

Free kindle book and epub digitized and proofread by Project Gutenberg.

The Frontier In History The frontier! There is no word in the English language more stirring, more intimate, or more beloved. It has in it all the elan of the old French phrase, *En avant!* It carries all of the old Saxon command, *Forward!!* It means all that America ever meant. It means the old hope of a real personal liberty, and yet a real human advance in character and achievement. To a genuine American it is the dearest word in all the world. What is, or was, the frontier? Under what stars did it lie? Because, as the vague Iliads of ancient heroes or the nebulous records of the savage gentlemen of the Middle Ages make small specific impingement on our consciousness today, so also even now begin the tales of our own old frontier to assume a haziness, an unreality, which makes them seem less history than folklore. Now the truth is that the American frontier of history has many a local habitation and many a name. And this is why it lies somewhat indefinite under the blue haze of the years, all the more alluring for its lack of definition, like some old mountain range, the softer and more beautiful for its own shadows. The fascination of the frontier is and has ever been an undying thing. Adventure is the meat of the strong men who have built the world for those more timid. Adventure and the frontier are one and inseparable. They suggest strength, courage, hardihood--qualities beloved in men since the world began--qualities which are the very soul of the United States, itself an experiment, an adventure, a risk accepted. Take away all our history of political regimes, the story of the rise and fall of this or that partisan aggregation in our government; take away our somewhat inglorious military past; but leave us forever the tradition of the American frontier! There lies our comfort and our pride. There we never have failed. There, indeed, we always realized our ambitions. There, indeed, we were efficient, before that hateful phrase was known. There we were a melting-pot for character, before we came to know that odious appellation which classifies us as the melting-pot of the nations. The frontier was the place and the time of the strong man, of the self-sufficient but restless individual. It was the home of the rebel, the protestant, the unreconciled, the intolerant, the ardent--and the resolute. It was not the conservative and tender man who made our history; it was the man sometimes illiterate, oftentimes uncultured, the man of coarse garb and rude weapons. But the frontiersmen were the true dreamers of the nation. They really were the possessors of a national vision. Not statesmen but riflemen and riders made America. The noblest conclusions of American history still rest upon premises which they laid. But, in its broadest significance, the frontier knows no country. It lies also in other lands and in other times than our own. When and what was the Great Frontier? We need go back only to the time of Drake and the sea-dogs, the Elizabethan Age, when all North America was a frontier, almost wholly unknown, compellingly alluring to all bold men. That was the day of new stirrings in the human heart. Some strange impulse seemed to act upon the soul of the braver and bolder Europeans; and they moved westward, nor could have helped that had they tried. They lived largely and blithely, and died handsomely, those old Elizabethan adventurers, and they lie today in thousands of unrecorded graves upon two continents, each having found out that any place is good enough for a man to die upon, provided that he be a man. The American frontier was Elizabethan in its quality--childlike, simple, and savage. It has not entirely passed; for both Elizabethan folk and Elizabethan customs are yet to be found in the United States. While the half-savage civilization of the farther West was roaring on its way across the continent--while the day of the keelboatman and the plainsman, of the Indian-fighter and the miner, even the day of the cowboy, was dawning and setting--there still was a frontier left far behind in the East, near the top of the mountain range which made the first great barrier across our pathway to the West. That frontier, the frontier of Boone and Kenton, of Robertson and Sevier, still exists and may be seen in the Cumberland--the only remaining part of America which is all American. There we may find trace of the Elizabethan Age--idioms lost from English literature and American speech long ago. There we may see the American home life as it went on more than a hundred years ago. We may see hanging on the wall the long muzzle-loading rifle of an earlier day. We may see the spinning-wheel and the loom. The women still make in part the clothing for their families, and the men still make their own household furniture, their own farming implements, their own boots. This overhanging

frontier of America is a true survival of the days of Drake as well as of the days of Boone. The people are at once godly and savage. They breed freely; they love their homes; they are ever ready for adventure; they are frugal, abstemious, but violent and strong. They carry on still the half-religious blood feuds of the old Scotch Highlands or the North of Ireland, whence they came. They reverence good women. They care little for material accumulations. They believe in personal ease and personal independence. With them life goes on not in the slow monotony of reiterated performance, but in ragged profile, with large exertions followed by large repose. Now that has been the fashion of the frontier in every age and every land of all the world. And so, by studying these people, we may even yet arrive at a just and comprehensive notion of what we might call the "feel" of the old frontier. There exists, too, yet another Saxon frontier in a far-off portion of the world. In that strange country, Australia, tremendous unknown regions still remain, and the wild pastoral life of such regions bids fair to exist yet for many years. A cattle king of Queensland held at one time sixty thousand square miles of land. It is said that the average size of pastoral holdings in the northern territory of Australia is two hundred and seventy-five thousand acres. Does this not recall the old times of free range in the American West? This strange antipodal civilization also retains a curious flavor of Elizabethan ideas. It does not plan for inordinate fortunes, the continual amassing of money, but it does deliberately plan for the use by the individual of his individual life. Australian business hours are shorter than American. Routine is less general. The individual takes upon himself a smaller load of effort. He is restive under monotony. He sets aside a great part of his life for sport. He lives in a large and young day of the world. Here we may see a remote picture of our own American West--better, as it seems to me, than that reflected in the rapid and wholly commercialized development of Western Canada, which is not flavored by any age but this. But much of the frontier of Australia is occupied by men of means who had behind them government aid and a semi-paternal encouragement in their adventures. The same is true in part of the government-fostered settlement of Western Canada. It was not so with the American West. Here was not the place of the rich man but of the poor man, and he had no one to aid him or encourage him. Perhaps no man ever understood the American West who did not himself go there and make his living in that country, as did the men who found it and held it first. Each life on our old frontier was a personal adventure. The individual had no government behind him and he lacked even the protection of any law. Our frontier crawled west from the first seaport settlements, afoot, on horseback, in barges, or with slow wagon-trains. It crawled across the Alleghanies, down the great river valleys and up them yet again; and at last, in days of new transportation, it leaped across divides, from one river valley to another. Its history, at first so halting, came to be very swift--so swift that it worked great elisions in its own story. In our own day, however, the Old West generally means the old cow country of the West--the high plains and the lower foothills running from the Rio Grande to the northern boundary. The still more ancient cattle-range of the lower Pacific Slope will never come into acceptance as the Old West. Always, when we use these words, we think of buffalo plains and of Indians, and of their passing before the footmen and riders who carried the phantom flag of Drake and the Virgin Queen from the Appalachians to the Rockies--before the men who eventually made good that glorious and vaunting vision of the Virginia cavaliers, whose party turned back from the Rockfish Gap after laying claim in the name of King George on all the country lying west of them, as far as the South Sea! The American cow country may with very good logic arrogate to itself the title of the real and typical frontier of all the world. We call the spirit of the frontier Elizabethan, and so it was; but even as the Elizabethan Age was marked by its contact with the Spanish civilization in Europe, on the high seas, and in both the Americas, so the last frontier of the American West also was affected, and largely, deeply, by Spanish influence and Spanish customs. The very phraseology of range work bears proof of this. Scores of Spanish words are written indelibly in the language of the Plains. The frontier of the cow-range never was Saxon alone. It is a curious fact also, seldom if ever noted, that this Old West of the Plains was very largely Southern and not Northern on its Saxon side. No States so much as Kentucky and Tennessee and, later, Missouri--daughters of Old Virginia in her glory--contributed to the forces of the frontiersmen. Texas, farther to the south, put her stamp indelibly upon the entire cattle industry of the West. Visionary, impractical, restless, adventurous, these later Elizabethan heroes--bowing to no yoke, insisting on their own rights and scorning often the laws of others, yet careful to retain the best and most

advantageous customs of any conquered country--naturally came from those nearest Elizabethan countries which lay abandoned behind them. If the atmosphere of the Elizabethan Age still may be found in the forgotten Cumberlands, let us lay claim to kinship with yonder roustering heroes of a gallant day; for this was ever the atmosphere of our own frontier. To feel again the following breezes of the Golden Hind, or see again, floating high in the cloudless skies, the sails of the Great Armada, was the privilege of Americans for a double decade within the memory of men yet living, in that country, so unfailingly beloved, which we call the Old West of America. The Range When, in , those two immortal youths, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, were about to go forth on their great journey across the continent, they were admonished by Thomas Jefferson that they would in all likelihood encounter in their travels, living and stalking about, the mammoth or the mastodon, whose bones had been found in the great salt-licks of Kentucky. We smile now at such a supposition; yet it was not unreasonable then. No man knew that tremendous country that lay beyond the mouth of the Missouri. The explorers crossed one portion of a vast land which was like to nothing they had ever seen--the region later to become the great cattle-range of America. It reached, although they could know nothing of that, from the Spanish possessions on the south across a thousand miles of short grass lands to the present Canadian boundary line which certain obdurate American souls still say ought to have been at 54 degrees 40 minutes, and not where it is! From the Rio Grande to "Fifty-four forty," indeed, would have made nice measurements for the Saxon cattle-range.

Chapter 2 : APUSH Moosetracks: Frontier -- week 21

*The Passing Of The Frontier, The History Of The State Of Ohio, V3 [Francis Phelps Weisenburger, Carl Wittke] on racedayv1.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

The people moving to the cities changed the way that America worked. The more people that moved to the city, the more food that was needed to be produced by the farmers to feed them all. This caused increased demand for food, so the farmers make more, which required more land, and more seed, fertilizer, etc. The frontier was more of an idea to the people. On the frontier, the people felt free, and they had the wholesome work that the farm provided. In the cities, it was crowded and the people had the bad, repetitious work that the industrial jobs provided. The people forget about the droughts and floods that the frontier experienced, often ruining all their crops, they just remember the good. January 21, at 4: The "frontier" was more of an idea during this time period. It represented the freedom of open land and freedom. While it was found in mainly rural areas, the frontier, in the mind of most Americans, represented the areas outside of the cities. During the s more and more people migrated into the cities. This drastically changed the way of life for Americans. With more people in the cities, more food, housing, and jobs were needed. Also this shift caused smaller families. Indians were being forced on to reservations by the government and cities were crowded from those who had moved from their rural areas. Even though the cities were overcrowded, efforts were being made to keep them sanitary to prevent disease. With all this being said, Americans started to move further out west for a better opportunity of having land and trying to make it big as a farmer due to the high demand of food and cotton because of the ever growing cities. For others the frontier was an idea of open area that didn't provide much opportunity like the big cities. They believed you had to work harder for little reward. And as time passed many farmers had a hard time making ends meet because of the lack of exports to other countries which caused them not to be able to pay for their mortgages. In conclusion, the frontier was more of an idea of an open area with little reward for their work and high debts to be paid to the banks. Life in the city seemed to be a far better place to live and thrive. January 24, at It was said that for the first time you could no longer tell where the city stopped and the frontier started, the U. With the frontier becoming filled it caused economic problems. The frontier I think was more important as a thought, it was always there as a choice but few in depressions actually ever moved to the frontier. If city dwellers did move westward they were shocked at the reality of the harsh west, many did not make it. The frontier situation was changing forcing farmers to turn to focusing on a single crop making smaller farms suffer. In conclusion the passing of the frontier was a disturbing development for many unhappy farmers. Maynard January 24, at 1: The "passing of the frontier" was disturbing for most Americans because most of the land was owned by the federal government and railroad contractors and the land had to be purchased instead of just placing your stake. The land was hard to cultivate therefore many American property owners could not prosper in these harsh conditions; it was a shocking reality. The frontier was more important as an idea, for most people the frontier was an idea of opportunity and it held the possibility to own your own property. I think the "passing of the frontier" was disturbing for many Americans because as people moved into the cities the standard of living decreased. Many immigrants moved into the cities creating competition for jobs and the crowded areas were very unsanitary and dangerous. Payment was low and work days were long. The frontier was more of an idea than a particular place for several reasons. At this point in time many were moving away from the farms and the rural areas and into the cities. Also the expansion of the railroad system decreased the amount of rural areas and increased the number of cities. Thirdly, the idea of the frontier and the freedom it brought drew many immigrants to America. January 24, at 6: Life for Americans was definitely changing in the s. Everyone was moving into large cities causing a shift in things. Consequences including smaller families and an increase in disease, because of the sanitation issues. Indians were being pushed into reservations and the wars continued. The frontier I believe was more of an idea, it's the idea of freedom and land. Even though it was hard to gain the land and freedom. Look at the Indians for example they had the idea of land and freedom when they agreed to be put on a reservation but they were pushed out when gold was found. I guess it could also be seen as a place because it's technically

areas out of the city are frontiers but the idea is more important, and to give the people some hope it will probably stay this way. January 24, at 7: I believe it was disturbing because of the many changes it had to go through. Between all of the Indians being pushed out and all the hardship that was put on them, it really was disturbing. I believe it was more of an idea because when people came to the frontier they wanted the land and freedom that was offered. But when they got here they were often disappointed. The people that were in cities and worked were often worked too hard, and the cities became way too crowded. But I agree with Levi in saying that they just remember the good that the frontier brought them, the feeling of being free. January 24, at 8: During this time period the frontier was viewed more as an idea than a particular place. The frontier was open areas with new land that was looked upon as a place of freedom. But more and more people were moving to cities and because of this wages decreased for workers. The economy steadily grew worse and the way of life in America changed from slow paced to more fast paced with more needs for everyone. It was a disturbing movement because so many things changed. The way of life for all the Americans changed drastically. As more people moved, more food, jobs, housing, etc. January 25, at 6: It was disturbing to many Americans because the open frontier was a land full of opportunities and hope. Government sold land to people and most times there were severe consequences following because of hardships of the new land like climate and bad soil. I think that it was more important as an idea because it gave the people hope in a good thing and they know had the possibility to own land.

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The frontier was the place and the time of the strong man, of the self-sufficient but restless individual. It was the home of the rebel, the protestant, the unreconciled, the intolerant, the ardent--and the resolute.