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Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to the Popular Defining Documents in American History Series: *American West (1836-1900)*

Defining Documents in American History: American West contains 45 primary source documents that provide a compelling view of the history of the American West. The West has been the subject of the wildest speculations as to what it might hold for the future of the nation, just as it has been the site of some of the most devastating actions by commercial interests and government bodies. Ethnic diversity has profoundly shaped the West's social and cultural makeup and history. The experience of the western frontier, over the two centuries during which it was an active frontier, left an indelible mark on the "American Character."

This resource surveys key documents produced from 1836-1900, organized under seven broad categories:

- Shifting Borders
- Westward Movement
- Indian Wars and Woes
- Asian American Affairs
- Cowboys and Outlaws
- Environmental Actions
- Beyond the West

Each document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians and teachers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, Author Biography, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes. Readers will appreciate the diversity of the collected texts, including journals, letters, speeches, political sermons, laws, government reports, and court cases, among other genres. An important feature of each essay is a close reading of the primary source that develops evidence of broader themes, such as author's rhetorical purpose, social or class position, point of view, and other relevant issues. In addition, essays are organized by section themes, listed above, highlighting major issues of the period, many of which extend across eras and continue to shape American Life.

Each section begins with a brief introduction that defines questions and problems underlying the subjects in the historical documents. A brief glossary is included at the end of each document, highlighting keywords that are important in the study of the primary source. Each essay also includes a Bibliography and Additional Reading section for further research. Several maps in the front matter of this work help visualize the western territories as they were created as well as Native American territory borders.

About the Series

Defining Documents consists of a collection of essays on important historical documents by a diverse range of writers on a broad range of subjects in American history. The series offers a broad range of historical documents on important authors and subjects in American history, with primary source documents, in-depth analysis, and comprehensive lesson plans that represent the diversity of ideas and contexts that define social, political and cultural subjects throughout American history.

The Defining Documents series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in American History since 1492.

The following titles make up the entire Defining Documents series:

Exploration and Colonial America (1492-1755)
The American Revolution (1754-1805)
Manifest Destiny & the New Nation (1803-1859)
The American West (1836-1900)
Civil War (1860-1865)
The Reconstruction Era (1865-1880)
The Emergence of Modern America (1868-1918)
World War I (1916-1919)
The 1920s (1920-1929)
The 1930s (1930-1939)

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Defining Documents in American History: The American West

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