Westward Expansion

The boundaries of the United States of America in 1787, at the time of the British Colonies War for Freedom, was: the Allegheny Mountains toward the west, St. Lawrence toward the North, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south and east possessing the eastern part of the North American landmass. Toward the west, there were a great many miles of prolific open area having woodlands, mountains, rivers and fields which were occupied by Indigenous people groups and Spanish Mexicans. The frontier between the settled lands of the east and the terrains of the wild-west was pushed further and facilitate westbound in two waves as the area was purchased, explored, and taken over by the United States Government and settled by foreigners from Europe. The first wave settled land west to the Mississippi River taking after the Louisiana Purchase. The second wave settled grounds west of the Mississippi to California. Farms, mines, railways, urban communities and industry sprung up. A large number of these foreigners endured, or more awful died of thirst in the deserts, Indian raids, or from criminal brutality. Most just needed an area to homestead; others needed to make a snappy fortune in the gold prospects of the West (Lard Bucket, 2012).

Thesis Statement

To study how the westward expansion of America took place regarding major cities, railroad networks, agricultural land, and states and territories.

The Western Lands

If you take a look at a relief map of the United States, then you can see that the area west of the Allegheny Mountains is for the most part level and open until you achieve the Rocky Mountains; which is over a thousand miles away. The Mississippi River isolates These central plains and its tributaries, for example, the Ohio toward the east, and the Missouri; Arkansas; and Red toward the west into the Midwest and Great Plains. These streams framed normal courses for investigation, travel, and exchange utilized amid the westward expansion of the United States of America.

The terrains of the Midwest: Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Minnesota pulled in agriculturists, mineworkers. Also, Lumber noblemen looking for rich regular assets. Agriculturists were pulled into the lavish, ripe, glacial soils that upheld numerous types of grain, new delivery, and natural product. Mineworkers looked for copper, iron, silver and gold in the mines of northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Lumber Barons collected the considerable hardwood and pine woodlands of the Midwest delivering world class oak, and white pine. Americans turned west not long after understanding the capability of these new grounds as reports happened to more natural assets deceiving the West.

The Great Plains might be isolated into two geographic ranges: high fields toward the west and low fields to the east. Sodbusters were the underlying pioneers transforming rich prairies into furrowed fields. Sodbusters in the eastern fields succeeded delivering local yields; while, low yearly rainfalls made cultivating unfruitful in the high fields. Low yearly rainfalls were made territorially due to a downpour shadow impact created by the Coastal and Rough Mountains. The high fields were reasonable for domesticated animals, however, and soon steers and sheep farms abused this natural asset.

Cattle and Railroads

Until the 1860s, the colossal central fields between the Missouri and Mississippi in the east and the Rocky Mountains were an unending zone of meadows to be crossed as quick as could be allowed. Precipitation, even outside the desert states, was low and cultivating did not look simple. Also, the Indian people groups were resolved to keep the white man out if they could.

The coming of the railways and the cattlemen transformed this. By 1869 the first railroad extended from the Pacific to Omaha, Nebraska. In the next years, numerous different lines were manufactured. Presently finally men and merchandise could be conveyed economically and rapidly over the landmass. The main individuals to see the odds offered by the railways were the Texan cattlemen. Amid the Civil War, farms had not been cared for, and 5 million semi-wild cows meandered the state. In the North a developing populace needed hamburger, so the Texan cattlemen took the cows for many miles to Abilene, Kansas where they were delivered to Chicago by pontoon. They soon understood that there would be incredible focal points in keeping the immense groups of steers on the Great Plains. The railroad organizations constructed lines to the fundamental focuses, and the dairy cattle farms started. The time of the cattle rustler was conceived. The wilderness rancher towns got to be incredible. Weapons and beverage were shoddy, and cowpokes touched base around the local area with maybe a while pay to spend. It is not surprising that life was violent (PBS Learning Media, n.d.).

The Peopling of the United States

There were a little more than 23 million Americans in 1850. By 1880 there were 50 million. A portion of this was a characteristic increment, which was going on all through Europe and America since every year a bigger number of individuals were being conceived than were died. But also in those 30 years somewhere around 1850 and 1880, more than 71/2 million workers landed from Europe furthermore, settled in the farmlands of the mid and far west. Of the considerable number of workers, it was the Germans, Swedes, and Norwegians took after towards the end of the century by Poles and Czechs, who took the biggest part in the westbound surge. After 1900 there was another surge of foreigners from Europe, who came for the most part to the urban areas also, processing plants of the East. Shine and Russian Jews came to escape against Jewish abuse. Southern Italians fled from destitution and pandemics. About all these later workers from southern and eastern Europe were poorer and less taught than early settlers.

Amid this period, the urban areas developed quickly: Chicago had 12 families in 1831, 30,000 individuals in 1850 and 1,700,000 in 1900. It turned into the focal point of the meat preparing and packaging industry (ISU, n.d.).

Conclusion

The westward expansion during 1860 to 1890 changed America greatly. Many new cities and states were made a part of America during this time. Agriculture saw major changes. Railroads were now starting to develop and expand. The population of immigrants increased and the America was now on the path of development in many terms.

# References

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