

I N D U S T R I A L I S M

-----Summary-----

Industrialism in America- The Gilded Age and the first years of the 20th century were a time of great social change and economic growth in the US. Roughly spanning the years between Reconstruction and the dawn of the new century, the Gilded Age saw rapid industrialization, urbanization, transcontinental railroads, innovations, and the rise of big business. Some historians have dubbed the presidents of the Gilded Age the “forgotten presidents,” historians have suggested that these presidents were unexciting because Americans wanted to avoid politicians who might ruin the peace after the Civil War. This is not to say politics were unimportant. On the contrary, Americans paid more attention to politics and turned out in record numbers for each presidential election. The increase in voter turnout was also partly the result of machine party politics, which blossomed in large U.S. cities. Powerful political “bosses” in each party coerced urban residents into voting for favored candidates, who would then give kickbacks and bribes in appreciation for getting them elected. Bosses would also spend money to improve voters’ neighborhoods to ensure a steady flow of votes for their machines. In this sense, party bosses and machine politics actually helped some of the poorest people in the cities. Following the Civil War, the US experienced unprecedented growth and industrialization during the Gilded Age, with a continent full of natural resources and driven by millions of immigrants ready to work. Mechanization and marketing were the keys to success in this age: companies that could mass-produce products and convince people to buy them accumulated enormous amounts of wealth, while companies that could not were forced out of business by competition. Railroads were key in the new industrialized economy. The railroad industry enabled raw materials, finished products, food, and people to travel cross-country in a matter of days, as opposed to the months or years that it took just prior to the Civil War. By the end of the war, the US boasted some 35,000 miles of track, mostly in the industrialized North. By the turn of the century, that number had jumped to almost 200,000 miles, linking the North, South, and West. With these railroads making travel easier, millions of rural Americans flocked to the cities, and by 1900, nearly 40 percent of the population lived in urban areas. By the 20th century, the rise of big business and the large migration of Americans from the countryside to the cities caused a shift in political awareness, as elected officials saw the need to address the growing economic and social problems that developed along with the urban boom. So started the Progressive movement. Progressives believed that the government needed to take a strong, proactive role in the economy, regulating big business, immigration, and urban growth. These middle-class reformers hoped ultimately to regain control of the government from special interests like the railroads and trusts and pass effective legislation to protect consumers, organized labor, and minorities. <http://www.sparknotes.com/history/american/gildedage/context.html>

-----Possible Essay Questions-----

The below section includes possible essay questions and answer ideas. Make sure you understand the below section just has ideas you still have to give examples and/or explain with a full response.

- 1. Explain how the Industrial Revolution led to urbanization and then describe the negative impacts of urbanization.** The expansion of manufacturing led to the growth of cities. Many immigrants come to the US in search of jobs. They are initially welcomed since cheap labor. Many farmers and people in rural America move to cities in search of labor. +Overcrowding +Unsanitary conditions +Forced to live in slums or tenements +Low wages and long hours +Spread of diseases + Cultural conflicts + Racism and discrimination.
- 2. Explain monopolies and their impact on economic, and political policies in America.** Monopolies are when a single company owns all or nearly all of the market for a given type of product or service, thus limiting competition and fair prices. Some of the largest monopolies were lead by Carnegie, Vanderbilt, and Rockefeller. + Monopolies followed Social Darwinism +Monopolies were banned and trusts replaced them +Laissez faire economics encouraged government regulation +Antitrust policies were put in place to regulate business and increase competition.
- 3. Describe the various efforts that were taken in order to improve the conditions of the Gilded Age.** +Labor Unions, strikes, collective bargaining, protesting, etc...+Jane Addams created Hull Houses to improve immigrant conditions +Jacob Riis photographed living conditions +Muckrakers worked to improve work conditions, women’s rights, and lobbied for prohibition.

Key Terms

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Urbanization- Expansion of cities and or the increase in the number of people living in them.

Capitalism- is an economic system in which trade, industry and production are controlled by private owners with the goal of making money

Nativism: The belief that native-born white Americans are superior to newcomers. (dislike for immigrants)

Entrepreneur- is a person who invests money a product or business with the goal of making a profit.

Laissez Faire- an absence of government control over private business, this lead to the growth of big business.

Bessemer Process- method developed in the mid 1880s for making steel more effectively. This led to the expansion of cities and industry.

Mass Production- The production of goods in large numbers through the use of machinery and assembly lines.

Social Darwinism- The belief that some people and races were destined to be superior and rule over others.

Monopoly- is the exclusive control by one company or person over an entire industry, such as Carnegie Steel controlling and producing all steel within America for a time and thus controlling the price of all steel.

Trust- is a group of separate companies that are placed under the control of a single board in order to profit and limit competition.

Andrew Carnegie- the CEO and owner of Carnegie Steel, a company that lead steel production in America. He made the economic practice of vertical integration very popular and steel readily available. First man in America to cheaply and easily mass-produce steel

John D Rockefeller- A leader in the oil industry and owner of Standard Oil Company

Trust Busting- Government action that works to break up trusts/monopolies in order to increase competition and create an open economy.

Immigrants- People moving from one country to another.

Rural to Urban Migration- Large groups of rural town populations moving to industrial cities due to jobs and opportunities in the cities.

Labor Union- an organization of workers from an industry who ban together in to improve their working conditions. (hated by big business)

Strikes- a refusal to work until the company decides to meet with their workers and listen to their demands.

Strike Breakers- A company's attempt to break up a strike by hiring scabs or immigrants in order to replace the workers that refuse to work.

Collective Bargaining- a method used by unions to improve their work conditions.

American Federation of Labor- Fought for the rights of skilled workers.

Populism (ist)- they led the way for currency reform and fought for the rights of farmers and agricultural society.

William Jennings Bryan- known as the Great Commoner he advocated for the common man, traditional values, & led the Populist Party.

Jane Addams- is a leader who worked to improve the conditions of society for immigrants, and women. She created Hull Houses.

Muckrakers- writer who uncovers and exposes misconduct in politics and/or business in an attempt to cause political change.

Progressive(s) or Era- A group of people that worked to reform the social and political aspects of wrong doing during the industrial age.

Suffrage- The right to vote

Temperance- The practice of drinking little to no alcohol.

National Income Tax- A payment that is assessed to a citizen's annual salary. Helps federal government provide services to the people.

Direct Election- Is a election in which the citizens themselves vote to select the nominees for the upcoming election.

Americanization: belief that assimilating immigrants into American society would make them more loyal citizens.

Tenements- a multi-level apartment during the industrial revolution, which was over crowed and housed as many people as possible.

Gilded Age- Mark Twain coined the term to describe the industrial age. It refers to the extreme differences in the rich and poor.

Assimilation- happens when a person is absorbed into the main culture of a society, often leads to conflict, loss of culture and language.

Spoils System- practice of the political party in power giving jobs and appointments to its supporters, instead of the most qualified person.

Standard H.B.2- Analyze the transformation of the American economy and the changing social and political conditions in the United States in response to the industrial revolution, including: (a) Innovations in technology, evolution of marketing techniques, changes to the standard of living and the rise of consumer culture; (b) Rise of business leaders and their companies as major forces in America (e.g., John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie); (c) Development of monopolies and their impact on economic and political policies (e.g., laissez-faire economics, trusts, trust busting); (d) Growth of cities (e.g., influx of immigrants, rural-to-urban migrations, racial and ethnic conflicts that resulted); (e) Efforts of workers to improve working conditions (e.g., organizing labor unions, strikes, strike breakers); (f) Rise and effect of reform movements (e.g., Populists, William Jennings Bryan, Jane Addams, muckrakers); (g) Conservation of natural resources (e.g., the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Anasazi ruins at Mesa Verde, Colorado, National Reclamation Act of 1902); (h) Progressive reforms (e.g., the national income tax, direct election of senators, women's suffrage, prohibition).



This picture promotes Women Suffrage, or their fight for the right to vote. It shows babies supporting Woman's voting rights and promotes the idea that children's lives should not just be ruled by mens' votes.



The working conditions of the Industrial Revolution are shown through this cartoon. The man in the chariot, simply titled "Child Labor Exploiter" represents the big bosses of the Revolution and how they exploited children as a means for cheap laborers.