

THE CHANGING WEST

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The end of Indian resistance to white incursions and the economic development of the frontier brought the West into the political and social mainstream of the country. So doing, they also contributed an enduring saga of the range cattle business and cowboy to American folklore.

GOING HISTORY ONLINE

Westward Expansion

Examine the photos of western settlement in Documents 10, 11, and 12. What do they suggest about the process of moving west?



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The defeat of Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in June 1876 was one of the final flurries of combat on the Great Plains, although some sporadic resistance continued. During 1877, the Nez Perce tribe in Oregon, led by Chief Joseph, resisted attempts to move them to a reservation. Through four months of running battles, Joseph led his band of 650 people toward Canada, but they were beaten before they could reach safety. "From where the sun now stands," said Joseph, "I will fight no more forever." The Nez Percés were sent to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma, where disease reduced

their numbers before they were returned to reservations in the Northwest.

Another famous example of Native American resistance was Geronimo, the Apache chief in New Mexico. With a small band of followers, he left the Arizona reservation where he had been living in 1881 and raided across the Southwest for two years. After brief periods of surrender he resumed his military forays. Finally, in September 1886, confronted with the power of the army, he was persuaded to surrender once again and was exiled to Florida.

As Native American resistance ebbed, the national government shaped policy for the western tribes. Many white westerners believed that the "Indian question" could be solved only when the tribes were gone. Easterners contended that Native Americans should be assimilated into white society. Organizations such as the Indian Rights Association lobbied for these policies, and a book by Helen Hunt Jackson, *A Century of Dishonor* (1881), publicized the plight of the Native Americans. Although the eastern policies were more benevolent than the westerners' destructive motives toward the Indians, their combined efforts devastated Indian culture.

Congress passed the Dawes Severalty Act in 1887. Named after Senator Henry L. Dawes of Massachusetts, the law authorized the president to survey Native American reservations and divide them into 160-acre farms. After receiving their allotment, Native Americans could not lease or sell the land for twenty-five years. Any Indian who adopted "habits of civilized life" became a U.S. citizen, but most Indians did not achieve citizenship. Any surplus land after this process was finished could be sold to white settlers. For the reformers, this law pushed Native Americans toward white civilization; for the western settlers, it made Indian land available. During the next fifty years, the total land holdings of Native Americans declined from 138 million to 47 million acres. By dividing up tribal land holdings and putting Indians at the mercy of white speculators, the Dawes Act undermined the tribal structure and culture of Native Americans and simultaneously helped allow whites to start mining and cattle ranching.

THE NEW URBAN SOCIETY

After Grover Cleveland stressed tariffs in the 1888 election, the united Republicans rallied behind their candidate, **Benjamin Harrison**, and the doctrine of tariff protection for American industries. Cleveland won the popular vote, but Harrison won the electoral tally. The Republicans also controlled both houses of Congress. With this hold on the government, the Republicans pushed an ambitious agenda of legislation. The stalemated system that had existed since the end of Reconstruction was breaking down.

During 1889 two events reflected the contrasting directions of the United States. Since the 1820s, the Five Civilized Tribes of Native Americans had lived in what is now Oklahoma. By the 1880s, however, pressure from white settlers proved irresistible in Congress. The Dawes Severalty Act of 1887 completed the process of stripping Indians of their rights. President Harrison announced that unoccupied land could be settled beginning April 22, 1889. One hundred thousand people rushed in. Within a few hours, the

CHAPTER TIMELINE

1888	Edward Bellamy publishes <i>Looking Backward</i> • Benjamin Harrison elected president over Grover Cleveland
1889	Oklahoma Territory becomes available for settlement by non-Native Americans • National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union is organized • Jane Addams establishes Hull House in Chicago • Pan-American Congress held • First electric sewing machine marketed
1890	Congress enacts Sherman Silver Purchase Act, McKinley Tariff, and Sherman Antitrust Act • Mississippi constitutional convention establishes strict segregation laws • William Dean Howells publishes <i>A Hazard of New Fortunes</i> , a novel about the Haymarket Affair in 1886 • Republicans suffer large losses in congressional elections; Farmers' Alliance makes strong showing • National American Woman Suffrage Association set up • Battle of Wounded Knee • Daughters of the American Revolution founded • Poems by Emily Dickinson published
1891	Queen Liliuokalani comes to power in Hawaii
1892	People's party founded • Homestead strike occurs • Ida Wells-Barnett begins campaigns against lynching • Grover Cleveland defeats Benjamin Harrison in presidential election • Ellis Island opens in New York to receive immigrants
1893	Hawaiian Revolution occurs • Grover Cleveland inaugurated for second term • Mildred Hill publishes song that becomes "Happy Birthday to You" • Columbian Exposition in Chicago

"Sooners," who entered the territory early, and the "Boomers" (a general name for eager settlers) had created towns and staked out farms. The Native Americans had to make do with land that whites did not occupy.

A few months later, in August 1889, **Jane Addams** and **Ellen Gates Starr** founded **Hull House**, a settlement home in a Chicago neighborhood. They sought solutions to poverty, disease, and political corruption in their new residence. Hull House and Addams became famous. Her experiment reflected the view that the concentration of population in cities was "the most remarkable social phenomenon" of the nineteenth century. Jane Addams and like-minded Americans wanted to make the new cities work.

Chicago symbolized urban America since the Civil War. In 1860, Chicago had been the nation's ninth-largest city, with a population of just under 109,000. Thirty years later, Chicago held second place, with 1.1 million people. The major east-west railroads ran through the city. To the stockyards came beef cattle from the West, to its elevators grain from the prairie, and to its lumberyards wood from the forests of Wisconsin and Minnesota. After the great fire of 1871 that consumed the bulk of the city's buildings, Chicago had built the skyscrapers that gave it a distinct skyline and