

## Identifies Period 6: 1865-1898

AMSCO Chapter 17, [American Yawp](#) Chapter 17

1. The Mining Frontier
2. The Cattle Frontier
3. Modernizing Northern Society: The Homestead Act
4. Modernizing Northern Society: Morrill Land Grant Act
5. Modernizing Northern Society: Pacific Railway Act
6. The Farming Frontier: Turner's frontier thesis
7. *Primary Source: The Significance of the Frontier in American History (excerpt)*
8. The Removal of Native Americans: Indian Wars
9. *Primary Source: Speech – Red Cloud*
10. The Removal of Native Americans: Assimilationists; Dawes Severalty Act
11. The Removal of Native Americans: Ghost Dance Movement

### Primary Sources

**Excerpt from “The Significance of the Frontier in American History” Frederick Jackson Turner, 1893**

“[W]e have in [United States history] a recurrence of the process of evolution in each western area reached in the process of expansion. Thus American development has exhibited not merely advance along a single line, but a return to primitive conditions on a continually advancing frontier line, and a new development for that area. American social development has been continually beginning over again on the frontier. This perennial rebirth, this fluidity of American life, this expansion westward with its new opportunities, its continuous touch with the simplicity of primitive society, furnish the forces dominating American character. The true point of view in the history of this nation is not the Atlantic coast, it is the Great West. . . . In this advance, the frontier is the outer edge of the wave —the meeting point between savagery and civilization.”

Frederick Jackson Turner, historian, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History,” 1893

## Speech - Red Cloud, Chief of Teton Sioux Nation 1870

When you first came we were many, and you were few; now you are many, and we are getting very few, and we are poor. You do not know who appears before you today to speak. I am representative of the original American race, the first people of this continent. We are good and not bad. The reports that you hear concerning us are all on one side. . . . We are driven into a very little land, and we want you now, as our dear friends to help us with the government of the United States.

At the mouth of the Horse Creek in 1852, the Great Father made a treaty with us by which we agreed to let all that country open for fifty-five years for the transit of those who were going through. We kept this treaty; we never treated any man wrong; we never committed any murder or depredation until afterward the troops were sent into that country, and the troops killed our people and ill-treated them, and thus war and trouble arose; but before the troops were sent there we were quiet and peaceable, and there was no disturbance. . . .

Colonel Fitzpatrick of the government said we must go to farm, and some of the people went to Fort Laramie and were badly treated. I only want to do that which is peaceful, and the Great Fathers know it, and also the Great Father who made us both. I came to Washington to see the Great Father [President] in order to have peace and in order to have peace continue. That is all we want, and that is the reason we are here now.

In 1868 men came out and brought papers. We are ignorant and do not read papers, and they did not tell us right what was in these papers. We wanted them to take away their forts, leave our country, not make war, and give our traders something. They said we had bound ourselves to trade on the Missouri, and we said, no, we did not want that. The interpreters deceived us. . . .

Look at me, I am poor and naked, but I am the Chief of the Nation. We do not want riches, we do not ask for riches, but we want our children properly trained and brought up. We look to you

for your sympathy. Our riches will . . . do us no good; we cannot take away into the other world anything we have—we want to have love and peace. . . . We would like to know why commissioners are sent out there to do nothing but rob [us] and get the riches of this world away from us.

And I am going to leave you today, and I am going back to my home. I want to tell the people that we cannot trust [President Grant's] agents. I don't want strange people that we know nothing about. . . . I don't want any more such men sent out there, who are so poor that when they come out their first thoughts are how they can fill their own pockets. . . .

Speech by Red Cloud, reported in  
*The New York Times*, July 17, 1870