

Objectives

- Explain the development of the New South.
- Understand the impact on Native Americans as settlers moved to the West.
- Identify who moved to the West and their reasons for doing so.



Terms and People

- **sharecropping** – system in which a farmer tended a portion of a planter's land in return for a share of the crop
- **Dawes Act** – 1887 law that divided Indian reservations into privately owned plots of land
- **assimilate** – to be absorbed into the main culture of a society
- **open range** – vast area of grassland on which livestock roamed and grazed



What were the most important developments in the South and the West?

During the late 1800s, life changed dramatically in both the South and the West.

As southerners struggled with a lagging economy, westward migration led to a boom in mining, farming, and ranching.

After Reconstruction ended, southerners hoped to build a “New South.”

Business leaders worked to diversify the economy and support manufacturing.

- Textile, lumber, and steel industries emerged.
- Railroad construction boomed.

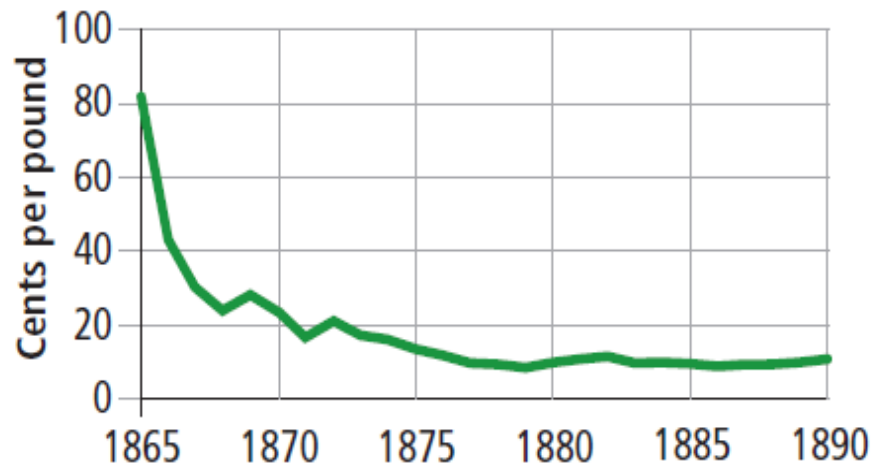


Despite such progress, however, problems persisted.

- The **southern economy** grew more **slowly** than economies in the North and Midwest.
- A **shortage of capital** led to dependence on northern bankers.
- **High illiteracy rates** and **discrimination** weighed down the region.

For many southern farmers, it was a struggle to survive.

Wholesale Price of Cotton, 1865–1890



SOURCE: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

- The **price of cotton**—their main crop—plummeted after the war.
- **Boll weevils** wiped out entire crops.

The **sharecropping** system added to the hardships as many farmers fell into a **cycle of poverty**.

Sharecropping Cycle of Poverty





Life was especially hard for African Americans, who suffered bitter setbacks.

- Newfound political and civil rights were stripped away.
- Groups like the **Ku Klux Klan** terrorized African Americans.

In the West, meanwhile, the threat to Native Americans grew even more urgent.



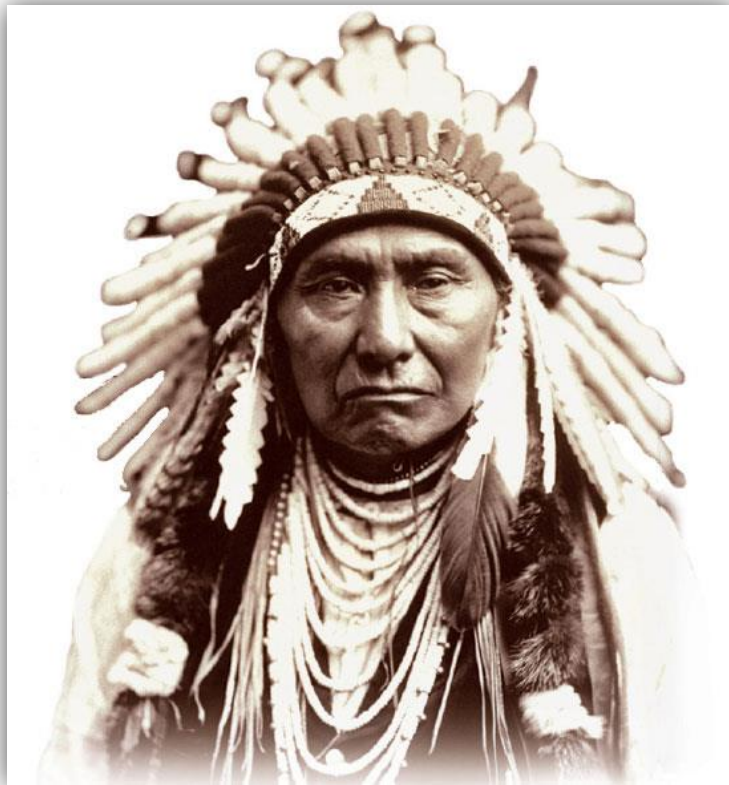
- **Settlers** continued to push Native Americans from their lands.
- The **buffalo** were being hunted nearly to extinction.
- The government was forcing Native Americans to move onto **reservations**.

Some Native Americans fought to defend their lands.



- The Sioux were victorious at **Little Bighorn 1876**.
- **Chief Joseph** and the Nez Percé were defeated after attempting to retreat to Canada, 1877.

Indian resistance was eventually crushed, and Native Americans were moved onto reservations.



Chief Joseph

The **Dawes Act (1887)** gave the government the authority to divide reservations into privately owned plots and urged Native Americans to **assimilate.**

In time, however, many **lost their land** and fell into **poverty.**

Some Indians looked to the ancient ritual of the Ghost Dance to help regain their spirit.

Fearful of insurrection, authorities **banned Ghost Dances.**

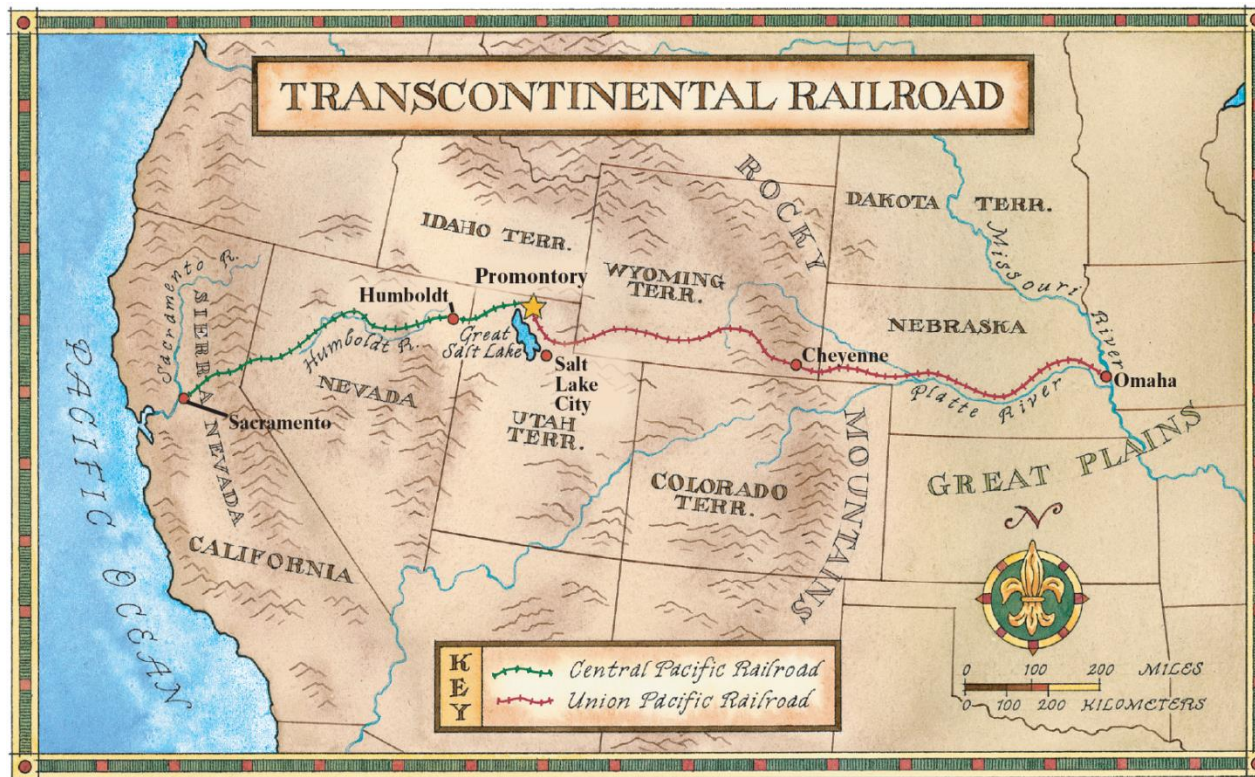
In 1890, tragedy struck when officials tried to stop a Ghost Dance.

Soldiers killed 250 Native Americans, mostly women and children, at **Wounded Knee 1890.**

As Native Americans were being forced onto reservations, millions of settlers continued to move west.

- Among the first were prospectors, attracted by **discoveries of gold and silver** in the mid-1800s.
- Mining towns boomed—until the gold and silver ran out.

The transcontinental railroad helped open the West to long-term development.



Railroads were soon carrying people and products across the country.

Frontier farmers realized their dream of owning their own land, but many found life on the Great Plains to be lonely and difficult.



There were few trees, little rainfall, and plagues of grasshoppers.

Homes were built of sod and heated by burning dried buffalo dung.

With no wood, barbed wire was used for fencing.

Other settlers turning to ranching.

- At the end of the Civil War, some 5 million head of cattle roamed freely in Texas.
- Ranchers began rounding up the cattle as the demand for beef grew.
- Ranchers hired cowboys to herd the cattle north to railroad lines.



The long **cattle drives** ran along well-worn trails ending at railroad depots.

From there, the cattle was shipped east.

In time, ranchers began to raise steer on the **open range, closer to the railroad lines.**

A series of **terrible winters** ended open-range ranching.

No longer able to rely on open grazing lands, ranchers began to **fence their land** and **raise feed** for their herds.



Fin

South & West Transformed

The South

New South

Economy

Manufacturing

Textile

Lumber

Steel

Railroad

Slower economy than north

Shortage of capital

Illiteracy

Discrimination

Struggle to survive

Cotton \$ down

Weevils wipe crops

Sharecropping

Cycle of poverty

African Americans

Civil rights stripped

KKK

The West

Native Americans

Settlers took land

Buffalo hunted

Defended land

Sioux

Little Bighorn

Nez Percé

Fight No More

Forced onto reservations

Dawes Act

Assimilate

Ghost Dances

Wounded Knee 1890

Settlers

Gold & silver

Transcontinental railroad

Great Plains farming hard

Ranching in Texas

Cattle roamed

Beef demand up

Cattle drives

Cowboys

Cattle to railroads

Ship to cities