Cowboys

(Name)

(Institution)

The essay below discusses the elements of the lives of Cowboys and the role they played in shaping the history of America West, both in reality and in the making of a myth.

According to (Turner,1966), the search for hunting fields, grazing fields and good soil for farming led the hunters and traders, ranchers and farmers to the west. The conditions these people met in the regions enlightened them. Though they did not have many material things, they developed character; a trait so part of many of the Americans today. According to historian A, the context of turners paper was that one era of Yomen-farmers had passed, and another era so significant to the history of the Americans was about to start (Nash,1991). According to historian B, Turner did get wrong the reason farmers came to the west (N.p, 2015). Turner implied that they came looking for fertile lands while historian B says that it was the gold and the mineral rush plus the markets that brought the farmers.

From The Virginian, cowboys are depicted as men who rode horses to gather their cattle (Wister, 1988). They were however looked down upon as bad people, as described by the song Virginia sang in the passage (Wister, 1988). According to Athearn, Wister was successful because he put the cowboy at the heart of the state and gave American readers something beyond what they were used to (Athearn, 1986). The cowboy had been there for long but never before played a role that Wister gave him. The Virginia supports this. In The Virginia, the cowboy is just any other man riding a horse (Wister, 1988).

Later in the 19th century, Cowboys reputation had changed to that of honorable men who were trustworthy (Ross, 2006). The shift may have occurred due to their quest for peace, their courage and the honor they placed upon themselves.

When the ranchers went to war in the late 19th century, manpower dwindled, and the African American slaves were left with the responsibility of looking after things. They took this opportunity to learn cowboy skills. They were ruthless in dealing with Indian rustlers when given firearms. With time, their skills grew in demand, and they offered jobs on wage to be cowboys. The Cowboys had been historically portrayed as white because it is the whites who were cowboys at first before the African Americans learned of the art (Barr, 2004).

Canadian cowboys were similar to American cowboys especially in the manner of dressing that included a hat to shield from sun and rain, jeans, and high boots. Canadian cowboys could, however, read and write (Slatta, 1994).

President Eisenhower and President Reagan’s speeches are similar as they focus on the code of the American people in relation to that of the cowboys. Both statements focus on what America is built upon, codes she thankfully inherits from the cowboys. President Eisenhower imagines the west as a just place where justice was held high by every member of the community. President Reagan imagines the west as a place ruled by integrity, morality, and democratic values. The presidents are so eager to make the American people emulate the code of the cowboys (Woolley & Peters, 2008).

The history of Wyoming borrows a lot from the code of the cowboys. Large herds of cattle were driven into Wyoming in the late 19th century, and cowboy could be said to have started then. The reputation, honor and integrity of cowboys from the west came into Wyoming. The code of the Cowboys is an integral part of the organizing concepts in Wyoming History.

Works cited

Turner, F. J. (1966). *The significance of the frontier in American history* (pp. 226-27). Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms.

Nash, G. D. (1991). *Creating the West: historical interpretations, 1890-1990*. University of New Mexico Pr.

N.P., 2015. Web. 8 May 2015.

Wister, O. (1988). *The Virginian: a horseman of the plains*. Penguin.

Ross, Collins. 'Cowboys' Shifting Reputation'. *Newspaper in Dakota Territory* 2006: single. Print.

Athearn, R. G. (1986). *The mythic West in twentieth-century America*. University Pr of Kansas.

Barr, A. (2004). *Black cowboys of Texas* (No. 86). S. R. Massey (Ed.). Texas A&M University Press.

Slatta, R. W. (1994). *Cowboys of the Americas*. Yale University Press.

Woolley, J. T., & Peters, G. (2008). The American presidency project. *Santa Barbara, CA. Available from World Wide Web: http://www. Presidency.*