



# 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Fiction

“The Significance of the American Frontier in American History” (1893)

by Frederick Jackson Turner



“Up to our own day American history has been in a large degree the history of the colonization of the Great West”




Most nations develop in a limited area  
and/or they conquer



Expansion – Primitive conditions - Development



A process of transformation



“ America has the key to the historical enigma which Europe has sought for centuries in vain, and the land which has no history reveals luminously the course of universal history ”

Loria, Italian economist (1857-1943)



# **Gun trade with native population**





The expansion is based upon  
preexisting Indian trails



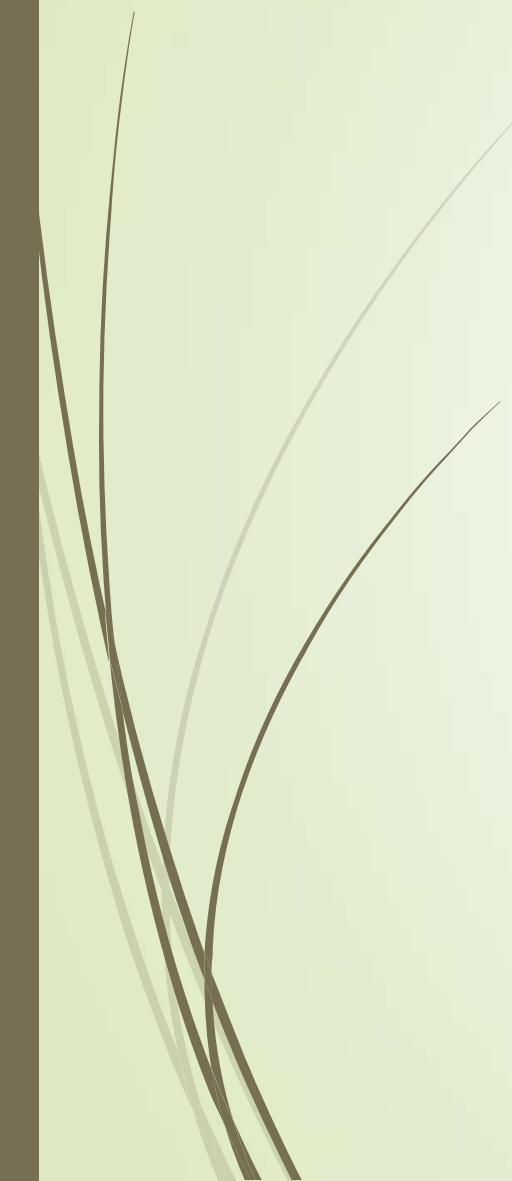


# 3 Classes of Western Settlements

- Pioneers
  - Emigrants
  - Men of Capital and Enterprise
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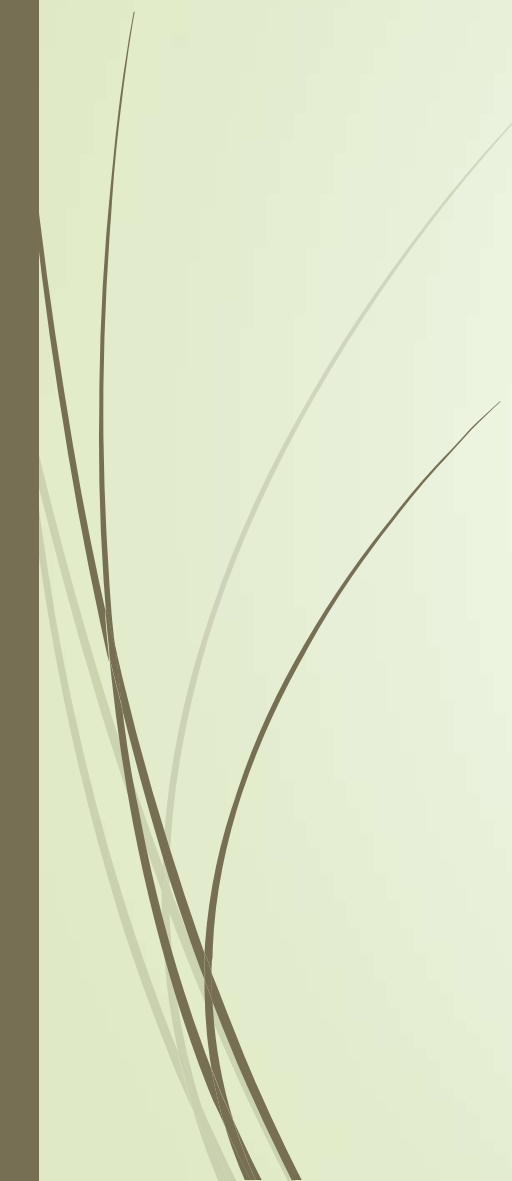


# Noteworthy Effects of the Frontier

- ▶ Although they spoke English, they were not English
  - ▶ The advance of the frontier decreased America's dependence on England
  - ▶ The middle region was the typical American
  - ▶ Mobility of population is death to localism
  - ▶ Promotion of democracy
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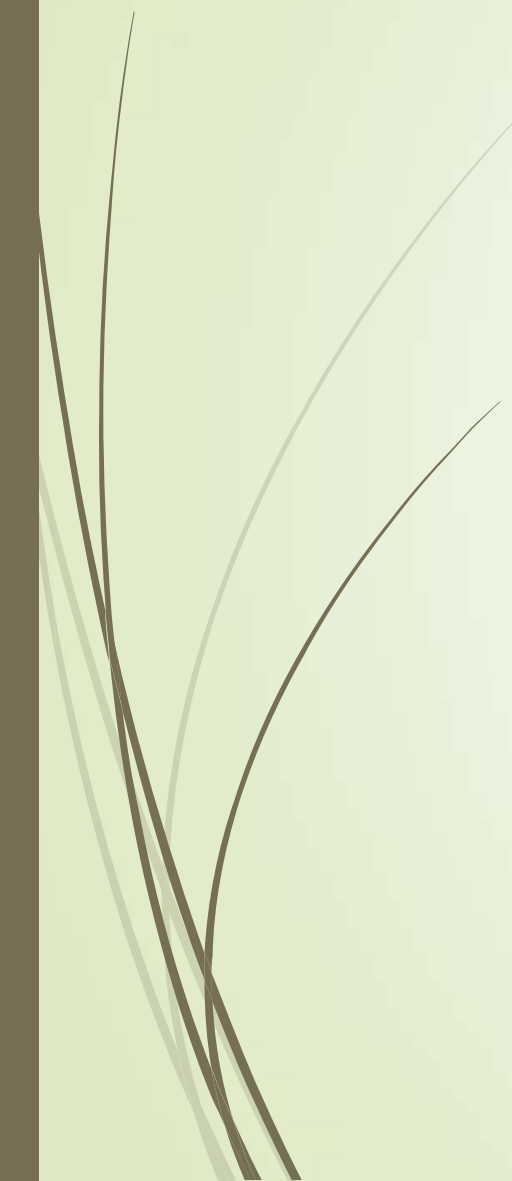


# Problems

- People in the frontier didn't understand the complexity of economy
  - Central power was afraid of the West and tried to put limits (grants, expecting trade, promoting non-expansion, religion)
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# Recapitulation

- Whenever there was oppression, the frontier was a gate of escape to free conditions
  - Democracy dealt with the problem of magnitude
  - Vast resources gave rise to captains of industry
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“

Is there evolving such a concentration of economic and social power in the hands of a comparatively few men as may make political democracy an appearance rather than a reality? The free lands are gone.

”

Frederick Jackson Turner