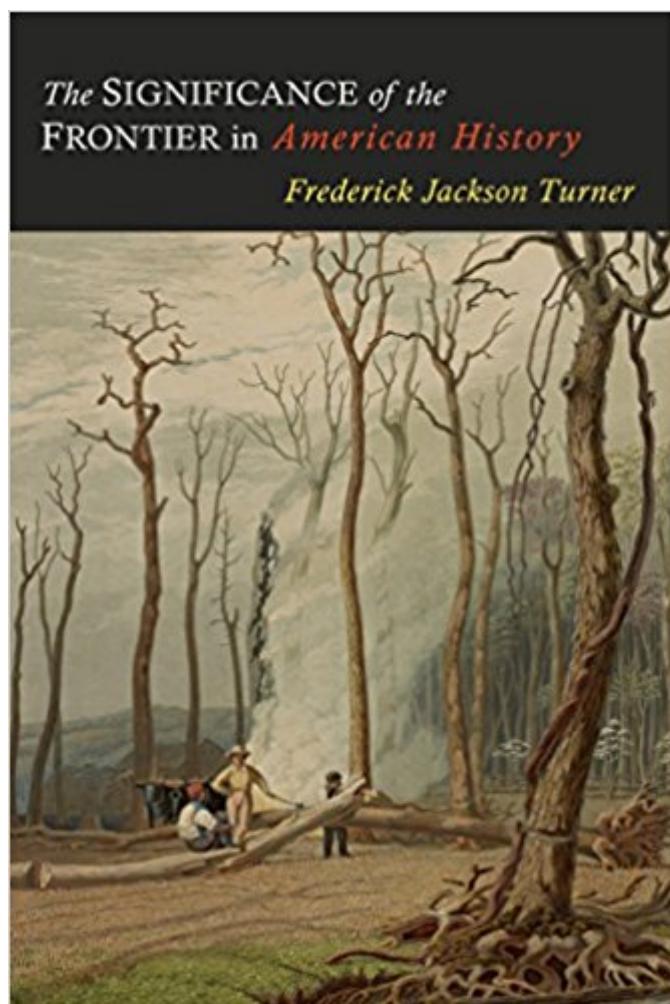


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# The Significance Of The Frontier In American History



## Synopsis

2014 Reprint of 1894 Edition. Full facsimile of the original 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Frederick Jackson Turner (1861 – 1932) is widely regarded as one of the two most influential American historians of the early 20th century. He is best known for *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Frontier in American History is one of the most important books highlighting the history and flow of peoples transplanting themselves from the Atlantic coast to the western expansions of a new nation. The Frontier in American History consists of thirteen essays with the most important of these being The significance of the frontier in American history. This essay was presented to the American Historical Association in 1893 where Frederick Jackson Turner laid out what was to be called his frontier thesis and the crowd was less than excited. Turner's book consists of essays that argue his frontier thesis and writes in an eloquent, formal style and relates the history from colonization to the Midwest, or what he calls the middle west. The consistent theme is that the frontier made the men, not the other way around and that westward expansion created a new nation unlike what had been seen before. These essays by Professor Turner was a significant achievement in the ideas of the progressive movement, with Turner's essays fueling the ideas that began to separate the new American School from the older and more traditional schools of thought. The free and abundant lands to the west drove men to create a new and unique world where self reliance was the hallmark of the frontier. According to Turner, "Western democracy included individual liberty, as well as equality. The frontiersman was impatient of restraints. He knew how to preserve order, even in the absence of legal authority."<sup>1</sup> Professor Turner was a man of his day with the mindset and outlook of a man of northern European descent and wrote in that manner. His writings are full of the accomplishments of pioneering peoples from Europe by way of New England with scant mention of any other groups of peoples except the Indians which he mentions several times as savages. He seems to have a contempt for people from the South, although without malice as his reasoning seems to be that since slavery was mostly prohibited from the new western lands, the Southerner had no reasons for expanding west. I found the book to be exceptionally thorough, although at times hard to read. Statistical data, usually strategically placed was anything but and at times thrown into the book in volume, overwhelming the reader. It was hard to believe that a book that went into this much depth, was less than 300 pages long. The thoroughness of the material makes it a must read for anyone in the field of history or interested enough in the history of the United States to get into the detail of step by step expansion of the United States into the west expanses of the continent. Each essay is worth reading alone but the inclusion of the preface and his explanation of why he decided to place all these essays in one volume is worth the time and effort in reading this author's landmark work. Turner ends this book with this excerpt from the final essay, Middle western pioneer democracy, which he contends is the legacy of the frontier, "This then is the heritage of pioneer experience,--a passionate belief that a democracy was possible which should leave the individual a

part to play in free society and not make him a cog in a machine operated from above; which trusted in the common man, in his tolerance, his ability to adjust differences with good humor, and to work out an American type from the contributions of all nations--a type for which he would fight against those who challenged it in arms, and for which in time of war he would make sacrifices, even the temporary sacrifice of individual freedom and his life, lest that freedom be lost forever."2Bibliography1.Turner, Frederick Jackson (2011-03-17). The Frontier in American History (p.164) Kindle Edition.2.The Frontier in American History (p. 275).

Professor Turner taught history at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI and was perhaps the first American historian to formulate and describe the frontier expansion--known as "Manifest Destiny"--which started in President Andrew Jackson's administration and swept across the country to the Pacific Coast and beyond to Hawai'i, Guam, the Philippines and elsewhere. A pattern developed. Based on U. S. Government surveys establishing township and range lines, the land was first explored, and then settled. "Cookie cutter" local governments were established: counties with county seats, counties and cities with representative government through public elections. Professor Turner's "Turner Thesis" became fundamental in understanding this entire phase of American History and the development of socio-economic and political institutions. It's basic, foundational reading.

I'm not one to advocate book burning, but the hardcover edition is more suitable for heating your home this winter than for reading. The marks in the description in no way indicate just how poor this copy is. And I do mean copy. It looks like someone spent an hour at a copy machine with a few rolls of nickels. On the first page, the dedication is to his wife. Below that you see "you kidding?". That was printed and bound, then sold on . Complete garbage.

I found this essay from a quotation in "The Case for Mars," by Robert Zubrin. Following FJT's thesis, the explanation for why Americans are persistent in sending humans to space is that it is our nature (because of the frontier... read the essay to find out more). After developing the American frontier, without another terrestrial frontier for expansion, space is our next destination. Of course, we also find more abstract frontiers to explore e.g. biology, aerospace, technology, transportation, medicine...

This product is not worth the money. I recently purchased it for an American Civilization course, and

aside from it being incomplete, the pages are just small, scanned photos of the actual work. Almost all of it is illegible because of faded, blurred print, and much too small to read even if the ink wasn't faded. I am extremely disappointed. It is a useless 17 pages and a waste of \$13. NOT WORTH BUYING AT ALL! (Do not buy the one with the ISBN number 9781179557915)

Like a classroom seminar. Very dry, with no sense of the human struggles involved.

a different point of view concerning the frontier

The condition of the binding of the book was as expected. However, the condition of the copies is very poor, at best. The text is old, so it is a copy of the original work. When I say a copy, it looks like it was a copy of a copy of a copy.....making many pages partially, and in some cases, totally illegible. The text includes pages 200 - 227. The following pages were either partially or totally illegible because of the poor quality of the copies: 200, 204, 208, 210, 212, 213, 216, 218, 220, 221, 225, and 226. Page 224 was totally missing. If I had it to do over again, I would simply find the text online as I'm sure it is most likely available. The description of the item should more clearly define the amount of text that is illegible. The book should not be sold in its present condition.

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