

Final Exam

CST 385 - Spring 2019

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May 10, 2019

Part of the reason why cities like Los Angeles or San Francisco have become as large as they are is because 19th and 20th century settlers had initially stayed in those areas because of several factors: lumber, and accessibility for travel. Considering the technology available to settlers, it made sense that they would settle in places easily accessible by sea as it was a much more efficient way to travel. This meant that finding natural harbors along the coastline could suggest a potential place to settle. In the 19th century especially this was even more true considering that Spanish settlers came primarily from the south by sea first, before permanently settling by land.

During the process of mining gold miners would dig up soil to then sift through either with machines or with pans. The unwanted material, the dirt, rocks and other such things were usually just thrown back into the river. Because of this the now unsettled debris would make its way down rivers, polluting the local fish in that area, as well as disturbing things downstream. Terrestrially, the torn up river banks were only one part of the problem, as the miners still had to make camps and small towns where they could live. Therefore the surrounding forestry would be cut for materials for further mining. As the surface gold was exhausted miners turned to hydraulic mining which caused whole hillsides to be geographically reformed, and the debris would get washed away downstream.

Chapter 5 discusses the later half of the 18th century and specifically examines how both people and money was moving throughout the state at the time. While the gold rush had brought a large bounty for those who could claim it the land which the state offered was still a massive portion of the available wealth in California which was still largely debated. Part of the issue was that landowners across California were really in largely distinct areas, from urban places like the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California which was barely settled. For this reason there was tension between legislators in Washington D.C. trying to make all of California a single state, and landowner which asked for separation due to the various regions' distinctions.