

# Unit 1 Notes

## Settlement Patterns

### Physical Geography

#### **The Size of New Mexico**

- NM is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest state in the US it stretches 391 miles north to south and 352 miles east to west. What states are bigger? -----Alaska, Texas, California, and Montana

#### **Four Geographic Provinces of New Mexico**

**1. The Rocky Mountain Province-** Is in the north and central part of the state. It extends southward from Colorado and stops just south of Santa Fe. While there are over 50 mountain ranges in New Mexico the largest concentration takes place in this area. The mountains in NM were formed from volcanoes, glaciers, wind, water, and plate tectonics

- Wheeler Peak Highest Point in New Mexico 13,161ft.
- Major Mountain Ranges- Sandia, Manzano, Jemez, Sacramento, Mogollon and Rocky Mountains

**2. The Great Plains Province-** is an extension of the Great Plains; and consists of lowlands that are flat and treeless. It covers 1/3 of eastern New Mexico and is known as Llano Estacado or the Staked Plains because the majority of the plains sits on top of one of the largest mesas in the world. Also some of the earth's flattest land is located between the Canadian River and the Pecos River.

- Interesting fact: the lowest point in the Plains is around 2,800 ft however this is still relatively higher than others states.

**3. The Colorado Plateau Province-** is made up of elevated tablelands or mesas formed by lava flows, and erosion. The Colorado Plateau is a huge mass of predominately sedimentary rocks which were formed by an ancient ocean over 250 million years ago. The large amounts of water cut arroyos and canyons which created high cliffs and deep canyons. The region extends across the northwestern part of the state.

**4. The Basin and Range Province-** Is defined by the mountains on the exterior with plains in-between the mountains which create valleys that collect water. In general, only a small amount, about 10 percent, of all rain water is absorbed into the ground. Once the ground is saturated it then becomes surface water and by the force of gravity the water will always travel from high to low to be caught by the basin. The basin and range province is the largest in the state.

#### **Rivers**

New Mexico has a dry climate and rivers are extremely important they supply water to plants, animals, and people. Some dry up in the summer months and others flow year round. There are six major rivers: San Juan, Chama, Canadian, Rio Grande, Pecos, and the Gila. The two largest rivers are the Rio Grande and the Pecos and their headwaters start from the melting snow in the Rockies. The Rio Grande is the most significant river in the state by far. It flows from southern Colorado, through NM and through Texas and out into the Gulf of Mexico. Many of the major cities and farmers for irrigation get their water from surface water. Water is our most precious commodity since we have limited supply. Average annual precipitation ranges from 9.5 inches (24 cm) in the desert to over 20 in (50 cm) in the mountains. The state average is 13 inches in comparison to Georgia who receives 48 inches a year, making water very scarce and important to the state.

#### **Lakes**

There is only one natural lake in New Mexico which is the Bottomless Lakes. The rest are man made as a result of dams being built. Some of the other lakes include: Navajo, Heron, Elephant Butte, Brantley, Conchas, Abiquiu, and Bluewater. The lakes provide water to communities and help stimulate tourism in the area only two of the dams provide electricity.

## **Climate**

Climate is the day to day weather conditions over a period of years. It is the result of the interaction of many different elements, the most important which are elevation, temperature, and precipitation. New Mexico's climate ranges from arid to semiarid (dry to kinda dry), with a wide range of temperatures.

- Highest temperature ever recorded 122°F (50°C), on July 27, 1994 at Lakewood
- Lowest temperature ever recorded -50°F (-46°C), on February 1, 1951 at Gavilan

## **Life Zones**

Changes in elevation have different amounts of precipitation which then support different types of plant life, animals, etc... this also impacts people's jobs and housing.

- Lower Sonoran
- Upper Sonoran- Most of state is in this life zone (2/3rds of the state). 5,000-7,000 ft above sea level
- Transition
- Canadian
- Hudsonian
- Arctic-Alpine

## **Social and Political Geography**

### **Social/Political Trends in NM**

**1<sup>st</sup> Settlers of NM-** The first settlers of NM were the Natives. Originally the people roamed the area in nomadic or semi-nomadic tribes which eventually evolved to settled communities later on. The Natives were very well adjusted and in tune with the natural landscape and environment and used it for their survival. The societies that they constructed were highly advanced. Prior to the Spanish arrival there were 100+ groups living in NM; including the Navajo, Apache, Pueblo, Ute, etc.

**Spanish Arrival-** Conflict emerges between the settlers and the newcomers over political, physical, and religious (Catholic) changes imposed by the Spanish. The social and political atmosphere of NM shifts drastically during this time with conflict involving water, land, resources, culture and so on.

- The first arrival was all about the conquest of NM yet it was not permanent because the Spanish were thrown out of NM during the Pueblo Revolt of 1680.
- Yet the Spanish come back in 1691 for the re- conquest of NM yet took a much different approach with the natives and worked more towards cooperation instead of force. Does not mean peace existed.

**Mexican Influence-** During this time the Spanish government was overthrown by the new locals and kept much of the same rituals and government of Spain they just separated from the mother country for a short period of only 25 years.

**United States Arrival-** Again conflict immediately emerges with the arrival of the newcomers (US), the new settlers (Spanish/Mexican), and the original settlers (Natives). The US during this time started to bring in goods on the Santa Fe Trail which eventually lead to further westward expansion by the US (Manifest Destiny). Again the social and political atmosphere shifts changing the religions, language, and culture of the state. With the arrival of the US also came rapid change and the movement from a primarily rural area to an urban state.

**We have been looking at the natural geographic factors that impact settlement patterns but now let's look at the social issues involved in settlement. Technically for the course we are supposed to start at statehood but you must first understand how the US came to control New Mexico and the West. The start of US control came with the end of the Mexican American War.**

The Mexican American War is one of the most significant events in New Mexico history. In less than two years, this conflict redrew the map of North America, and changed the destinies of all who lived in this vast region. The treaty that ended the war was known as the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

### **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**

On February 2, 1848 the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed and officially made the west part of the United States and ended the Mexican American War. The terms of the treaty included:

- Mexico recognized that Texas belonged to the US
- The Rio Grande was established as the boundary between Texas and Mexico
- The US gained current day the New Mexico Territory which included the west
- The US paid Mexico 15 million dollars and paid off Mexican debts

Once the US finally gained control of the area they decided to break up the large amount of lands into the current day states but called them territories. The Mexican citizens were also given the option to either stay in the new US or to move into Mexico. While many of the territories quickly became states NM was denied statehood for an extended period due to various reasons.

### **Gadsden Purchase**

During this time California had just struck it rich and it was the intention of the south to build a transcontinental railroad for easy deliveries and trade. So in order to help move the project along the US worked with Mexico to buy a southern strip land from Arizona and New Mexico. In the purchase they gained desirable farmland and the prospect of building a southern railroad through flat country. Thanks to James Gadsden's a deal was struck with Santa Ana for 10 million dollars in return the United States would: get 45,000 square miles of land @ 33 cents an acre.

### **NM Quest for Statehood and Hurdles blocking Statehood**

Soon after there were many territories that quickly became states however that was not the case for us the US wanted NM to prove its loyalty and American culture to the US.

Reasons for US Denial for Statehood

1. Racism towards Spanish and Native Americans
2. Not enough English Spoken- mostly Spanish and Traditional Native Languages
3. Too many Catholics- feared they would be more loyal to Pope than country
4. Slavery Issue- Meaning if we would be a free or slave state
5. Too much violence in New Mexico (US Army-Native American Wars, Lincoln County Wars, etc...)
6. Corruption with the Santa Fe Ring Politicians and Land Grants
7. Lack of support from different presidents

### **Assimilation in NM**

**Since NM was thought to be Un-American the US implemented a policy of Assimilation which was the blending of cultures or making NM seem more American. During our time as a territory the US created activities to make the state be or appear more American thus attracting Anglos from the east to move out west.** Too many New Mexico was seen as a new way of life and a way to make a quick living. From 1900 to 1910 the population of Spanish people dropped from 70% to 40% in a matter of only ten years. This is largely due to quick American expansion and immigration of Jewish, Polish, German, Italian, Lebanese, and Serbian.

- Within a matter of years the arrival of the Railroad- brought new people and cultures to the state to either visit or stay.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> railroad in the state was the AT & SF and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was the Southern Pacific and replaced the previous wagon trails.
  - The arrival of a railroad determined the success and growth of a community.
    - If the railroad stopped in a town- the city would Boom or grow
    - If the railroad skipped a town- the city would Bust or die

- Tourist/Health Destination- Fred Harvey started to promote NM as a tourist and health hot spot with “ancient culture” along the railroad lines. His restaurant and business chains were well known as Harvey Houses. Fred Harvey heavily promoted this idea of New Mexico as an ancient mystical place which led to the boom of crafts, artists and healthcare.
- The Homestead Act- was offered by the federal government and allowed “American” people in New Mexico to buy up land up to 320 acres with nothing more than, 20 dollars, a signature, and a promise to grow crops. This led to the growth of cities and towns in the Great Plains part of the state.
- American schooling- was soon created to try and help “assimilate” the Spanish and Natives to American culture. English was highly promoted and was seen as the language of opportunity which has had some adverse affects on language in NM. Specifically during this period Indian boarding schools were created to help “Americanize” them. They were forced to wear American clothing, cut hair, attend Christian churches (Protestant), punished for speaking traditional language etc.

Finally after much persistence and Americanization of the people New Mexico finally became a state Saturday, January 6, 1912, at 1:35 p.m. in Washington D.C., President William H. Taft signed the proclamation making New Mexico the 47th state of the United States. More than 61 years after New Mexico had become part of the US.

- The first two Senators were Albert Fall and Thomas Catron and were elected by popular vote
- The first Governor was William C. McDonald

### **Population**

From the arrival of the US to today the population has grown by 1.8 million people. The population of New Mexico is 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation. The state total is equal to 2,059,179 people as of 2010 census.

- 1st Albuquerque- 545,852
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Las Cruces- 97, 618
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Rio Rancho- 87, 521
- Grants is the 26<sup>th</sup> largest out of 130 with a population of 9, 100.

### **Summary of Settlement Patterns**

#### **Major factors that Affect Settlement Patterns/Urbanization**

Proximity to water- Most Important

Availability of resources (minerals, water, land, etc...)

Jobs/Economy

Culture

Past Events

*Can you think of others?*

#### **Major Factors that Cause Conflict**

Proximity to water

Availability of resources (minerals, water, land, etc...)

Jobs/Economy

Culture

Past Events

*Can you think of others?*