

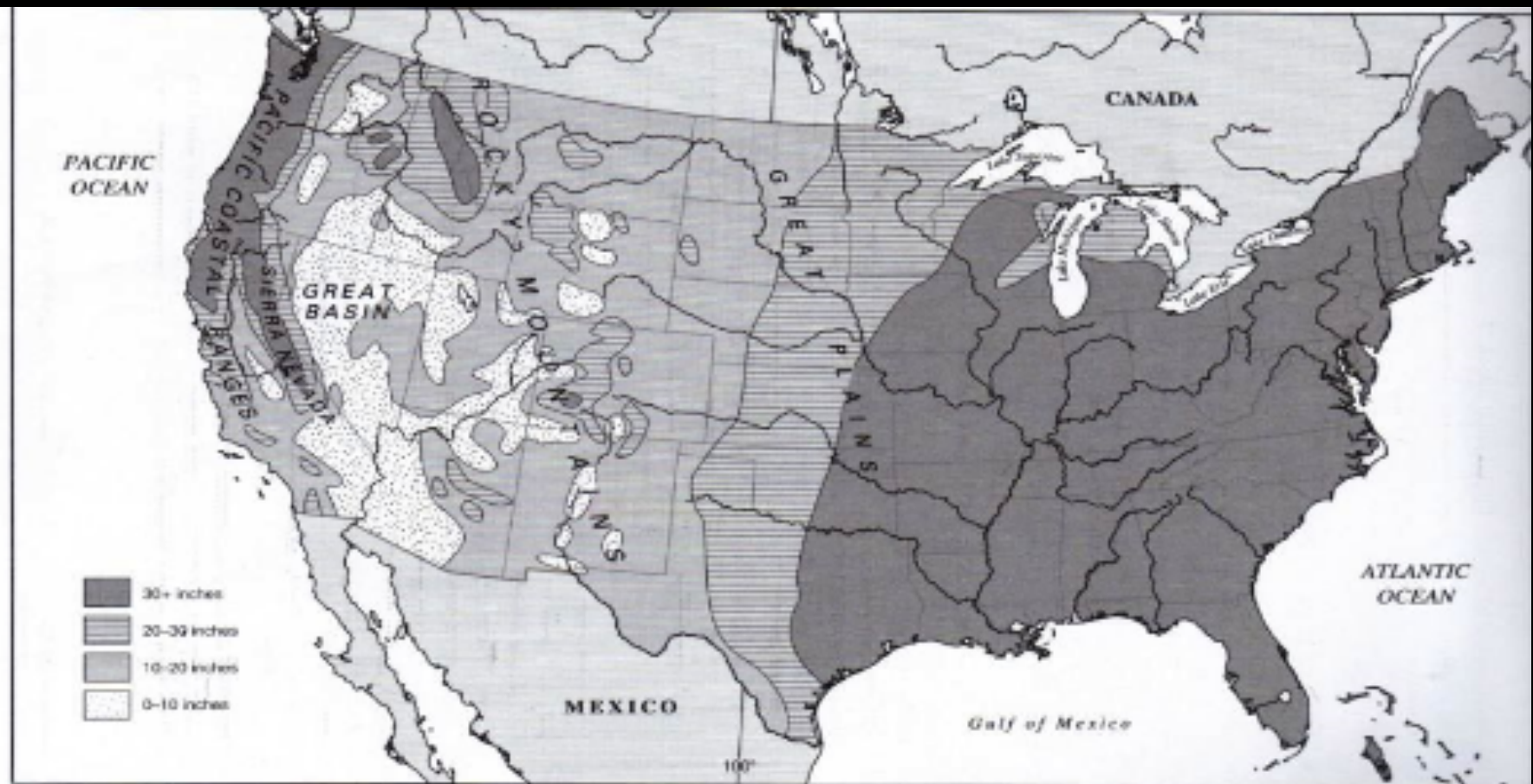


“My subject was the dedemocratization of the rural landscape. Ruthless concentration—what the USDA likes to call “efficiency”—has depopulated America’s farmland since World War II, leaving fewer and fewer people behind to vote on its behalf. Dedemocratization isn’t merely an effect of industrial agriculture. It is one of its tactics. Track the spread of factory farming, and you’ll find it where there are no zoning laws or where zoning and local control over land use have been deliberately weakened. It’s like tracing the source of cholera back to a single contaminated well. Find a county or township where confinement hog barns crowd the landscape—where the air downwind is vile and the water downstream is polluted with antibiotic-resistant organisms—and you will surely have found a place where democracy has gone awry. No one who has the chance to resist will consent to live within the ichorous effluent of factory farms.” Verlyn Klinkenborg, “The Prophet,” *The New York Review of Books* 60 (October 24, 2013).



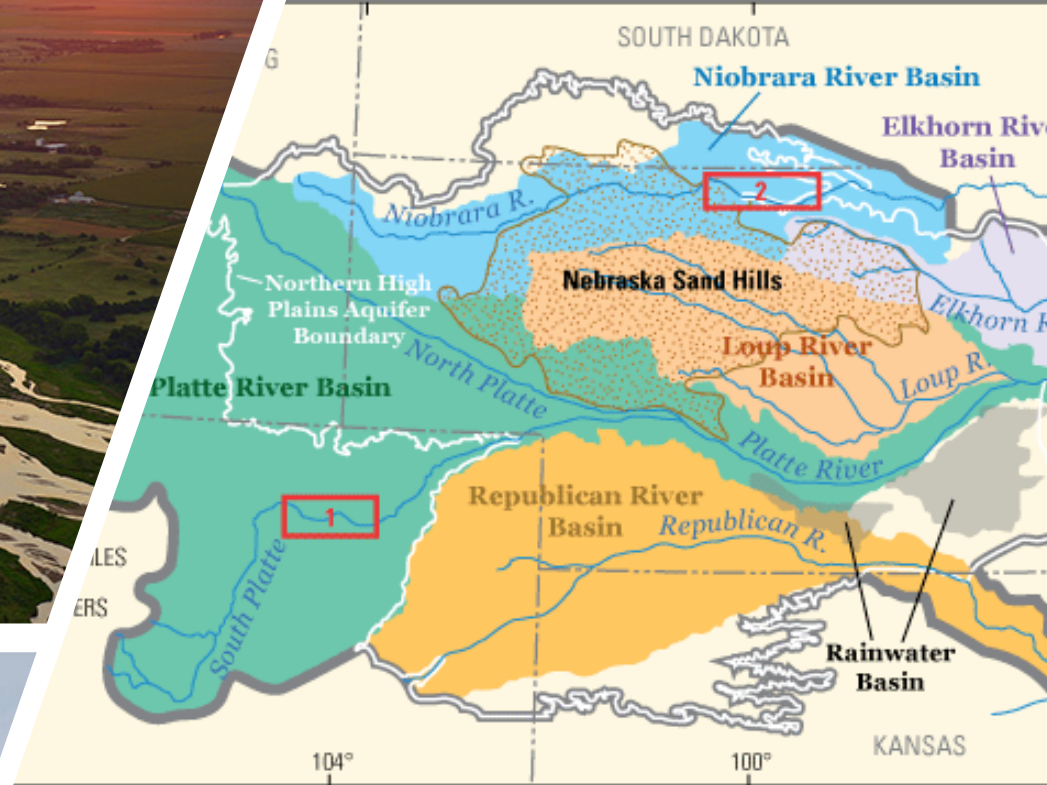
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Fx4lpxfFWM>

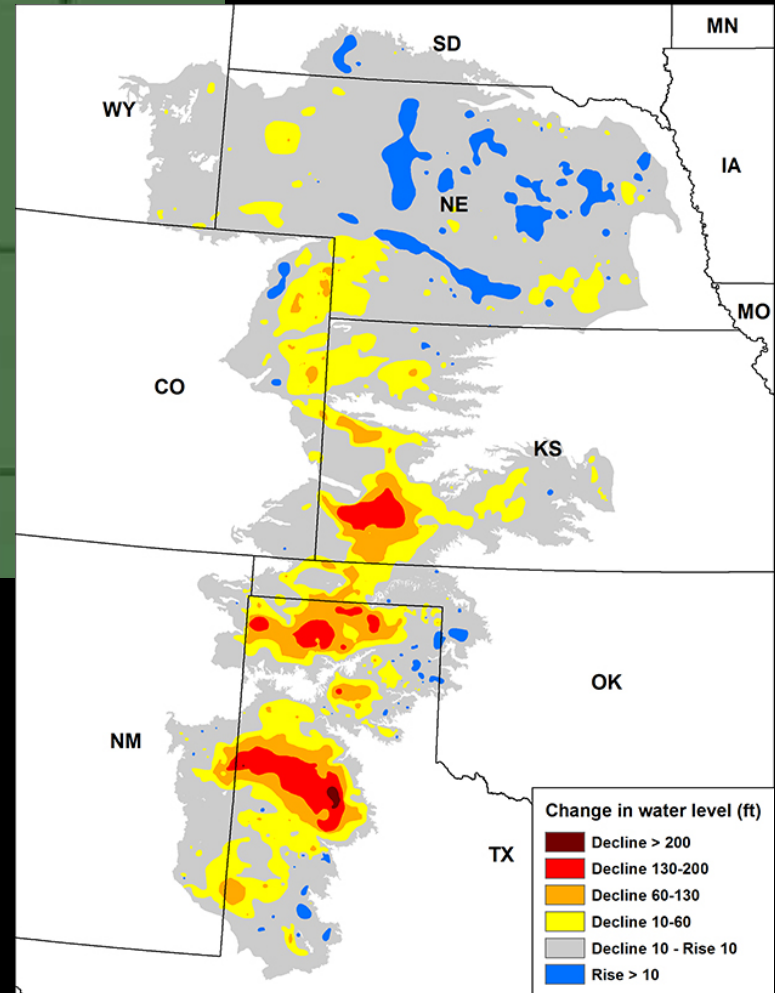




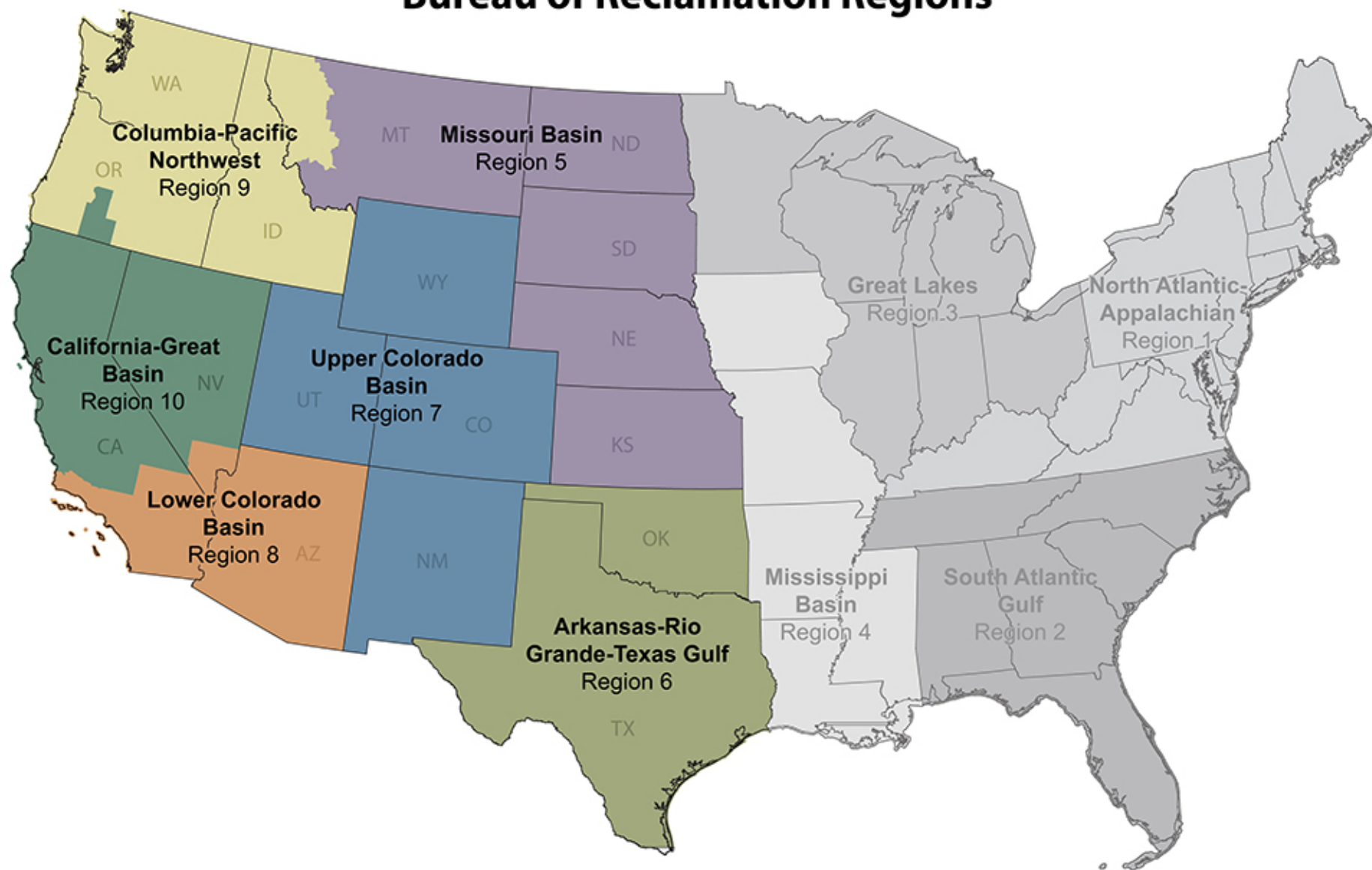
MAP 9.1 Average Annual Precipitation

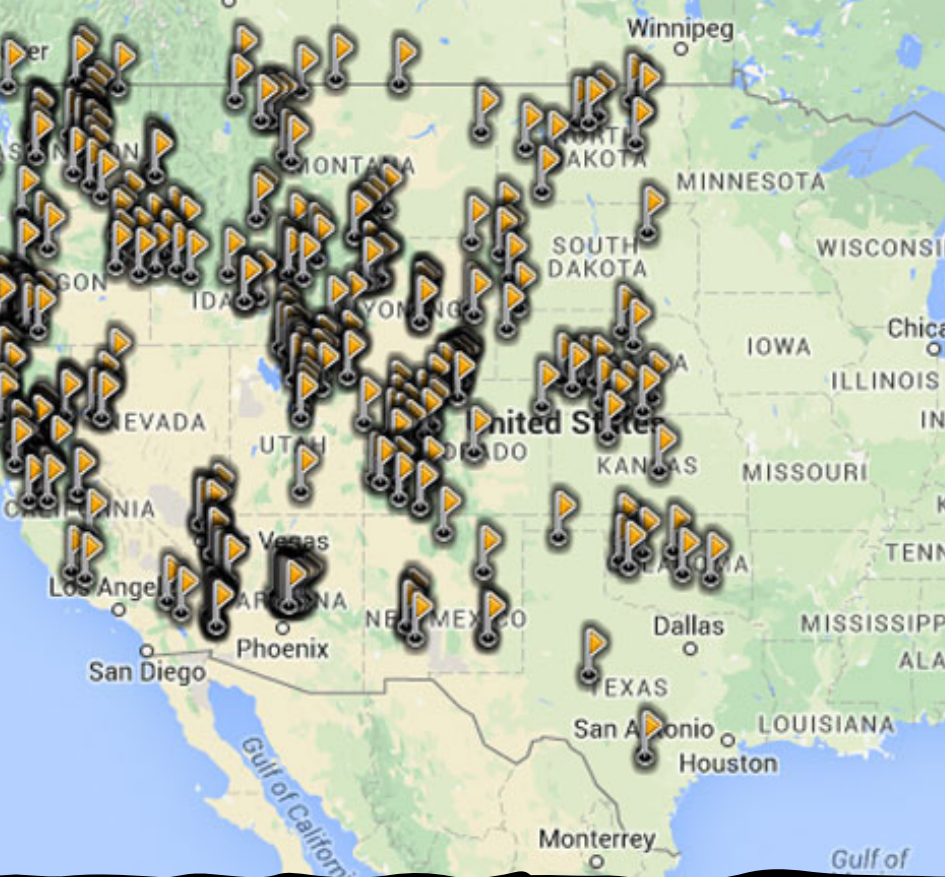
The Homestead Act, 1862: When Securing the Dream of a Free Labor Garden, Always Check the Rainfall Levels: Three divisions existed, the tall grass (prairie, at the center of which is the corn belt), short grass (plains), and desert.



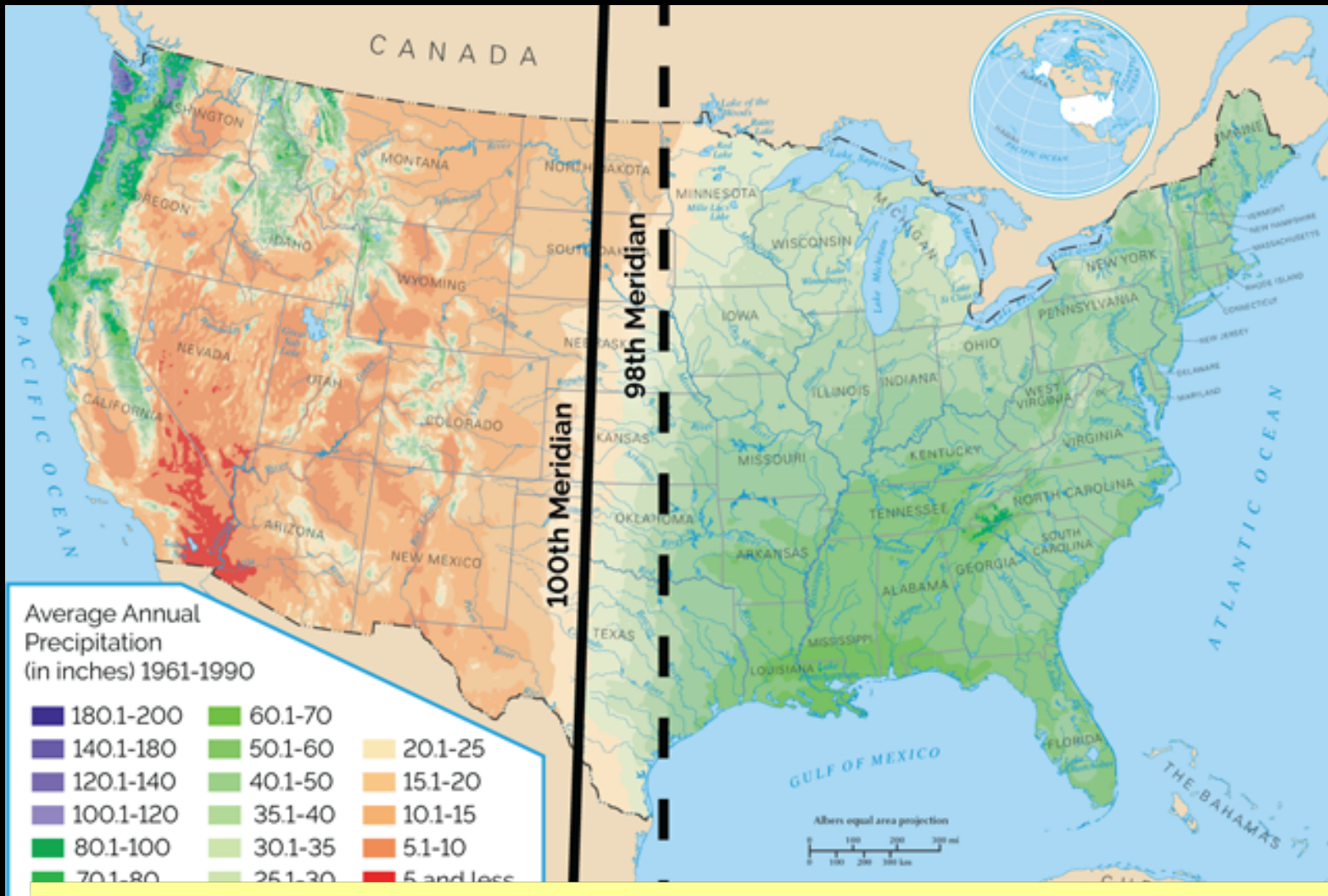


Bureau of Reclamation Regions





<https://www.usbr.gov/projects/facilities.php?type=Dam>



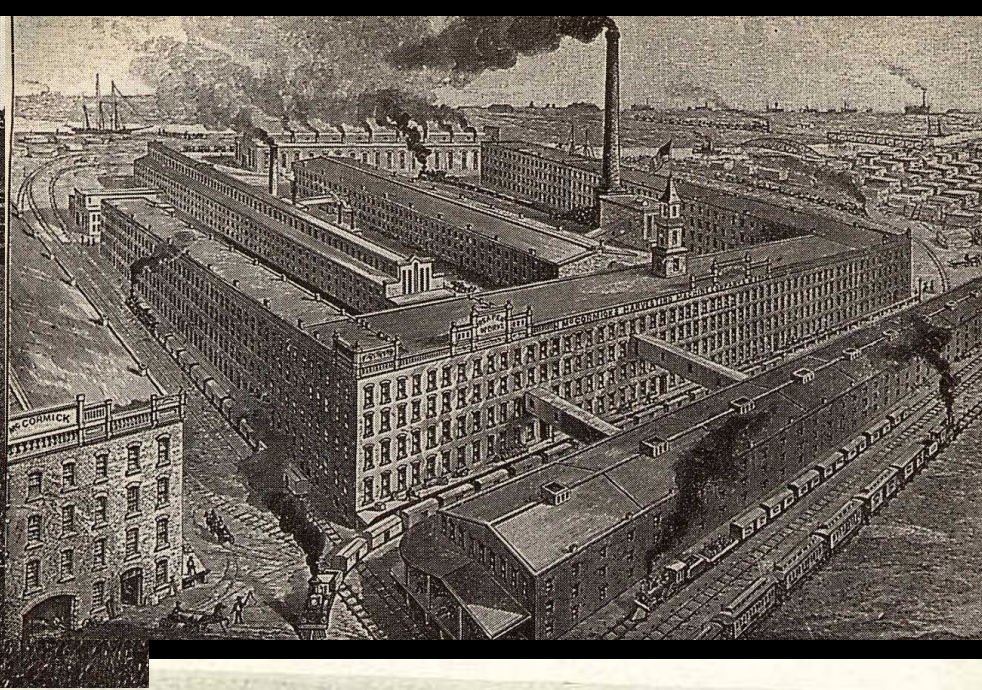
Beyond the 98th meridian, Americans encountered a new region of level surfaces, treeless land, and limited rainfall. Although all three characteristics applied simultaneously to only a small part of the Great Plains (the High Plains), they nevertheless precipitated a crisis and breakdown in old ways of pioneering. Of the three legs of civilization east of the Mississippi (land, water, timber), two of the three (water, timber) could not be counted on west of the 98th meridian.

The prairies transformed

Eastern investors selected Chicago as the gateway to the Great West, making the city a railroad center.



Travelers shot buffalo from moving trains but hired hunters killed hundreds of thousands more, selling the hides as robes. Later settlers sold the bones for fertilizers.

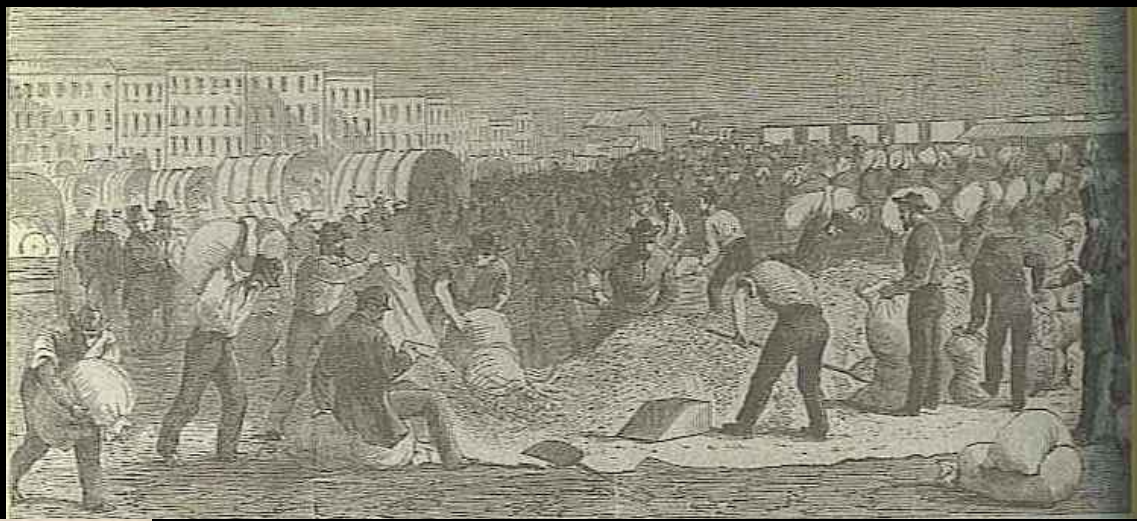


Amber Waves of Grain and Feed Lots: Virginian Cyrus McCormick relocated to Chicago in 1848 to sell reapers to farmers spreading out across the prairies.

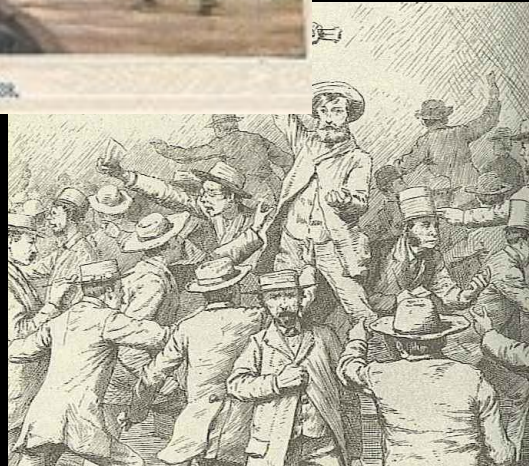


An Iowa feed lot, where young steers ate hay and corn. Pigs roamed freely, eating the leftovers.

A Golden Stream: The Illinois and Michigan Canal began to bring grain into Chicago where it was bought and sold by the sack on the city streets. The invention of the grain elevator (first in Buffalo) made the city. In the 1850s, a grading system made it possible to speculate in grain futures, sight unseen.



THE FIRST GRAIN ELEVATOR IN CHICAGO, 1839.



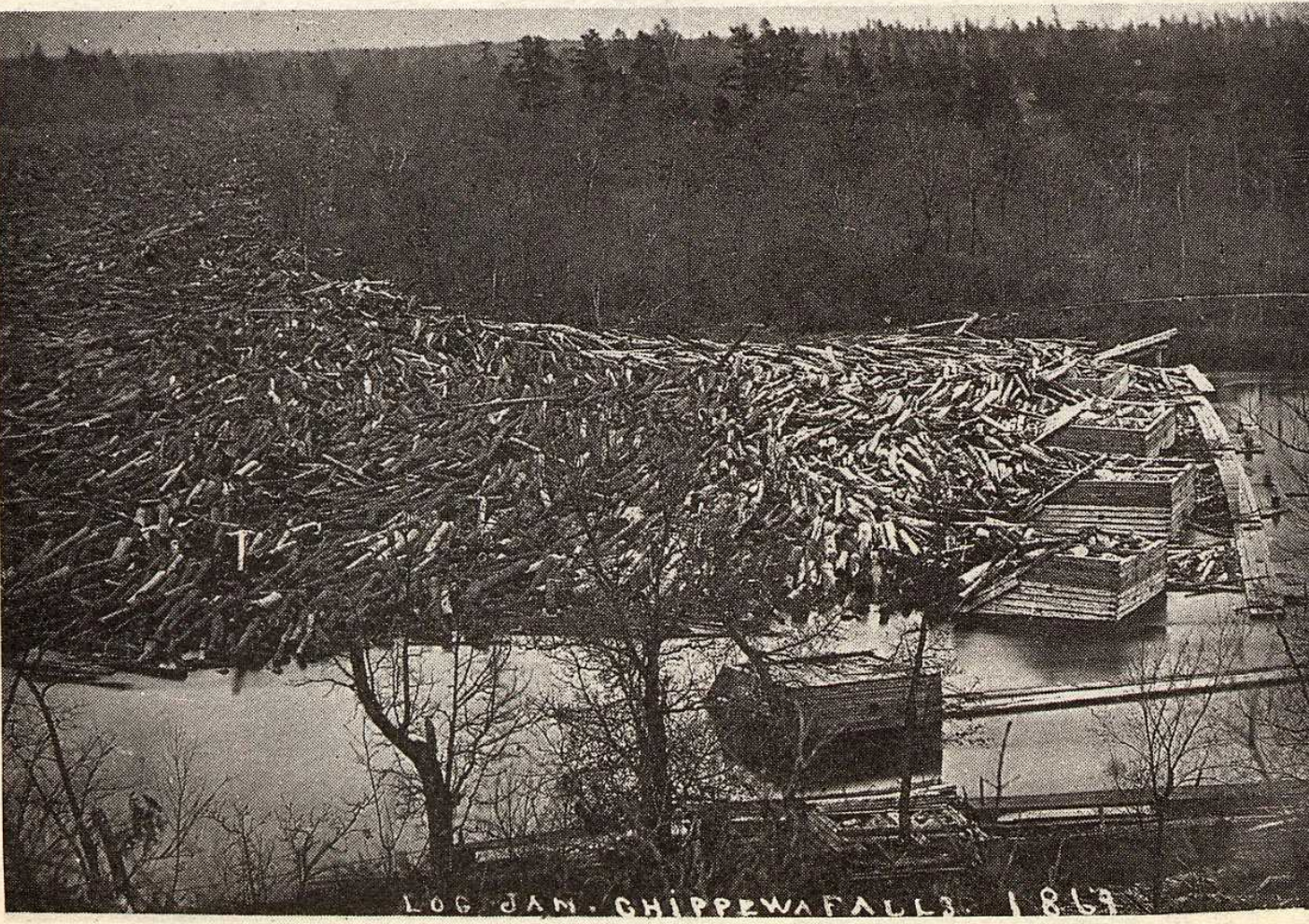




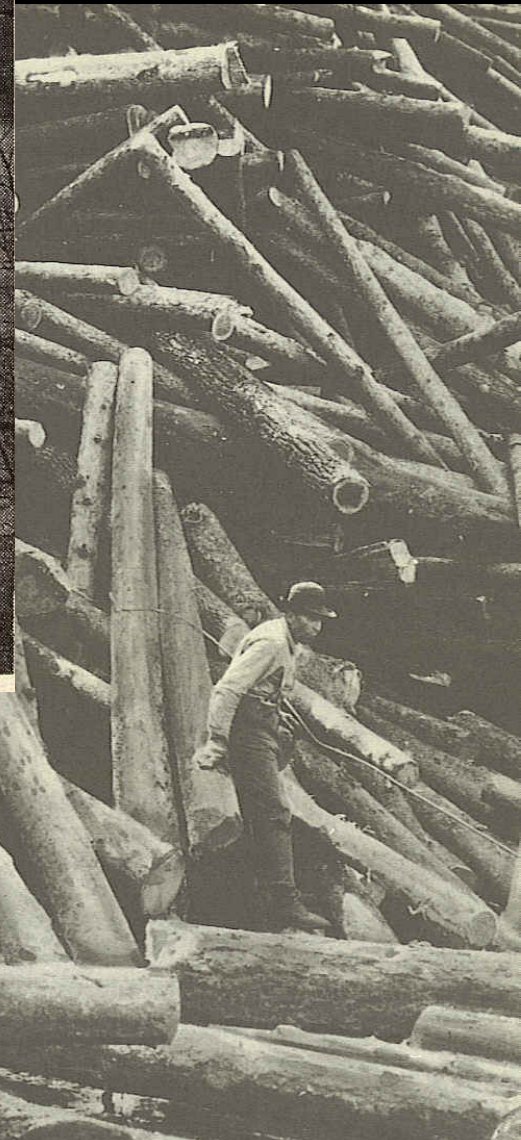
Transforming Ecosystems

Primitive Accumulation: The
North Woods: From Bonanza
to Cutover



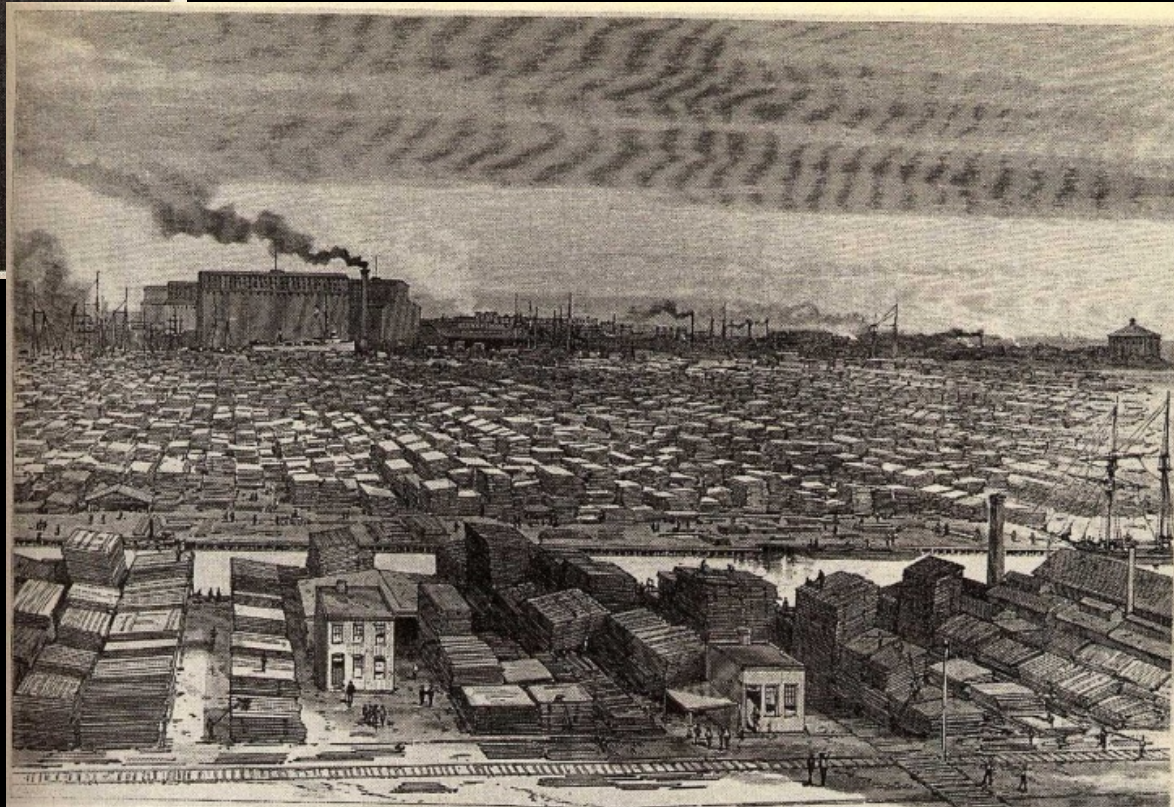


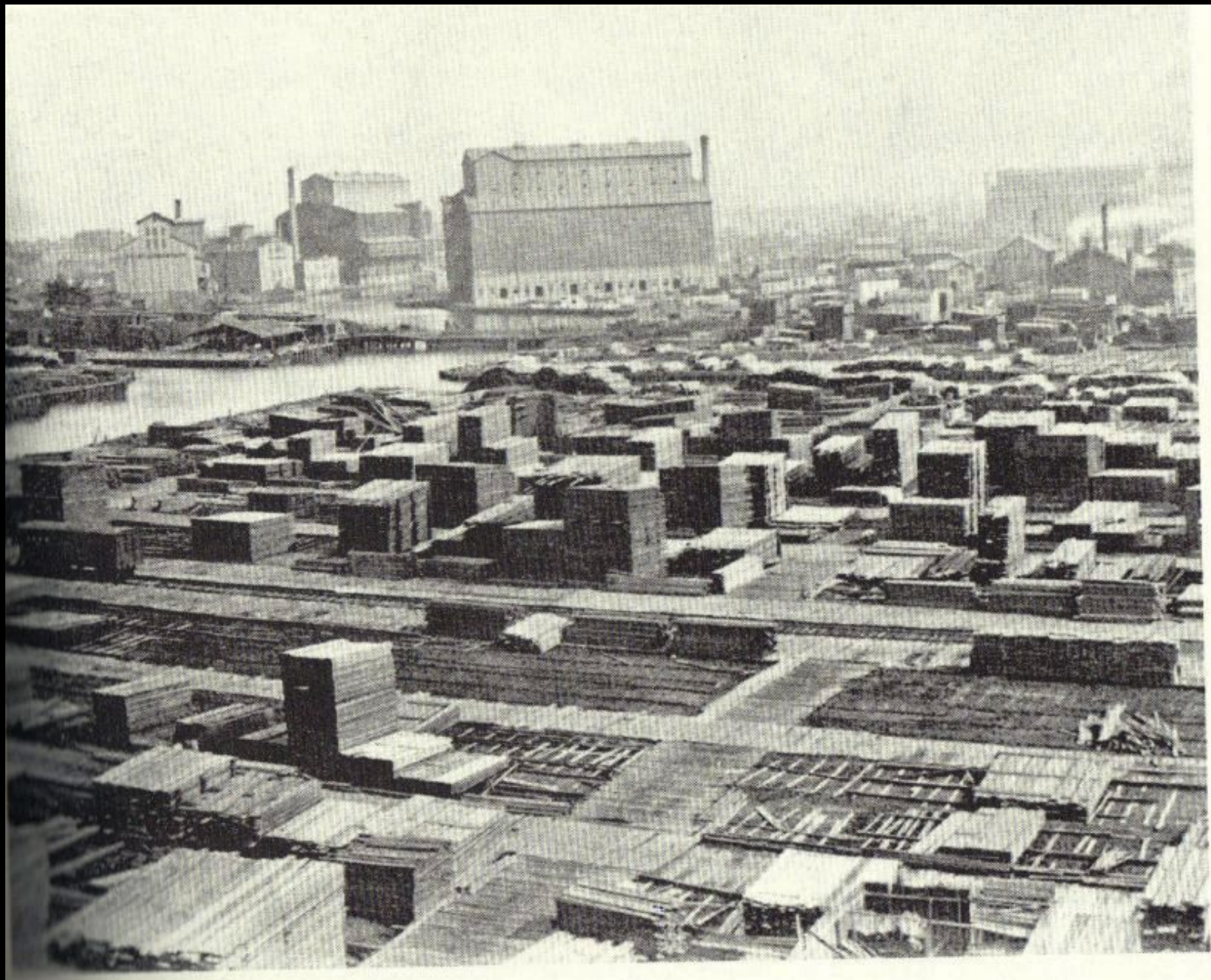
Ice skids helped loggers get the trees out of the forests to the rivers but then the spring thaw led to astounding log jams – pushing logs thirty feet or more into the air and producing a dull roar of creaking and scraping. Skilled loggers ventured onto the jams to break them up.





The largest lumber market in the world, second half of the 19th century. Merchant met the boats at the harbor and then sent it to lumberyards lining the Chicago River. The scent of pine mixed with sewage along the river as lumber waited to be shipped by rail to farmers on the grasslands. Note the harbor ships in the background and the grain elevator.





To illustrate Cronon's argument about narrative endings imposing specific meanings on events, consider these two film clips (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RQbcUP8PO0> + http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8t_qToyqiOU)

These links will take you to the trailer and the very last part of the blockbuster *How the West Was Won* from 1962. I still remember seeing the film in a big Chicago theater, in wide angle "Cinemascope," and it blew my little six-year-old mind. Watching it again, decades later, the ending blew my mind all over again, though it a rather different way this time).

24 GREAT STARS IN THE MIGHTIEST ★ ADVENTURE EVER FILMED! ★



20 STARRING
BRIGID BAZLEN · WALTER BRENNAN · DAVID BRIAN · ANDY DEVINE · RAYMOND MASSEY · AGNES MOOREHEAD · HENRY (HARRY) MORGAN
THELMA RITTER · MICKEY SHAUGHNESSY · RUSS TAMBLYN · JAMES R. WEBB · DIRECTED BY HENRY HATHAWAY, JOHN FORD, GEORGE MARSHALL
PRODUCED BY BERNARD SMITH · MUSIC BY ALFRED NEWMAN