The “Contested” West
Settling the west

- The “West” – *where* is it?
- *Who* went west – and *Why*?
- *What* did they do when they got there?
- What were the *consequences* of their actions?
The “West” – where is it?
“moving frontier”
Trans-Mississippi region – Far West

1870 – 1890
430 Million acres
Why go West?

- Adventure
- Escape
- Work/Jobs
- Opportunity
1849
Sutter’s Mill, CA
Comstock Lode
Nevada
Urbanization
Governing the West?

“benign neglect”
Railroads – transforming the West
Railroad expansion
Land grants
Rights of way
Farmers – transforming the West

Homestead Act
1862
"Dry farming"

Steel plow
Combine
Revolution in agriculture
Barbed wire
Ranchers - transforming the West
Open Range
“Cattle Kings”

- Mifflin Kenedy
- Richard King
What were the *consequences* of westward expansion?

- Change
- Conflict
Racial and Ethnic Conflict
Racial and Ethnic Conflict

Foreign Miners Tax, 1850
“exodusters”
“Buffalo soldiers”
Racial and Ethnic Conflict

- Chinese
- Japanese
Racial and Ethnic Conflict

- Chinese Exclusion Act - 1882
Religious Conflict

- Mormons

Brigham Young
Native Americans
Buffalo Bill Cody
“Concentration” Policy

- Tribal “reservations”
- 1867 – Peace Commission
Resistance – Indian Wars
Dawes Act
1887
Wounded Knee, SD
29 Dec 1890
Ghost Dance
Consequences of Western Expansion

- Change
- Conflict
Consequences of Western Expansion

- Change
  - Environmental impact
  - Economic growth
  - Investment opportunities
  - Mining fueled industrial development
  - Provided jobs
  - Outlet for population growth
  - Innovation & Invention
Consequences of Western Expansion

Conflict

- Among ranchers
- Between farmers & ranchers
- Racial & Ethnic
- Religious