The “Contested” West
The “Contested” West

- The “West” – myth vs. reality
“vaquero”
“Stagecoach Mary”

Bass Reeves
“Exodusters”
Gunfight at the OK Corral – 1881
Tombstone, AZ

Earp brothers & Doc Holliday
The “Contested” West

- The “West” – *where* is it?
“moving frontier”
“Great American Desert”
Trans-Mississippi region – Far West

1870 – 1890
430 Million acres
Why go West?

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

“benign neglect”
Railroad expansion

Land grants

Rights of way
Farming the west

Homestead Act
1862
“Dry farming”

Steel plow
Combine
Revolution in agriculture
Barbed wire
Ranching
What were the *consequences* of westward expansion?

- Conflict
- Change
Racial and Ethnic Conflict

Foreign Miners Tax, 1850
“exodusters”
“Buffalo soldiers”
Racial and Ethnic Conflict
Religious Conflict
Native Americans
“Kill the Indian & save the man”
Wounded Knee, SD
29 Dec 1890
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