

# **The West**

**Chapter 13, Section 1**

# **Cultures and ideas that influenced the development of the West.**

**Since colonial times, settlers had been moving westward and encountering Native Americans and Mexicans.**



**The mixing of these cultures affected the development of the West and the entire United States.**

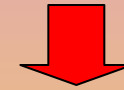
Early Americans had thought of the area between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River as the western **frontier**.



However, by the 1820s, much of that land had been settled, and Americans began to look beyond the Mississippi River.



**Between the  
Mississippi River and  
the Rocky Mountains  
are **the Great Plains.****



**Settlers in the early  
1800s were not  
attracted to this region  
because they did not  
think it was good for  
farming.**



**For many settlers in the early 1800s, the Great Plains were simply a route to the Far West.**

- **Some were attracted to the area known as **Oregon Country** in the Northwest.**
- **Others were interested in **the Mexican lands of the Southwest.****

In the Northwest, settlers were attracted to the fertile land of present-day U.S. states Oregon and Washington and the Canadian province of British Columbia.



**Southwestern Mexican settlements were another major destination for settlers.**

**Together with Mexico, the Spanish borderlands had been claimed for Spain in the 1500s.**





## **The Southwest included present-day:**

- **Arizona**
- **California**
- **Half of Colorado**
- **Nevada**
- **New Mexico**
- **Utah**
- **Texas**

**Ruled first by Spain and then by Mexico, these lands had a culture and history very different from that of the eastern United States.**



**Over the years, many peninsulares (Spanish settlers) had children who were called creoles.**



**Peninsulares, Native Americans, and Africans also intermarried and had children called mestizos.**



**By the 1800s, this combination of ethnic groups had created a distinct Southwestern culture.**

## **Cultural Exchange**

### **Spanish to Native Americans**

- **The Spanish brought their language, religion, and laws to the Southwest.**

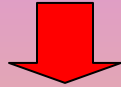
### **Native Americans to Spanish**

- **Native Americans introduced the Spanish to foods such as beans and squash.**
- **The Spanish adopted Native American clothing, such as ponchos and moccasins.**

### **A Blending of Cultures**

- **The general style of Southwestern architecture was European, but the Native Americans who constructed buildings used adobe, a traditional Native American building material.**

**Spanish missionaries wanted to convert Native Americans to Catholicism.**



**Many Native Americans in the borderlands were forced to live and work at missions, where they learned about the Catholic religion.**



**At the missions, thousands of Native Americans died from overwork or disease.**

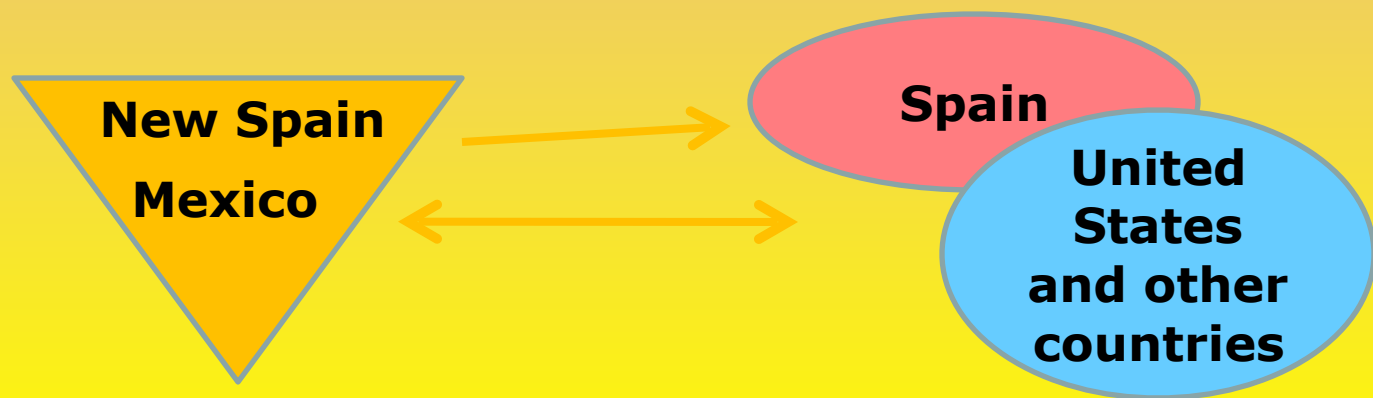


**When Mexico became independent from Spain in 1821, its land was redistributed.**

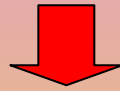
- **Under Spanish rule, land grants had been given to only a few peninsulares, but Mexico made many grants to individual rancheros.**
- **Mexico ended church control of missions and gave their lands to rancheros and a few American settlers.**
- **Native Americans raided ranches to protest the theft of their land, but they were soon crushed.**

# Mexico's independence changed the region's relationship with the United States.

- Previously, Spain had followed the mercantilist system, so **New Spain had only been permitted to trade with Spain.**
- After it won its independence, **Mexico allowed its people to trade with other countries, including the United States.**



**By the 1840s, many people supported Manifest Destiny, the belief that the United States was destined to extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific.**



**The American drive for westward **expansion** was partly responsible for the Native Americans' plight.**



**By 1850, the Native American population in the Southwest had dropped drastically.**