

1890

1890: A Year of Shifting Sands and Defining Moments

The year 1890 stands as a pivotal moment in world history, a year of dramatic change and unsettling upheaval. It wasn't marked by a single cataclysmic event, but rather a confluence of significant occurrences that reshaped the political landscape, social structures, and even the very fabric of daily life across the globe. From the nascent stages of industrialization to the burgeoning tensions of imperialism, 1890 offers a fascinating lens through which to examine the complexities of the late 19th century. This article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of this pivotal year, exploring its key events and their lasting legacies.

The Closing of the American Frontier: Myth and Reality

Perhaps the most iconic association with 1890 is the declaration by the United States Census Bureau that the American frontier was officially closed. This announcement, while symbolically potent, requires nuanced understanding. It didn't signify the sudden disappearance of wilderness, but rather the disappearance of a continuous line of sparsely populated territory readily available for settlement. Vast tracts of land remained unsettled, particularly in the arid West. However, the proclamation signaled a significant shift in American identity, marking the end of an era of westward expansion and the beginning of a new chapter focused on internal development and international power projection. This directly impacted Native American populations, who faced increased pressure and often violent displacement from their ancestral lands. The Wounded Knee Massacre, which occurred in December 1890, tragically exemplified this brutal reality, marking a bloody end to the era of large-scale armed conflict between the U.S. Army and Native Americans.

The Rise of Imperialism: A Global Power Struggle

1890 witnessed the intensifying scramble for colonies across Africa and Asia. European powers, fueled by industrial growth and a belief in their racial superiority, aggressively expanded their empires. Germany, a relatively latecomer to imperialism, significantly increased its colonial holdings in Africa, sparking anxieties among established powers like Britain and France. The Berlin Conference of 1884-85, though slightly preceding this year, continued to shape the geopolitical landscape as European nations carved up Africa with little regard for pre-existing boundaries or local populations. This imperialistic drive led to numerous conflicts, both within and between empires, shaping the 20th-century world order and setting the stage for future global conflicts.

Technological Advancements and Social Change

1890 wasn't just a year of political upheaval; it also marked significant progress in technology and its impact on society. The development and refinement of the electric motor and the internal combustion engine were transforming industries and daily life. While electricity was still far from ubiquitous, its growing use in urban areas signaled a profound shift from reliance on steam power and animal labor. The increasing production of bicycles, made more affordable through technological improvements, offered a newfound sense of freedom and mobility, particularly for the burgeoning middle class. These technological advancements, while benefiting some, also exacerbated existing social inequalities, creating a stark contrast between the rapidly developing industrialized nations and the rest of the world.

Social and Political Ferment in Europe

Europe in 1890 was a cauldron of social and political ferment. The rise of socialism and anarchism challenged established monarchies and capitalist systems. In France, the Dreyfus Affair, a case of antisemitism that would unfold over the next few years, began to simmer

beneath the surface. In Germany, the growing power of the Kaiser and the increasing militarization of society created a climate of tension and uncertainty. This underlying unrest provided the fertile ground for future conflicts and significant shifts in political power dynamics throughout the continent.

A Year of Contradictions

1890 presented a complex tapestry of progress and brutality, advancement and oppression. The closing of the frontier simultaneously marked the triumph of American expansionism and the tragic subjugation of Native American populations. Technological breakthroughs spurred economic growth but also widened the gap between the rich and the poor. Imperial expansion brought immense wealth to some nations while inflicting suffering and exploitation on others. Understanding 1890 demands an awareness of these inherent contradictions, recognizing the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate events and their lasting impact on the world we inhabit today.

Conclusion:

1890 serves as a powerful reminder of the complex interplay of social, political, and technological forces that shape history. It was a year of profound transformation, characterized by both remarkable progress and devastating consequences. By examining the events of this pivotal year, we gain a deeper understanding of the roots of many contemporary issues and the lasting legacies of late 19th-century developments.

FAQs:

1. What was the most significant event of 1890? While the closing of the American frontier is symbolically important, the confluence of events – including the intensification of imperialism, technological advancements, and social unrest – makes it difficult to isolate a single "most significant" event. Each had profound and lasting consequences.
2. How did the closing of the frontier affect Native Americans? The declaration effectively intensified the already existing pressures on Native American populations, leading to increased displacement, violence, and the loss of their traditional way of life. The Wounded Knee Massacre tragically exemplifies this.
3. What role did 1890 play in the lead-up to World War I? The imperialistic rivalries and the underlying social and political tensions in Europe, evident in 1890, significantly contributed to

the escalating international tensions that culminated in World War I.

4. What technological advancements were particularly significant in 1890? The refinement of the electric motor and internal combustion engine, alongside advancements in bicycle technology, represented significant leaps forward with long-term impacts on industries and daily life.

5. How did 1890 reflect broader global trends? 1890 reflected the accelerating pace of industrialization, the rise of nationalism and imperialism, and the growing social and political unrest that characterized the late 19th century globally. It was a year of profound change, setting the stage for the events of the 20th century.

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142 lb to kg
123 pounds kg
1500 kilometers to miles
32000 kg to lb
5400 sqft kite
800 m to ft
16 tablespoons to cups
~~300 grams to lbs~~
~~186 pounds in kilos~~
150mm in inches
85 cm in feet
~~22oz to lbs~~
62 in to feet
150m to ft
65cm to feet

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600 feet to meters

400 pounds kg

193 cm in ft

330 lbs to kg

94 cm to inches

1867年12月19日（明治元年）に、
「明治」の年号が用いられるようになった。

明治元年（1867年） - 1 May 2019 ·
1890年（明治23年）に、
「明治」の年号が用いられるようになった。

明治元年（1867年） - 1 May 2019 ·
1890年（明治23年）に、
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19世紀（1800年代） - 1 May 2019 ·
1890年（明治23年）に、
「明治」の年号が用いられるようになった。

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