AP US History
Chapter 16 - The Conquest of the Far West
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Key Concepts

What are this chapter's key concepts?

- **5.1.II.C** - U.S. government restricted culture/independence of Mexicans/natives by encroaching on territories

- **6.1.I.A** - Government support of transportation → emergence of new markets post-Civil War

- **6.1.III.A** - Mechanization → ↑ food production, ↓ prices

- **6.2.II.A** - Transcontinental railroads, minerals, govt. policies → growth of new commercial regions

- **6.2.II.B** - Migrants went to both rural/commercial west for new opportunities in railroad construction/farming/ranching/mining

- **6.2.II.C** - ↑ migrant populations → ↓ bison population → growing competition for resources → conflict w/ natives/Mexicans

- **6.2.II.D** - U.S. govt. continually broke treaties w/ natives → lost independence through confinement to reservations

The Societies of the Far West

How did Western societies develop and change over time?

Indigenous populations in the west were composed mainly of Pueblo natives, based around small commerce-based towns, and Plains natives, a diverse group generally hunting buffaloes for subsistence. The Hispanic populations in New Mexico, California, and Texas, were oppressed and forced into subordinacy by migrating Anglo-Americans. Several Chinese migrants arrived for the fleeting gold rush, quickly transitioning from prospecting to railroad construction to urban life, where anti-Chinese sentiments due to economic and cultural fear culminated in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, banning Chinese migration. Several Americans, many immigrants from Europe, migrated westward in the late 19th century, forming new political structures.

- Largest pop. in west were natives, some resettled but some indigenous

- Pueblo societies mainly agricultural, permanent settlements even before Spanish

  - Corn, adobe houses, irrigation, trade
  - Allied w/ Spanish against other tribes of region
  - Formed complex social system w/ Spanish on top, Pueblos relatively free, captured members of other tribes and those who had escaped tribes (*genizaros*) at bottom

- Plains Indians most widespread group

  - Known for diverse traits w/ some alliances; others conflicted, some sedentary; others nomadic
  - Shared extended family networks, connection w/ nature, tribal divisions into smaller "bands" w/ council
    * Tasks by gender w/ women domestic roles, some work in gardens; men hunters, trade, religious/mil. leaders
    * Religion typically spiritual based around rhythms
  - Economic basis of society: buffalo hunting for flesh (food), skin (clothes), manure (fuel), bones (knives)
    * Hunted w/ small/powerful horses (from Spain), following stock and constructing teepees along way
    * Never disrupted landscape
  - Powerful warriors w/ majority of males warrior class, competition; **Sioux** most powerful
    * Posed greatest threat to white settlers but lost due to disunity, internal conflict
    * Sioux, Arapaho, Cheyenne temporarily posed threat w/ alliance but lost due to disease, limited industry

The natives were the largest population in the west, with the Pueblo people known for a strict racial hierarchy and the Plains natives dividing tasks by gender and known for a spiritual religion based around the natural rhythms. Their economy was based around buffalo hunyinh, with several parts of the buffalo critical for success; furthermore, nearly all the men made up a warrior class, posing a great threat to whites but ultimately failing due to disunity, internal conflict, and disease.

What was the state of the western tribes before the arrival of the western migrants?

- Land acquired by U.S. not most populous in Mexico but still many Mexicans stayed behind
    - Spanish-speaking communities transformed by Anglo-American migrants w/ expansion of capitalist econ.; brought wealth to some but ruined society for others
    - New Mexico had farming/trading communities established by Spanish, eventually consisting of Pueblos, American traders, Mexican peasants
- Stephen Kearny established govt. after conquering NM excluding Mexicans, natives despite being large majority
    - Taos natives rebelled in 1847, killing governor but eventually being subdued by U.S. Army w/ mil. govt.
    - Territorial govt. reestablished in 1850, known as "territorial ring" by 1870s w/ businessppl. taking over and focusing on profitability thru. expansion
- Hispanic societies remained sizable
    - Largest growth after U.S. finally defeated Navajo/Apache tribes who had been terrorizing NM inhabitants (mostly peasants/tradesppl. looking for commerce)
    - Survived amidst Anglo-Americans due to distance from U.S. English-speaking centers but also willingness to fight for control (*ex*: Mexican peasants in modern NV prevented cattle ranchers)
    - Generally grew in subordinacy over time w/ Anglo-Americans arriving by railroad restricting to lowest-paid jobs

The Hispanic population of New Mexico remained sizable even after the U.S. took over the region from Mexico, but their small farming communities were quickly transformed by the arrival of Anglo-Americans, with a territorial government barring natives and Mexicans. Although Hispanic society continued to grow, most were restricted to subordinate positions.

How was the Hispanic population of New Mexico transformed by the arrival of Anglo-Americans?

How was the Hispanic population of California transformed by the arrival of Anglo-Americans?

- Spanish settlement in California began in 18th c. w/ Christian missions along coast, pulling surrounding natives into communities as a labor source and for conversion
    - Workers received few profits from their herding of animals, brickmaking, farming, etc.
- Mexicans restricted power of church in 1830s → mission society collapsed w/ emergence of aristocracy and large estates; soon transformed by Anglo-Americans
    - Hispanic *californios* harmed by arrival of Anglo-Americans, forcibly excluded and losing their land thru. corrupt deals
    - Southern California saw large market for cattle raised by *rancheros*, culture soon collapsed due to drought/debt/recklessness
        * Became lower class workers clustering in cities; farmers who remained became dominated by ranchers

The Spanish settlement of California began as a missionary community based around the enslavement and conversion of natives; however, the secular push from Mexicans soon transformed society into a short-lived aristocracy later dominated by Anglo-Americans, excluding Mexicans and encroaching on their land and eventually relegating them to a state of abject poverty.

How was the Hispanic population of Texas transformed by the arrival of Anglo-Americans?

- Texas saw even most dominant ranchers unable to compete with Anglo-American counterparts, also losing their land through fraud/coercion
    - Most became unskilled farmers/industrial laborers
- 1859: Anger culminated in raid on Brownsville led by Juan Cortina, freeing Mexican prisoners; no long-term effect due to quick imprisonment

Texan Hispanics saw their land encroached by Anglo-Americans, slowly being relegated to unskilled farmers. Although a brief raid emerged in 1859, it was quickly put down and Hispanic subordinancy preserved.

How were the natives affected by Anglo-American western migration?

Natives were even more dramatically affected than Hispanics (who were sometimes able to rise the social ladder), remaining in the lower classes and, along with many Hispanics, becoming drawn into a growing capitalist society.

- Many Chinese → HI, Australia, S./C. America, Caribbean, S. Africa; some to America pre-gold rush but majority → California with gold rush
  - Initially welcomed by whites as hard workers; quick hostility due to perceived threat for hard work → great discrimination
  - Many originally saw success, but CA "foreign miners" tax limited profitability for Chinese/Mexicans → generally abandoned prospecting work, with few remaining joining large, deep operations
- Most Chinese shifted to railroad work, making up 90% of Central Pacific labor; several directly recruited
  - No experience w/ organized labor → easily exploitable by owners
  - Arduous work, tunneling through wintry mountains and often suffocating in sleep due to volatile resting places in snowbanks
  - 1886: 5k workers went on strike but quickly put down and starved
- 1869: railroad completed → out of work, w/ some working in agriculture (tenant farmers, irrigation) but most → cities
  - Formed powerful clan-based Chinatowns led by merchants ("Six Companies") addressing issues of inhabitants and preserving culture; largest in San Francisco
  - Some organizations secret, violent societies in opium/prostitution, known as **tongs**
  - Urban Chinese made up lower classes: most were laborers, some established small businesses, typically laundries due to exclusion from all other areas
  - Early Chinese migrant women generally originated from prostitution; sex ratio eventually balanced → more families

Most early Chinese migrants to America went to California for the gold rush, but "foreign miners" taxes quickly forced them into arduous railroad work for the Central Pacific. After railroad construction was completed, though some worked in agriculture, most flocked to cities, forming merchant-led Chinatowns. Urban Chinese typically occupied the lower classes, with most working as industrial laborers but some establishing small laundry businesses; women initially struggled due to their origins in prostitution but the sex ratio eventually balanced.

What characterized the Chinese migration to the Americas?

- Several white residents formed "anti-coolie" clubs against Chinese, seeking work ban, attacking workers, and framing for crimes
    - Originated out of anger for acceptance of lower wages
    - Democratic Party and Irish-immigrant founded Workingmen's Party of California known for strongly anti-Chinese sentiment
- Others opposed Chinese for perceived cultural inferiority/savagery
- Opposition culminated in 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, barring emigration for 10 years, preventing citizenship
    - Gained widespread acceptance for desire to protect "American" workers
    - Renewed in 1892 for another 10 years; made permanent in 1902
- Chinese in America argued origin from intelligent civilization; resented grouping w/ natives/Afr. Americans rather than w/ Irish/Jews/Italians, but little effect

Several white Americans opposed the Chinese for fear of industrial competition due to their general acceptance of lower wages; others felt Chinese culture was inferior and dismissed immigrants as savages. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, barring immigration and preventing citizenship, was widely accepted; any Chinese opposition was stifled.

- Migrants to western U.S. came in millions; most from eastern U.S. but many from Europe
    - Immigrants motivated by potential for cattle grazing, gold/silver, meadowlands for farming, railroad travel
- Homestead Act of 1862 provided western land for small fee given that purchaser would occupy, develop land for $\geq$ 5 yrs.; essentially free farm
    - Possession of land far from sufficient to start farm w/ $\uparrow$ mechanization, costs to run; 160 acres of land often too small due to western terrain
    - Large #s abandoned land before 5 yrs.
- Govt. increased allotments of Homestead Act in response to suffering
    - **Timber Culture Act** of 1873 allowed 160 extra acres if inhabitants planted 40 acres of trees
    - **Desert Land Act** of 1877 allowed 640 total acres w/ $1.25 per acre if irrigation system implemented within three years
    - **Timber and Stone Act** of 1878 allowed general (nonarable) land for $2.50 per acre
    - Acts oft. encouraged fraud, but many settlers fairly earned large tracts of land
- New territories quickly received political organization
    - After Kansas' statehood (1861), WA, UT, NM, NB divided into smaller units for organization
    - Territorial governments operated in several western states (NV, CO, Dakota, AZ, ID, MT, WY) by end of 1860s
    - NV admitted in 1864; NB in 1867; CO in 1876; ND/SD, MT, WA in 1889; WY/ID in 1890; UT in 1896 after promising end of polygamy
    - AZ/NM excluded at turn of century due to small white pop., Dem. majority in Repub. era; OK only opened to white settlement in 1890

Several migrants to the west were immigrants from Europe motivated by several factors. All western migrants were encouraged by the Homestead Act of 1862, which initially provided 160 acres for a small fee but evolved to provide more land for smaller fees to address workers' complaints. The new western territories were quickly admitted to statehood, with only three territories not having been made states by 1900.

What characterized the postwar migration to the west?

The Changing Western Economy

How did the economic structure of the West change over time?

Western labor was generally more volatile, profitable, and racially diverse than that of the East. The most notable industries were mining, which boomed after several strikes on valuable minerals like gold and silver but soon focused on cheaper ores like copper, zinc, and quartz and turned individual prospectors into wage laborers with terrible working conditions, and cattle ranching, a male-dominated profession based around the transport of Texan cattle but soon focused more on the sedentary ranch system instead. Western women played a part in the cattle industry and were also granted suffrage far earlier than in the East.

- ↑ commerce → farmers/ranchers/miners recruited labor, but shortage due to remoteness, unwillingness/inability to hire natives → ↑ wages but ↓ job security, working conditions
    - After projects completed, often lost jobs immediately; competition w/ Chinese workers
    - Landless generally male, nomadic, unmarried w/ little social mobility apart from for those with initial wealth
- Working class generally multiracial w/ African Americans, Europeans, Chinese, Filipinos, Mexicans, natives working in unison
    - White workers always placed above others; lower tiers generally nonwhite
    - Employers pushed stereotype that Chinese/Mexicans/Filipinos more naturally suited to manual labor in mines due to smaller average size, acclimation to heat, supposed lack of amition
    - All mobility reserved for whites, with great mobility within working class; Chinese/Mexicans/Filipinos rarely rose in society

Labor was far less plentiful in the west, leading to higher wages; however, a project-based structure gave essentially no job security, leaving most workers single and nomadic. Racially, the working class of the west was very diverse, but white workers were generally allowed to rise up to higher positions and given far greater mobility than Chinese, Mexicans, and Filipinos due to racial stereotypes.

What characterized the labor structure in the west?

- Mining boom very brief ($\approx$ 30 yrs.) yet impactful: all strikes began w/ individual prospectors clearing out shallow areas by hand, followed by arrival of corporation to dig deeper, then depart
    - First post-gold rush strike: Pike's Peak, CO in 1859 w/ 50k prospectors from throughout U.S.; rapidly ended $\rightarrow$ corporations arrived, reviving some profits
    - Comstock Lode, NV discovered by Californians in 1859, dominating settlement and importing all goods; capitalists followed initial boom w/ difficult quartz mining
    - 1874: Black Hills, southwest Dakota also saw very rapid corporate takeover
- More long-term prosperity found in copper (**Anaconda copper mine** - 1881 in Montana), lead, tin, quartz, zinc
- Boomtowns quickly became lawless w/ outlaws forming gangs $\rightarrow$ vigilante groups formed to enforce law
- Men outnumbered women in boomtowns; most women came w/ husbands for domestic tasks; few single women worked as cooks, tavernkeepers, laundresses, or prostitutes
- Post-boom, most prospectors worked as wage laborers for corporations; known for terrible conditions
    - Generally very hot ($\geq 100°$ F) w/ little ventilation $\rightarrow$ poisonous CO_2, dust, explosions
    - Especially early on, machinery killed large numbers

The initial mining boom was brief, with strikes popping up in various places and characterized by a rush of independent prospectors followed by corporations; less lucrative metals formed a far stabler industry. Boomtowns were generally lawless, male-dominated, and, after the boom subsided, filled with wage laborers working in terrible conditions.

How did mining transform the western economic structure?

- Open range free of charge → cattle ranching critical industry
- Cattle industry instituted by Mexicans and Texans: pre-Anglo-Americans, had developed techniques of **branding**, **roundups**, **roping**, as well as gears like **saddles** and **spurs**
    - Americans adopted similar methods after arrival
    - Texan animals generally descended from strong Spanish stock → known for toughness
- Large portion of cattle died along rough journey from TX to MO for MO-Pacific Railroad, but trip represented beginning of link betw. TX cattle industry and Eastern markets
    - KS-Pacific railroad → **Abilene, KS** remained railhead of cattle industry for some time (Chisolm Trail from TX to KS)
    - Cattle ranchers forced to expand further west for new grazing-land
- "Long drive" journey w/ cattle between places romanticized throughout U.S. w/ thousands of animals travelling at once
    - Leading cowboys Confederate veterans; next-largest group Afr. Americans
    - Foreigners assigned jobs of herder, cook
- Ranch emerged as permanent cattle base: grew in size as competition for open land grew
    - Eastern farmers typically surrounded ranches w/ fences → range wars for land
- Famed profits → growing migrants from eastern U.S., England, Scotland → increasingly corporate
    - Growing size → grazing space shrunk, w/ long drives and open ranges less viable
    - After two severe winters w/ a very hot summer in between, long drive ended, open-range industry collapsed; only settled ranches producing beef remained

The cattle industry, with technology introduced by the earlier Texans and Mexicans, pushed increasingly westward for new grazing lands and was famed for the "long drives" in which the large numbers of cattle in Texas travelled overland to northern rail stations. However, as corporations began to take over, the industry became oversaturated: there was little free grazing room, and two poor winters ultimately ended the open-range industry, with established permanent ranches taking over.

How was cattle ranching significant to the western economy?

How did women play an integral part in the western economy?

- Early cattle industry saw few female ranchers/drivers; birth of ranch w/ sedentary lifestyle → far more women led cattle ranches than before
- Women received suffrage in the West far earlier than in East (starting in WY)
    - UT: Mormons granted to prevent criticism of polygamy
    - Many places granted women suffrage to raise population for easier statehood
    - Women often argued for inherent virtue and morality → deserved to have voice

The cattle industry became increasingly female after the concept of the ranch grew in popularity. Furthermore, most western women received suffrage notably earlier than their eastern counterparts, for reasons including inherent virtue as well as swelling population size to meet statehood requirements.

The Romance of the West

What aspects of Western culture were often romanticized?

The landscape of the West was frequently depicted in paintings, inspiring tourism; furthermore, Mark Twain used writing to depict the frontier as a place to escape social constraints, Remington presented the cowboy as a natural aristocrat, and Roosevelt created a romanticized, popular history. However, Americans ultimately became disenchanted with the frontier, realizing the West was becoming a populated place with great commercial success.

What characterized the western landscape?

The West was known for the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Sierra Nevada, and the Cascade Range, inspiring the "Rocky Mountain School" painters to celebrate western beauty with large portraits. Such paintings encouraged tourism, with resorts emerging in the most scenic places for weeks-long visits involving hikes and forays into the wilderness.

What elements of cowboy culture were most alluring to easterners?

Surrounded by the rigidly ordered and stable East, several easterners romanticized the concept of the cowboy in works like Wister's *The Virginian*, ignoring the munadne repitition, low pay, and loneliness, instead focusing on freedom, force of character, connection to nature, and willingness to fight.

How did the frontier concept enchant Americans?

- Terrain's seemingly neverending capacity for exploration inspired Americans from arrival on continent

- Mark Twain wrote novels/memoirs like *Roughing It* (own experience as NV reporter during mining boom), but most popular were *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, representing breaking free of social constraints

- Frederic Remington depicted cowboy as aristocrat of nature through paintings/sculptures

- Theodore Roosevelt saw West as place of physical regeneration and recovery, depicted in romanticized history *The Winning of the West*

The idea of the neverending frontier was perpetuated by Mark Twain's novels with characters travelling westward to become freed from society, Frederic Remington's artwork romanticizing the natural cowboy, and Theodore Roosevelt's history showing the West as a place of healing and recovery.

What was "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"?

Frederick Jackson Turner presented "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" in 1893, arguing that the growing frontier represented a powerful democratic force. Though his idea of the frontier representing empty land inhabited by no one was misinformed, his fear that land would become less cheaply accessible in the future was accurate.

How did Americans come to accept the end of frontier-based Western society?

As Americans realized the West was no longer empty and desolate, with great psychological destruction as many lost their safety-valve and continual hope for a new life.

The Dispersal of the Tribes

How did Anglo-Americans suppress native Americans to perpetuate their ideals of the West?

In the early years of settlement, white settlers greatly angered the natives by decimating the buffalo population and forcing them into reservations led by corrupt and inept rulers. During the Civil War, wars against the Sioux, Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Apache tribes emerged; apart from a few victories, white soldiers emerged victorious at the expense of the natives. Atrocious massacres unfolded, too, notably against the Sioux at Wounded Knee in 1890, who had been using religion to escape the pain and suffering inflicted by whites. The Dawes Act attempted to provide a solution to native landholdings but, like all other legislation, failed to truly address the issue of incompatible interests.

- Initial govt. policy: tribes seen both as independent nations and presidential property → originally, informal demarcations to divide white land from native land (though continually broken)

- Early 1850s: idea of reservation emerged with whites forcing tribes into arbitrarily-selected land; benefitted whites because they chose best land for themselves

- 1867: bloody conflicts w/ natives → Congress est. Indian Peace Commission to create new policy

  - Replaced w/ plan to move all Plains natives into two large reservations in Indian Territory and the Dakotas

  - Forced tribe leaders to agree through trickery/bribery

  - Enforced by Bureau of Indian Affairs, filled w/ incompetent/corrupt men unable to understand tribal ways

- Rapid decimation of buffalo population altered native way of life

  - Whites rapidly slaughtered buffalo w/ firearms init. to meet demand of settlers, later growing market for buffalo hides; some tribes joined in and condoned by Bureau of Indian Affairs

  - Ecological changes w/ removal of open plains → buffalo population became miniscule (1865 → 1875 saw 15m → 1k)

  - Natives lost food source → began to take violent action

The initial policy of independent sovereignty was ultimately replaced by a reservation-based concept, where two large reservations were created and Plains natives divided into these territories. However, the reservations were controlled by the government Bureau of Indian Affairs, known for incapable bureaucrats incapable of sympathizing with the tribes. Several natives turned to violence after white hunting and ecological transformations decimated the buffalo population.

What policies did white settlers implement to control the tribes?

- Native warriors often attacked small white parties to pay back for previous attacks; U.S. Army began to take more direct involvement

- During Civil War, eastern Sioux of MN rebelled due to small reservation, corrupt white rule → 700 whites killed

  - 38 natives hanged after militiamen subdued; tribe exiled to Dakotas

- In eastern Colorado, Arapaho and Cheyenne attacked travelling white miners → govt. called militia, encouraging friendly natives to travel to army posts for safety

  - Led by Chief Black Kettle, group of some warriors with no hostile intention camped near army post for protection under govt. promise

  - Militia under Chivington filled w/ drunk, unemployed miners attacked, massacring 133; Black Kettle escaped but killed 4 yrs. by George A. Custer

- Post-Civil War, whites amplified army presence particularly in MT due to Sioux retaliation for white road through buffalo range

- White vigilantes engaged in "**Indian hunting**", most notably in CA

  - Some directly tracked down and killed natives for sport; others offered bounties for skulls

  - Killings often out of desire to entirely exterminate tribes

- Momentary peace w/ 1867 treaties but flared up in early 1870s as miners encroached on promised native territory

- 1875: Sioux departed reservation, led by Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull

  - Three armies sent out, w/ Seventh Cavalry led by George A. Custer; surprised by troop of 2,500 natives at Battle of the Little Bighorn → all men died

  - Natives lacked resources to preserve troops, breaking up to find food → power soon broken, leaders surrendered

Early battles emerged with the retaliation of the Sioux against white corruption, the Arapaho and the Cheyenne being lied to by the government, with a peaceful group being massacred, and the Sioux once again, with an early success against George A. Custer's army but soon experiencing collapse. Several whites, particularly Californians, engaged in "Indian hunting," directly killing natives often simply out of a desire to exterminate them.

What were the major early wars fought between white settlers and natives?

- 1877: Small Nez Percé tribe pressed to move out of Oregon, but group of tribe members attacked white settlers → leader, Chief Joseph, encouraged followers to flee to Canada
  - Most caught just before Canadian border (though some managed to escape); Chief Joseph surrendered in exchange for promised return to native territory, but quickly broken by whites
- Chiricahua Apaches fought powerfully from 1860s to late 1880s
  - Two most powerful leaders lost in early 1870s, one due to white trickery and murder
  - 1874 successor, Geronimo, continued to fight until 1886, finally surrendering after realizing hopelessness
  - Apache wars marked end of formal war betw. natives/whites, also greatest atrocities and inhumanities committed by whites
- 1890: Sioux experienced religious revival in final attempt to preserve culture amidst conflict and starvation
  - Prophet Wovoka inspired many, based around arrival of messiah, participating in "Ghost Dances" to experience visions of whites departing, buffaloes returning
  - Dec. 1890: Seventh Cavalry attempted to round up starving Sioux in Wounded Knee, SD, but fighting emerged; cause disputed but soon turned into massacre at the hands of whites

Several weakened tribes continued to retaliate: the small Nez Percé tribe led a great flee from white officials to Canada during encroachment but were soon caught, the Apaches fought for nearly 30 years until their surrender marked the end of formal native warfare against whites, and the Sioux found a new hope in religion which was quickly taken from them after the Wounded Knee Massacre.

What were some of the last attempts of the natives to fight for independence and the tragedies that resulted?

- Dawes Severalty Act of 1887 ended concept of reservations, promoting integration into white society; often seen as benefit to "vanishing race"
  - Family head given 160 acres, single adult/orphan 80, dependent child 40
  - Adult owners given U.S. citizenship but not full land ownership for 25 yrs. to prevent sale to speculators
  - Did not apply to Pueblo

- Some children took from families, sent to white boarding schools; Christian churches also created on native lands to promote end of native rituals

- Natives resisted, white admin. continually corrupt/incapable $\rightarrow$ much of land never distributed; Congress attempted to accelerate w/ Burke Act of 1906 but futile

- No legislation able to provide true solution for natives: their interests were incompatible w/ white ones

The Dawes Act ended the concept of reservations, promoting native assimilation into white society by providing each family with land to start a farm. However, many families were broken up as children were taken to schools, and Christian churches were created to suppress native rituals. Due to corrupt administration, native resistance, and a simple incompatibility of interests, no legislation was ever able to provide a truly satisfactory solution.

What was the Dawes Act?