

open range definition us history

open range definition us history is a pivotal concept that shaped the American West and influenced the nation's agricultural and legal landscapes. In this comprehensive article, readers will discover what "open range" truly meant in United States history, its origins, legal implications, and its impact on ranching, settlement, and land use. The article explores the evolution of open range policies, the conflicts that arose, and the lasting legacy that continues to affect property law and rural life. By examining historical context, legal definitions, and the transformation brought by fencing and legislation, this guide provides a thorough understanding of the open range era. Whether you are a student, history enthusiast, or researcher, you'll find engaging insights and authoritative information designed to answer all your questions about the open range definition in US history.

- Understanding the Open Range: Historical Context
- Legal Definition and Principles of Open Range
- The Role of Open Range in Cattle Ranching and Agriculture
- Conflicts and Challenges of the Open Range System
- The End of the Open Range Era
- Legacy and Modern Implications of Open Range Laws

Understanding the Open Range: Historical Context

Origins of the Open Range Concept

The open range refers to vast, unfenced lands where livestock, particularly cattle, could roam freely without restriction. This concept emerged in the mid-19th century, especially in the western United States, where land was abundant, and formal property boundaries were rare. The open range system allowed settlers and ranchers to graze their animals across public and privately owned lands, relying on the natural grasses and water sources found throughout the region. This practice was rooted in Spanish and Mexican land traditions, which influenced American policies as territories expanded westward.

Geographical Scope of the Open Range

The open range was most prevalent in states such as Texas, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and New Mexico. The region's arid climate and expansive prairies made fencing impractical, and the lack of dense population allowed for the coexistence of multiple ranching operations. These open lands

were essential for the development of the cattle industry and became iconic symbols of the American frontier.

Legal Definition and Principles of Open Range

Open Range Laws Explained

Open range laws are statutes that define how livestock grazing is managed on unfenced land. Under these laws, livestock owners were not legally responsible for keeping their animals confined, and it was the responsibility of landowners to fence their properties if they wanted to exclude roaming animals. This legal framework reversed the usual expectation, placing the burden on those who wished to protect their land rather than on those who owned the livestock.

Key Legal Principles

- Livestock could graze freely on open, unfenced land.
- Landowners were responsible for fencing property to prevent unwanted grazing.
- Ranchers were generally not liable for damage caused by wandering livestock unless negligence could be proven.
- Disputes over property boundaries and animal trespass were common, leading to the development of specific statutes and case law.

The Role of Open Range in Cattle Ranching and Agriculture

Economic Importance of Open Range Ranching

The open range system was crucial to the expansion and profitability of the cattle industry in the late 1800s. Ranchers could manage large herds across thousands of acres without the expense of constructing fences or purchasing large tracts of land. This freedom enabled the rise of cattle drives, where cowboys would guide herds over great distances to railheads for shipment to markets in the East.

Cattle Drives and Life on the Open Range

Cattle drives became legendary events, forming the backbone of cowboy culture and Western folklore. Cowboys endured harsh conditions as they moved herds through open rangeland, facing challenges from weather, predators, and outlaws. The availability of open land facilitated these drives and the rapid growth of ranching communities.

Conflicts and Challenges of the Open Range System

Range Wars and Land Disputes

The open range system was not without its problems. As more settlers arrived and began farming, conflicts arose between ranchers and homesteaders. Farmers wanted to protect their crops from roaming cattle, while ranchers insisted on their right to graze animals freely. These disputes often escalated into "range wars," marked by violence and sabotage.

Environmental and Social Challenges

Overgrazing became a significant issue, leading to soil erosion and depletion of native grasses. The lack of regulation and the rise in livestock numbers strained the land and natural resources. Social tensions increased as diverse groups vied for control and access to valuable grazing territory.

The End of the Open Range Era

Barbed Wire and the Transformation of the West

The invention and widespread adoption of barbed wire in the 1870s revolutionized land management. Fencing became affordable and practical, allowing farmers and ranchers to delineate property boundaries and control grazing. This technological advancement marked the beginning of the end for the traditional open range system.

Legislation and Changing Policies

As fencing spread, states passed new laws requiring livestock to be confined or held responsible for trespass. The Homestead Act and other land policies encouraged settlement and private ownership, further reducing open range territory. By the early 20th century, open range laws were largely eliminated in favor of closed range systems, where animals had to be kept within fenced pastures.

Legacy and Modern Implications of Open Range Laws

Lasting Impact on Property Law and Ranching

Although the era of the open range has ended in most regions, its legacy endures in American property law and rural culture. Some western states still maintain limited open range statutes, affecting liability and land management. The principles established during the open range period continue to influence debates over land use, grazing rights, and private property.

Contemporary Relevance and Cultural Significance

The open range remains a symbol of freedom, opportunity, and the rugged spirit of the American West. Its history is celebrated in literature, film, and folklore, reflecting the challenges and triumphs of a transformative period. Understanding the open range definition in US history helps illuminate broader themes of expansion, innovation, and conflict that shaped the nation.

Frequently Asked Questions About Open Range Definition US History

Q: What is the open range definition in US history?

A: The open range refers to unfenced lands where livestock could graze freely, and landowners were responsible for fencing their property to keep animals out. This system was common in the American West during the 19th century.

Q: Which states were most affected by open range laws?

A: States such as Texas, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and New Mexico were most influenced by open range laws due to their vast, sparsely populated landscapes.

Q: How did barbed wire contribute to the end of the open range era?

A: Barbed wire made fencing affordable and practical, enabling landowners to control grazing and protect crops, which led to the decline of open range practices.

Q: What were range wars?

A: Range wars were violent conflicts between ranchers and farmers over access to land and the right to graze livestock, often resulting from disputes under open range laws.

Q: Are there still open range laws today?

A: Some western states still have limited open range laws, but most regions have adopted closed range policies requiring livestock to be confined within fenced property.

Q: What legal responsibilities did landowners have under open range laws?

A: Landowners were responsible for fencing their land if they wanted to exclude grazing livestock; otherwise, ranchers were not liable for trespass or damage caused by their animals.

Q: How did open range practices affect Native American communities?

A: The expansion of open range ranching disrupted traditional Native American land use, leading to loss of grazing territory and increased conflict with settlers.

Q: What is the significance of open range in American culture?

A: The open range era is symbolic of the freedom and adventure associated with the American West, influencing cowboy folklore, literature, and film.

Q: Why was fencing not common during the open range era?

A: Fencing was expensive and impractical due to the vast size of ranches and the limited availability of materials, making open grazing the most feasible option.

Q: How did open range laws impact agricultural development?

A: Open range laws facilitated large-scale cattle ranching and economic growth but also led to conflicts with farmers and contributed to overgrazing and environmental challenges.

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Open Range Definition U.S. History: A Frontier Legacy

The Wild West. Images of cowboys, cattle drives, and seemingly endless grasslands immediately spring to mind. But this romanticized vision rests on a specific historical reality: the era of the open range. Understanding the open range definition within the context of U.S. history is key to grasping the complexities of westward expansion, economic development, and the shaping of the American identity. This post will delve into the precise definition of open range, exploring its origins, impact, and eventual decline, providing you with a comprehensive understanding of this pivotal period in American history.

What is the Open Range Definition in U.S. History?

The open range, in its simplest definition, refers to a vast expanse of unfenced grazing land in the American West, primarily utilized for cattle ranching during the late 19th century. Unlike the fenced pastures of the East, this land was largely unclaimed or held under loosely defined claims, allowing ranchers to freely graze their herds across immense territories. This system was born from necessity, fueled by the abundance of available land and the demand for beef in burgeoning eastern cities. The open range wasn't simply a physical space; it was a system, a way of life, and a critical element of the American frontier narrative.

The Rise of the Open Range: Factors Contributing to its Development

Several interconnected factors facilitated the rise of the open range system:

Abundant Land: The vast, relatively unpopulated Great Plains offered seemingly limitless grazing land. The Homestead Act of 1862, while intended for small-scale farming, inadvertently contributed by making land available, even if much of it was unsuitable for agriculture.

The Long Drive: The development of the "long drive," the herding of cattle over hundreds of miles from Texas to railheads in Kansas, became a crucial element. This process showcased the practicality and profitability of open range ranching.

Technological Advancements: While seemingly rudimentary, the development of barbed wire in the late 1870s and early 1880s proved revolutionary. Before its invention, controlling and defining grazing territories was practically impossible.

Demand for Beef: The growing populations of eastern cities created a significant demand for beef, making cattle ranching a lucrative enterprise. This demand fueled the expansion of the open range system.

The End of the Open Range: Factors Leading to its Decline

The open range era, while seemingly boundless, was ultimately finite. Several factors contributed to its demise:

Barbed Wire: Ironically, the same technology that initially enabled the long drive also led to its downfall. The widespread adoption of barbed wire effectively ended the free-range system, dividing the land into private properties.

Overgrazing: The open range system, while initially abundant, ultimately suffered from overgrazing. The sheer number of cattle exceeding the carrying capacity of the land led to widespread land degradation and resource depletion.

Severe Weather: A series of harsh winters, particularly the winter of 1886-1887, decimated large numbers of cattle, highlighting the vulnerability of the system to unpredictable environmental factors.

Increased Competition and Land Claims: As more ranchers and farmers moved West, competition for land intensified, resulting in conflicts and legal battles over property rights, ultimately ending the free-for-all nature of open range ranching.

The Open Range's Legacy: Impact on U.S. History and Culture

The open range era profoundly impacted U.S. history and culture. It played a crucial role in westward expansion, shaping the development of the American West and influencing its mythology. The romanticized image of the cowboy persists in popular culture, fueled by narratives and stories that often gloss over the harsh realities of open range life. The open range era, however, also represents a pivotal shift in land use and resource management, showcasing the limitations of unchecked exploitation and the transition to a more regulated and defined system of land ownership.

Conclusion

The open range definition within the context of U.S. history is far more nuanced than a simple description of unfenced grazing land. It represents a unique period of rapid economic expansion, fueled by ambition, opportunity, and ultimately, the limitations of a system predicated on seemingly limitless resources. Understanding the rise and fall of the open range provides invaluable insight into the complexities of westward expansion, the development of the American West, and the evolving relationship between humans and the environment.

FAQs

1. What were some of the major conflicts arising from the open range system? Conflicts often arose over grazing rights, water access, and land ownership. Cattle rustlers also posed a significant threat, leading to vigilante justice and the further blurring of legal boundaries.
2. How did the open range system impact Native American populations? The expansion of the open range directly conflicted with the traditional way of life for many Native American tribes, leading to displacement, resource depletion, and further marginalization.
3. What were the long-term economic consequences of the open range era? While initially lucrative, the unsustainable practices of the open range system ultimately led to land degradation and economic instability for many ranchers. The shift to fenced ranching and more sustainable practices was a necessary, albeit painful, adjustment.
4. How did the open range system contribute to the development of the American cowboy mythos? The open range era provided the backdrop for the development of the romanticized image of the American cowboy, emphasizing independence, skill, and rugged individualism. However, this often overlooks the harsh realities and inequalities inherent in the system.
5. What lasting environmental impacts did the open range system leave behind? Overgrazing during the open range era resulted in soil erosion and desertification in certain areas, impacting the long-term ecological health of the Great Plains. This underscores the importance of sustainable land management practices.

Open Range Definition US History: A Frontier Legacy

The vast, seemingly limitless expanse of the American West conjures images of cowboys, cattle drives, and untamed wilderness. Central to this iconic imagery is the concept of "open range," a system of land use with profound implications for US history. This post delves into the precise definition of open range in US history, exploring its origins, its impact on westward expansion, the eventual decline of the system, and its lasting cultural legacy. We will unravel the complexities of this historical practice, moving beyond simplistic notions to understand its true significance.

What is the Open Range Definition in US History?

The open range system, prevalent in the late 19th century, refers to a method of livestock grazing where ranchers allowed their cattle to roam freely across vast, unfenced territories. Unlike today's carefully managed ranches, the open range lacked defined property lines and relied on a loosely organized system of shared grazing lands. This wasn't simply a matter of carelessness; the sheer scale of the land, coupled with the relatively low density of cattle, made fencing impractical and unnecessary in the early stages of westward expansion. The open range definition, therefore, encompassed not just the physical landscape, but also a specific social and economic order.

The Rise of the Open Range: Factors Contributing to its Growth

Several factors converged to create the conditions for the open range system. Firstly, the vast expanse of the Great Plains offered seemingly endless grazing opportunities. Secondly, the relatively low cost of land acquisition, particularly after the Homestead Act of 1862, encouraged ranchers to claim large tracts of territory. Thirdly, the development of railroads opened up new markets for beef, fueling the demand for cattle and incentivizing ranchers to expand their herds. Finally, a lack of clear property boundaries and weak governmental regulation allowed the system to flourish, at least for a time.

The Open Range and the Cowboy: An Iconic Partnership

The image of the lone cowboy herding cattle across the open range is deeply ingrained in American culture. The cowboy, far from being a romanticized figure, was essential to the functioning of the open range system. They were responsible for herding, branding, and protecting the cattle from predators and thieves. Their skills and resilience were crucial to the success of the open range, creating a unique and enduring symbiosis between man and nature. The cowboy's lifestyle and cultural contributions are inextricably linked to the history of the open range.

The Decline of the Open Range: Factors Leading to its Demise

The open range system, while seemingly boundless, ultimately proved unsustainable. Several factors contributed to its demise. Firstly, the increase in cattle numbers led to overgrazing, degrading the land and causing conflicts between ranchers. Secondly, severe weather events, such as droughts and blizzards, decimated herds and highlighted the vulnerabilities of the system. Thirdly, the invention of barbed wire revolutionized land management, allowing ranchers to define property boundaries and control access to grazing lands. This technology effectively ended the era of open range, transforming the landscape and leading to the consolidation of land ownership. Finally, increasing government regulation and the growth of large-scale ranching operations further contributed to the decline of the open range system.

The Legacy of the Open Range: Cultural and Economic Impacts

Despite its relatively short lifespan, the open range era left a lasting impact on American culture and economy. The open range system shaped the development of the American West, influencing land

use patterns, the growth of towns and cities, and the evolution of the cattle industry. Its legacy is evident in American folklore, literature, and art, continuing to capture the imagination and inspire countless narratives. The economic shifts that resulted from the transition away from the open range system laid the groundwork for the modern cattle industry, establishing new practices and regulations that persist to this day.

Conclusion

The open range system represents a pivotal chapter in US history. Its story is one of boundless opportunity, entrepreneurial risk-taking, environmental challenges, and ultimately, transformative technological change. By understanding the open range definition within its historical context, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of westward expansion, the development of the American West, and the enduring cultural legacy of the cowboy era.

FAQs

1. What was the primary cause of the end of the open range? While several factors contributed, the invention of barbed wire is widely considered the most significant factor, allowing for the effective enclosure of land and the end of free-range grazing.
2. Did the open range system benefit everyone equally? No, the benefits of the open range were unevenly distributed. Large ranchers often benefited the most, while smaller ranchers and indigenous populations faced displacement and hardship.
3. How did the open range system impact Native American populations? The expansion of the open range directly contributed to the displacement and dispossession of Native American tribes from their traditional lands.
4. What were some of the environmental consequences of the open range? Overgrazing resulted in soil erosion, desertification, and the degradation of grasslands, highlighting the environmental limitations of unregulated land use.
5. How is the legacy of the open range still relevant today? The legacy of the open range continues to influence discussions about land management, environmental sustainability, and the preservation of cultural heritage in the American West.

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edition. The Frontier Thesis or Turner Thesis, is the argument advanced by historian Frederick Jackson Turner in 1894 that American democracy was formed by the American Frontier. He stressed the process-the moving frontier line-and the impact it had on pioneers going through the process. He also stressed consequences of a ostensibly limitless frontier and that American democracy and egalitarianism were the principle results. In Turner's thesis the American frontier established liberty by releasing Americans from European mindsets and eroding old, dysfunctional customs. The frontier had no need for standing armies, established churches, aristocrats or nobles, nor for landed gentry who controlled most of the land and charged heavy rents. Frontier land was free for the taking. Turner first announced his thesis in a paper entitled *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*, delivered to the American Historical Association in 1893 in Chicago. He won very wide acclaim among historians and intellectuals. Turner's emphasis on the importance of the frontier in shaping American character influenced the interpretation found in thousands of scholarly histories. By the time Turner died in 1932, 60% of the leading history departments in the U.S. were teaching courses in frontier history along Turnerian lines.

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Emphasizing the role of kinship, labor, and networks in the African American community, the author retraces six generations of black struggles since the end of the Civil War, revealing a nation under construction.

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Tells the stories of sixteen women who drove cattle up the trail from Texas during the last half of the nineteenth century.

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The Oxford English Dictionary is the internationally recognized authority on the evolution of the English language from 1150 to the present day. The Dictionary defines over 500,000 words, making it an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, pronunciation, and history of the English language. This new upgrade version of The Oxford English Dictionary Second Edition on CD-ROM offers unparalleled access to the world's most important reference work for the English language. The text of this version has been augmented with the inclusion of the Oxford English Dictionary Additions Series (Volumes 1-3), published in 1993 and 1997, the Bibliography to the Second Edition, and other ancillary material. System requirements: PC with minimum 200 MHz Pentium-class processor; 32 MB RAM (64 MB recommended); 16-speed CD-ROM drive (32-speed recommended); Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 200, or XP (Local administrator rights are required to install and open the OED for the first time on a PC running Windows NT 4 and to install and run the OED on Windows 2000 and XP); 1.1 GB hard disk space to run the OED from the CD-ROM and 1.7 GB to install the CD-ROM to the hard disk: SVGA monitor: 800 x 600 pixels: 16-bit (64k, high color) setting recommended. Please note: for the upgrade, installation requires the use of the OED CD-ROM v2.0.

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history of the Nez Perce and their years of friendly relations with white settlers. In an initial treaty, the Nez Perce were promised a large part of their ancestral homeland, but the discovery of gold led to a stampede of settlement within the Nez Perce land. Numerous injustices at the hands of the US government combined with the settlers' invasion to provoke this most accommodating of tribes to war. West offers a riveting account of what came next: the harrowing flight of 800 Nez Perce, including many women, children and elderly, across 1500 miles of mountainous and difficult terrain. He gives a full reckoning of the campaigns and battles--and the unexpected turns, brilliant stratagems, and grand heroism that occurred along the way. And he brings to life the complex characters from both sides of the conflict, including cavalymen, officers, politicians, and--at the center of it all--the Nez Perce themselves (the Nimiipuu, true people). The book sheds light on the war's legacy, including the near sainthood that was bestowed upon Chief Joseph, whose speech of surrender, I will fight no more forever, became as celebrated as the Gettysburg Address. Based on a rich cache of historical documents, from government and military records to contemporary interviews and newspaper reports, *The Last Indian War* offers a searing portrait of a moment when the American identity--who was and who was not a citizen--was being forged.

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million to study screwworms which were long ago eradicated from American soil - \$273,000 to combat goth culture in Missouri - \$2.2 million to renovate the North Pole (Lucky for Santa!) - \$50,000 for a tattoo removal program in California - \$1 million for ornamental fish research Funny in some instances and jaw-droppingly stupid and wasteful in others, *The Pig Book* proves one thing about Capitol Hill: pork is king!

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open range definition us history: *Reading Like a Historian* Sam Wineburg, Daisy Martin, Chauncey Monte-Sano, 2015-04-26 This practical resource shows you how to apply Sam Wineburg's highly acclaimed approach to teaching, *Reading Like a Historian*, in your middle and high school classroom to increase academic literacy and spark students curiosity. Chapters cover key moments in American history, beginning with exploration and colonization and ending with the Cuban Missile Crisis.

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open range definition us history: *U.S. Health in International Perspective* National Research Council, Institute of Medicine, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Committee on Population, Panel on Understanding Cross-National Health Differences Among High-Income Countries, 2013-04-12 The United States is among the wealthiest nations in the world, but it is far from the healthiest. Although life expectancy and survival rates in the United States have improved dramatically over the past century, Americans live shorter lives and experience more injuries and illnesses than people in other high-income countries. The U.S. health disadvantage cannot be attributed solely to the adverse health status of racial or ethnic minorities or poor people: even highly advantaged Americans are in worse health than their counterparts in other, peer countries. In light of the new and growing evidence about the U.S. health disadvantage, the National Institutes of Health asked the National Research Council (NRC) and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to convene a panel of experts to study the issue. The Panel on Understanding Cross-National Health Differences Among High-Income Countries examined whether the U.S. health disadvantage exists across the life span, considered potential explanations, and assessed the larger implications of the findings. *U.S. Health in International Perspective* presents detailed evidence on the issue, explores the possible explanations for the shorter and less healthy lives of Americans than those of people in comparable countries, and recommends actions by both government and nongovernment agencies and organizations to address the U.S. health

disadvantage.

open range definition us history: *The Jungle* Upton Sinclair, 1920

open range definition us history: *Rise of American Democracy* Sean Wilentz, 2006-08-29 A political history of how the fledgling American republic developed into a democratic state offers insight into how historical beliefs about democracy compromised democratic progress and identifies the roles of key contributors.

open range definition us history: *We Pointed Them North* E.C. "Teddy Blue" Abbott, Helena Huntington Smith, 2015-02-16 E. C. Abbott was a cowboy in the great days of the 1870's and 1880's. He came up the trail to Montana from Texas with the long-horned herds which were to stock the northern ranges; he punched cows in Montana when there wasn't a fence in the territory; and he married a daughter of Granville Stuart, the famous early-day stockman and Montana pioneer. For more than fifty years he was known to cowmen from Texas to Alberta as Teddy Blue. This is his story, as told to Helena Huntington Smith, who says that the book is all Teddy Blue. My part was to keep out of the way and not mess it up by being literary.... Because the cowboy flourished in the middle of the Victorian age, which is certainly a funny paradox, no realistic picture of him was ever drawn in his own day. Here is a self-portrait by a cowboy which is full and honest. And Teddy Blue himself says, Other old-timers have told all about stampedes and swimming rivers and what a terrible time we had, but they never put in any of the fun, and fun was at least half of it. So here it is—the cowboy classic, with the terrible times and the fun which have entertained readers everywhere. First published in 1939, *We Pointed Them North* has been brought back into print by the University of Oklahoma Press in completely new format, with drawings by Nick Eggenhofer, and with the full, original text.

open range definition us history: *US History in 15 Foods* Anna Zeide, 2023-01-12 From whiskey in the American Revolution to Spam in WWII, food reveals a great deal about the society in which it exists. Selecting 15 foods that represent key moments in the history of the United States, this book takes readers from before European colonization to the present, narrating major turning points along the way, with food as a guide. *US History in 15 Foods* takes everyday items like wheat bread, peanuts, and chicken nuggets, and shows the part they played in the making of America. What did the British colonists think about the corn they observed Indigenous people growing? How are oranges connected to Roosevelt's New Deal? And what can green bean casserole tell us about gender roles in the mid-20th century? Weaving food into colonialism, globalization, racism, economic depression, environmental change and more, Anna Zeide shows how America has evolved through the food it eats.

open range definition us history: *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals* Pisc, 2002 Animal welfare considerations are becoming increasingly important for the keeping and farming of animals, both in Australia and internationally. Practices that may have once been deemed acceptable are now being reassessed in light of new knowledge and changing attitudes. The minimum standards outlined in this Code are intended to help people involved in the care and management of poultry to adopt standards of husbandry that are acceptable. Special requirements for various species are given in the appendices. This Code of Practice is intended as a guide for people responsible for the welfare and husbandry of domestic poultry. It recognizes that the basic requirement for welfare of poultry is a husbandry system appropriate to their physiological and behavioral needs. The Code emphasizes that--whatever the form of husbandry--managers, employees and all others responsible for the day-to-day needs of domestic poultry have a responsibility to care for poultry under their control.

open range definition us history: *A People's History of the United States* Howard Zinn, 2003-02-04 Since its original landmark publication in 1980, *A People's History of the United States* has been chronicling American history from the bottom up, throwing out the official version of history taught in schools -- with its emphasis on great men in high places -- to focus on the street, the home, and the workplace. Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research, *A People's History* is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of -- and in the

words of -- America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, the working poor, and immigrant laborers. As historian Howard Zinn shows, many of our country's greatest battles -- the fights for a fair wage, an eight-hour workday, child-labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights, racial equality -- were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance. Covering Christopher Columbus's arrival through President Clinton's first term, *A People's History of the United States*, which was nominated for the American Book Award in 1981, features insightful analysis of the most important events in our history. Revised, updated, and featuring a new afterword by the author, this special twentieth anniversary edition continues Zinn's important contribution to a complete and balanced understanding of American history.

open range definition us history: *The Log of a Cowboy* Andy Adams, 1903

open range definition us history: *West from Appomattox* Heather Cox Richardson, 2007-03-28 "This thoughtful, engaging examination of the Reconstruction Era . . . will be appealing . . . to anyone interested in the roots of present-day American politics" (Publishers Weekly). The story of Reconstruction is not simply about the rebuilding of the South after the Civil War. In many ways, the late nineteenth century defined modern America, as Southerners, Northerners, and Westerners forged a national identity that united three very different regions into a country that could become a world power. A sweeping history of the United States from the era of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, this engaging book tracks the formation of the American middle class while stretching the boundaries of our understanding of Reconstruction. Historian Heather Cox Richardson ties the North and West into the post-Civil War story that usually focuses narrowly on the South. By weaving together the experiences of real individuals who left records in their own words—from ordinary Americans such as a plantation mistress, a Native American warrior, and a labor organizer, to prominent historical figures such as Andrew Carnegie, Julia Ward Howe, Booker T. Washington, and Sitting Bull—Richardson tells a story about the creation of modern America.

open range definition us history: Shays's Rebellion Leonard L. Richards, 2014-11-29 During the bitter winter of 1786-87, Daniel Shays, a modest farmer and Revolutionary War veteran, and his compatriot Luke Day led an unsuccessful armed rebellion against the state of Massachusetts. Their desperate struggle was fueled by the injustice of a regressive tax system and a conservative state government that seemed no better than British colonial rule. But despite the immediate failure of this local call-to-arms in the Massachusetts countryside, the event fundamentally altered the course of American history. Shays and his army of four thousand rebels so shocked the young nation's governing elite—even drawing the retired General George Washington back into the service of his country—that ultimately the Articles of Confederation were discarded in favor of a new constitution, the very document that has guided the nation for more than two hundred years, and brought closure to the American Revolution. The importance of Shays's Rebellion has never been fully appreciated, chiefly because Shays and his followers have always been viewed as a small group of poor farmers and debtors protesting local civil authority. In *Shays's Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle*, Leonard Richards reveals that this perception is misleading, that the rebellion was much more widespread than previously thought, and that the participants and their supporters actually represented whole communities—the wealthy and the poor, the influential and the weak, even members of some of the best Massachusetts families. Through careful examination of contemporary records, including a long-neglected but invaluable list of the participants, Richards provides a clear picture of the insurgency, capturing the spirit of the rebellion, the reasons for the revolt, and its long-term impact on the participants, the state of Massachusetts, and the nation as a whole. Shays's Rebellion, though seemingly a local affair, was the revolution that gave rise to modern American democracy.

open range definition us history: After Appomattox Gregory P. Downs, 2019-08-13 "Original and revelatory." —David Blight, author of *Frederick Douglass* Avery O. Craven Award Finalist A Civil War Memory/Civil War Monitor Best Book of the Year In April 1865, Robert E. Lee wrote to Ulysses S. Grant asking for peace. Peace was beyond his authority to negotiate, Grant replied, but surrender

terms he would discuss. The distinction proved prophetic. After Appomattox reveals that the Civil War did not end with Confederate capitulation in 1865. Instead, a second phase of the war began which lasted until 1871—not the project euphemistically called Reconstruction, but a state of genuine belligerence whose mission was to shape the peace. Using its war powers, the U.S. Army oversaw an ambitious occupation, stationing tens of thousands of troops in outposts across the defeated South. This groundbreaking history shows that the purpose of the occupation was to crush slavery in the face of fierce and violent resistance, but there were limits to its effectiveness: the occupying army never really managed to remake the South. “The United States Army has been far too neglected as a player—a force—in the history of Reconstruction... Downs wants his work to speak to the present, and indeed it should.” —David W. Blight, *The Atlantic* “Striking... Downs chronicles...a military occupation that was indispensable to the uprooting of slavery.” —*Boston Globe* “Downs makes the case that the final end to slavery, and the establishment of basic civil and voting rights for all Americans, was ‘born in the face of bayonets.’ ...A remarkable, necessary book.” —Slate

open range definition us history: [Fire in America](#) Stephen J. Pyne, 2017-01-27 From prehistory to the present-day conservation movement, Pyne explores the efforts of successive American cultures to master wildfire and to use it to shape the landscape.

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