CHAPTER 16: Forging a Transcontinental Nation 1877–1900

Visual Review

Myth and History
Boosters promote the west as a land of promise and opportunity shaping national identity.

The Culture of Collective Violence
Westerners embrace the idea of vigilantism and organized violence against Indians.

The Federal Frontier Promotion and Memory
Boosters promote the west as a land of promise and opportunity shaping national identity.

Mexican Borders
Mexicans and Americans flow across the national borders.

Chinese Exclusion
The Chinese face intense discrimination and labor exploitation.

Mapping the West

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Changing Patterns of Migration
Migration west continues, boosting and diversifying the economy.

Mining and Labor
Mineral rushes pull migrants to the West and generate enormous wealth.

Business Travelers
Mine owners import labor and export minerals.

Meeting Ground of Many Peoples

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Mexican Borders
Mexicans and Americans flow across the national borders.

Chinese Exclusion
The Chinese face intense discrimination and labor exploitation.

Mapping the West

The Federal Frontier
The federal government promotes western land ownership and development.

Promotion and Memory
Early settlers generate accounts of the frontier sometimes at odds with reality.

The Culture of Collective Violence
Westerners embrace the idea of vigilantism and organized violence against Indians.
Extractive Economies and Global Commodities

- Railroads Time and Space
  Vast transportation and communication networks connect the West to the national and world economy.

- Industrial Ranching
  The West builds an expanding global cattle industry.

- Corporate Cowboys
  Cowboys develop as cultural icons and actual laborers.

Clearing the Land and Cleansing the Wilderness

- Indian Conflict and Resistance
  Indians resist military action taken by the U.S. government to control their land.

- Education for Assimilation
  The U.S. government enacts policies to educate Indians.

- The Destruction of the Buffalo
  Government policies over animal and land use impacts Indian life.

- The Dawes Act and Survival
  The U.S. government divides reservations in a misguided effort to protect Indians through assimilation.

- Tourism, Parks, and Forests
  Congress creates policies to reserve and preserve public lands.