

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dust and Iron: A 9th Grade Westward Expansion Challenge

Legislative analysis, environmental shifts, and geopolitical tension — analyze the complex mechanics of American continental growth during the 19th century.

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**1. The Gadsden Purchase (1853) was primarily motivated by which specific infrastructure goal that highlighted growing sectional tensions?**

- A. Securing a southern route for a transcontinental railroad
- B. Establishing a buffer zone against French influence in Mexico
- C. Creating a naval base on the Gulf of California
- D. Acquiring fertile cotton soil for plantation expansion

**2. The Mormon Exodus to the Salt Lake Valley was driven by a desire for religious autonomy rather than the pursuit of gold or free government land.**

- A. True
- B. False

**3. Passed in 1846 during the Mexican-American War, the \_\_\_\_\_ Proviso attempted to ban slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico, sparking fierce Congressional debate.**

- A. Tallmadge
- B. Wilmot
- C. Clayton
- D. Crittenden

**4. Which specific challenge did the 'Exodusters' face as they migrated to Kansas in the late 1870s?**

- A. Forced conscription into the U.S. Cavalry
- B. The collapse of the silver mining industry
- C. Lack of capital and resistance from white Southern authorities
- D. An official ban on African American land ownership in the West

**5. The Ex Parte Crow Dog Supreme Court decision led to the Major Crimes Act, which reduced tribal sovereignty by placing certain crimes under federal jurisdiction.**

- A. True
- B. False

**6. The 1851 Treaty of \_\_\_\_\_ established specific tribal boundaries for Plains Indians and allowed the U.S. to build roads through their territory.**

- A. Fort Laramie
- B. Guadalupe Hidalgo
- C. New Echota
- D. Ghent

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**7. In what way did the 'closing' of the frontier according to Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis impact American identity?**

- A. It led to a total rejection of democratic ideals
- B. It created anxiety that the U.S. would lose its source of innovation and individualism
- C. It caused a mass migration back to European nations
- D. It resulted in the immediate abolition of all standing military forces

**8. The implementation of 'barbed wire' helped bring an end to the era of the open range by allowing ranchers to fence off their property.**

- A. True
- B. False

**9. The \_\_\_\_\_ Act of 1862 was passed alongside the Homestead Act to provide land grants to states for the creation of agricultural and mechanical colleges.**

- A. Dawes
- B. Pacific Railway
- C. Morrill
- D. Hatch

**10. How did the Comstock Lode in Nevada differ from the earlier California Gold Rush in terms of economic structure?**

- A. It relied entirely on individual 'panning' rather than machinery
- B. The focus was on harvesting timber rather than minerals
- C. It required heavy industrial investment and large-scale corporate mining
- D. It was primarily managed by the Mexican government