

Week 1 DBQ: New South, Frontier, Cowboys & Indians, Women and Minorities
Directions: Read and annotate the excerpts below, then answer the questions for each selection by coloring in the correct answer choice on the bubble sheet provided.

Excerpt from Henry W. Grady's Speech Before Boston's Bay State Club, 1889

I attended a funeral once in Pickens county in my State ...This funeral was peculiarly sad. It was a poor ... "one gallus" fellow, whose breeches struck him under the armpits and hit him at the other end about the knee - he didn't believe in *decollete* clothes. They buried him in the midst of a marble quarry: they cut through solid marble to make his grave; and yet a little tombstone they put above him was from Vermont. They buried him in the heart of a pine forest, and yet the pine coffin was imported from Cincinnati. They buried him within touch of an iron mine, and yet the nails his coffin and the iron in the shovel that dug his grave were imported from Pittsburg. They buried him by the side of the best sheep-grazing country on the earth, and yet the wool in the coffin bands and the coffin bands themselves were brought from the North. The South didn't furnish a thing on earth for that funeral but the corpse and the hole in the ground. There they put him away and the clods rattled down on his coffin, and they buried him in a New York coat and a Boston pair of shoes and a pair of breeches from Chicago and a shirt from Cincinnati, leaving him nothing to carry into the next world with him to remind him of the country in which he lived, and for which he fought for four years, but the chill of blood in his veins and the marrow in his bones. Now we have improved on that. We have got the biggest marble-cutting establishment on earth within a hundred yards of that grave. We have got a half-dozen woolen mills right around it, and iron mines, and iron furnaces, and iron factories. We are coming to meet you. We are going to take a noble revenge, as my friend, Mr. Carnegie, said last night, by invading every inch of your territory with iron, as you invaded ours twenty-nine years ago.

1. What is the message of Grady's story about the funeral attended?

- a) That Southerners had nothing of their own under the old system of plantation agriculture
- b) That poor Southerners were being worked to death
- c) That Northern products were superior to Southern ones

2. What does Grady mean in the last sentence, when he tells Andrew Carnegie that the South will invade every inch of his territory, as Northerners invaded the South 29 years earlier?

- a) The South will reform its armies and start a new Civil War
- b) The South will use industry and commerce to become the equals of the North
- c) The South will seek revenge against Carnegie for his dumping iron in the South decades before.

Excerpt from Grady's Speech before the New England Club in New York, 1886

...The south found her jewel in the toad's head of defeat. The shackles that had held her in narrow limitations fell forever when the shackles of the negro slave were broken. Under the old regime the negroes were slaves to the South; the South was a slave to the system. The old plantation, with its simple police regulations and feudal habit, was the only type possible under slavery...The old South rested everything on slavery and agriculture, unconscious that these could neither give nor maintain healthy growth. The new South presents a perfect democracy, the oligarchs leading in the popular movement - a social system compact and closely knitted, less splendid on the surface, but stronger at the core - a hundred farms for every plantation, fifty homes for every palace - and a diversified industry that meets the complex need of this complex age.

3. Grady argues that the plantation system's dependence on slavery had done what?

- a) Allowed many planters to grow rich
- b) Recreated the feudal system of Middle Ages Europe
- c) Hindered the growth of Southern society and industry, something the New South intended to correct.

Excerpt from a Speech by D.A. Tompkins on the New South, circa 1900

...The New South is of healthy growth. It is already a young giant. It is absorbing the assets of the old, and adding to them at the same time by turning the raw material of the country, heretofore mostly untouched, into products from the sale of which come handsome profits...In the Piedmont region of North and South Carolina cotton factories are springing up quietly but with a rapidity equaled nowhere in the United States in any industry, except by that of iron-making in Alabama and Tennessee...Atlanta is full of enterprises and enterprising men, and the growth of that city is a fair example of the results of Southern raw material and Southern labor combined. Here, too, the diversity of enterprise is marked. Here it is possible to contract for the products of cotton or cottonseed. Here are the headquarters of marble companies supplying marble as fine as the Italian stone. Granite is supplied for paving the streets of cities to the north and west. Here are manufactured cotton gins, steam engines, and various machines used in the preparation of cotton for the market. In Macon, J. F. Hanson is the successful manager of two splendidly equipped cotton factories; and at Columbus there are the Eagle and Phoenix Mills, than which none in Massachusetts has been more successful.

4. Tompkins' speech describes a New South that is what?

- a) A thriving region with industry better than any place in the North
- b) A region dependent on Northern markets
- c) A region where cities like Atlanta and Macon provide examples for other Southern cities to remake themselves

A Cotton Mill Worker's Comments on the New South, 1887

...There are about 225 to 250 hands engaged at different classes of work in this mill, about 100 of them children - many of them very small children, under 12 years of age. Wages are about as good here as at any mill in the State and I think better than at many of them. The only trouble about wages is that they are not paid in cash - trade checks are issued with which employees are expected to buy what they need at company's store, which is not right. The same system is practiced I am told, at most of the cotton mills in the State, but that does not make it right and just. The tobacco factories in this town pay the cash every week. Any man who has ever tried it knows there is a great difference in buying with cash. This, with the long hours required for a day's work (12 hours), is the only cause for complaint; the officers are kind and close attention to work and sobriety and morality is required of all who work here.

5) According to this worker, what is the biggest problem with working in the cotton mills and textile factories?

- a) That children are used in the labor force
- b) That wages are paid with "trade checks" for use in the company stores, not in cash
- c) That tobacco workers get paid more than mill workers

6. Approximately how much of the work force at this worker's mill is made up of children?

- a) Almost half
- b) 75%
- c) 10%

Tenants and farmers Assess the New South, 1887-1889

Extracts from Letters to the Bureau on Various Subjects from Tenants and Farm Laborers in the Different Counties the State 1887

A.R.-There is general depression and hard times and almost broken spirits among the tenant farmers. There are many things that contribute somewhat to this bad state of things but the one great cause is the outrageous per cent. charged for supplies bought on credit; it is sapping the life of North Carolina.

F.M.S.-The poor cannot clothe their children decently enough for a school room because of the exorbitant rate of interest they are charged for supplies; they are obliged to pay whatever the merchants charge. This is a most pressing evil and should be stopped by law or it will soon swallow us body and soul.

T.D.H.-Some think they pay only 25 or 30 per cent. for what they buy on crop liens, but if they will figure it out, they will see it is 100 to 200 per cent. per annum on the amount they buy over cash prices. There would be an over-supply of labor if they would work. Negroes with some education will not work on the farm if they can help it. They have a keener desire for education than the whites and attend school much better.

7. According to these extracts from tenant farmers, the biggest drawback to economic success for them is what?

- a) The high percentage of markup on supplies bought on credit with money borrowed from the landowner
- b) That poor children don't have good clothes for winter
- c) Negroes will not work on farms anymore

Excerpt from "The Indian Cannot Be Civilized" by George Armstrong Custer (1839-1876)

...Stripped of the beautiful romance with which we have been so long willing to envelope him, transferred from the inviting pages of the novelist to the localities where we are compelled to meet with him, in his native village, on the war path, and when raiding upon our frontier settlements and lines of travel, the Indian forfeits his claim to the appellation of the "noble man."...To me, Indian life, with its attendant ceremonies, mysteries, and forms, is a book of unceasing interest. Grant that some of its pages are frightful and, if possible, to be avoided. Yet the attraction is none the weaker. Study him, fight him, civilize him if you can, he remains still the object of your curiosity, a type of man peculiar and undefined, subjecting himself to no known law of civilization, contending determinedly against all efforts to win him from his chosen mode of life. He stands in the group of nations solitary and reserved, seeking alliance with none, mistrusting and opposing the advances of all. Civilization may and should do much for him, but it can never civilize him.

8. What does the excerpt reveal about how Custer sees the Indians?

- a) The Indians are crafty and not to be trusted
- b) Indians are "noble savages" that inspire poetry and stories among white people
- c) Civilization may be able to smooth the rough edges of the Indians' way of life, but it will never be able to fully incorporate them into the white man's world.

Cowboy Teddy Blue's Account of a Stampede Fatality

It was a rare stampede that left no fatalities. A horse's hoof in a prairie dog hole, a slip on muddy earth, a miscalculation of distance in blinding rain or darkness could mean instant death. Next morning the cook would remove the spade from beneath the chuckwagon and dig a grave; the trail boss would take the Bible his saddlebag and read services for the dead. Teddy Blue has told what is probably the best vernacular account of such an event: "And that night it come up an awful storm. It took all four of us to hold the cattle and we didn't hold them, and when morning come there was one man missing. We went back to look for him, and found him among the prairie dog holes, beside his horse. The horse's ribs was scraped bare of hide, and all the rest of horse and man was mashed into the ground as flat as a pancake. The only thing you could recognize was the handle of his six-shooter. We tried to think the lightning hit him, and that was what we wrote his folks down in Henrietta, Texas. But we couldn't really believe it ourselves. I'm afraid it wasn't lightning. I'm afraid his horse stepped into one of them holes and they both went down before the stampede. We got a shovel - I remember it had a broken handle - and we buried him nearby, on a hillside covered with round, smooth rocks.... We dug a little of the ground away underneath him and slipped his saddle blanket under him and piled [stones] on top. That was the best we could do. The ground was hard and we didn't have no proper tools."

9. What does this excerpt say about the life of a cowboy on a cattle drive?

- a) Lightning was something to be afraid of
- b) Cattle drives were hard, dangerous, and too often ended in a lonely prairie grave
- c) Stampedes were difficult, but unusual, occurrences in a cowboy's life

Excerpt from "The American West" by Dee Brown

The slow march of settlement which had followed the Homestead Act of 1862 turned into a stampede during the 1870s and 1880s. Thousands of human beings moved out upon the great plains into an awesome surreal world of limitless earth and sky. For some it was a world of beauty and freedom, but for others it was frightening and sometimes maddening in its loneliness. The young farming men, women, and children came from everywhere, bringing everything they owned - a few horses or oxen, a coop of poultry, seeds for planting, a plow. Their first days were hard, but a few people like John Ruede from Pennsylvania found time to scrawl, "Staked two corners of our claim this morning Looking for a place to make our dugout." Two days later recorded: "We got through digging the hole by the time it was dark. The hole is 10 x 14 feet, and in front 4 ft. deep, 4½ behind. On Monday we must look for a ridge pole and dig steps so we can get into the place." Within the week, sod walls twenty inches thick were up above the ground, and Ruede wrote on Saturday, just nine days after staking his claim: "Used part of the straw on the roof, and covered the whole roof with a layer of sod, and then threw dirt on it, and the 'House' was finished." Next day, Ruede was planting gooseberry bushes along the west side of his sod house and making arrangements for help with well-digging and sod-breaking.

10. The description of John Ruede's sod home on the prairie tells us what about western settlement?

- a) Settlers planned poorly by not bringing lumber with them
- b) Settlers made due with improvised materials to establish homesteads until more permanent structures could be built
- c) Settlers were willing to gamble everything to build a new life in the West, relying on one another, and doing what they must to survive and hopefully - eventually - thrive.

Mrs. A. M. Green Gives an Account of Frontier Life in Colorado, 1887

...In the town we pitched our tent, which was almost daily blown to the ground. To say that I was homesick, discouraged and lonely, is but a faint description of my feelings. It was one of those terrible gloomy days that I sat in my lonely tent with my baby, Frank, in my arms, who was crying from the effects produced by the sands of the American desert, while beside my knee stood my little Sisy, (as we called her) trying to comfort her brother by saying: "Don't cry, F'ankie, we is all going back to grandpa's pitty soon, ain't we, mamma?" Not receiving an immediate answer from me, she raised her eyes to mine, from which gushed a fountain of burning tears. "Don't cry, mamma," said she; "sing to F'ank like you always does, and he will stop crying." I obeyed the child's request. ... As I closed my song the curtain raised and my husband entered, sank wearily on a three-legged stool and took up our little five-year-old, placed her upon his tired knee and then addressed me thus: "Well dear, how do you get along today? I see the tent hasn't blown down." I attempted to answer in the negative, but failed, the meaning of which he comprehended in a moment. Notwithstanding any vain attempts to conceal my emotion, he pressed to his sad heart the little charge which he held in his arms, saying in a low voice: "Darling little one, you and your poor mamma have hard times, don't you?" Then turning to me, he said: "Annie, I am very sorry for you. If I had compelled you to come to this country I could never forgive myself: as it is, I feel that you reflect on me." By this time I had regained my speech and endeavored with all my might, mind and strength to convince him to the contrary. Whether I succeeded or not I never knew, but I resolved there and then to cultivate a cheerful disposition, which I believe has prolonged my life, for, at the rate I was going into despair at that time, I could not have retained my reason six months longer, and doubtless the brittle thread of life would have been snapped long ere this. O how thankful I am that I still alive to love,

work and care for those whom to me are dearer than life itself! If I have one wish above another in this world, it is that I may live a long and useful life ...

11. Annie Green's account of life on the frontier suggests what about settler women's lives?

- a) Post-partum depression was a common disease among settler women
- b) Life was hard, and made harder by homesickness and the responsibilities of making a home and raising children in a wilderness
- c) Husbands did not care that their wives were homesick, only that they took care of the home and children

Native Americans & The Dawes Act of 1887
(adapted from "The American Yawp," Vol. II, Chapter 16)

By the 1880s, Americans increasingly championed legislation to allow the transfer of Indian lands to farmers and ranchers, while many argued that allotting Indian lands to individual Native Americans, rather than to tribes, would encourage American-style agriculture and finally put Indians who had previously resisted the efforts of missionaries and federal officials on the path to “civilization.”

Passed by Congress on February 8, 1887, the Dawes General Allotment Act splintered Native American reservations into individual family homesteads. Each head of a Native family was to be allotted 160 acres, the typical size of a claim that any settler could establish on federal lands under the provisions of the Homestead Act. Single individuals over age eighteen would receive an eighty-acre allotment, and orphaned children received forty acres. A four-year timeline was established for Indian peoples to make their allotment selections. If at the end of that time no selection had been made, the act authorized the secretary of the interior to appoint an agent to make selections for the remaining tribal members. To protect Indians from being swindled by unscrupulous land speculators, all allotments were to be held in trust—they could not be sold by allottees—for twenty-five years. Lands that remained unclaimed by tribal members after allotment would revert to federal control and be sold to American settlers.

Americans touted the Dawes Act as an uplifting humanitarian reform, but it upended Indian lifestyles and left Indian groups without sovereignty over their lands. The act claimed that to protect Indian property rights, it was necessary to extend “the protection of the laws of the United States...over the Indians.” Tribal governments and legal principles could be superseded, or dissolved and replaced, by U.S. laws. Under the terms of the Dawes Act, Native groups struggled to hold on to some measure of tribal sovereignty.

12. What two factors played a role in the passage of the Dawes Act?

- a) racism and railroads
- b) white greed for Indian lands and white efforts to "civilize" the tribes
- c) military necessity and manifest destiny

13. The Dawes Act had what unintended consequences for Native Americans?

- a) erasing Indian lifestyles and sovereignty over tribal lands
- b) erosion of Indian culture and tribal identity
- c) all of the above

The West as History: The Turner Thesis
(adapted from "The American Yawp," Vol. II, Chapter 17)

In 1893, Wisconsin historian Frederick Jackson Turner presented his “frontier thesis,” one of the most influential theories of American history, in his essay “The Significance of the Frontier in American History.”

Turner looked back at the historical changes in the West and saw, instead of a tsunami of war and plunder and industry, waves of “civilization” that washed across the continent. A frontier line “between savagery and civilization” had moved west from the earliest English settlements in Massachusetts and

Virginia across the Appalachians to the Mississippi and finally across the Plains to California and Oregon.

Americans, Turner said, had been forced by necessity to build a rough-hewn civilization out of the frontier, giving the nation its exceptional hustle and its democratic spirit and distinguishing North America from the stale monarchies of Europe. Moreover, the *style* of history Turner called for was democratic as well, arguing that the work of ordinary people (in this case, pioneers) deserved the same study as that of great statesmen. Such was a novel approach in 1893.

But Turner looked ominously to the future. The Census Bureau in 1890 had declared the frontier closed. There was no longer a discernible line running north to south that, Turner said, any longer divided civilization from savagery. Turner worried for the United States' future: what would become of the nation without the safety valve of the frontier? It was a common sentiment.

The history of the West was many-sided and it was made by many persons and peoples. Turner's thesis was rife with faults, not only in its bald Anglo-Saxon chauvinism—in which nonwhites fell before the march of "civilization" and Chinese and Mexican immigrants were invisible—but in its utter inability to appreciate the impact of technology and government subsidies and large-scale economic enterprises alongside the work of hardy pioneers. Still, Turner's thesis held an almost canonical position among historians for much of the twentieth century and, more importantly, captured Americans' enduring romanticization of the West and the simplification of a long and complicated story into a march of progress.

14. Boiled down to its essence, Turner's thesis of American History said what?

- a) That Americans were selected by God to dominate North America
- b) That American history was remarkably like European history
- c) That the frontier had a huge formative impact on the American character and its successes on the world stage

15. A major flaw in Turner's thesis is that he ignores what?

- a) International influences on the shaping of American history
- b) The great men - the movers and shakers - of American history
- c) The impacts and contributions of immigrants like the Chinese, Mexicans, and Irish on American history

16. Turner was concerned that once there were no more frontiers to conquer, Americans would no longer continue to grow as a nation and people. What factors did his assessment fail to take into account that likely prevented his fears from coming true?

- a) America's imperialistic urges in the late 19th century and early 20th century
- b) Two World Wars that would turn America into a superpower
- c) The combined impacts of commerce, technology, and increasing government subsidies of business on the American economy and character