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Settlement of the WEST

1865-1890

A18W | 10.12.22

GUIDING QUESTIONS 1 & 2

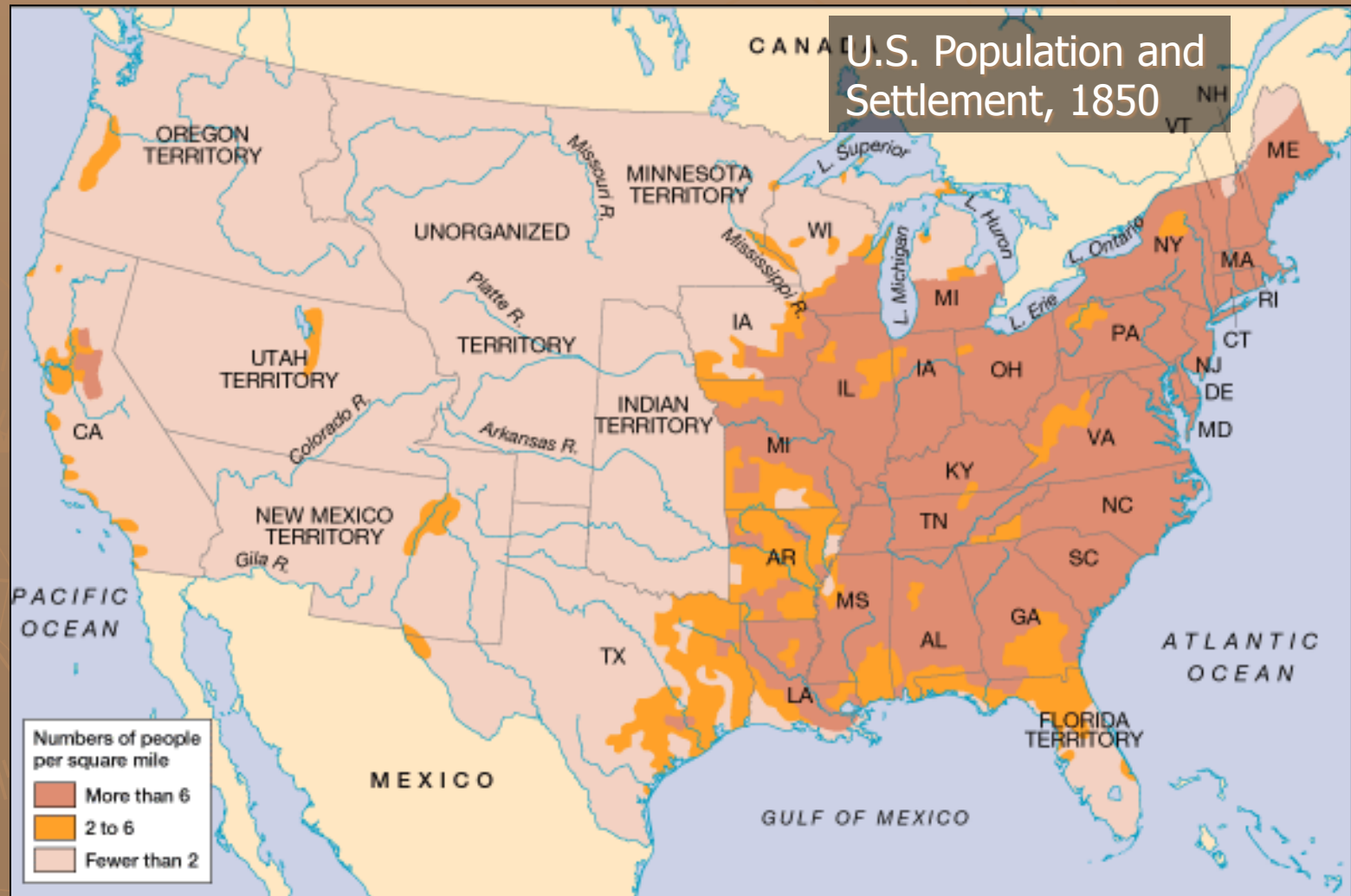
1. What factors shaped the economic and social development of the West beyond the Mississippi?

- ▶ **hardy individualism,**
- ▶ **the natural environment,**
- ▶ **market forces,**
- ▶ **the federal government,**
- ▶ **other cultures**

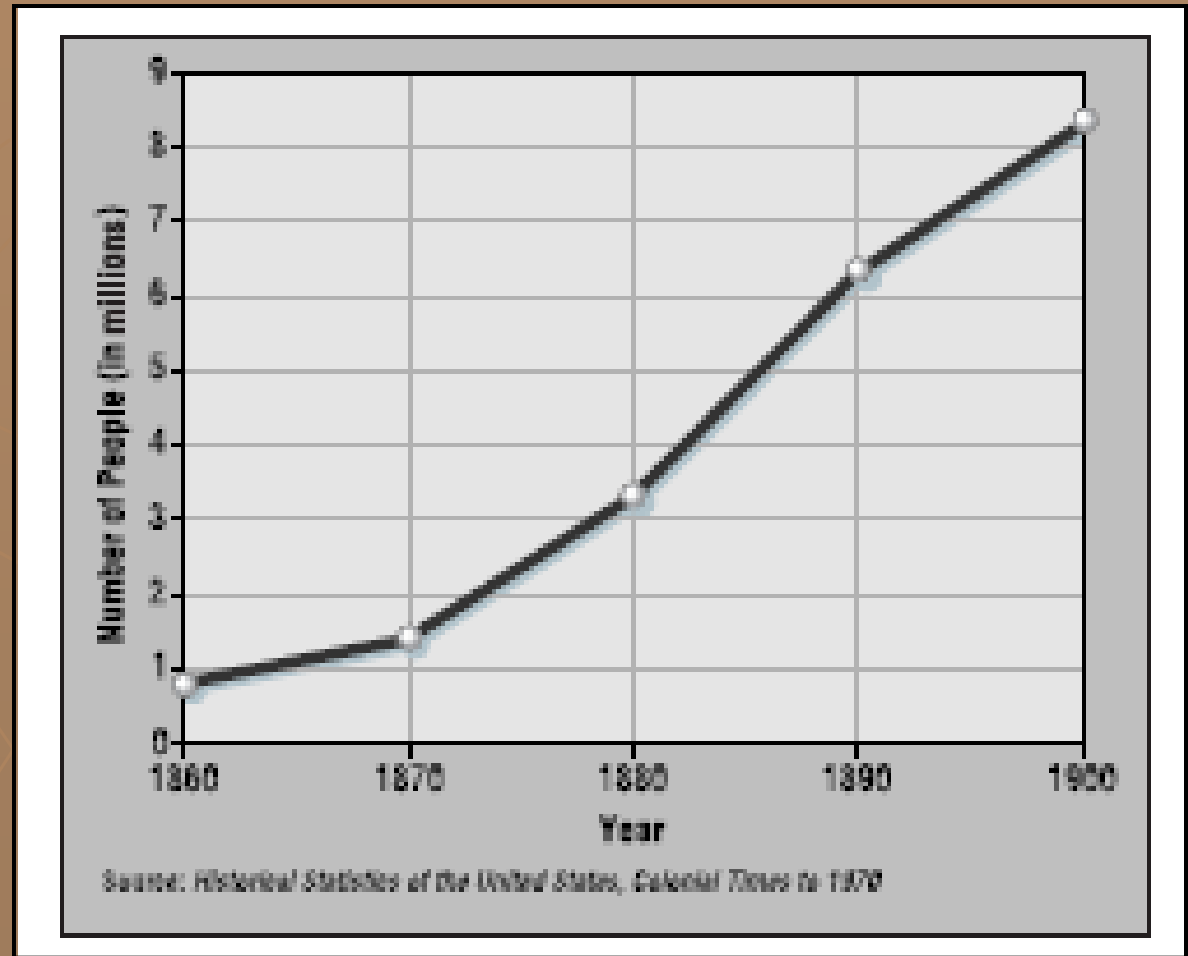
2. For whom and to what extent was the American West a land of opportunity from 1865 to 1900?

The "West"

- ▶ Changing meanings of "THE WEST"
- ▶ "Great American Desert"



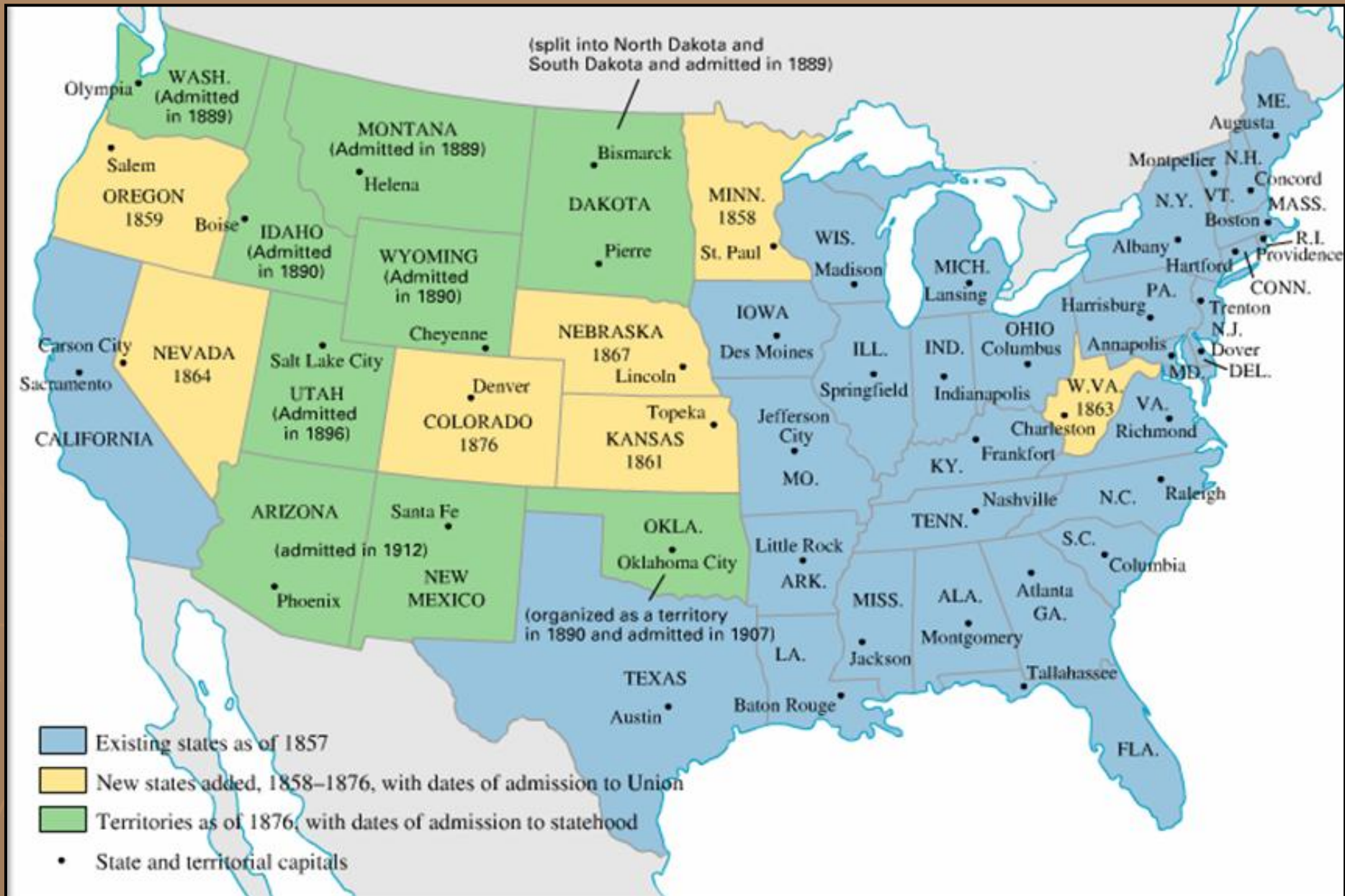
Population Growth of the West 1860-1900



Settlement of the West 1860-1890



United States 1857-1912



CLASH OF CULTURES

A variety of cultures coming from many directions shaped the West

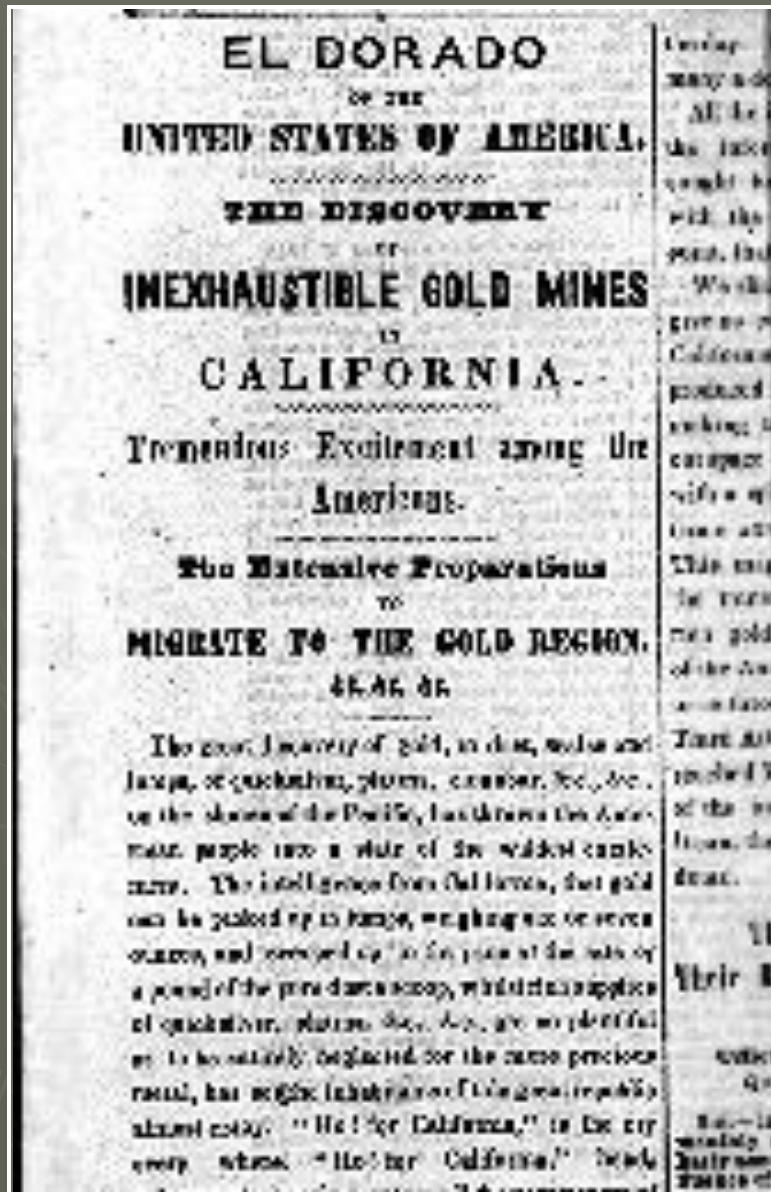
- ▶ Europeans
- ▶ Indians
- ▶ Hispanic
 - *Tejanos*
 - *Californios*
- ▶ Asian
 - “Coolies”
 - “tongs”
 - Chinese Exclusion Act



MINERS



CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH



- ▶ Gold is discovered at Sutter's Fort in 1848
- ▶ Word of the gold strike reaches the rest of the US by late 1848
- ▶ In 1849, over 80,000 Americans flock to the gold fields
- ▶ San Francisco grows to 50,000 people by 1855



Miners, California, 1852

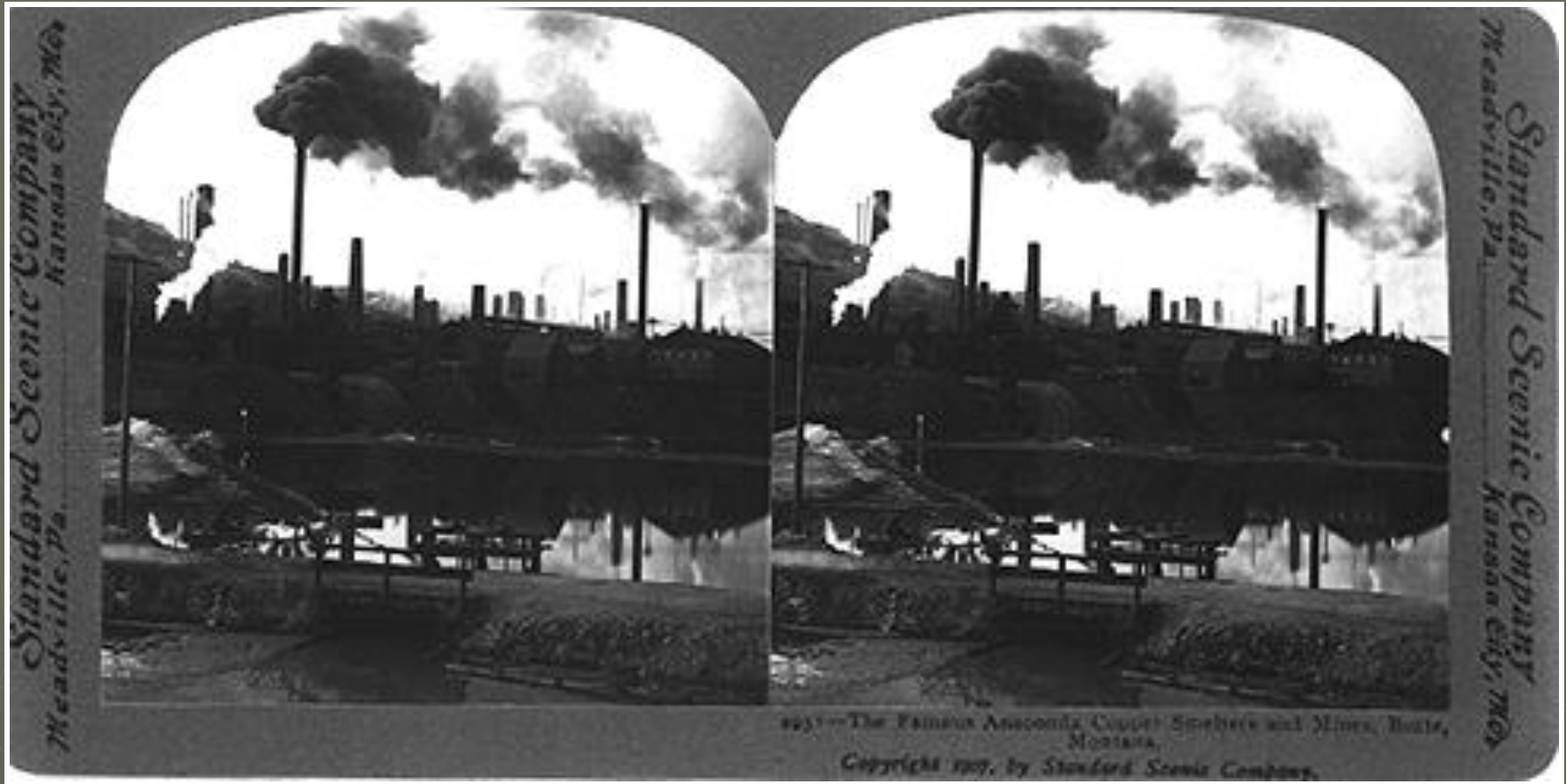
MINERS

- ▶ Comstock Lode
- ▶ Black Hills
- ▶ Boomtowns

Mining Regions
of the West



Copper Smelting, Butte, Montana



- Individual miners looking to get rich were many of the first settlers
- Large mining companies, often based in East, end up dominating mining
- Products of Western mining fuel the developing industrial economy

RAILROADS





Workers were the real heroes of the building of the Iron Road.

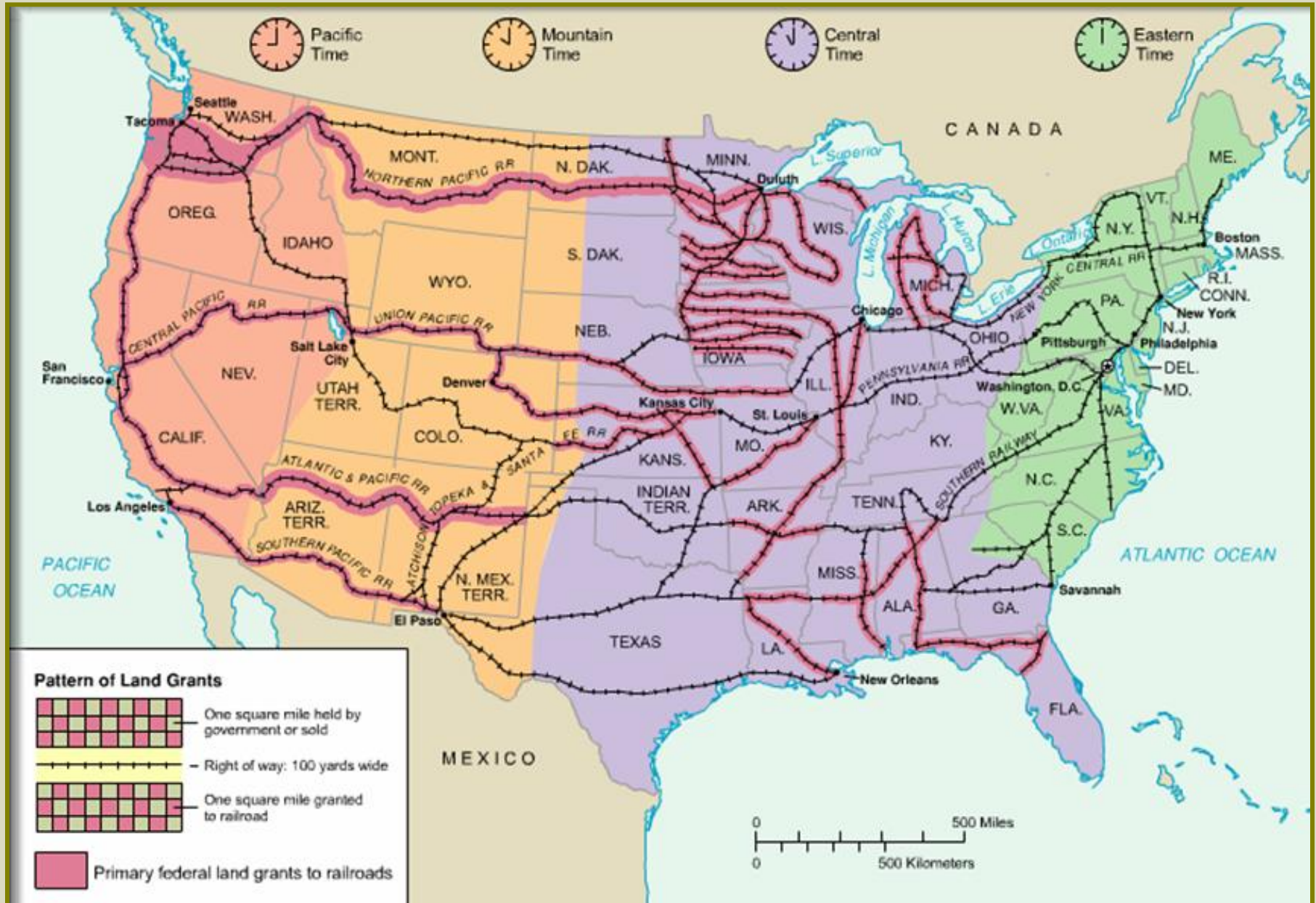
Workers for the Union Pacific



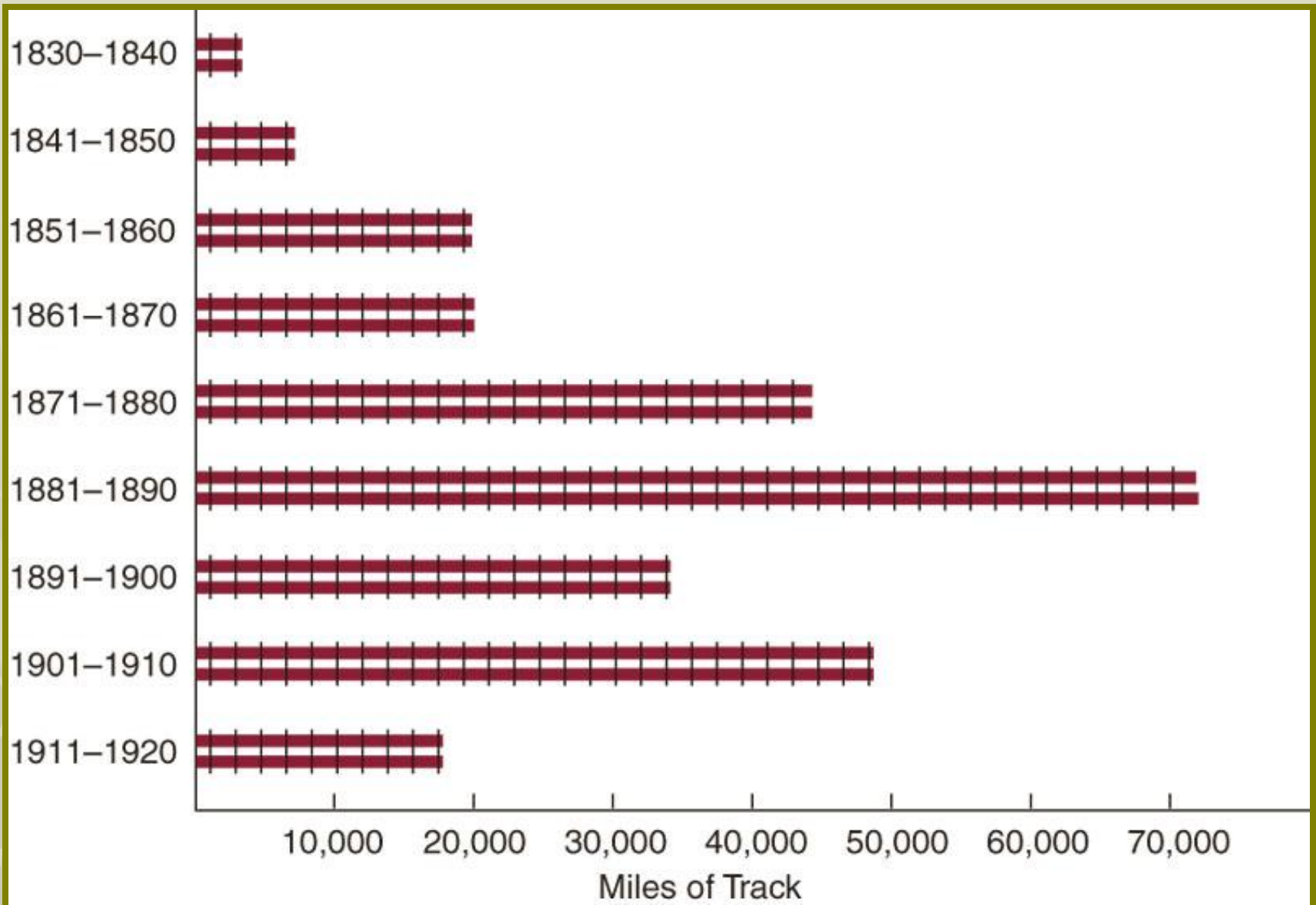
Mission accomplished: Promontory Point, Utah, May 10, 1869.

Promontory, 1869: Who is missing?

Transcontinental Railroads and Federal Land Grants, 1850-1900



Railroad Construction, 1830-1920



RANCHERS

&

COWBOYS

RANCHERS

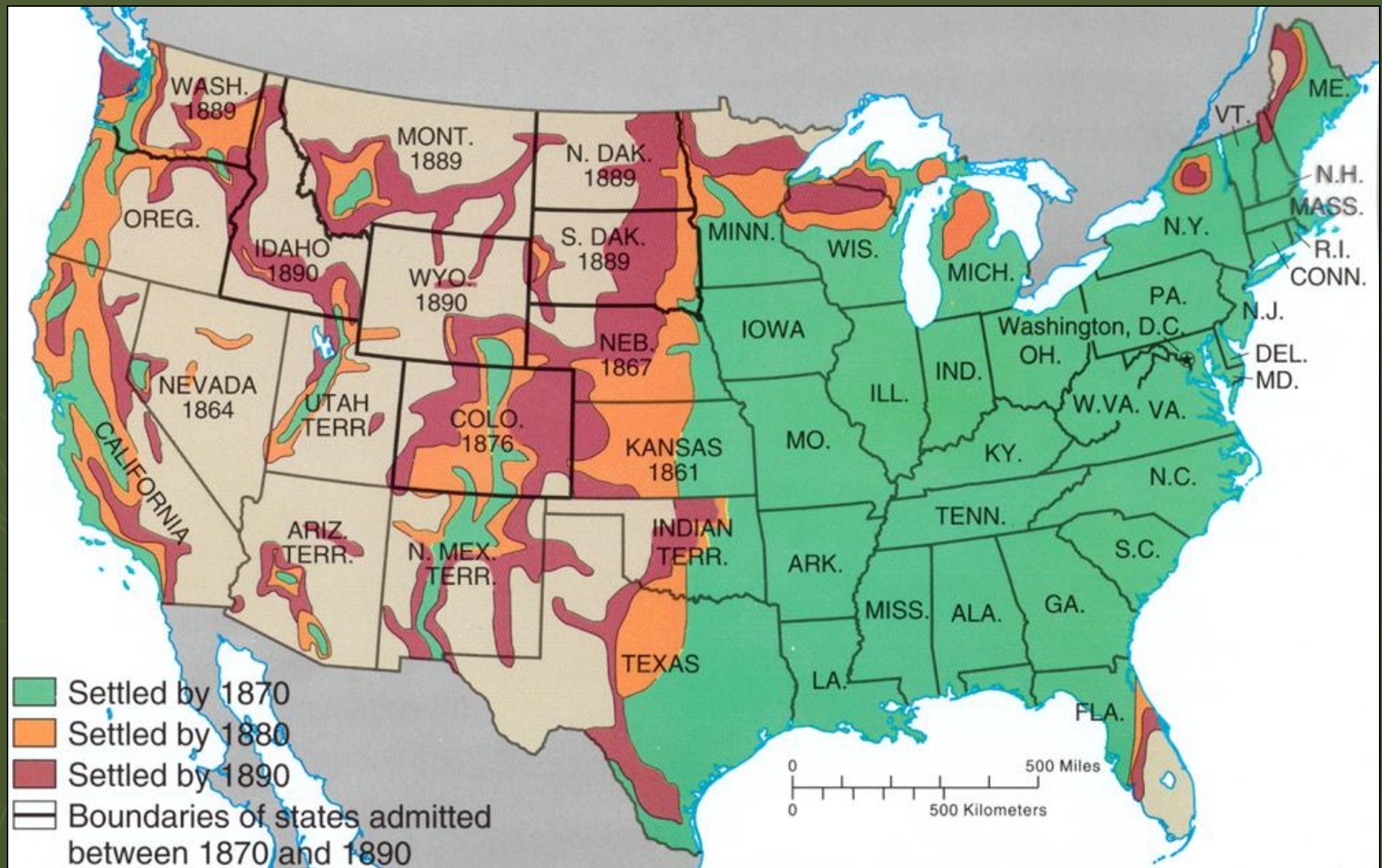
- ▶ “long drives”
- ▶ range wars
- ▶ What fuels the development of large-scale cattle ranching?
- ▶ Why does the golden age of ranching end? Who ends up dominating the industry?



FARMERS



Frontier Settlement 1870-1890



FARMERS

- ▶ Homestead Act
- ▶ Morrill Land Grant Act
- ▶ Role of railroads
- ▶ Sodbusters



Kansas
emigrants

Kansas Collection,
University of
Kansas Libraries



Shores Family, Nebraska, 1887

The Farmers' Complaints

- ▶ Weather: drought, blizzards, etc
- ▶ Declining crop prices
- ▶ Railroad rates / railroad monopolies
- ▶ debt
- ▶ Money supply
- ▶ High tariffs

• Who dominates farming by 1900?
What kind of farms?

• Opportunity?

• Role of Industrial market economy?



Agricultural Regions, 1900

WESTERN INDIANS

The background is a dark red color with a faint, light red map of the Western United States. The map shows the outlines of the states in the western half of the country. In the bottom left corner, there is a compass rose with a red needle pointing towards the top left. The compass rose has labels for 'N' (North), 'S' (South), 'E' (East), and 'W' (West), and a scale of degrees around its perimeter.

GUIDING QUESTION 3

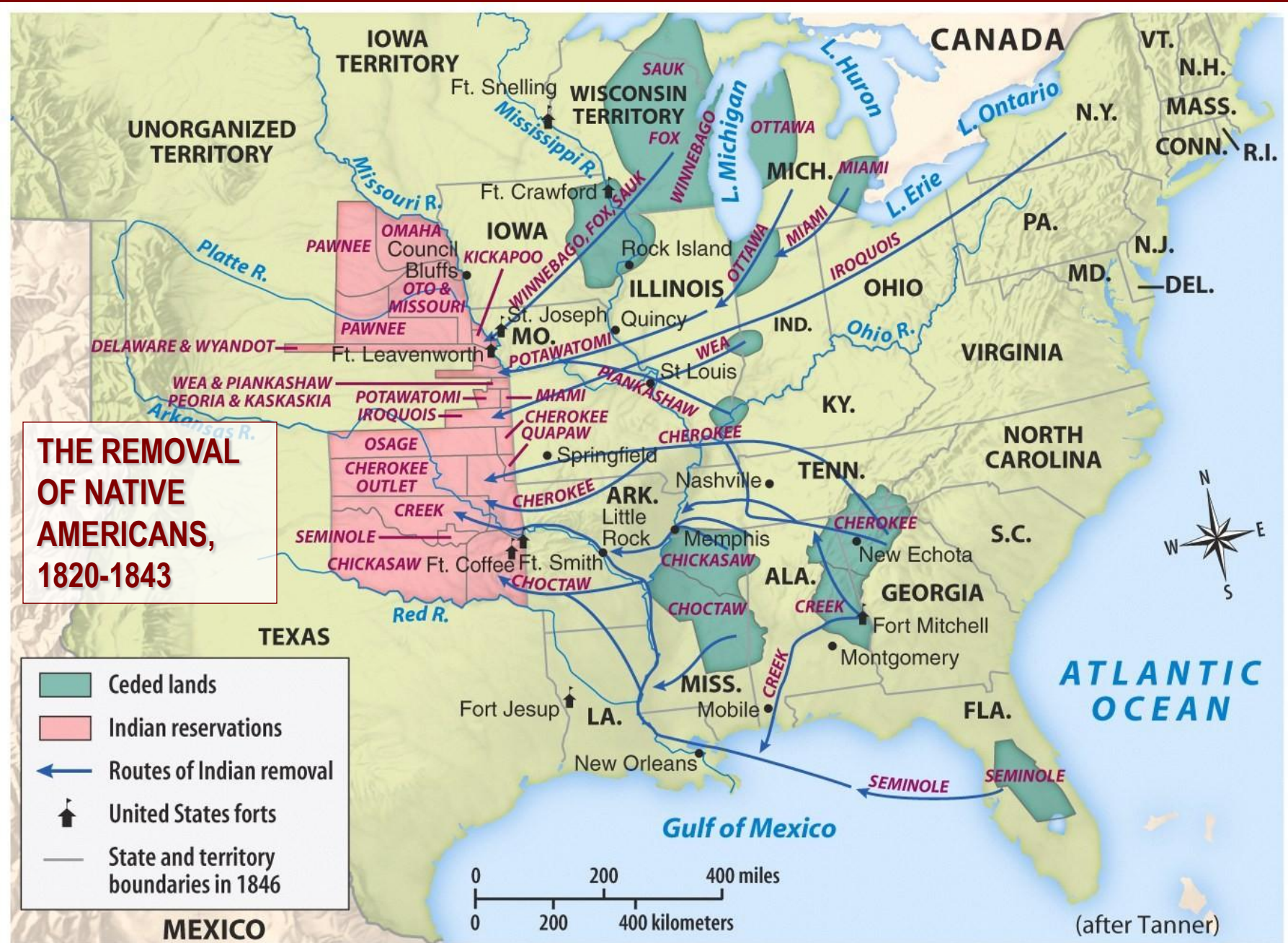
3. How were the lives of the Plains Indians in the second half of the 19th century affected by the development of the West?

- ▶ **government actions?**
- ▶ **technological developments**

Native Americans: 19th Century

1. **Removal** (West of the Mississippi R.) (1830s-40s)
2. **Concentration** (1860s-1880s)
 - ▶ Indian Wars
 - ▶ Reservations
3. **Assimilation** (1880s-1930s)
 - ▶ Dawes Act

"Indian Removal" (1820-1843)



INDIANS

► "concentration"

► reservations

► Bureau of Indian Affairs



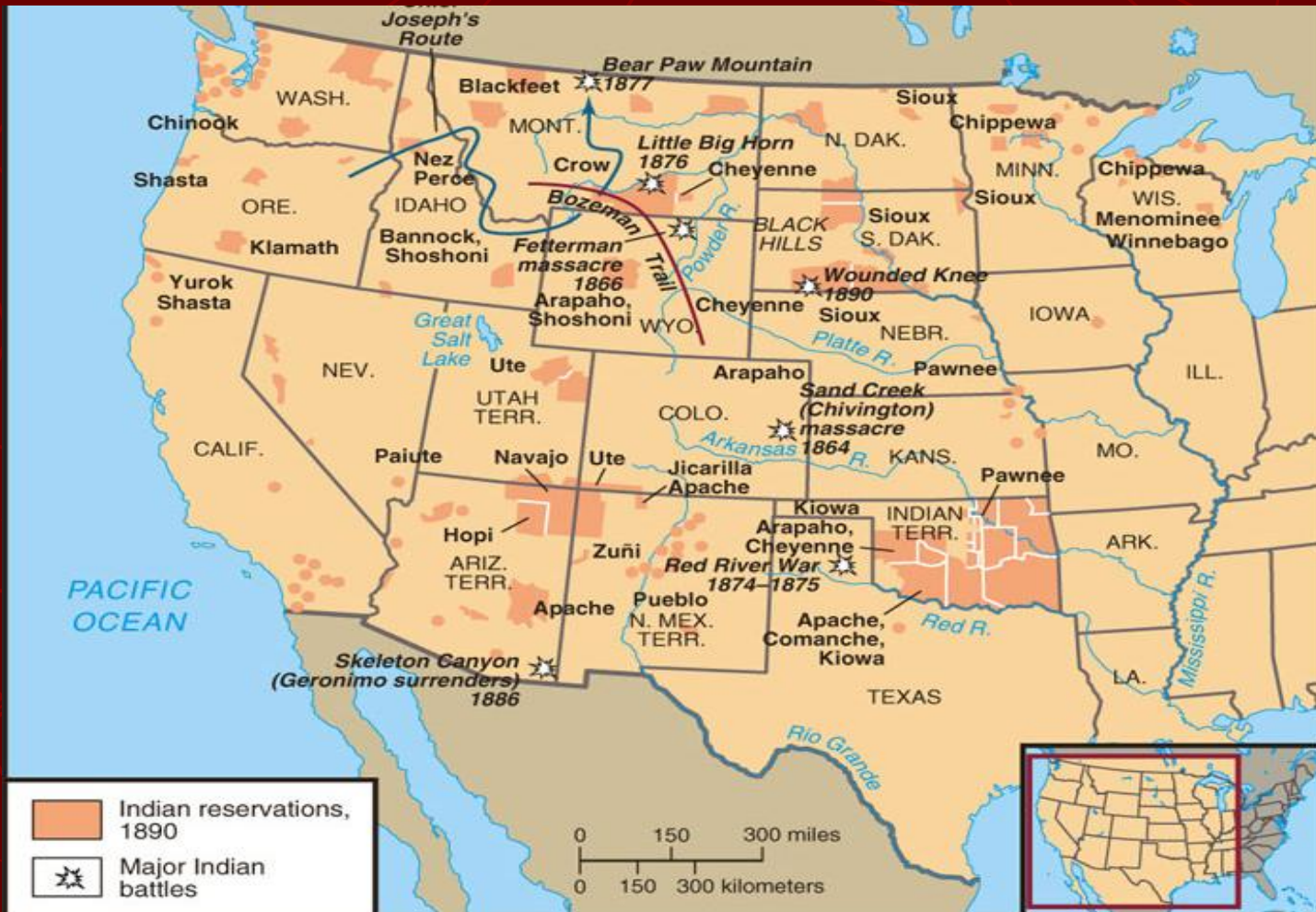
Buffalo Lying Dead, 1872



INDIANS

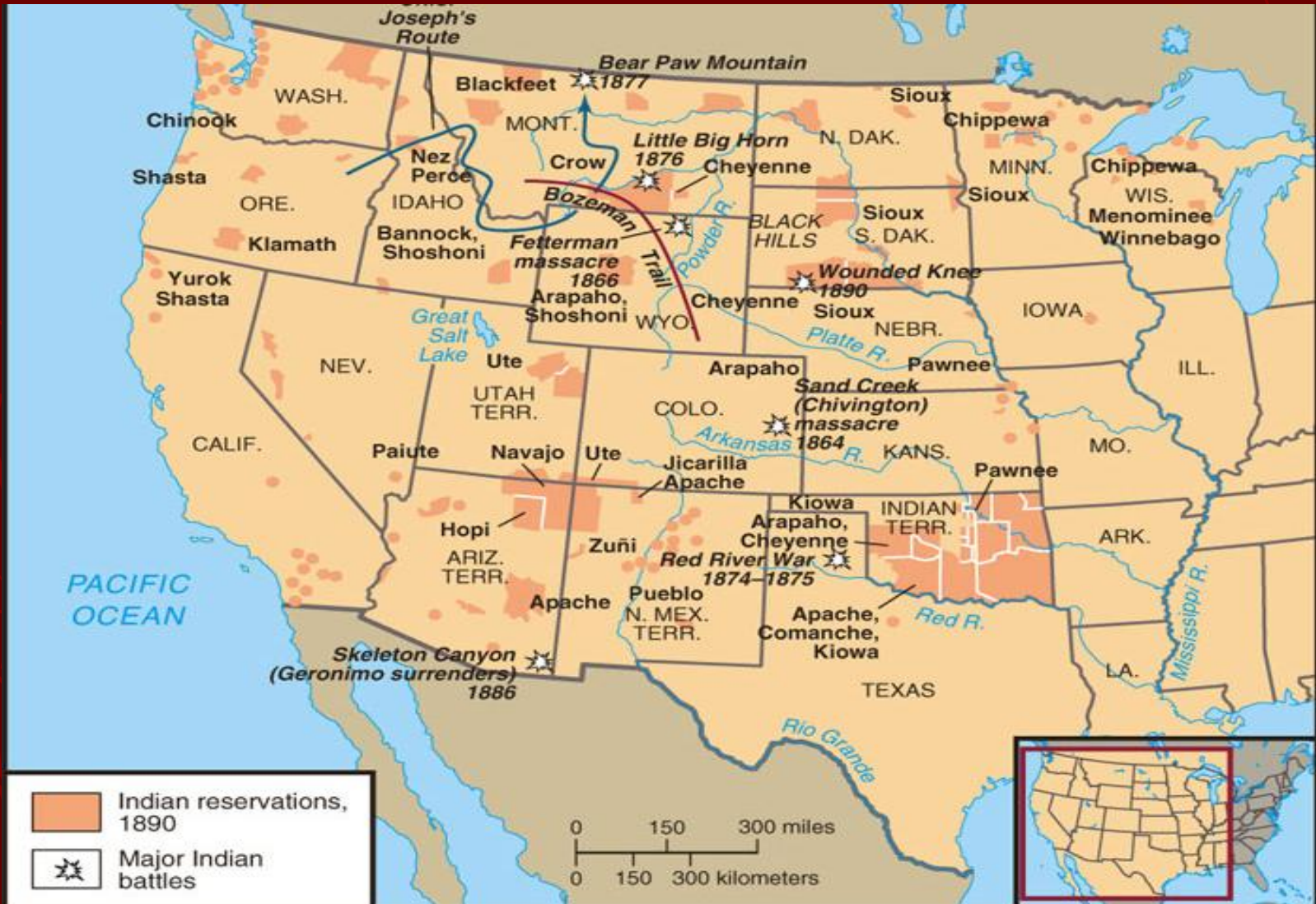
► Sand Creek Massacre

- Crazy Horse
- Sitting Bull
- George Armstrong Custer
- Battle of Little Big Horn



- ▶ "Ghost Dance"
- ▶ Wounded Knee

INDIANS





Chief Joseph,
Leader of the
Nez Perce

Troops Burying Bodies, Wounded Knee



INDIANS

► Assimilation ► Dawes Severalty Act (1883)



THE MYTH

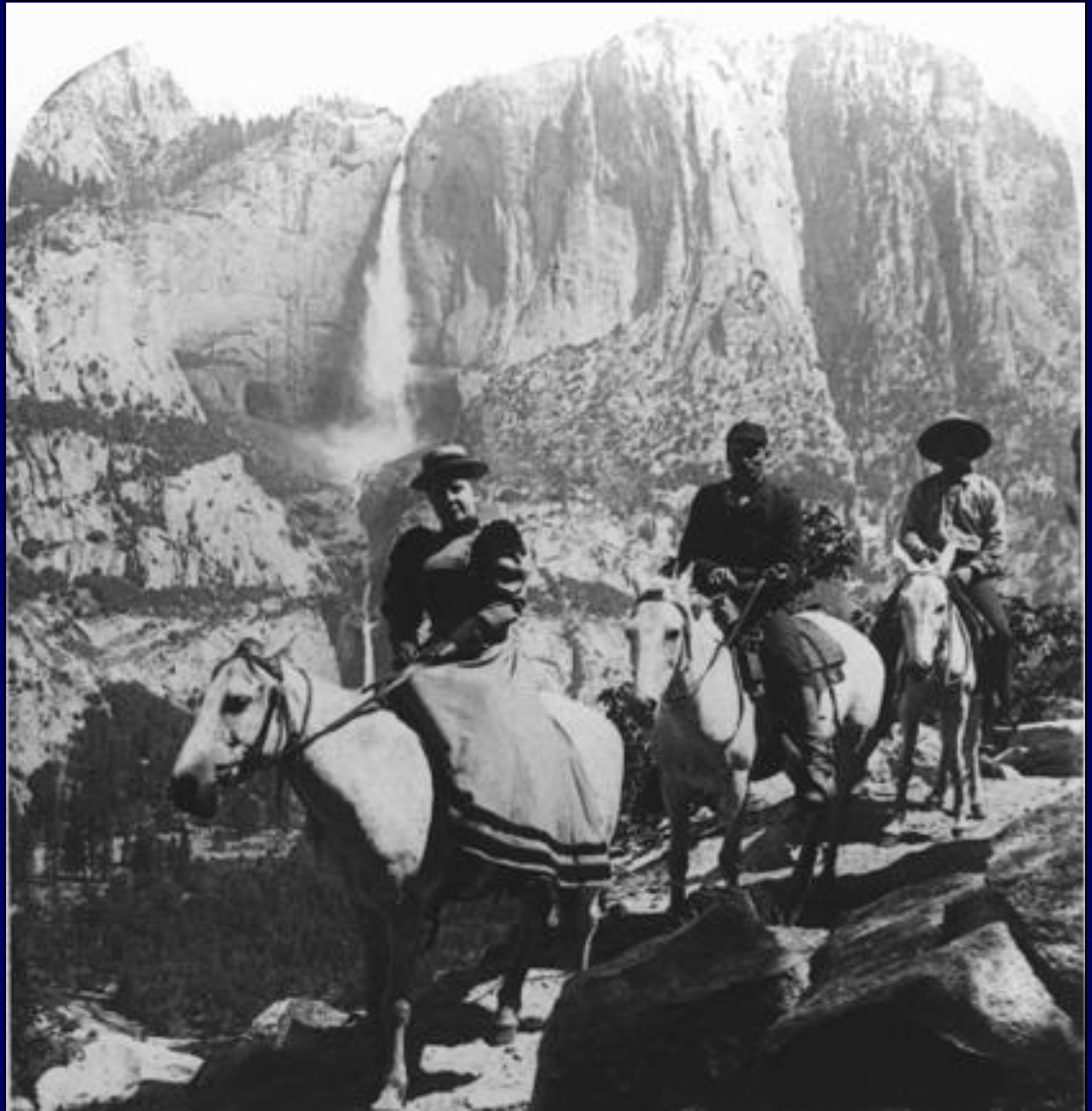


GUIDING QUESTION 4

- 4. “Popular fascination with the cowboy, the pioneer, and the stories of Horatio Alger in the period 1870-1915 reflected Americans’ uneasiness over the transition from an agrarian to an industrial society.”**

Assess the validity of this statement.

Turn-of-the-century tourists at Yosemite



The Establishment of National Parks and Forests



MYTHS & MEANINGS OF THE WEST

- ▶ Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show
- ▶ Helen Hunt Jackson
- ▶ Frederick Jackson Turner

Buffalo Bill Cody and
Sitting Bull, 1884



Frederick Jackson Turner

"Frontier Thesis"

"The existence of an area of free land, its continuous recession and the advance of settlement westward, explain American Development."

Why was this a new interpretation at the time?
How accurate is it?

