

Prompt: Evaluate the extent to which migration influenced the western United States from 1820 to 1898.

Essay:

Migration had a large influence on the western US due to industrialism and the rise of jobs causing indirect effects to many things such as regulations businesses have to follow and the formation agencies to benefit workers and the poor. Within the years of 1820 to 1898 the US was going through a Gilded Age. The economy during this time was booming which made lots of jobs for people but while everything seemed good in the US the people working these jobs were suffering at the hands of robber barons.

As many people began migrating to the west for these job opportunities the development of the slums and ghettos began to house all these working people. While working for these robber barons such as Rockefeller and Carnegie many of the workers weren't making a liveable wage and had to live in tenement houses. These houses would house an abnormal amount of people in one room. These circumstances caused the US to have a large gap between the rich and the poor. After the horrible conditions of the poor working class was revealed to the public and government by muckrakers, the US began making changes in benefit of them. One of these changes was settlement houses by Jane Adams who wanted to help these people and in the settlement houses people were educated in many different things. Without migration the creation of settlement houses probably wouldn't have happened due to migration being an indirect cause of it.

The large number of migrant workers helped boost the US economy due to the fast pace in manufacturing goods. There were many factories filled with migrant workers who worked long hours to quickly produce large amounts of goods. While this did help the economic growth of the US it came with some negatives. While the workers were producing goods at a fast pace the qualities of some of the goods were not good such as meat. It was later revealed that while the work was fast the quality of the meats being produced weren't good. The meat factories and the workers were unsanitary. This led to the creation of the FDA and sanitary laws that companies need to follow. Because so many people migrated for work, businesses began to take advantage of that and began to not care for the workers or the quality of the goods because they were making money, which led to them being exposed therefore creating rules that all businesses have to follow in favor of workers and consumers that are still in effect till this day.

Overall migration had a large influence on the western US with many indirect causes that resulted in many positive things for the economy and people.

Feedback:

A. Thesis/Claim: 1 The response earned 1 point for thesis because it provides a historically defensible claim that establishes a line of reasoning and two categories of analysis in the opening sentence of the first paragraph: "Migration had a large influence on the western US due to industrialism and the rise of jobs causing indirect effects to many things such as regulations businesses have to follow and the formation agencies to benefit workers and the poor."

B. Contextualization: 1 The response earned 1 point for contextualization. In the first paragraph the response minimally but accurately describes industrialization and class conflict: "Within the years of 1820 to 1898 the US was going through a Gilded Age. The economy during this time was booming which made lots of jobs for people but while everything seemed good in the US the people working these jobs were suffering at the hands of robber barons."

C. Evidence: 0 The response did not earn 1 point for describing at least two pieces of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. In the second and third paragraphs, the response describes specific evidence that falls outside the specified region or time period with the discussion of issues in the meatpacking industry and the foundation of the Food and Drug Administration.

D. Analysis and Reasoning: 0 The response did not attempt or earn the point for using historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt. The response did not earn the point for demonstrating a complex understanding because it makes no attempt at sophisticated argumentation or effective use of evidence.

Total Score: 2