AP United States History

Native Americans in the West

- Migrations Caused Tremendous Disruption
  - Transcontinental Railroad required passage through native lands
    - These peoples relies on the buffalo
  - Settlement ruins the lands of the buffalo which natives needed for food and clothes
    - 60 Million buffalo down to 6000
  - Settlers often took land and ignored treaties with Native Americans
- General Custer and the Battle of Little Bighorn
  - Custer is sent to round up the Sioux led buy Sitting Bull in 1874
    - They had already left the reservation because of the arrival of gold miners
  - In 1876, Custer and 200 of his men are killed in the battle
    - Considered to be the last major Native American victory against the American Army
    - Ft Laramie Treaty was violated when Americans took back South Dakota lands
- Dawes Act of 1887
  - Designed to assimilate Native Americans by giving them private plots of land
    - Native Americans believed in common land while Americans believed in private land
  - Intent of legislation was to destroy tribal identities, but Natives had little interest in farming and sold the land back
  - This doesn't work, and so the Native Americans were sent to reservations
- The Ghost Dance: Native resistance against American Incursion
  - The Dance frightened the white settlers and brought in federal troops to control
  - Massacre of Wounded Knee in 1890 where nearly 150 Sioux, including women and children, were killed
    - This occurrent after the death of Sitting Bull, who was arrested for performing the Ghost Dance