

Paper 2: Section A: American West, c.1835-c.1890: Conflict and Conquest, 1862-95 Core Knowledge 3/3

Civil War - consequences

- South lost - poverty in the south and slavery was ended.
- Over 200,000 men had died + 400,000 wounded.
- Migration west slowed during the war.
- Increase in cattle numbers in Texas.
- Increase in crime/issues of lawlessness especially in the south.

Lawlessness

Problems with lawlessness:

- Gambling, drinking and prostitution was common especially in mining towns.
- Claim jumping was common.
- 1858 - Wells Fargo established the first transcontinental coach service to transport money/gold/silver but they were easy targets in the open Plains.
- August 1860, silver was discovered in Aurora = conflict between Plains Indians and prospectors leading to 200 Indian and 30 American deaths (1862-4).
- 1863-4, stagecoaches were held up 7 times coming out of Aurora.
- Gangs were hired to defend mining claims e.g. Daly gang hired by Pond Mining Company.
- Vigilantism - Citizens' Safety Committee organised to defend against the Daly gang, they hanged 4 of them in 1864 following a murder.
- Reno brothers were Civil War deserters who carried out train robberies - stole \$13,000 in their first train robbery. They were eventually captured and lynched by a vigilante group.
- James-Younger gang (ex-soldiers) carried out bank and stagecoach robberies between 1866 and 1876.

Responses:

- US Marshals were appointed by the President (later, the Department of Justice) They could appoint deputies.
- 3 federal judges were appointed in each territory/state to ride a circuit around the area and listen to cases.
- Vigilantes e.g. Citizens' Safety Committee.
- County Sheriff was an elected official responsible for law enforcement and tax collection. Some were corrupt e.g. Henry Plummer.
- Militia e.g. the Esmerelda Rangers and the Hooker Light Infantry used to protect from attacks by Indians.

Case Studies on the back of this sheet!

Conflict (= are consequences)

Little Crow's War (1862) - Dakota Sioux in Minnesota

- The Dakota Sioux had agreed to move onto a reservation in 1851 in exchange for \$1.4 million plus \$80,000 per year in cash and resources. But in 1862, the government payment was late, the Sioux were starving and resorted to eating grass. They had no money to buy food.
 - Warrior brotherhoods raided local Indian Agency supply warehouses then burnt them down. They also attacked and killed 600 settlers and US soldiers.
- = 400 Sioux were arrested and sentenced to death.
 = The tribe was moved to a worse reservation with poorer land called the Cow Creek Reservation. Little Crow was scalped and beheaded by a hunter.

Sand Creek Massacre (1864) - Cheyenne and Arapaho in Colorado

- In 1861, Black Kettle had agreed (Treaty of Fort Wise) to take his tribe onto a reservation but after seeing what happened to Little Crow, they did not trust the US government.
 - Young warriors (dog soldiers) refused to move and attacked the prospectors who were crossing their land. The US government tried to reach a new agreement.
 - Black Kettle setup a camp at Sand Creek (believing he was protected) but governor John Evans set out to kill them there = Colonel Chivington took 700 cavalrymen to attack Black Kettle's camp at Sand Creek.
- = 130 Natives were slaughtered despite surrendering.
 = The government moved the tribes onto a reservation $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of that previously promised with no compensation.

Red Cloud's War - Lakota Sioux, Minnesota (1866-68)

- Sioux were angry due to gold prospectors using the Bozeman trail from 1862-5. A deal was due to be signed to allow the prospectors safe passage but Red Cloud was angered as construction started before the deal was done.
 - The government wanted the tribe to move onto reservations but Red Cloud decided to fight. They attacked workers building the army forts along the trail.
 - Red Cloud's forces were joined by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse who assembled 3000 Plains Indians fighting 700 US army soldiers. 80 soldiers led by Captain Fetterman were led into an ambush by Plains Indians.
 - Red Cloud's warriors also stopped settlers using the Bozeman Trail
- = Bozeman Trail was closed and Red Cloud agreed to take his tribe onto a reservation which was promised to Sioux tribes only.
 = Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse refused to sign the treaty.

Battle of Little Big Horn (Custer's Last Stand)-Sioux-Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull (1874)

- The Northern Pacific Railroad was coming towards Sioux land so General Custer's men were placed to protect the workers but also looked for gold in the Black Hills.
 - The government offered to buy the Black Hills for \$6million but the Sioux refused.
 - Thousands of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors left reservations to defend the Black Hills
- = Grant's Peace Policy ordered them to return to their reservation within 60 days but deep snow trapped the Sioux so they setup camps which the government interpreted as a hostile act.
- Custer led 200 men into Little Big Horn valley where all of his 200 men were slaughtered by the Sioux. = Public opinion changed, PIs were seen as a real threat meaning the government were pressured to deal with them more harshly.
- = Sioux placed under military rule and had their weapons confiscated, US army built more forts and Sioux moved away from the Black Hills.

Wounded Knee Massacre (1890) - Sioux - Sitting Bull

- Drought in the summer of 1890 and government cutting food rations led to Indians believing they needed to reject white ways of life and perform a sacred dance to bring all dead Indians back to life and bring about a great flood.
- The army was ordered into reservations to take control - Sitting Bull was killed whilst resisting arrest. His followers met at Wounded Knee Creek and some began the Ghost Dance. The Army became concerned and began arresting people. A soldier began shooting and others joined in = 250 Natives killed in 10 mins. = ended the Ghost Dance movement and no further conflict between Natives and US.

Lawlessness Case Studies

1. Billy the Kid (1859-81) and Lincoln County War (1878)

- Billy the Kid came from a poor background. Participated in the Lincoln County War where individual ranchers fought with a rich land baron (John Chisholm).
- Billy threatened to kill everyone who had been involved in the death of his friend in the LCW.
- Pat Garrett was asked to deal with this - he captured Billy but he escaped. Garrett later found and shot him.

Importance

- = Revealed the weakness of the systems of law and order.
- = Revealed the influence of rich and powerful over law in the West.
- = Billy became a symbol to minority groups who liked the way he stood up to powerful businessmen.

2. Wyatt Earp (1848-1929) and OK Corral (1881)

- Became a Deputy Marshall in 1874 after helping to break up a cowboy fight then a Marshall in Dodge City in 1879.
- 1880 Earp was hired by rich ranching families to bring law and order to the town.
- 1881 he had become lawless - stealing horses and robbing stagecoaches, he and his brothers killed members of the rich family he had previously worked for at the OK Corral.
- 1882 - he shot dead 2 people who he thought had killed his brother but people turned against him and he fled Tombstone.

3. Johnson County War (1892)

- Rich cattle barons fought with homesteaders and independent ranchers over land.
- Smaller ranchers felt hard done to by the cattle barons and began stealing their cattle in revenge. Barons took the law into their own hands.

e.g.

- Albert Bothwell tried to get Jim Averill and Ella Watson off his land. Averill wrote a letter to a newspaper called Bothwell a rich land grabber.
- Watson was accused of stealing cattle.
- Bothwell had Averill and Watson hanged.
- Barons raised money to pay for 22 Texan gunmen to kill cattle rustlers. They were paid \$50 for each rustler killed.

But, attitudes turned against the Cattle Barons as people believed they had gone too far.