOK, THAT'S HOW.

50:07OWEN WISTER'S "THE VIRGINIAN"

50:09WRITTEN AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

50:11UNTIL WISTER'S BOOK CAME ALONG,

50:13NOBODY ASSOCIATED THE HIGH NOON SHOOTOUT WITH THE OLD WEST.

50:17THE MYTH OF THE WESTERN SHOOTOUT WAS SO ATTRACTIVE

50:19IT EVEN FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS.

50:21WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED

50:23IS THAT THE MOVIEMAKERS BORROWED THE IDEA FROM WISTER,

50:25AND THEN THE HISTORIANS BORROWED IT FROM THE MOVIEMAKERS.

50:30- THERE'S VERY LITTLE EVIDENCE AT ALL

50:32THAT THE KIND OF CLASSIC SHOOTOUT

50:34THAT WISTER IMAGINED EVER TOOK PLACE,

50:36EXCEPT ONSTAGE AND BEFORE CAMERAS.

50:40[gunshots]

50:47- WYATT EARP IS THE FAMOUS MARSHAL

50:49WHO CLEANED UP TOMBSTONE,
50:51THE MOST FAMOUS MARSHAL IN AMERICAN HISTORY.
50:53ONLY, AS HE WASN'T REALLY THE HERO-TYPE,
50:55HIS STORY HAD TO BE INFLATED BY HOLLYWOOD TO DRAW IN AUDIENCES.
50:59THE VERY FIRST THING YOU HAVE TO GET OVER IS THE BELIEF
51:01THAT HE WAS ANYTHING LIKE
51:03THE APPEALING STRONG AND SILENT LEADING MEN
51:05WHO HAVE PLAYED HIM.
51:06BURT LANCASTER, JAMES GARNER, HENRY FONDA.
51:09- HOWDY. - GOOD EVENING.
51:12- I'M... - WYATT EARP, I KNOW.
51:15I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, AND YOUR REASON FOR BEING HERE.
51:19- HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU TOO, DOC.
51:22YOU LEFT YOUR MARK AROUND IN DEADWOOD, DENVER AND PLACES.
51:28IN FACT, A MAN COULD ALMOST FOLLOW YOUR TRAIL
51:30GOIN' FROM GRAVEYARD TO GRAVEYARD.
51:34- THE HIGH POINT IN EARP'S LIFE IS OF COURSE,
51:36THE SHOOTOUT AT THE O.K. CORRAL,
51:37IN WHICH THE EARP BROTHERS TRIUMPH OVER THE CLANTONS.
51:41THE MOVIES WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE THIS WAS A FIGHT
51:43BETWEEN GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS.
51:45BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY A FEUD

51:47BETWEEN TWO FAMILIES WITH SHADY PASTS
51:49WHO WERE IN CONFLICT BECAUSE OF POLITICS.
51:52THE EARPS REPRESENTED REPUBLICAN BUSINESSMEN FROM THE NORTH.
51:55THE CLANTONS--DEMOCRAT COWBOYS AND RANCHERS FROM THE SOUTH.
52:00- NO, WE NEVER HEAR ABOUT THIS PART.
52:01THIS IS WHAT THE HISTORIAN RICHARD BROWN CALLS
52:05PART OF THE WESTERN WARS OF INCORPORATION.
52:08[horse whinnying]
52:11- WHAT TURNED THE FIGHT NASTY IN TOMBSTONE IS
52:13THAT EARP DECIDED TO RUN FOR SHERIFF
52:15AGAINST THE CLANTONS' HANDPICKED CANDIDATE
52:17AND THEN TRIED TO STEAL THE MAN'S GIRLFRIEND.
52:19WELL, EARP LOST THE ELECTION, BUT HE WON THE GIRL
52:22AND A PLACE IN MOVIE WESTERN HISTORY.
52:29HOW'D THE MOVIES MANAGE TO GET THE IDEA
52:31THAT EARP WAS A GOOD GUY
52:32WHO TRIUMPHED OVER EVIL AT THE O.K. CORRAL
52:34AND PRACTICALLY CONQUERED THE WEST SINGLEHANDEDLY?
52:37WELL, ONCE AGAIN, THEY READ IT IN A BOOK.
52:40THIS BOOK: STUART LAKE'S BIOGRAPHY OF WYATT EARP.
52:43EARP OWES HIS FAME ENTIRELY TO THIS BOOK.
52:47UNTIL IT CAME OUT IN 1931 A FEW YEARS AFTER HE DIED,

52:51HARDLY ANYBODY REMEMBERED HIM.

52:53BUT THE BOOK WAS A COMPLETE FABRICATION.

52:57- HIS BOOK "FRONTIER MARSHAL" WAS BASED ON

52:59HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF INTERVIEWS WITH WYATT EARP.

53:02LAKE LATER CONFESSED IN A LETTER THAT HE HAD MADE IT ALL UP.

53:06- IN THE MOVIES,

53:07EARP AT THE END RIDES OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.

53:10IN REAL LIFE, HE RETIRED TO LOS ANGELES

53:14WHERE HE HUNG OUT AT THE STUDIOS

53:15WATCHING THEM MAKE COWBOY PICTURES.

53:18THE MOVIEMAKERS KNEW FROM THESE PERSONAL CONTACTS

53:21THAT EARP REALLY WASN'T MUCH OF A HERO,

53:23BUT THAT DIDN'T MATTER.

53:25THEY KNEW HOW TO MAKE HIM ONE.

53:30WELL, THAT'S OUR SHOW.

53:32DISTURBING? SURE.

53:34WE GET MOST OF WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE WEST FROM THE MOVIES,

53:37AND THE MOVIES ARE WRONG.

53:38HISTORIANS LIKE TO SAY THE MOVIEMAKERS

53:40SHOULD TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT HISTORY.

53:42BUT THEY DON'T AND THEY WON'T,

53:44AND WE JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO THAT.

53:45THAT'S NO MYTH.