Critisism of the Turner Thesis
- Devalues Native Americans completely
- Sign of the time
- Everything happens on the frontier/in the West
  - A new Frontier must mean change everywhere
  - What about the people in the East?
    - Are these people not this new American character?
- Farm > City an Eastern movement
- Uniquely American? Or just another migration
- Mormon exodus to the West was to get away from this American character
- American character with boundless energy
  - How can it only be in the West?
  - Where did it come from?
- Music, literature, art, culture all influenced by Europe
- Religion very influenced by European protestantism
- Cannot escape the Europeanisation

How convincing is Turner?
- Inadequate for talking about the US as a whole
- Where class, industry and gender?
- Racial struggles - one mention of slavery
- Free land? No, Native Americans were there before
- Individualism? No, the government and big companies provide aid
- Gold rush refers to the greedy aspect of American character
- Turner is a product of the Mid West (Born in Wisconsin)
  - Wants the West to look like the superior
- East-West tensions
  - Eastern founding fathers
  - West takes role of the Frontier and new American character
- European influence cannot be ignored
- Moving Frontier
- European influence never abandoned, rather adapted
- Political/cultural function of Turner Thesis
- 1890s - influx of immigrants
  - Trained into American ways
- 1889 FJT - “American history needs a connected and unified account of the progress of civilization across the continent”
- Americas own creation story
- A frame work for America
- Offers a distinctive past
- Explanation of American experience