

# INTRODUCTION

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The American West, in myth and in reality, became so only after vast migrations and periods of massive immigration. The original inhabitants established migratory and settled communities from the Pacific coast to the 90th meridian centuries before the first European, Pacific Islander, or Asian set foot on its soil. Eventually, the Spanish and Russian explorations, Spanish colonization, and gradual American settlement of the West pushed American Indians off ancestral lands. In the narrative of the American West, this is the beginning of the American Story, rhetorically marked by the end of the Indian's role in the historian's narrative. American Indians become invisible on history's pages after 1890, yet their story also is one of migration, often forced but sometimes motivated by personal and economic reasons. This work represents many of the tribes and bands that constitute our native heritage, in an attempt to reintegrate the significance of their migrations with those of later arrivals. Migration in and out of the West was a periodic affair for most inhabitants.

The periods of migration are clear. The 19th century witnessed the highest levels, with the gold rush constituting the single greatest migration of Americans, one joined by numerous individuals from China, Germany, and a variety of other countries. In the late 19th century, migration declined until World War II, when thousands came west in search of work and homes in the urban defense industry and suburban, semipastoral neighborhoods in the emerging Sun Belt. The West was a place of opportunity, and people moved to grasp farms, ranches, and small business opportunities in the 19th century. Some opportunities were more ephemeral: For example, African Americans moved west searching for freedom from the discrimination they faced in eastern and southern states. Despite the Jim Crow laws and attitudes brought by

southern migrants, especially in places such as southern California, African Americans created neighborhoods and towns in which they hoped to better their lives. So, too, Mexican, Italian, Vietnamese, and countless other ethnic groups moved west for new opportunities and better lives.

To give the reader a sense of what immigration and migration involved in the public sphere, our authors have provided specific entries on immigration law. In addition to discussions of the general federal provisions, this encyclopedia contains specific entries on actions taken to discriminate against Asian immigrants. Officials used the open spaces in western areas to build internment camps for Japanese and Italians forced from their homes during World War II. Moreover, Americans moving into the West pushed others out, particularly American Indians and Mexicans, so that they would need to find new homes in a region they had known as home before the arrival of Americans.

To put the forced migrations of American Indians in perspective, our authors have addressed well-known incidents such as the Trail of Tears, the forced migration of American Indians from the Southeast to Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma. They have also provided select tribal histories: Readers will find entries on the Apache, Arapaho, Blackfoot, Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Cheyenne, Creek, Crow, Cupeño, Gros Ventre, Hopi, Juaneño, Kumeyaay, Lakota, Luiseño, Maidu, Mojave, Nez Perce, Northern Pueblo, Palouse, Upland Yuman, Ute, Washo, Yakama, and Yokut. In a broader perspective, some authors discuss American Indians regionally, as in the entries on tribes in California's northern coast, mountains, and valleys. One author focused on Phoenix, Arizona, and brought to light the many American Indian migrations to that city, giving a geographical context to the people as

well as a human context to the city. In addition, an entry on the Bureau of Indian Affairs puts the administration of Indian reservations in perspective. Readers will come to understand that a vast number of internal and external forces influenced tribal migrations.

Migrations and immigration in the American West followed specific economic opportunities, especially mineral exploitation. Our authors explain mineral land policies in several entries and discuss specific mining rushes in others. The gold rush to California, Arizona copper discoveries, Idaho silver strikes, Last Chance Gulch, Pike's Peak, the Black Hills, and other mining events are covered in several entries. Many of these mineral rushes resulted in "instant cities," built to serve the miners and to funnel profit from their enterprise into the community and the country at large. Our authors produced entries on Bisbee, Arizona; Butte, Montana; Cripple Creek, Colorado; Goldfield, Nevada; Grass Valley, California; Helena, Montana; Inyo County, California; Julian, California; Leadville, Colorado; Libby, Montana; Price, Utah; Rawhide, Nevada; Rhyolite, Nevada; Tombstone, Arizona; Tonopah, Nevada; Tucson, Arizona; and Virginia City, Montana, to name only a few. Men and women arrived in these towns for the mining rushes and moved on to the next discovery of minerals or stayed to establish permanent communities with more varied economies, especially agricultural.

Land seekers and former miners established farms and ranches throughout the West. Families arriving via the emigrant trails brought stability to certain areas, building churches, schools, and other American institutions as they broke the soil for farming. African Americans came to California first for the gold but soon also sought out land on which to form communities based in agriculture. They established the noted communities of Nicodemus, Kansas, and Dearfield, Colorado. Farms, ranches, and the railroad had a great deal to do with community formation and location. Our authors explored these relationships in entries on Billings, Montana; Bozeman, Montana; Cody, Wyoming; Fort Worth, Texas; Fresno, California; Great Falls, Montana; Jackson, Wyoming; Lincoln, Nebraska; Northwood, North Dakota; Omaha, Nebraska; Park City, Utah; Salt Lake City, Utah; San Diego, California; San Dimas, California; Santa Ana,

California; Tacoma, Washington; and Wichita, Kansas, to name a few. Other authors provide a view of farming in Oregon in broad brush for regional context. One author explains the significance of dry farming techniques to the migration of farmers to the Great Plains. These areas retained their populations due to agriculture and stock raising, even if their economies eventually shifted to industry, commerce, or recreation and tourism.

Within the study of migration and immigration, certain individuals stand out as examples of the ordinary as well as the extraordinary efforts it took to populate the region. To provide the reader with a personal perspective, our authors have focused on the experiences of people in motion in the American West. Biographies include Stephen F. Austin, John Bartleson, Jessie Bloom, Joseph Brent, Joseph Chapman, Cottrell Dellums, Abigail Duniway, Edith Feldenheimer, Ray Frank, Greg Gianforte, William Hartnell, David Jacks, Olive May Percival, John T. Reed, Ben Singleton, Levi Strauss, William Thrall, and Benjamin Wilson. Hundreds of other individuals are included in more general entries, and some of our authors provide a gendered perspective on immigration and migration. One explores the lives of Vietnamese American women and another discusses war brides in Montana. These immigration stories put people in their temporal context and highlight the relationship between migrants and the distinct places making up the heterogeneous region we call the West.

In the process of researching the assigned topics, several of our authors found surprising historical evidence, forcing them to rethink their topics in new light. Professor Lawrence de Graaf, known for his pioneering work on African American communities in the West, has reevaluated interpretations of African American communities in his entry, based on extensive primary source research. The authors examining the relationship of libraries to immigrants also bring new insight on the subject. Authors produced entries on California's libraries, libraries and their immigrant users, and public libraries in Utah. In addition, our librarian authors also produced a most useful section of research guides. We suspect that many of the entries in this encyclopedia will stimulate research on these subjects, and we invite scholars to answer new questions raised within the

entries. The history of the American West is an open field for scholars interested in approaching the region in new ways. The research guides will spur researchers on their way to greater knowledge and insight.

In this encyclopedia, we called on authors to present the tapestry of the West and its population in sweeping entries, focused biographies, community histories, economic enterprise analysis, and demographic

studies. It is our hope that you will find this work informative and stimulating for further inquiry into the many facets of our history.

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