

American West – American West – Conflict and conquest revision

LO: I can explain the key events of conflict and conquest in the American West 1876 – 1895.

ACTIVATE: Answer questions 1-3.

1. What were the consequences of Wounded knee?

2. What are the reasons why the death penalty was abolished in the 1960's?

3. Describe the Nazi policies towards the Church.

CHALLENGE: Anglo's/Normans - How did Lanfranc change the church?



American West

Paper 2 = 20% of GCSE

Topic 3

Conflict and Conquest

1876 – 1895

Key dates and events

Conflict and Conquest

1876 – 1895

1876 – Battle of Little Bighorn

1876-7 – Great Sioux War

1878 – Lincoln County War

1879 – Exoduster Movement

**1881 – Gunfight at the OK
Corral**

**1883 – Destruction of the
Northern Buffalo herd**

**1885 – All Indians confined to
reservations**

1886-7 – Harsh Winter

1887 – Dawes Act

1890 – Wounded Knee Massacre

1892 – Johnson County War

1893 – Oklahoma Gold Rush

Conflict 1

Conflict amongst Settlers

Range wars and town conflicts

Lincoln County War(1878)

- The **House** was a business run by **Lawrence Murphy**.
- It dominated Lincoln County, New Mexico making money by rustling cattle and selling it to the US government
- In 1876 **John Tunstall** – an Englishman moved in and set up a rival business.
- He hired tough cowboys including **Billy the Kid** to run his ranch
- The war started when Tunstall was killed in **Feb 1878**.
- The cowboys including Billy the Kid set up a group called the **Regulators** to avenge him
- There was a five day battle in Lincoln in which more than **30** died, Tunstall's store was burnt and the House victorious
- Murphy was charged with murder but then acquitted and Billy went on the run

Conflict 1

Conflict amongst Settlers

Range wars and town conflicts

Gunfight at the OK Corral (1881)

- **Tombstone** was a silver mining town which suffered from lawlessness.
- Rivalry grew between the mine owners who wanted the town to be peaceful to attract new settlers and ranchers/cowboys who were interested in drinking and gambling
- **Virgil Earp**, a former civil war soldier, was hired as deputy US Marshall and his brothers **Virgil and Morgan** came with him.
- They had a rivalry with Cowboys, **Ike and Billy Clanton** and **Frank and Tom McLaury** who objected to laws
- At **3pm on 26th Oct 1881** a stand off happened when the Earps tried to disarm the cowboys near the OK Corral.
- **30** bullets were fired. **3 cowboys were killed** and Virgil and Morgan were wounded.
- The people of the town turned against the Earps who were accuse of murder and tit for tat killings followed. The Earps were forced to leave in 1882

Conflict 1

Conflict amongst Settlers

Range wars and town conflicts

Johnson County War(1892)

- Johnson County had been settled by Cattle ranchers in 1870s. (Barons)
- They created the powerful **Wyoming Stock Growers** association which included the **governor** and **senator**
- By 1880s Homesteaders were starting to settle on the land, **beef prices were falling** and **cattle rustling** was increasing.
- The barons were upset and hired **Frank Canton** a gunfighter to hunt down the rustlers.
- In **1889 Jim Averill and Ella Watson** were killed – accused of Cattle rustling.
- By **1892** things were out of hand.

Conflict 1

Conflict amongst Settlers

Range wars and town conflicts

Johnson County War(1892)

- A full scale invasion of Johnson County was planned led by **Frank Wolcott** and supported by the governor who provided guns.
- A death list of **70** names and **24** gunfighters were paid **\$5 per day + \$50 per dead rustler**
- Planned to captured the town of **Buffalo**, kill the sheriff – **Red Angus** and the 70 others
- They were stopped at the **KC Ranch** for a day by **Nate Champion**
- By then the local people were ready and the invaders were **surrounded by 300 at the TA Ranch**
- The **US cavalry** was then sent by the **President** to rescue them

Conflict 2

Conflict Indians and Army

Reservations

- piece of land Indians were given to live on
- By **1870s** Indians could not leave to hunt
- Indians could not practice the **sun dance** removing the power of **medicine men**
- **Rations** were given to the head of family removing the power of chief
- Children were sent to boarding schools (**1887 – 117 boarding schools and 110 day schools with 4,500 children**). Motto *“Kill the Indian in him and save the man”*
- If Sioux refused – rations were stopped
- All weakened tribal structure and Indian self belief = poverty and lack of opportunity

Conflict 2

Conflict Indians and Army

Great Sioux War (1876-7)

- In **1874** the Seventh Cavalry found **Gold** in **the BLACK HILLS** whilst protecting railway surveyors
- Miners quickly invaded, by **1875** there were **1000** miners
- This broke the **Fort Laramie Treaty (1868)**
- The government offered **\$6,000,000** to buy the Black Hills
- The Sioux laughed at this – the Hills were sacred – no money could buy them
- The government responded by ordering the Sioux into their reservation.
- It was **winter** so about **7,000** Sioux led **by Sitting Bull** refused
- Sitting Bull hated reservations after what he had seen after Little Crow's War

Conflict 2

Conflict Indians and Army

Battle of Little Bighorn (1876)

- In **February 1876** the government issued an order to kill any Indians not in reservations
- The campaign was led by **General Philip Sheridan**
- **3 columns** would attack the Indians from 3 directions. **Crook (1,049)** from the south, **Gibbons (450)** from the West, and **Terry (1,000)** from the East.
- These groups had no way of communicating 😞
- They had no idea how many Indians there were 😞
- The Indians had **Winchester** repeating rifles 😊 and the army had only **single shot rifles** 😞

Conflict 2

Conflict Indians and Army

Battle of Little Bighorn (1876)

1. **Crook's** column were attacked by **1,500** warriors whilst having a coffee break. He retreated
2. **Custer** was ordered to approach from the south.
3. Custer refused **180 extra men** and **Gatling guns**
4. Custer ignored orders and rode across the **Wolf Mountains** riding all night to arrive early.
5. This had the element of surprise but the men and horses were tired
6. He attacked alone and even split his **500** men. 260 with him, 125 with Reno and 125 Benteen.
7. **Reno** and **Benteen** were attacked and surrounded
8. Custer's men all died

Conflict 2

Conflict Indians and Army

Battle of Little Bighorn (1876)

Consequences

1. Shock and horror – **100th** year anniversary of independence
2. Increased support for campaign against the Sioux – **2500** reinforcements
3. Indians split into their bands which were harassed and attacked until surrendered and returned to reservations
4. Indians were out of ammunition
5. **Crazy Horse** surrendered 5th May 1877, **Sitting Bull** fled to Canada

Conflict 2

Conflict Indians and Army

Ghost Dance and Wounded Knee (1890)

- The Indians morale was low.
- Wovoka tried to raise it through the Ghost Dance which promised **the return of the buffalo and the dead**
- This spread rapidly and attracted the Sioux who were hungry due to rations being cut
- **Indian Agents** were worried – it seemed like a rebellion. They tried to ban the dance and failed.
- **Sitting Bull** was killed when the police tried to arrest him
- His followers fled to join **Big Foot** another leader
- On **28th December** the US cavalry found his band.
- When trying to arrest them shots broke out, **146 Indians** were killed including 7 babies, 7 old women and 24 old men
- This was the end of the Indian wars as their hope was lost

Event 1

1879 The Exoduster Movement

- In **1870s** Black Americans were looking to escape the south due to the actions of the **Ku Klux Klan** and **Jim Crow Laws**
- **Kansas** had always been a free state and was seen as the promised land.
- Handbills were made advertising new life in the West.
- Rumours spread of free land and money
- Over **4,000** caught steam boats and travelled to St Louis then Kansas.
- Some returned home disappointed – others stayed
- By **1880s 43,000 Black Americans** lived in Kansas – 52,000 by 1900

Event 2

1886-7 The Harsh Winter

- **1880-1885** was peak period in ranching on the Plains
- The **drought of 1883** – causing problems for the Cattle Ranchers as grass withered
- Demand for beef was falling so ranchers kept their cows leading to **overgrazing**
- **1886** winter was very severe.
- Thousands of cows died in icy blizzards. **15%** of herds died
- Became know as the “**great die up**”
- Ranchers began to go **bankrupt** and large ranches were replaced with smaller ones
- **Barbed wire** started to cut the labour costs – cheaper to set up barbed wire than employ cowboys

Event 3

1893 The Oklahoma Land Rush

- In **1889 2 million acres** of former Indian land was opened for settlement in the **Indian Appropriations Act**.
- Some tried to sneak in early as the land was very fertile.
- The Army removed them
- **22nd April a gunshot** signalled the opening of the land.
- **50,000** people raced to stake a claim
- Within a year **60,000** people were living in Oklahoma

Explain the importance of ...

Choose one of the questions below

1. The winter of 1886-7 for the Cattle Industry
2. The Battle of Wounded Knee for the defeat of the Indians
3. The strategy of total war for the US army's defeat of the Plains Indians
4. The Johnson County War for the end of the open range