Key Concepts: As you take notes on this chapter be familiar with the following key concepts from US History that relate to your reading.

- Larger numbers of migrants moved to the West in search of land and economic opportunity, frequently provoking competition and violent conflict.
- The building of transcontinental railroads, the discovery of mineral resources, and government policies promoted economic growth and created new communities and centers of commercial activity.
- In hopes of achieving ideals of self-sufficiency and independence, migrants moved to both rural and boomtown areas of the West for opportunities, such as building the railroads, mining, farming, and ranching.
- As migrant populations increased in number and the American bison population was decimated, competition for land and resources in the West among white settlers, American Indians, and Mexican Americans led to an increase in violent conflict.
- The U.S. government violated treaties with American Indians and responded to resistance with military force, eventually confining American Indians to reservations and denying tribal sovereignty.
- Many American Indians preserved their cultures and tribal identities despite government policies promoting assimilation, and they attempted to develop self-sustaining economic practices.
- New systems of production and transportation enabled consolidation within agriculture, which, along with periods of instability, spurred a variety of responses from farmers.
- Improvements in mechanization helped agricultural production increase substantially and contributed to declines in food prices.
- Many farmers responded to the increasing consolidation in agricultural markets and their dependence on the evolving railroad system by creating local and regional cooperative organizations.
- Economic instability inspired agrarian activists to create the People's (Populist) Party, which called for a stronger governmental role in regulating the American economic system.

Questions/Ideas: Be able to answer the following key questions or know the following key ideas

- Effect of US government policy towards Native Americans in the West
- Reasons Americans migrated West & the development of the American West
- Significance of the “closing” of the American frontier & impact on US society
- Hardships faced by the American farmer & the changing business of agriculture
- Rise of farmers as a political entity and the demands of farmers
- The impact of gold vs. silver currency debate for the US economy
- The significance & impact of the Election of 1896

Chapter #26 Guided Reading Questions
1. The Clash of Cultures on the Plain
Know: Reservation System, Buffalo Soldiers
Describe the effect of westward expansion on Native Americans and US government policy towards Indians.
2. **Receding Native Population**  
Know: Sand Creek Massacre, Fetterman Massacre, George Armstrong Custer, Battle of Little Bighorn, Chief Joseph, Geronimo  
Explain how the “West was won” by the US government. Describe the effects of these wars on Native tribes.

3. **Bellowing Herds of Bison**  
Describe the decimation of the buffalo. What were the long term effects on Indian culture?

4. **The End of the Trail**  
Know: Helen Hunt Jackson, Ghost Dance, Battle of Wounded Knee, Dawes Severalty Act, Carlisle Indian School  
Describe the effects of the government “assimilation” of Native Americans into “white culture”.

5. **Mining: From Dishpan to Ore Breaker**  
Know: Pike's Peak, Comstock Lode, Mining Industry  
How did the discovery of precious metals affect the American West?
Makers of America: The Plains Indians
Describe the culture of Indians on the Great Plains. How was their culture affected by Europeans?

6. Beef Bonanzas and the Long Drive
Know: Long Drive, Cowboys
Explain the rise and fall of the profitability of the meat industry.

7. The Farmers’ Frontier
Explore the various factors that promoted the development of the agricultural west?

8. The Far West Comes of Age
Know: Sooners
Explain the reasons for the development and growth of new states in the American West.
9. The Fading Frontier
Know: Frederick Jackson Turner
What effects has the frontier had on the development of the United States?

10. The Farm Becomes a Factory
How did mechanization and industry change the life of farmers and the business of agriculture?

11. Deflation Dooms the Debtor
What problems faced farmers in the closing decades of the 19th century?

12. Unhappy Farmers
How did nature, government, and business all harm farmers in the late 19th century?
Thinking Globally: The Great Frontier
Explain the global significance of the concept of the frontier on various nations in the late 1800s.

12. The Farmers Take Their Stand
Know: The Grange, Granger Laws, Greenback-Labor Party, James B. Weaver
How did the Grange attempt to help farmers? What political ideas did farmers support?

13. Prelude to Populism
Know: The Farmers’ Alliance, the People’s Party, Mary Elizabeth Lease, James Weaver
What ideas were championed by the Populist Party? What was their immediate impact?

14. Coxey’s Army and the Pullman Strike
Know: Coxey’s Army, Eugene V. Debs, Pullman Strike, Grover Cleveland
What caused labor to react violently against business in the 1890s? What was the government response of Grover Cleveland to the Pullman Strike?
15. **Golden McKinley and Silver Bryan**  
Know: Mark Hannah, William McKinley, William Jennings Bryan, Cross of Gold speech, “Gold Bug” Democrats  
Explain the background & platforms of the two candidates for president in 1896?

16. **Class Conflict: Plowholders versus Bondholders**  
Know: “free silver”  
What political issues shaped the election? Why was the outcome of this election a turning point in US History?

17. **Republican Standpattism Enthroned**  
Know: Dingley Tariff Bill, Gold Standard Act of 1900  
What were the immediate effects of McKinley’s financial policies?

**Varying Viewpoints: Was the West Really “Won”**  
Explain the ideas of the historians who challenged the viewpoint of Frederick Jackson Turner.