

## **SECTION 1: CH. 13**

### **THE WEST**

#### **What Was “The West”**

- \* As the nation grew, the lands that made up “the West” changed.
- \* When the United States first became a nation, the West meant the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. By the 1820s, this land was almost completely settled.
- \* The West moved again, to the lands beyond the Mississippi.
- \* The vast Great Plains lay between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains. But this land was overlooked by settlers, who believed it could never be farmed because it would be too hard to clear the thickly rooted grasses that covered it.
- \* Settlers looked past the Great Plains to the Northwest and Southwest.
- \* The Northwest had fertile lands stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. This region was claimed by the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and Spain.
- \* The Southwest included present-day California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and half of Colorado. Ruled first by Spain, then by Mexico, this vast area was home to a culture that was very different from the one that existed in the United States.

#### **Mexican Settlements**

- \* Like England and France, Spain followed a policy of mercantilism in its colonies.
- \* It was illegal for settlers in New Spain to trade with other countries.
- \* Over time, many Spanish settlers had children. These children were called creoles. In addition, Spanish settlers, Native Americans, and Africans would sometimes intermarry, and the children of these couples were called mestizos.
- \* By the 1800s, the combination of these ethnic groups had produced a Southwestern culture that was very different from the cultures that had previously existed in this part of the world.
- \* Spanish missionaries tried to convert the local Native Americans to Catholicism. Many Native Americans were forced to live and work at missions. In the end, thousands of Native Americans died from overwork or disease.
- \* Over the years, Spanish settlers mixed with Native Americans to create a blended culture.
- \* The region followed Spanish law and religion and used the Spanish language.
- \* Its foods and building materials were Native American.
- \* In 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain.
- \* The Mexican government opened up the region to trade with foreign countries, including the United States. It also removed the missions from church control and gave their lands in large

**landgrants**, or government gifts of land, to Mexican settlers. Many of these grants were made to **rancheros**, or owners of ranches. Much of this land belonged to Native Americans, who responded by raiding ranches. However, they were soon crushed, and their population in the Southwest was drastically reduced.

## **Manifest Destiny**

- \* Many Americans were interested in westward **expansion**, or extending the nation beyond its existing borders.
- \* Under Jefferson, the Louisiana Purchase had doubled the size of the nation.
- \* But just forty years later, Americans were looking even farther west.
- \* A newspaper editor coined the phrase “manifest destiny” in 1845. The phrase described the belief that the United States was destined, or meant, to stretch from coast to coast.

## **Key Checkpoint Questions from Notes**

- \* List three areas that made up the West after the 1820s.
- \* Name two changes that Mexico made when it took control of the Southwest.
- \* Name the term that described the idea that the United States should stretch from coast to coast.

## SECTION 2: CH. 13

### TRAILS TO THE WEST

#### Traders Lead the Way

- \*Trade drove the first western crossings.
- \*Traders were looking for new markets in which to sell goods. In the process, they blazed important trails for those who followed. After Mexico won independence, it allowed trade with the United States.
- \*In 1821, Captain **William Becknell** led a wagon train filled with merchandise from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was a difficult journey, but the group succeeded. The Santa Fe Trail soon became a busy international trade route.
- \***John Jacob Astor**, a German fur merchant, sent the first American fur-trading expedition to Oregon.
- \*On the way, one group in the expedition found the South Pass through the Rocky Mountains. This important trade route helped open up the Northwest. **Mountain men**, or fur trappers, supplied Astor with furs. For most of the year, they lived isolated lives, but once a year they gathered for a **rendezvous** (RAHN day voo), or a meeting where they would trade furs for supplies.
- \*Beaver fur was in great demand in the East. However, by the 1830s, the supply of beavers was nearly exhausted. Most of the trappers moved back east to become farmers, merchants, or even bankers. Others stayed as guides for the thousands of settlers who came west.

#### The Oregon Trail

- \*The first white easterners to build permanent homes in Oregon were missionaries, who began to travel west in the 1830s to bring their religion to the Indians. The missionaries' glowing reports of Oregon led more easterners to make the journey west.
- \*Farmers sought the free and fertile land, the mild climate, and the plentiful rainfall in river valleys.
- \*Most settlers followed the Oregon Trail, a route that stretched over 2,000 miles from Missouri to Oregon. Travelers left in the spring and had five months to make their journey. If they were caught in the Rocky Mountains during the winter, their chances of survival were slim.
- \*Pioneers on the Oregon Trail banded together in wagon trains for mutual protection. The wagons carried their goods, while most people walked the thousands of miles of trail. The trip was dangerous. Disease and accidents killed one out of every ten travelers. Clean, safe water was hard to find. Still, over 50,000 people reached Oregon between 1840 and 1860.

#### Life in the West

- \*Settlers in the West had few possessions and little money.
- \*They worked hard to clear land, plant crops, and build shelters.

- \*Disease, accidents, and natural disasters were a constant threat.
- \*Because western families relied on women's labor to survive, women had a higher status in the West.
- \*In 1869, Wyoming Territory became the first area of the United States to grant women the vote.
- \*Native Americans in Oregon lived in an uneasy peace with the white settlers.
- \*Native Americans in southern Oregon usually got along with whites.
- \*However, in the north, Native Americans were angered by the presence of strangers on their land.
- \*When gold was discovered in northern Oregon in the 1850s, a large number of white and Chinese miners arrived in the area.
- \*In 1855, war broke out briefly between the Native Americans and miners. After the U.S. government intervened, the tribes were forced to accept peace treaties.

### **Key Checkpoint Questions from Notes**

- \*List three people or groups who developed trade in the West.
- \*List two groups of people who went to Oregon.
- \*List three dangers that settlers in Oregon faced.

## SECTION 3: CH. 13

### CONFLICT WITH MEXICO

#### Texas Wins Independence

- \*In 1820, the Spanish gave Moses Austin a land grant to establish a small colony in Texas. After Moses Austin died, his son, **Stephen Austin**, led a group of some 300 settlers there.
- \*Then Mexico won its independence from Spain.
- \*Texans did not like the Mexican government. They wanted a democratic government that would ensure fair representation.
- \*In 1833, General Antonio López de Santa Anna became president of Mexico. He started a **dictatorship**, or one person rule, that clamped down on Texas.
- \*Stephen Austin led Texans to declare independence from Mexico. The Republic of Texas was created in 1836.
- \***Sam Houston**, commander of Texan forces, finally defeated Santa Anna. Houston became president of the Republic of Texas. Texans hoped the U.S. would **annex**, or add on, their republic to the Union.

#### Annexing Texas and Oregon

- \*Adding Texas became a political issue because Texas would come in as a slave state.
- \*How could the balance of slave and free states be maintained?
- \*President **James K. Polk** solved this problem by persuading Britain to give up Oregon.
- \*In 1845, Texas was admitted as a slave state.
- \*Oregon came in as a free territory.
- \*But Mexico had never recognized Texas independence.
- \*Now Mexico claimed that the southern border of Texas was the Nueces River, not the Rio Grande.
- \*Polk pressured Mexico to accept the Rio Grande border.

#### The Mexican-American War

- \*Mexico would not accept the Rio Grande border. It also refused to **cede**, or give up, California and New Mexico.
- \*So Polk sent General Zachary Taylor to the Rio Grande.
- \*Mexico saw this as an act of war and attacked.
- \*Polk then urged Congress to declare war.
- \*He sent Stephen Kearny to capture Santa Fe.
- \***John C. Frémont**, an explorer, led a rebellion against Mexican rule in California.

- \*General Taylor invaded Mexico and defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena Vista.
- \*General Winfield Scott marched to Mexico City. Santa Anna fled, and Mexico was under U.S. occupation.

## **Achieving Manifest Destiny**

- \*The United States and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848.
- \*Mexico recognized Texas as a U.S. state.
- \*The Mexican Cession gave the Southwest to the U.S. for \$18 million. This included California, Nevada, Utah, parts of Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico.
- \*In the 1853 Gadsden Purchase, the United States bought a narrow strip of present-day Arizona and New Mexico from Mexico for \$10 million.
- \*The United States had fulfilled what it saw as its destiny to occupy the West.

## **Key Checkpoint Questions from Notes**

- \*Name the three men who played major roles in the war over Texas.
- \*List the two rivers that were claimed as Texas's southern border.
- \*Name four Americans who led the United States in the Mexican-American War.
- \*List the two things that gave the United States the entire Southwest.

## SECTION 4: CH. 13

### A RUSH TO THE WEST

#### Mormons Settle Utah

- \*In 1830, **Joseph Smith**, a New York farmer, founded a new church: the Mormon Church. Although the church grew quickly, its teachings angered others. For example, Smith favored **polygamy**, or the practice of having more than one wife at a time.
- \*Hostile communities forced the Mormons to move from New York.
- \*In Illinois, Joseph Smith was murdered.
- \*In 1847, **Brigham Young**, the new Mormon leader, led the group to the valley of the Great Salt Lake in Utah.
- \*Utah became a territory of the United States in 1848.
- \*The Mormons immediately came into conflict with the U.S. government over three issues. The first was over the election process. It was controlled by the church, which gave non-Mormons no say. Another was that the church supported Mormon-owned businesses. So, non-Mormons had difficulty doing business in the territory. Third, polygamy was illegal in the rest of the country.
- \*In time, Congress passed a law that took control of elections away from the Mormon Church.
- \*Church leaders agreed to ban polygamy and to stop favoring Mormon-owned businesses.

#### The California Gold Rush

- \*At the time of the Mexican Cession, there were about 10,000 Californios, or Mexican Californians, living in California. Some easterners began migrating to the territory.
- \*Then a flood of settlers came when gold was discovered in 1848 near Sacramento. The prospect of finding gold attracted about 80,000 fortune seekers. These people who came to California in search of gold were known as the “**fortyniners.**”
- \*In two years, the population of settlers in California zoomed from 14,000 to 100,000.
- \*Since much of California was desert, disputes over water rights were common. **Water rights** are the legal rights to use the water in a river, stream, or other body. Often such disputes erupted in violence.
- \*Mining towns sprang up overnight.
- \*Since California was not yet a state, federal law did not apply within mining towns. Often **vigilantes**, or self-appointed law enforcers, punished people for crimes. But they had no legal right to do so.
- \*Other migrations in U.S. history included men and women, young and old.
- \*The forty-niners, however, were mainly young men. Few forty niners struck it rich.

- \*After the gold rush, many people continued to search for gold throughout the West. Others settled in the West for good.

## **California's Changing Population**

- \*The gold rush brought enormous ethnic diversity to California.
- \*People came from Europe, Asia, Australia, and South America.
- \*After news of the gold rush reached China, about 45,000 Chinese men went to California.
- \*Although some southerners brought slaves with them, slavery did not take root in California.
- \*Other miners objected to anyone profiting from mining who did not participate in the hard labor of finding gold.
- \*The gold rush brought tragedy for Native Americans in California.
- \*Miners swarmed onto Indian lands, and vigilante gangs killed many Indians. About 100,000 Indians died during the gold rush. This was nearly two thirds of the Native American population in California.
- \*By 1850, only 15 percent of Californians were Mexican. Many Mexicans lost their land to the new settlers.

## **Key Checkpoint Questions from Notes**

- \*List three issues that were a source of conflict between the Mormons and the U.S. government.
- \*Name one way the gold rush was different from other migrations in U.S. history.
- \*Describe one reason why slavery did not take root in California.