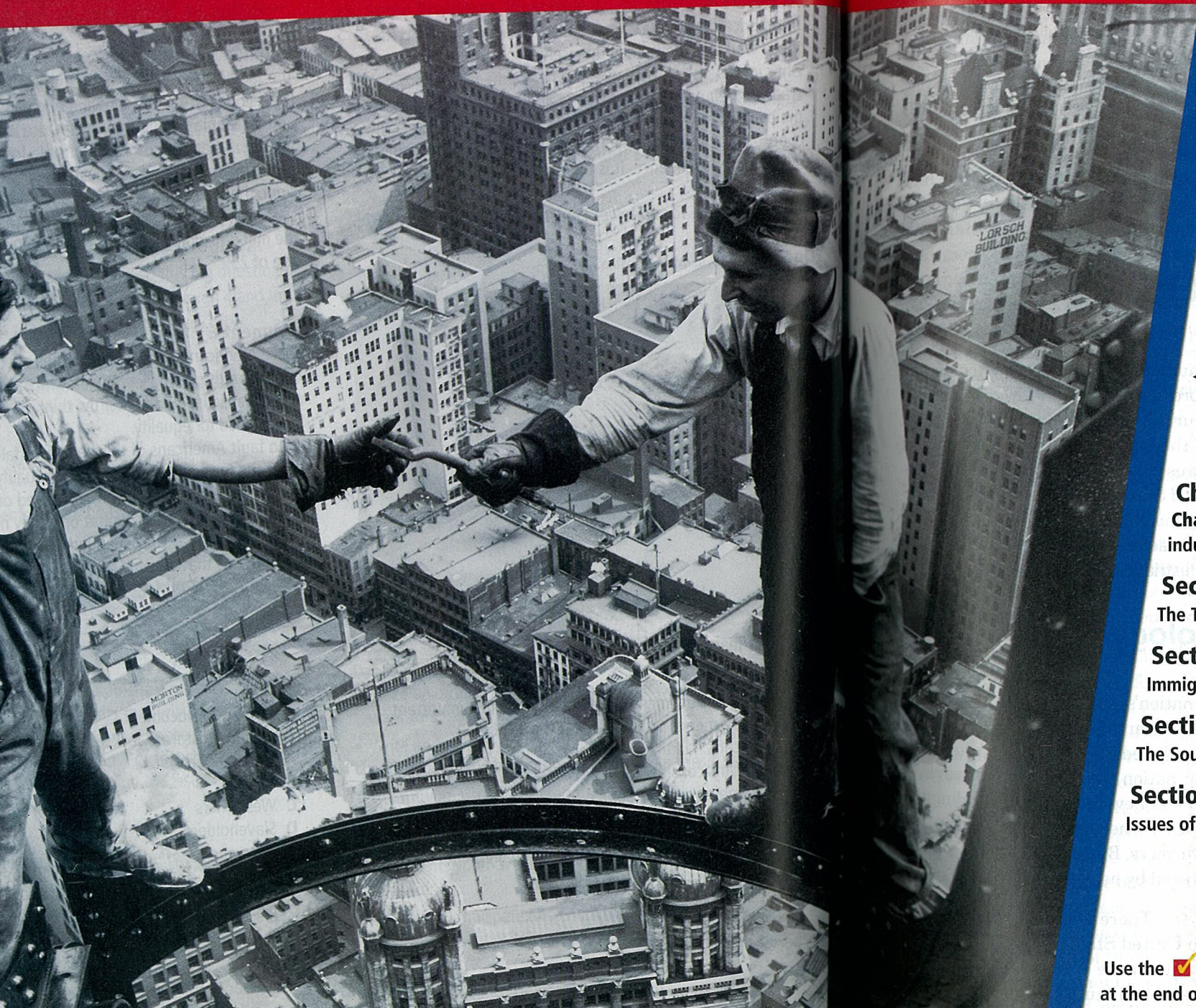


The Development of Industrial America

1870–1914



WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

Exciting Times

At the turn of the twentieth century, a new period of industrialization began to sweep across the United States. As waves of immigrants came into America's cities, urban areas such as New York City, Chicago, and San Francisco rapidly grew into cosmopolitan centers that offered exciting new experiences and opportunities. One such exciting experience was the opening of Coney Island in New York.

“They took the lid off Coney Island May 15, 1904, and a quarter of a million men and women got a glimpse of a swaying, rocking, glittering magic city by the sea. It was Coney Island's opening day, . . . there were more dazzling, wriggling, spectacular amusements offered than had ever before been collected together at any one place at any time.”

—from “Review of Opening Night at Coney Island,” *The New York Times*, May 16, 1904

Listen to the Witness History audio to hear more about the development of industrial America.

◀ Workers build one of the first skyscrapers in New York City.



Brooklyn Bridge newspaper ad



Pin from 1896 presidential campaign

Chapter Preview

Chapter Focus Question: How did industrialization affect the United States?

Section 1

The Triumph of Industry

Section 2

Immigration and Urbanization

Section 3

The South and West Transformed

Section 4

Issues of the Gilded Age



Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog

Use the  **Quick Study Timeline** at the end of this chapter to preview

Note Taking Study Guide Online

For: Note Taking and American Issues Connector
Web Code: nee-0301

▼ Brooklyn Bridge under construction

WITNESS HISTORY  AUDIO

Building the Brooklyn Bridge

At the time of its dedication, in 1883, some hailed the Brooklyn Bridge as the “Eighth Wonder of the World.” The bridge, which linked Manhattan to Brooklyn, towered over New York City. Built largely of steel, it symbolized the new industrial era and still stands as a landmark achievement in the history of engineering.

“It is distinctly an American triumph. American genius designed it, American skill built it, and American workshops made it.”

—New York City Mayor Seth Low,
“Dedication remarks,” 1883

The Triumph of Industry

Objectives

- Analyze the growth of the United States as an industrial power.
- Summarize the rise of big business.
- Understand the plight of the industrial worker and how workers tried to improve their condition.
- Identify reasons that workers and big business clashed.

Terms and People

Thomas Alva Edison	Gospel of Wealth
Andrew Carnegie	monopoly
John D. Rockefeller	Knights of Labor
trust	AFL
Social Darwinism	anarchist

NoteTaking

Reading Skill: Identify Causes and Effects

Fill in a table like the one below with the causes and effects of industrialization.

The Industrialization of America	
Causes	Effects
• Natural resources	• Growth of cities
•	•

Why It Matters Although manufacturing and factory towns had sprung up in the Northeast before the Civil War, an even greater period of industrial growth occurred at the end of the century. Industrial towns soon dominated the landscape throughout much of the North and had established a presence in the South. Industrialization rapidly transformed the United States into one of the most powerful nations in the world and dramatically altered how Americans lived. **Section Focus Question: What factors led to the industrialization of America, and what impact did industrialization have on society?**

Industry and Technology Advance Rapidly


The numbers alone display the nation’s emergence as an industrial power. Between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of the twentieth century, coal production skyrocketed 800 percent and steel production increased even more. The nation built tens of thousands of miles of railroads and sprouted brand-new industries, including the production of petroleum and electricity. When the Civil War began, the majority of Americans worked as farmers. By 1900, those who made a living from farming were outnumbered by nearly three to one.

Causes of Industrial Expansion There were many reasons for rapid industrial expansion in the United States. First, the nation’s physical geography provided an abundance of natural resources—including lumber, coal, and oil—that manufacturers relied on to power their factories and lubricate their machines. Second, as

industries expanded, millions of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe, as well as from Asia, poured into the United States to fill the demand for labor. Third, government policies encouraged the success of businesses in the late 1800s. Finally, the nation’s cultural climate, with its favorable view of entrepreneurs, contributed to the growth of industry.

New Technologies Transform the Economy The combination of factors just described contributed to an outbreak of creative inventions, many of which had a profound impact on the economy. No one better symbolizes this inventiveness than **Thomas Alva Edison**, who designed the electric light bulb and the phonograph, in addition to numerous other inventions. Large utility companies soon formed to power his light bulbs and machines. New and better railroads, improvements in the telegraph, and the invention of the telephone all made communication and transportation less costly and more efficient.

The Impact of Industrialization Industrialization had a broad and long-lasting impact on American society, including a rise in most people’s standard of living. The nation’s cities grew upward and outward. New and more efficient production techniques, as well as improvements in transportation and communication, paved the way for the rise of mass consumerism. For example, rather than making their own clothes, Americans increasingly bought ready-made garments.

 **Checkpoint** What factors contributed to the industrialization of America?

The Rise of Big Business

Before the Civil War, most businesses were small and family-owned. By the end of the nineteenth century, large corporations dominated the American scene. The owners of these firms amassed enormous fortunes and power over the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers and related small businesses. As they did, the nation grappled with the costs and benefits of big business.

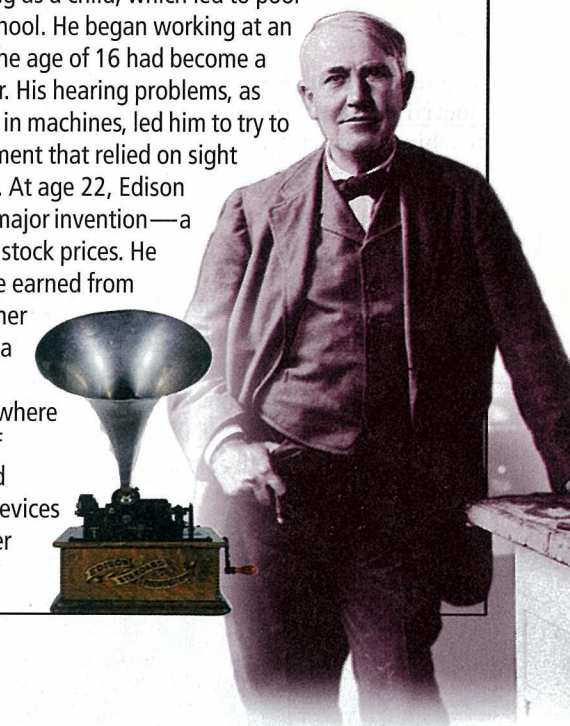
Corporations Amass Huge Fortunes In 1901, **Andrew Carnegie** sold his steel business to the newly formed United States Steel Corporation. At the time, investors valued U.S. Steel at \$1.5 billion, making it the richest corporation in the world. It also made Carnegie one of the wealthiest men in the world—but he was not alone. During the latter decades of the nineteenth century, **John D. Rockefeller** gained control of the oil industry through his company Standard Oil, while Gustavus Swift and Philip Armour came to dominate meatpacking. Other powerful industrialists dominated the sale and production of tobacco, farm machinery, and sewing machines. These industrialists and financiers were often called robber barons, implying they “stole” their fortunes by paying their workers low wages. Others considered these men to be “captains of industry”—steering the country in the direction of economic prosperity.

Part of the success of these corporations lay in the development of new forms of business arrangements, such as cartels, or associations of producers that coordinate prices and production. Industrialists also established trusts. In a

HISTORY MAKERS

Thomas Edison (1847–1931)

Thomas Edison, one of history’s most prolific inventors, lost much of his hearing as a child, which led to poor performance in school. He began working at an early age and by the age of 16 had become a telegraph operator. His hearing problems, as well as an interest in machines, led him to try to invent new equipment that relied on sight rather than sound. At age 22, Edison produced his first major invention—a machine to report stock prices. He used the money he earned from selling this and other machines to build a complex in Menlo Park, New Jersey, where he and his team of workers developed hundreds of new devices and improved older ones.



trust, companies assign their stock to a board of trustees, who combine the stocks into a new organization. The trustees then run the organization, paying the shareholders dividends on profits. To form cartels and trusts, corporations often bought out or merged with smaller firms. By joining with firms involved in different aspects of the steel industry, such as the mining of iron, Carnegie gained an edge on his competitors. In a similar manner, by taking advantage of special deals he had arranged with the railroads, Rockefeller compelled his competitors to join his firm or risk bankruptcy.

Carnegie and the Gospel of Wealth Carnegie and others developed sophisticated explanations to defend their business methods and the accumulation of massive sums of money. Borrowing from Darwin's theory of evolution, they applied the principle of natural selection to society, arguing that life consisted of a struggle in which only the fittest survived. This view of the world was known as **Social Darwinism**. Carnegie added to this a **doctrine** that came to be known as the **Gospel of Wealth**, which called on those who accumulated wealth to share their riches for the betterment of society.

Federal Regulations Target Corporate Abuses Even though politicians from both political parties tended to agree with the Social Darwinist view of life, pressure developed to combat the growing power of the biggest corporations. Small businessmen complained about the dangers of **monopolies**, whereby single corporations came to control entire industries. As George Rice, the owner of a small oil firm put it, John D. Rockefeller had "ruined" him by using his "great power and wealth" to run him out of business.

ulary Builder
ne-(DAHK trihn) n.
ngs, principles, or beliefs

Partly in response to the complaints of small businesses, the federal government created the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1887 to oversee railroad operations. Railroad owners were often considered the worst abusers of their monopoly status. The federal government then became involved in regulating trusts and enacted the Sherman Antitrust Act in 1890, which outlawed mergers and monopolies. Initially, these reforms had little impact, in part because the nation's leaders chose not to strongly enforce them. In the spirit of Social Darwinism, leading economists such as William Graham Sumner promoted a policy of *laissez faire*, in which businesses operate with little or no government interference.

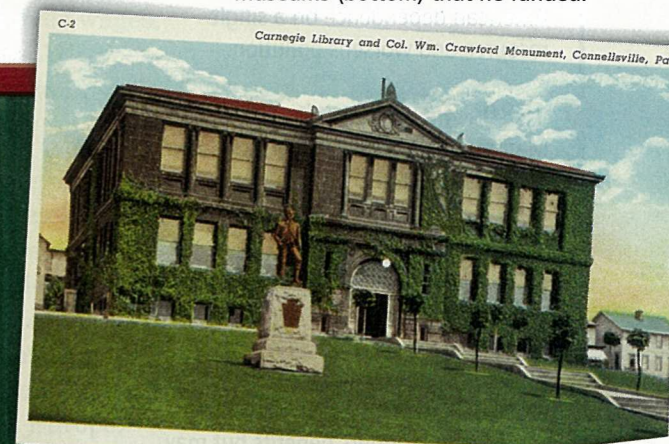
✓ **Checkpoint** What factors explained the emergence of large corporations, and what did Americans think of them?

Workers Organize

The United States had been created as a land of opportunity, free from the corruption and exploitation that had existed in Europe. But as the nation industrialized, the extremes of wealth and poverty so apparent in industrial England began to appear in the United States as well.

Workers Endure Hardships Most industrial workers endured long days in poor conditions for low pay. Whereas Carnegie amassed a fortune, steelworkers in his plants labored 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week, for about 15 cents an hour. They received no health benefits, no vacation time, and suffered from

▼ Carnegie devoted himself to philanthropic endeavors after his retirement. Today, people across the country enjoy the more than 2,800 libraries (top) and many museums (bottom) that he funded.



● INFOGRAPHIC

ANDREW CARNEGIE: "Robber Baron" or "Captain of Industry"?

Andrew Carnegie and his poverty-stricken family immigrated to the United States from Scotland in 1848. Carnegie soon began work in a Pittsburgh cotton mill. He continued to work long hours for low pay at various jobs before he built his fortune in the steel business. Work in Carnegie's steel mills was grueling. As one steelworker said, "They wipe a man out here every little while. Sometimes a chain breaks, and a ladle tips over, and the iron explodes."

Those people who considered Carnegie to be a "robber baron" believed he "stole" his fortune by paying his workers low wages while he lived like a baron, or nobleman. Others saw Carnegie as a "captain of industry," who served the nation in a positive way by increasing productivity, creating jobs, and giving generously to public projects. By the year of his death in 1919, he had given \$350 million—an amount that would equal more than \$5 billion today—to fund libraries, museums, and educational institutions.

Many workers in Carnegie's steel mills worked with heavy machinery in intense heat 7 days a week, 12 hours a day. ▶

From his article "Wealth," this quote reflects Carnegie's belief that the wealthy had a responsibility to improve society with their riches:

"It is . . . essential for the progress of the race that the houses of some should be homes for all that is highest and best in literature and the arts . . . Much better this great irregularity than universal squalor."

—Andrew Carnegie, "Gospel of Wealth," 1889

Thinking Critically

- 1. Synthesize Information** How might Carnegie's belief in Social Darwinism have affected his views on how to run a business?
- 2. Draw Conclusions** Do you think Carnegie's dedication to philanthropy offset his reputation as a "robber baron"? Explain.

History Interactive★

For: Interactive Steel Mill
Web Code: nep-0309

TRACK THE ISSUE

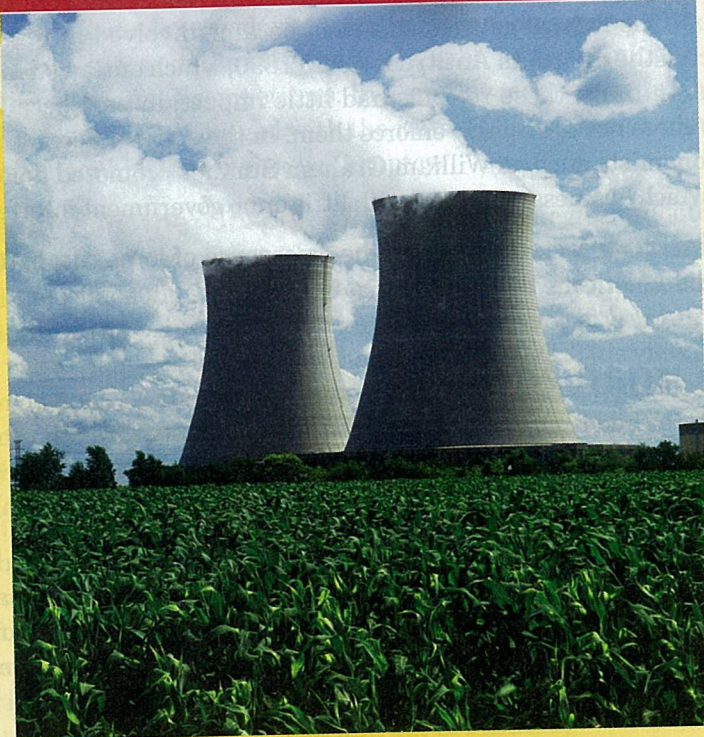
What are the benefits and costs of technology?

Technology has had a great impact on American life. It has produced economic and social benefits for the nation, yet has also had some negative effects. What are the benefits and costs of technological change? Use the timeline below to explore this enduring issue.

- **Late 1700s Factory System**
Water-powered mills boost production but worsen conditions for workers.
- **1859 Oil Refining**
Oil fuels industrial growth and raises standard of living but encourages American dependence on a single resource and worsens pollution.
- **1930s Polymers**
Man-made materials like plastics have many uses but also increase pollution.
- **1940s Nuclear Reactor**
Nuclear energy holds promise but carries the threat of radioactive meltdown and nuclear waste.
- **2000s Genetic Engineering**
Biotechnology offers benefits but may also have harmful effects.



Technology affects people in different ways.



Nuclear power plant, Illinois

DEBATE THE ISSUE

Nuclear Energy Building more nuclear plants would help meet our energy needs and limit fossil-fuel emissions that contribute to global warming. But the radioactive material used may pose grave risks to human health and safety.

“Nuclear energy supplies clean, reliable, affordable and safe electricity and is the only emission-free source that can be readily expanded to meet our nation’s growing energy needs. . . . Nuclear power plants produce electricity that otherwise would be supplied by oil-, gas-, or coal-fired generating capacity, and thus *prevent* the emissions associated with that fossil-fueled capacity.”

—John E. Kane, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Energy Institute

“There is strong skepticism . . . [about] the promises of the nuclear industry. . . . This is an industry that on a daily basis, as a direct result of its work, generates the most toxic and long-lived substances known to humans. It is an industry that poses a grievous threat to the health of humans and to the wider biosphere.”

—Dave Sweeney, nuclear campaign, Australian Conservation Foundation

Connect to Your World

1. **Compare** Why does Mr. Kane support nuclear energy? Why does Mr. Sweeney oppose it?
2. **Analyze** Which of the authors cited above would be more likely to question the factory system’s impact on workers?
3. **Debate** Learn more about recent debates on the impact of technology, and prepare an argument supporting one viewpoint.

Web Code: nch-1331

periodic layoffs because of downturns in the business cycle. In addition, workers took little pride in what they did and often performed the same repetitive task day after day.

Women and children toiled in the nation’s factories alongside the men. Mines hired young boys, known as breaker boys, to separate coal needed for fuel from slate and other rocks. Textile mills employed young girls to help operate their power looms around the clock. Women worked in textile mills, as well as in many light industries, such as manufacturing light bulbs. Nearly all women and child laborers were paid even less than men.

Labor Unions Promote Workers’ Rights To improve their conditions, workers formed unions. The **Knights of Labor**, which sought to organize all workers—male and female, black and white, skilled and unskilled—grew rapidly in the early 1880s. Reaching a peak membership of about 700,000 in 1885, the Knights sought broad social reforms, such as transcending the wage labor system by creating cooperatives in which workers would own the factories where they labored.

In the mid-1880s, the Knights rallied tens of thousands of workers around obtaining an eight-hour workday. “Eight hours of work, eight hours of sleep, eight hours for what we will,” supporters of the Knights would chant at mass rallies. For a variety of reasons, including the Haymarket Riot that you will soon read about, the Knights of Labor fell apart in the late 1880s, leaving it to others to forge a successful labor movement.

No sooner had the Knights collapsed than the **American Federation of Labor (AFL)** emerged. Unlike the Knights, the AFL did not aim for larger social gains for workers. Instead, it focused on very specific workers’ issues such as wages, working hours, and working conditions. Led by Samuel Gompers, the AFL operated like a business. It was a loose organization of skilled workers from some 100 local craft unions, each devoted to a specific craft or trade.

Workers and Socialism In addition to unions, some workers became attracted to socialism as a means to improve their condition and place in society. They considered the Social Darwinist rationalization of cutthroat business practices inhumane and antidemocratic. Eugene V. Debs, who ran for President on the Socialist Party ticket five times, demanded government ownership of the railroads and called for workers to organize industrial unions to counter the power of big business. Although socialists enjoyed some success in local politics, they never attained nearly as large a following as did Socialist parties in Europe.

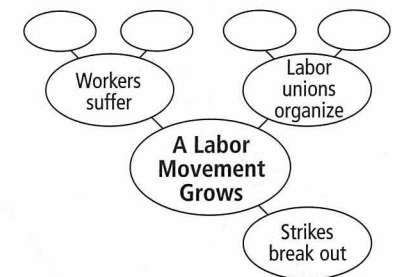
✓ **Checkpoint** How did workers respond to the rise of industrialization?

Workers and Big Business Clash

Workers and big business often clashed violently in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. On May 4, 1886, an event known as the Haymarket Riot erupted during a labor rally in Haymarket Square, in Chicago. It began when someone threw a bomb that killed a police officer. More police officers and civilians died in the bloody fight that followed. Government authorities reacted by rounding up eight **anarchists**, political radicals opposed to any form of government, and convicted them of conspiracy to commit murder.

NoteTaking

Reading Skill: Identify Main Ideas Record the main ideas about the rise of organized labor in a concept web like the one below.

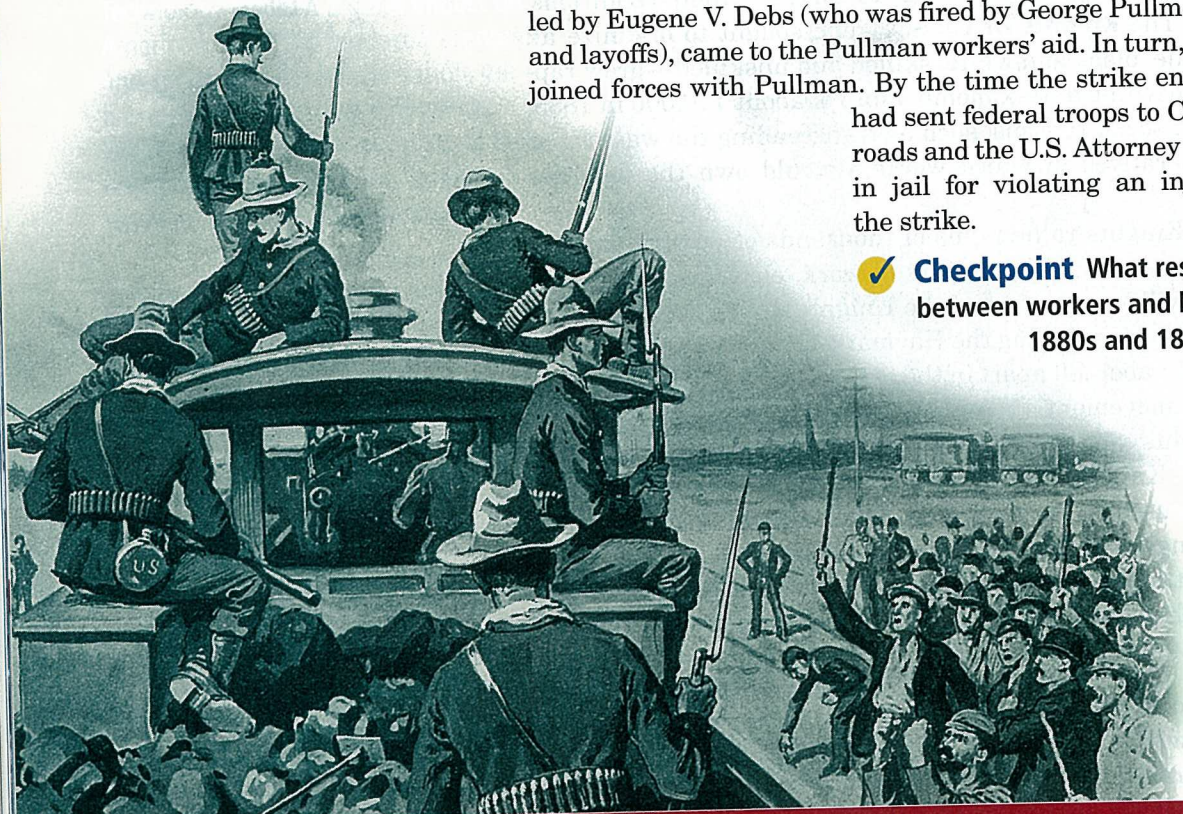


The following excerpt is from the Preamble of the Knights of Labor’s Constitution. *What “power” do the Knights of Labor want to place limits on?*

Primary Source “The recent alarming development and aggression of aggregated wealth, which, unless checked, will inevitably lead to the pauperization and hopeless degradation of the toiling masses, render it imperative, if we desire to enjoy the blessings of life, that a check should be placed upon its power and upon unjust accumulation.”

—Preamble to the Constitution of the Knights of Labor, 1878

▼ Soldiers guard a mail train against rioters during the Pullman Strike, 1894.



In 1892, fighting broke out between steelworkers and Andrew Carnegie's business partner, Henry Frick, in Homestead, Pennsylvania. With the help of strikebreakers, or those sent to break up the strike, and members of the National Guard, Frick and Carnegie crushed the Homestead Strike and broke apart a union that represented skilled workers in the plant. As a result, steelworkers went without a union for decades.

Two years later, in 1894, a nationwide strike erupted against the railroad companies. The Pullman Strike began with a walkout in the Illinois town where the famous Pullman passenger cars were manufactured when an economic downturn led the Pullman company to cut hours and wages. The American Railway Union, led by Eugene V. Debs (who was fired by George Pullman for protesting pay cuts and layoffs), came to the Pullman workers' aid. In turn, other railroad companies joined forces with Pullman. By the time the strike ended, President Cleveland had sent federal troops to Chicago to protect the railroads and the U.S. Attorney General had thrown Debs in jail for violating an injunction against leading the strike.

✓ **Checkpoint** What resulted from the clashes between workers and big business during the 1880s and 1890s?

SECTION 1 **Assessment**

Progress Monitoring Online
For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
Web Code: nea-0302

Comprehension

- 1. Terms and People** For each item below, write a sentence explaining how it related to the rise of big business.
- Andrew Carnegie
 - John D. Rockefeller
 - trust
 - Social Darwinism
 - Gospel of Wealth
 - monopoly

- 2. NoteTaking Reading Skill: Identify Causes and Effects** Use your table to answer the Section Focus Question: What factors led to the industrialization of America, and what impact did industrialization have on society?

Writing About History

3. Quick Write: Select a Topic Choose a topic from this section that interests you, such as America's industrial growth or the rise of big business. To prepare for an oral presentation, write what you already know about the topic in one or two paragraphs.

Critical Thinking

- 4. Determine Relevance** How did technology impact the growth of the United States?
- 5. Draw Inferences** How did the rise of big business lead to the formation of labor unions?
- 6. Summarize** What occurred during the Pullman Strike?

SECTION

2



▲ Workers in Armour's meatpacking house, Chicago, Illinois

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

The New Urban America

Chicago—with its enormous stockyards and packinghouses, railroad depots, and machine-making plants—symbolized the new urban America perhaps more than any other city. Chicago attracted waves of immigrants who filtered into the city's ever-expanding ethnic neighborhoods. The poet Carl Sandburg describes the city:

“Hog Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,
Player with Railroads and the Nation's
Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders. . . .
Come and show me another city with lifted head
singing so proud to be alive and coarse and strong
and cunning.”

—Carl Sandburg, “Chicago,”
from *Chicago Poems*, 1916

Immigration and Urbanization

Objectives

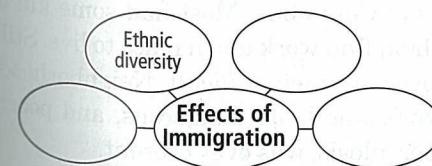
- Understand the reasons that immigrants came to America.
- Explain the immigrants' experience upon arriving in the United States.
- Identify the changes that took place in cities of the late nineteenth century.
- Describe the urban middle class.

Terms and People

- Ellis Island
- Angel Island
- suburb
- tenement

NoteTaking

Reading Skill: Understand Effects As you read the section, use a concept web to record the various effects of immigrants on American society.



Why It Matters

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,” Emma Lazarus wrote in the poem *The New Colossus* in 1883. But many Americans did not share her sentiments that the United States should welcome all newcomers. Instead, they feared that the waves of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe, as well as from Asia, posed a threat to their American way of life. They feared immigrants would take their jobs and undermine their culture. Today, however, nearly all acknowledge that these immigrants helped build America into one of the most powerful nations in the world. Lazarus's poem now appears at the main entrance to the Statue of Liberty, reflecting the nation's vision of itself as a refuge for the immigrants of the world. **Section Focus Question:** Why did immigrants come to the United States, and how did they impact society?

New Immigrants Come to America

Immigration is central to American history. In the 1840s and 1850s, millions of Europeans came to America, especially from Ireland and Germany. Between 1880 and 1920, the United States experienced a second, even larger, wave of immigration. From afar, these immigrants saw America in biblical terms, as a “land of milk and honey.” Yet upon arrival, some, because of the hardships they had to endure, cursed their new homeland as a place of tears.

New Immigrants Arrive From Many Lands Between 1880 and 1920, more than 18 million European immigrants poured into the United States. Another quarter million immigrants came from Asia, especially from China. Unlike most who had preceded them, the European newcomers came from Southern and Eastern Europe. Most were Catholic or Jewish (instead of Protestant), which changed the religious makeup of the nation. They also did not speak English, had few skills, and had little experience living in cities.

Push-and-Pull Factors Much like those who came from Northern and Western Europe, the new wave of immigrants left their homelands for a variety of “push-and-pull” reasons. Religious persecution and mandatory military service were among the “push” factors. They were “pulled” to the United States by the prospect of finding work in the expanding industrial economy, as well as by the promise of greater political and religious freedom. Like earlier generations of immigrants, they hoped to provide a better future for their children.

✓ **Checkpoint** How did pre-Civil War immigrants differ from those who entered America between 1880 and 1920?



▲ Chinese immigrants on Angel Island, San Francisco Bay

The Immigrant Experience

Although no two immigrants had exactly the same experience, all of them had to endure the long journey to America and then find a job and a place to live. In addition to very difficult living and working conditions, they had to overcome prejudice, both from those who had been in the United States for generations and, in many cases, from their own assimilated countrymen who derided them as “greenhorns,” meaning they looked green, or new, to the American way of life.

Arriving in a New Land After a journey that could range from a week to several months, the immigrants would arrive in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Galveston, or another American port. Starting in 1892, the vast majority first stepped on American soil at **Ellis Island** in New York Harbor. Government clerks asked the immigrants a series of questions at these entry points. If authorities believed the

newcomers posed a risk to public health, perhaps because they had polio or another disease, they would send them back to Europe.

From the early 1850s to 1882, hundreds of thousands of Chinese immigrants came to the West Coast, mostly to work on the new railroads that were being built. Between 1910 and 1940, most Asian immigrants disembarked at **Angel Island** in San Francisco Bay, where they experienced much harsher conditions than those at Ellis Island. Some waited months or even years before processing and questioning came to an end.

Opportunities and Challenges Some immigrants received help from fraternal organizations, such as the Irish Hibernian Association, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and the Italian Knights of Columbus. Most had some kin or contacts from the old country who helped them find work and a place to live. Still, adjusting to **urban** industrial life could prove extremely difficult. Neighborhoods and living quarters were overcrowded; work was long, dangerous, and poorly paid; and the threat of disease, such as tuberculosis, was ever present.

Vocabulary Builder

urban—(ER buhn) *adj.* of, relating to, or characteristic of a city

ELLIS ISLAND

On a typical day in the early 1900s, thousands of immigrants steamed past the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor and landed at Ellis Island. As soon as immigrants arrived, they checked their baggage and then walked up to the Great Hall on the second floor. Doctors watched closely, looking for signs of illness. About one tenth of the immigrants were marked with chalk and sent for a closer medical examination. In the Great Hall, immigrants waited in long lines for an interview with a customs officer who checked their paperwork and determined whether they would be able to support themselves. If approved and admitted to the United States, immigrants would meet up with family members, whom they may not have seen in years. By 1924, an estimated 17 million immigrants had passed through this process at Ellis Island.

A city health official examines this woman's eyes for infection.

People sit at long tables in Ellis Island's dining hall.



Immigrants land at Ellis Island, New York. Some carry a piece of paper in their mouth that they hope to exchange for a visa.

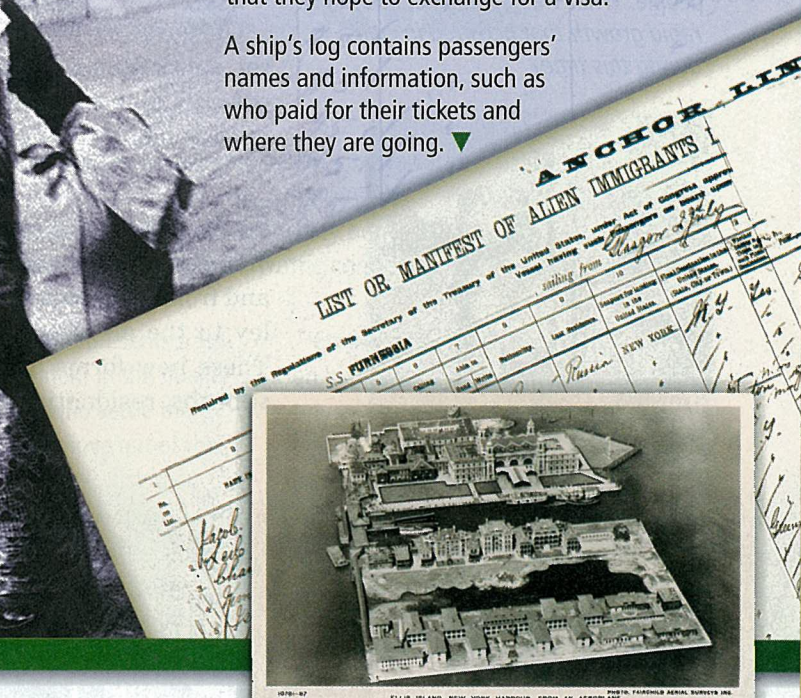
A ship's log contains passengers' names and information, such as who paid for their tickets and where they are going.

Thinking Critically

- Identify Point of View** What did immigrants experience upon their arrival at Ellis Island?
- Draw Conclusions** How might the culture of the United States be different if immigrants were not an integral part of its history? Explain.

The new immigrants contributed to the American economy and culture in countless ways. They built churches and synagogues, established foreign-language newspapers, and established cultural institutions, such as Yiddish theaters. Irving Berlin, who immigrated to the United States in 1893, composed “God Bless America” and “White Christmas,” two of the most popular songs in American history. Still, some Americans did not recognize the new immigrants' contributions for many years.

✓ **Checkpoint** What experiences were common to most immigrants who came to America?



▲ Aerial view of Ellis Island

Cities Experience Growth and Change

Throughout most of U.S. history, the vast majority of Americans lived in rural areas. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, however, cities grew so rapidly that it became clear that urban Americans would soon make up the majority. At the same time, cities themselves changed. They grew larger, more complex, and much more diverse in terms of the ethnic heritage of their residents.

Immigrants and Farmers Move to Cities Both foreign-born immigrants and American-born farmers moved to cities for a variety of reasons. Foremost, as the centers of industry and commerce, cities offered newcomers jobs. They also promised a more cosmopolitan lifestyle than rural areas. Residents could attend the theater and sporting events; socialize at neighborhood bars, coffee-houses, and dance halls; and shop at department stores. Theodore Dreiser described the allure of a department store in *Sister Carrie*, a novel about a farm girl who moves to the big city.

Primary Source “Carrie passed along the busy aisles, much affected by the remarkable display of trinkets, dress goods, station[er]y, and jewelry. Each separate counter was a show place of dazzling interest and attraction. . . . There was nothing there, which she could not have used—nothing which she did not long to own. The dainty slippers and stockings, the delicately frilled skirts and petticoats, the laces, ribbons, hair combs, purses, all touched her with individual desire.”

—Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*, 1900

Of course, as *Sister Carrie* soon discovered, she could not afford the items in the store. Like most immigrant workers, she had to adjust to the difficulties of urban life—overcrowding, vice, and crime. Most newcomers barely made enough money for necessities in their new neighborhoods.

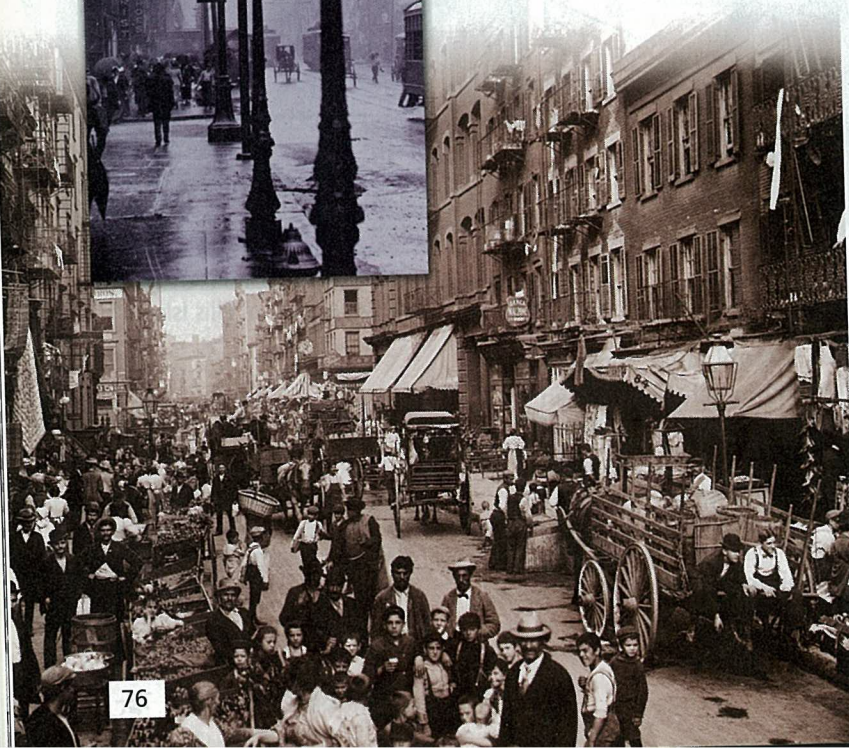
Technology Improves Urban Life As cities grew, city planners and workers scrambled to take advantage of new technologies to make life better for everyone. For example, new electric streetlights allowed factory workers to travel to and from work safely. New forms of transportation—from the horse-drawn trolley to the elevated railroad and electric trolleys—allowed cities to expand. These new forms of transportation eased travel and made possible the first **suburbs**, residential areas surrounding the cities. Those who could not afford the new suburbs lived in densely populated urban ghettos, or areas where one ethnic or racial group dominates.

Although urban boosters celebrated the construction of the first skyscrapers and subways as symbols of technological advancement, perhaps the most important progress took place in the innards of the nation’s cities. Public-works departments constructed miles of sewers and massive reservoirs, along with intricate systems of underground pipes to carry fresh water to residents and wastewater away from their homes. The ability of America’s cities to quickly create the infrastructure necessary to support such a huge influx of residents remains one of the nation’s greatest industrial accomplishments.

Urban Life Creates Problems Despite some of the technological advances, urban dwellers faced

Urban Life

New electric streetlights (top) line the streets in St. Louis, Missouri. Mulberry Street (bottom) in New York City is filled with life as the streets teem with people. *What was the impact of the rapid growth that occurred in cities during this time?*



TRACK THE ISSUE

How does migration affect patterns of settlement in America?

Several migration trends have shaped settlement patterns in the United States. One is the movement of people to the West and to the southern “Sunbelt.” Another is the movement from rural to urban areas, which then developed suburbs. These migrations have had a great influence on American life. Use the timeline below to explore this enduring issue.

1862 Homestead Act

Offer of free land brings settlers to the Great Plains.

1880–1920 Urban Migration

Millions of Americans leave farms for the city. By 1920, urban population exceeds rural population.

1910–1930 Great Migration

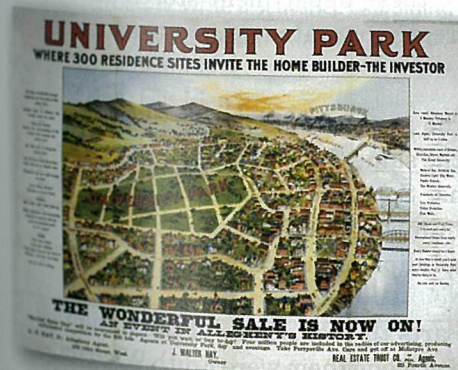
Southern blacks move north, giving rise to the first large African American neighborhoods in northern cities.

1950s Suburban Flight

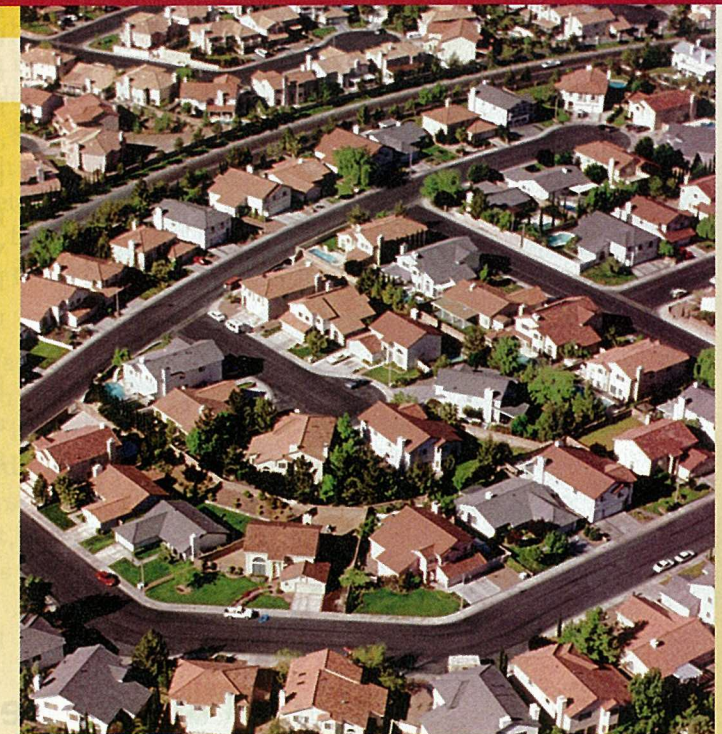
Mass movement begins from central cities to suburbs.

1970s Present Sunbelt Growth

Sunbelt states grow rapidly as Americans move to the warmer, southern half of the country.



A poster advertising a new suburb



A modern suburb of Las Vegas, Nevada

DEBATE THE ISSUE

Expanding Suburbs American suburbs began in the 1800s but mushroomed after World War II. By 1990, nearly half of all Americans lived in suburbs. These communities offered many benefits. But critics say they have contributed to urban sprawl, traffic congestion, and other problems.

“Suburbanization represents a significant improvement in the quality of life for people who settle there. Most people who move out of their older homes do so because their needs have changed. Suburban and rural areas often meet these new needs better than older, more densely populated central cities.”

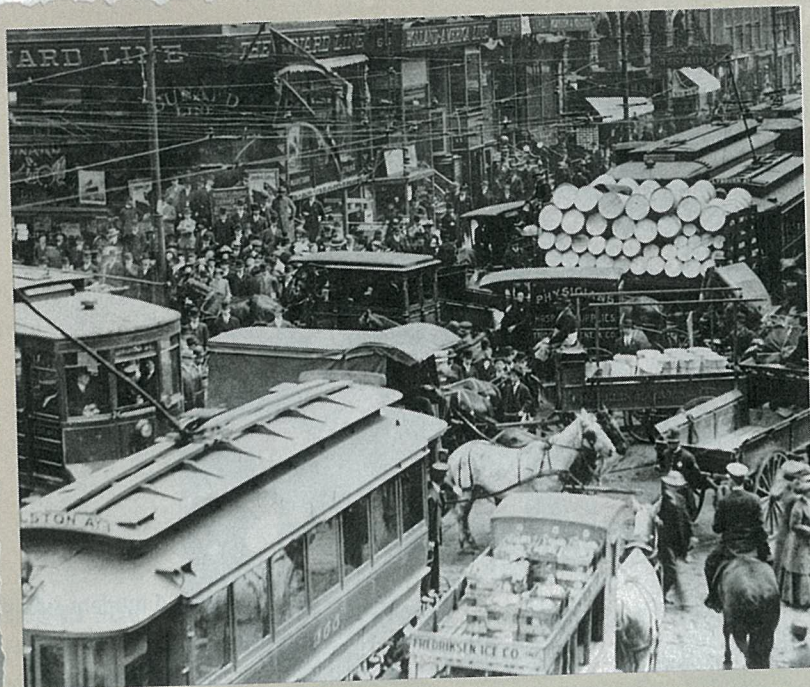
—Samuel Stanley, Reason Public Policy Institute

“Sprawling patterns of growth are an inefficient use of land that scatters jobs, houses, schools and shopping across the landscape. . . . It leaves people little choice but to use their auto for any trip. . . . It fragments the ecosystems that protect our drinking water and wildlife habitat and that provide recreational opportunities that we all enjoy.”

—Robert J. Pirani, Regional Planning Association, New York

Connect to Your World

- 1. Compare** How do the two quotations differ in their perspective on suburbs?
- 2. Research** Learn more about the issues of suburban growth. **Web Code:** nch-1405
- 3. Debate** Prepare an argument based on one of the quotations above.



▲ A traffic jam of people, horse-drawn trolleys, and electric trolleys in Chicago, Illinois

the problem of overcrowding. Rapid growth led to a shortage of housing, and unscrupulous landlords often took advantage of the newcomers' desperate need for a place to live. Immigrants crowded into subdivided homes called **tenements**. These tenements often housed twenty families, each in a virtually airless, tiny, cramped space where parents and children slept, ate, and often worked together. With few windows and little sanitation, tenements were unhealthy and dangerous. To make matters worse, few parks or public squares existed, leaving children only the streets as play areas. There, they encountered heaps of garbage, thieves, and rival street gangs.

✓ **Checkpoint** What was urban life like for most city residents?

Social and Cultural Trends

Even with its problems, industrialization and urbanization created the foundation for the emergence of a more modern society. Instead of providing just basic needs for survival, the economy began to generate a wide variety of consumer goods and leisure activities. Besides the wealthy elite, a growing middle class had the ability to take advantage of many of these new goods and services. The working classes also occasionally had the opportunity to attend a ballgame or visit an amusement park.

A New Middle Class Emerges As industries grew larger and more sophisticated, they generated a demand for skilled white-collar workers—engineers, accountants, and attorneys. Big businesses hired salesclerks to sell their goods and managers to supervise their workers. In turn, these workers (mostly men) and their families had enough money to purchase items that historically only the elite could afford. Advances in technology and greater business efficiency and productivity further expanded the variety of goods and services within their reach.

One place where the middle class could find the things they desired was at the modern department store. New York shoppers flocked to Macy's, and Philadelphians flooded Wanamaker's. To boost sales, these department stores advertised in local newspapers and magazines, creating an atmosphere that made shopping fun.

Culture and Entertainment Abound The growing middle class also supported an expansion of higher education. At the same time, colleges and universities began to transform their curriculums. Some even began to focus on training graduate students. An increasing number of women went to college. Overall, illiteracy declined and a high school diploma came within reach for more and more people.

Alongside the expansion of education, the arts thrived. Some of the nation's greatest authors wrote during this time period. Among them were Edith Wharton and Mark Twain. Ironically, Twain considered the era crass and often satirized

it. Other well-known authors included the poet Emily Dickinson and the novelist Henry James.

Perhaps one of the most important cultural developments of the era was the rise of mass entertainment, from collegiate and professional sports to amusement parks. Major league baseball, with teams in many of the nation's largest cities and in stadiums that charged admission, led the way. Mark Twain touted baseball as "the very symbol, the outward and visible expression of the drive and push and rush and struggle of the raging, tearing, booming nineteenth century." Daily newspapers advanced the fortunes of professional sports by establishing sports pages dedicated to covering the games.

Religion Attracts Urban Masses As America's cities grew, religious leaders appealed to the urban masses. Liberal theologians stressed the importance and value of each individual person. Building on this idea, Walter Rauschenbusch and others developed the Social Gospel movement, which promoted better working conditions and decent wages.

Dwight L. Moody and other evangelical Protestants traveled from city to city with their religious revival meetings. Moody used preaching, inspirational prayer, and gospel songs to spread a message of Christian love and compassion. After Moody left town, local congregations would swell with new members.

✓ **Checkpoint** How did religious leaders appeal to city residents?



The Department Store

Pedestrians peer into a Marshall Field's department store (below). Even people in rural areas had access to department-store items from a Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog (below left).

SECTION 2 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
Web Code: nea-0303

Comprehension

- Terms and People** For each term below, write a sentence explaining how it relates to either immigration or urbanization.
 - Ellis Island
 - Angel Island
 - suburb
 - tenement

2. NoteTaking Reading Skill:

Understand Effects Use your completed concept web to answer the Section Focus Question: Why did immigrants come to the United States, and how did they impact society?

Writing About History

- Quick Write: Gather Evidence** In order to prepare for an oral presentation, you should gather information on your selected topic. Research to gather evidence on the growth and development of cities as discussed in this section. List several sources and image ideas after your preliminary research.

Critical Thinking

- Identify Point of View** What challenges did immigrants face upon their arrival in America?
- Recognize Cause and Effect** (a) How did technology affect the growth of cities? (b) How did the growth of cities affect housing within them?
- Identify Central Issues** How did industrialization and urbanization lead to the rise of the middle class?

◀ Workers lay railroad track in Nebraska, 1866.

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

Working on the Railroad

Railroad construction boomed in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The railroads opened the West to a rush of settlers and played a key role in the rise of a number of southern cities. Hundreds of thousands of workers constructed about a quarter of a million miles of railroad tracks. Thousands more worked for the railroads after the tracks had been completed. As they toiled, many sang one of America's most popular folk tunes:

“I've been working on the railroad,
All the livelong day.
I've been working on the railroad,
Just to pass the time away.
Don't you hear the whistle blowing?
Rise up so early in the morn.
Don't you hear the captain shouting,
'Dinah, blow your horn'?”

—from “I've Been Working on the Railroad,”
Unknown

▲ Golden spike that joined Central Pacific and Union railroads, Promontory, Utah, 1869

The South and West Transformed

Objectives

- Explain the development of the New South.
- Understand the impact on Native Americans as settlers moved to the West.
- Identify who moved to the West and their reasons for doing so.

Terms and People

sharecropping assimilate
Dawes Act open range

NoteTaking

Reading Skill: Summarize Prepare an outline to summarize the main events of the section.

- I. The South and West Transformed
A. The New South
1. Industries and Cities Grow
a. Railroad construction
b.

Why It Matters In the wake of the Civil War, southerners sought to rebuild their economy, knowing they could not simply revive the old system of plantation agriculture based on slave labor. The end of the war also unleashed a massive wave of migration to the West, which led to a boom in ranching, mining, and farming. This migration would cause the end to a way of life for most American Plains Indians. These developments transformed the way people in the South and the West lived. **Section Focus Question: What were the most important developments in the South and the West?**

The New South

After Reconstruction came to an end, some of the South's leading citizens hoped to create a new economy. Henry Grady, the editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, touted what he called a “New South.” Unlike the Old South, the New South would have a mixed economy. Rather than shipping its raw products, namely cotton, to northern textile mills, it would develop its own manufacturing firms.

Industries and Cities Grow To an extent, Grady's vision took hold. Textile mills cropped up in the Carolina hill country, and the

timber industry expanded in the Gulf States. Making use of nearby iron deposits, Birmingham, Alabama, developed into a steel-producing center. In the years following Reconstruction, railway construction boomed. Taking note of these developments, Wilbur Fisk Tillett of Vanderbilt University concluded that few if any parts of the country had made “such a marvelous advance” in such a short period of time.

Yet, such optimistic assessments glossed over persistent problems that beset the region. While the southern economy grew, it did not grow as rapidly as the economies of the North and the Midwest. Shortages of capital compelled southern industrialists to borrow from northern financiers, to the benefit of New York bankers. High illiteracy rates, persistent discrimination against African Americans, and a distrust of foreign immigrants weighed down the South.

Southern Farmers Face Difficult Times Hard times especially hit southern farmers. Overly dependent on a single product—cotton—southern farmers, white and black, suffered from declining prices for their crops. Also, beginning in 1890, farmers faced a new pest called the boll weevil. This beetle could completely destroy an entire planting, leaving farmers with little choice but to move north for jobs.

The **sharecropping** system also contributed to the hardships that southern farmers faced. Under this system, landowners dictated the crop and provided the sharecropper with a place to live, as well as seeds and tools, in exchange for a share of the harvested crop. Landowners and merchants often cheated sharecroppers at harvest time and discouraged them from diversifying their crops. Often, sharecroppers had to forfeit their entire crop just to pay off their previous debt and then had to take on further debt to survive.

African Americans Suffer Setbacks Although some African Americans managed to buy land and gain a higher education, overall the post-Reconstruction

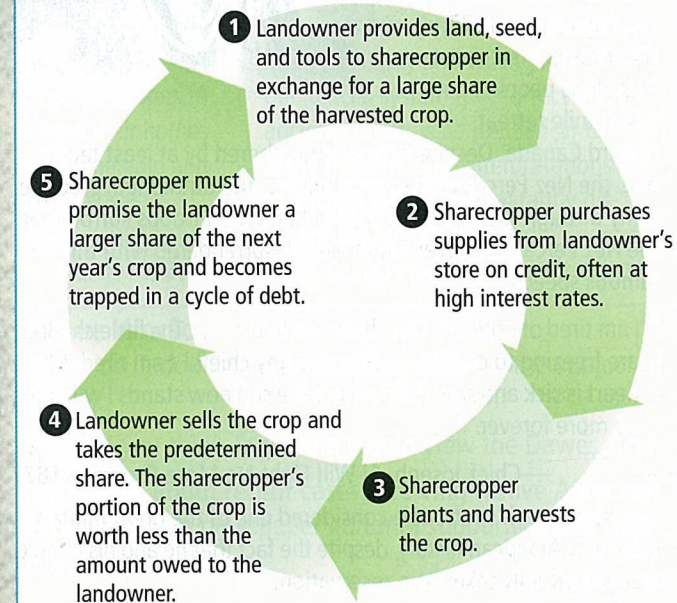
The Sharecropping System

In theory, sharecropping provided an opportunity for poor, landless freedmen and white southerners to save money to purchase their own land. However, as the chart at right illustrates, sharecropping proved to be an endless cycle of debt and poverty that southern farmers could rarely escape. As agriculture was key to the southern economy, the sharecropping system remained a major source of labor until mechanized farming reduced the need for human laborers by the 1940s.

Why was the sharecropping system considered an endless cycle for southern farmers?

◀ Cotton was the primary crop of sharecroppers.

Sharecropping Cycle of Poverty



era was a bleak one. Undeterred by northern military forces, which the federal government withdrew from the South after the election of 1876, the white southern majority slowly stripped African Americans of the political and civil rights they had gained following the Civil War. Groups like the Ku Klux Klan terrorized African Americans who sought to exercise their new political rights.

✓ **Checkpoint** What were the advances and setbacks in the development of the New South?

Cultures Clash in the West

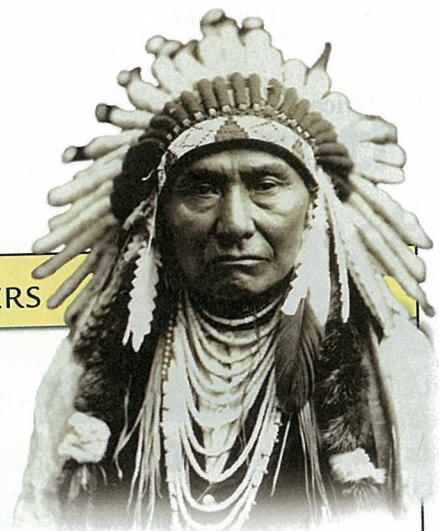
For centuries, European settlers and their descendants had pressed westward, pushing Native Americans off their lands. Although Native Americans were lumped together in the minds of most Americans as “Indians,” they embraced many different belief systems, languages, and ways of life. In the 1830s, Congress enacted the Indian Removal Act and forced tribes in the Southeast to move beyond the Mississippi River to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma.

Plains Indians Under Pressure After the Civil War and a brief period of Indian wars, the federal government compelled Plains Indians to move to reservations, or public land specifically reserved for them. “All who cling to their old hunting-grounds,” declared one federal army commander, “will be killed off.” The Indians fell into a cycle of poverty and despair. Even when they sought to revive their traditional customs and religious practices, they encountered resistance and persecution.

Approximately 250,000 Plains Indians lived west of the Mississippi River at the end of the Civil War. Their livelihoods were based on hunting buffalo and other wild game. Even before large numbers of farmers and ranchers migrated west, hunters had already started to undermine their culture by decimating the great buffalo herds that roamed the Plains. Killing the animals for their hides and for sport, hunters nearly drove them into extinction and with them, the Native Americans’ traditional way of life.

Native Americans Resist Although some Native Americans moved to the reservations without a fight, others decided to defend land they believed was rightfully theirs. In the middle of the Civil War, following a conflict between the Dakota tribe and settlers in Minnesota, the U.S. military captured 300 Dakota warriors and sentenced them to death. Ultimately, the army executed 39 of them, the largest public hanging in American history.

In a reversal of fortune, the Sioux crushed Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. Not a single American soldier survived the famous fight. Custer’s Last Stand, as the battle became known, however, proved to be the exception, not the rule.



HISTORY MAKERS

Chief Joseph (1840?–1904)

For almost three months, starting in June 1877, Chief Joseph led about 700 of his people on a 1,000-mile retreat

toward Canada. Despite being outnumbered by at least ten to one, the Nez Percés won several battles and outmaneuvered the army through the month of September. When troops surrounded the Nez Percés, however, Chief Joseph surrendered with this famous speech:

“I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. . . . The little children are freezing to death. . . . Hear me, my chiefs! I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever.”

—Chief Joseph, “I Will Fight No More Forever,” 1877

Chief Joseph’s retreat is considered one of the great military actions in American history, despite the fact that he and his people were eventually taken to a reservation.

TRACK THE ISSUE

How should the federal government deal with Indian nations?

From its earliest days, the federal government has grappled with the issue of relations with Native Americans. Since Indians in the West were forced to move onto reservations, government policy has shifted several times. Use the timeline below to explore this enduring issue.

- **1787 U.S. Constitution**
Federal government given power to regulate trade with Native Americans.
- **1824 Bureau of Indian Affairs**
Agency created to handle relations with Native Americans.
- **1887 Dawes Act**
Government divides reservations into individual land holdings.
- **1934 Indian Reorganization Act**
Tribal governments gain more control over their own affairs.
- **1975 Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act**
Indians win control over reservation schools and government services.



Native Americans in traditional garb press for Indian rights in Washington, D.C.

DEBATE THE ISSUE

Native American Land Claims Today, several Native American nations have made claims to their original lands, arguing that old treaties were illegal. Opponents say that to recognize these claims after so many years would lead to injustice of a different kind to the people now living on those lands.

“For over 200 years, we have endured hardship and indignities from the unjust taking of our ancestral land. We have been confined to a small reservation. We have suffered the painful loss of our traditional way of life. . . . There will be no actions to evict our neighbors from their homes as we know all too well the pain and suffering displacement causes.”

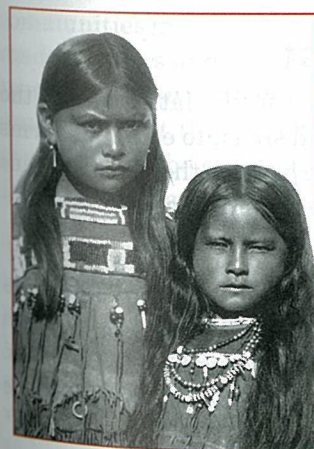
—Tadodaho (Sidney Hill) of the Onondaga Nation, March 10, 2005

“Employing a unique body of laws, today’s courts have decided to hear cases based on alleged violations of federal law that occurred over 200 years ago. Even more incredible than the ability and willingness of our judicial system to resurrect these ancient claims, is its [tendency] to apply modern legal interpretations to ancient events and blatantly disregard the historical record.”

—Scott Peterman, May 25, 2002

Connect to Your World

1. **Compare** How do Tadodaho and Peterman differ on the subject of land claims?
2. **Analyze** How do you think Tadodaho would view the Dawes Act?
3. **Debate** Learn more about recent cases involving Native American land claims. Then, write a newspaper editorial supporting one viewpoint. **Web Code:** nch-1501



Comanche girls, 1892

WITNESS HISTORY DVD

Watch *A Clash of Cultures* on the *United States Witness History* DVD to learn more about the conflicts between white settlers and Native Americans in the west.



The story of the Nez Percé tribe better depicted the fate of Native Americans. The leaders of the peaceful Nez Percé tribe did not want to desert their ancestral homelands in the Northwest. When General Oliver Otis Howard threatened to force them onto the reservation, however, they realized they could not match the firepower of the United States Army. Therefore, the chief of the Nez Percés, Chief Joseph, reluctantly agreed to lead his people toward a reservation in Idaho. Soon after, however, about 20 young warriors, unhappy about losing their homeland, attacked nearby white settlements. The army immediately began a pursuit of the Nez Percés. With little choice left, Chief Joseph led a fighting retreat toward Canada that is remembered to this day for its skill and audacity. Within 40 miles of the Canadian border, American troops surrounded the Nez Percés. Finally, Chief Joseph surrendered.

The Government Promotes Assimilation Only after the federal government crushed most of the resistance and placed the remaining Indians on reservations did expressions of regret about the nation's Native American policy appear. In 1881, Helen Hunt Jackson wrote *A Century of Dishonor*. As the title of her book suggests, Jackson contended that the United States had pursued a dishonorable policy toward Native Americans since its founding.

Partly in response to her work, which became a bestseller, the United States enacted the **Dawes Act** in 1887. This act sought to destroy the Native American way of life by urging Native Americans to **assimilate**, or to be absorbed into the main culture of American society. The act gave the federal government the authority to divide the reservations into 160-acre privately owned plots of land and to give Native Americans the opportunity to become citizens. However, the act utterly failed to achieve its goal. Indians lost more than 50 percent of their land over the next 50 years, largely to unscrupulous investors, and fell further into poverty.

Yet another tragic chapter in the history of Native Americans took place in 1890. In the northern plains, many Indians looked to their traditions as a way to regain their spirit. Following the advice of some of their shamans, or religious leaders, they took part in the Ghost Dance, an ancient religious ritual. Fearing that the Ghost Dances would lead to an armed insurrection, federal officials banned them. Ultimately, this led to the massacre at Wounded Knee, in which the federal cavalry killed 250 Native Americans, mostly women and children. Black Elk, a Sioux Chief, later wrote about the massacre in *Black Elk Speaks*, one of the most widely read books written by a Native American.

Checkpoint What impact did U.S. policies have on Native Americans?

The Transformation of the West

Millions of American citizens poured into the West in the latter half of the nineteenth century. They came searching for gold and silver, to establish farms and ranches, and to work in the cities that sprang up along the railroad lines that stretched as far west as San Francisco. This mass migration would eventually transform the West into a mainstay of the American economy.

Miners and Railroaders The discovery of gold and silver—first in California and later in Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and the Black Hills of South Dakota—attracted hordes of prospectors in the middle **decades** of the 1800s. These prospectors gathered in mining towns, many of which quickly became ghost towns when the gold and silver ran out.

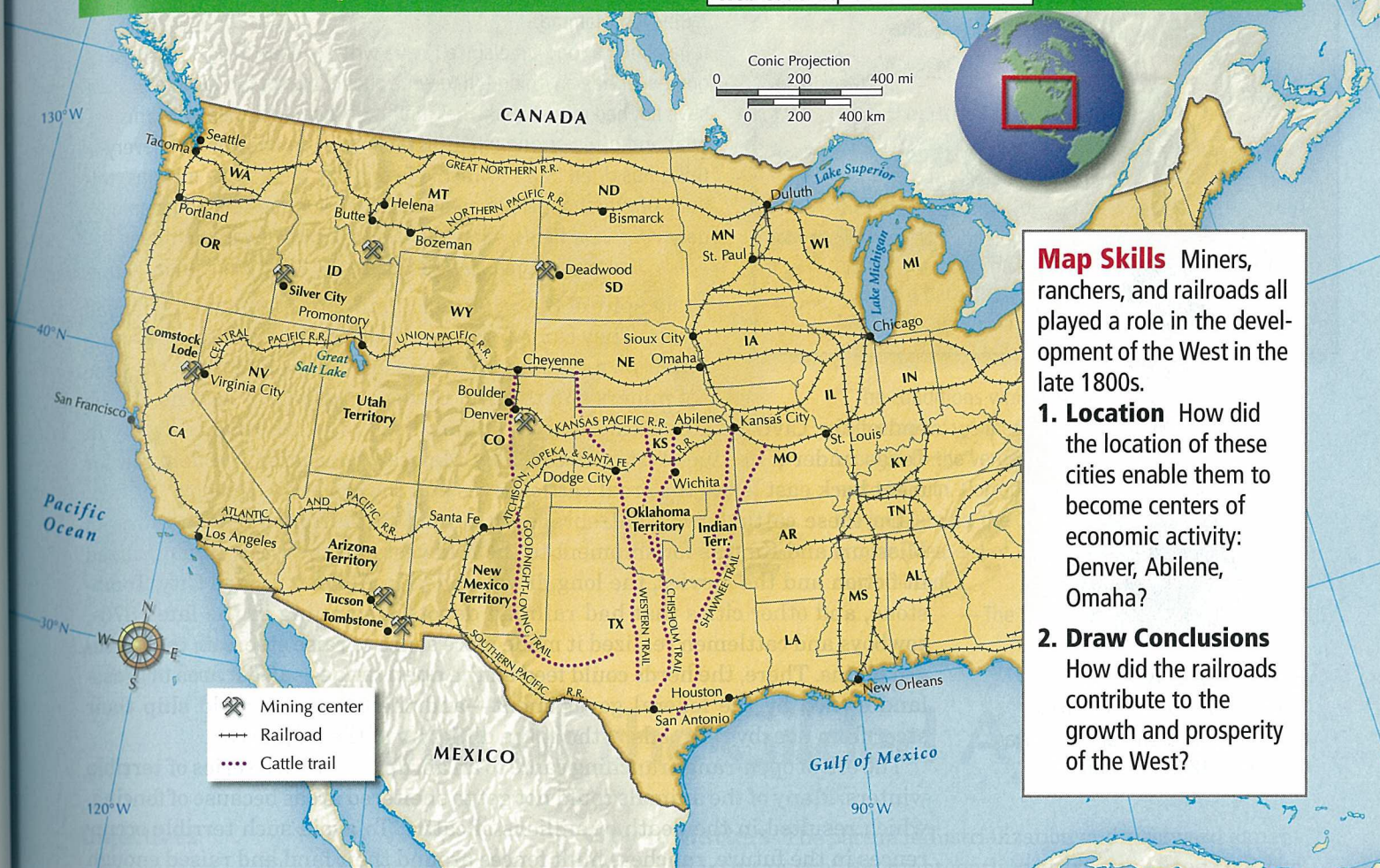
Vocabulary Builder

decade—(DEHK ayd) *n.* ten-year period

Economic Development of the West

Geography Interactive

For: Interactive map
Web Code: ncp-1502



Map Skills Miners, ranchers, and railroads all played a role in the development of the West in the late 1800s.

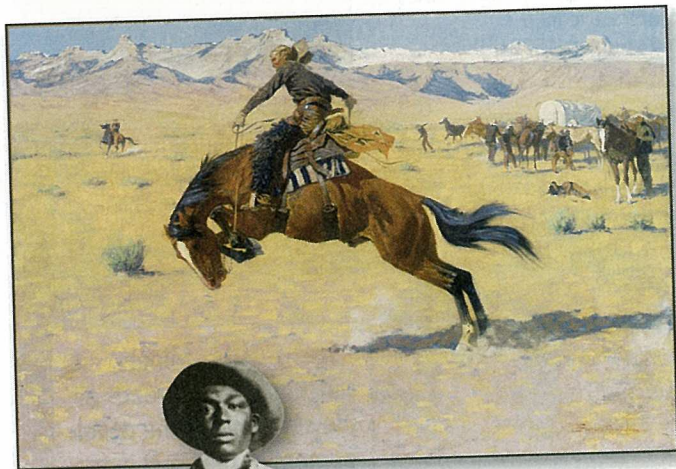
1. Location How did the location of these cities enable them to become centers of economic activity: Denver, Abilene, Omaha?

2. Draw Conclusions How did the railroads contribute to the growth and prosperity of the West?

While gold and silver provided the first impetus for the migration westward, the transcontinental railroad opened the West to long-term economic development. The construction of the railroads was a massive undertaking. To encourage private corporations to lay the tracks, the federal government granted them nearly 200 million acres of land. In May 1869, the first transcontinental railroad was completed when Leland Stanford drove the final golden spike into the ground at Promontory, Utah.

By the turn of the century, railroads had transformed a country of isolated communities into an interconnected nation of towns and cities. Without the railroads, farmers and ranchers would have found it difficult to get their products to market. In turn, they could not have acquired the farm machinery and home amenities that they wanted. Over time, however, tensions increased between the owners of the railroads, who charged high rates for carrying freight, and the farmers who had no other way to ship their crops to the East.

Ranchers and Farmers Americans from the East who migrated west encountered a strange land. The Great Plains had few trees, very little rainfall, and the land from Missouri to the Rocky Mountains stretched on that way for miles. To heat their homes—initially constructed of sod—they had to burn dried buffalo chips, or dung. They relied on barbed wire for fencing. Moreover, spread out over vast expanses of land, they often lived in social isolation. Ida Lindgren's letter to her mother reflected these difficulties:



Era of the Cowboy
Cold Morning on the Range by Frederic Remington (top); American cowboy, c. 1885 (bottom)

Primary Source

“Beloved Mamma,
 It has been a long time since I have written, hasn't it? . . . [W]hen one never has anything fun to write about, it is not fun to write. . . . We have not had rain since the beginning of June, and then with this heat and often strong winds as well, you can imagine how everything has dried out. . . . Then one fine day there came millions, trillions of grasshoppers in great clouds, hiding the sun, and coming down onto the fields, eating up everything that was still there.”

—Ida Lindgren, *Letters*, August 25, 1874, Manhattan, Kansas

In spite of these obstacles, millions of Americans moved west. They came to realize the American dream of owning their own land and working for themselves or, in the case of miners and the first cowboys, to make a fortune. At the

end of the Civil War, approximately 5 million head of cattle roamed freely in Texas under a herding system created by Mexican ranchers. The demand for meat back east led to the great cattle drives and the era of the cowboy.

On these cattle drives, entrepreneurs herded cattle from Texas to towns in Missouri and Kansas for shipment to the Midwest and the East. Immortalized in fiction and the movies, the long drives ended in Abilene, Dodge City, Tombstone, and other cities that had railroad depots. Beginning in the late 1870s, cowboys and cattlemen realized it made more sense to raise steers on the northern plains. There, the herds could feed on the **open range**—a vast area of grassland owned by the federal government—and then cowboys could ship their steer from nearby railroads without the difficulty of the long drive.

The era of open-range ranching came to an abrupt end with a series of terrible winters. Many of the animals could not get to sheltered areas because of fencing, which resulted in the death of millions of cattle. To avoid such terrible occurrences in the future, ranchers built fences around their land and raised enough feed for their herds.

✓ **Checkpoint** Who moved west in the latter half of the nineteenth century and why?

SECTION 3 Assessment

Comprehension

- 1. Terms and People** For each term below, write a sentence explaining its significance to the South or the West.
- sharecropping
 - Dawes Act
 - open range

2. NoteTaking Reading Skill:

Summarize Use your completed outline to answer the Section Focus Question: What were the most important developments in the South and the West?

Writing About History

- 3. Quick Write: Prepare an Outline** Make an outline for an oral presentation on the development of the New South. This will help you structure the information in a logical way. Identify main ideas with Roman numerals and supporting details with capital letters.

Critical Thinking

- 4. Synthesize Information** What factors led to the rise of the New South, and what resulted?
- 5. Make Generalizations** How did the United States change as settlers moved westward?
- 6. Make Comparisons** What were the similarities and differences between the economic development of the South and that of the West?

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
 Web Code: nea-0304

SECTION

4

▲ Members of the Populist Party, 1890

Issues of the Gilded Age

Objectives

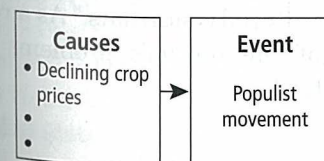
- Understand the segregation and social tensions that troubled the nation during the late 1800s.
- Identify the political and economic challenges that existed during the Gilded Age.
- Analyze the effects of the Populists' programs and activities.

Terms and People

Gilded Age	gold standard
Jim Crow laws	Populist Party
graft	William Jennings Bryan
Pendleton Act	

NoteTaking

Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes Create a chart in which you record key events and developments that led to the Populist movement.



“Gold Bug” from the 1896 McKinley-Bryan presidential campaign ▶



WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

The Populist Platform

By the 1890s, numerous Americans felt that the United States lay on the verge of ruin. In reaction, they joined various political movements, such as the Populist, or People's, Party. Made up largely of farmers, the Populists met in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1892, to draft a party platform. The preamble of this platform reflected the angry mood that had set in across much of the nation:

“The conditions which surround us best justify our cooperation; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political, and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot-box, the legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine [weasels] of the bench. The people are demoralized. . . .”

—The Preamble of the Platform of the Populist Party, 1892

Why It Matters The pace of industrialization and westward expansion in the latter part of the nineteenth century suggested that the United States had reached a new golden age. Yet the nation still faced many troubles, including the distance between people's dreams of wealth and the reality of their sometimes difficult lives. This period during the late nineteenth century is often referred to as the **Gilded Age**, implying that under the glittery, or gilded, surface of prosperity lurked troubling issues, including poverty, unemployment, and corruption. **Section Focus Question:** What challenges arose for the nation during the Gilded Age?

Segregation and Social Tensions

One issue that troubled the nation was the persistence of racial inequality. During the last decades of the nineteenth century, African Americans, other minorities, and women found themselves fighting a losing battle to gain equality.

Separate but Equal During the decades after Reconstruction, southern states passed laws that separated blacks and whites. These laws were known as **Jim Crow laws**. In the 1896 case *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court upheld segregation as long as states maintained “separate but equal” facilities for both races. Yet facilities for blacks almost always were inferior. During the same time period, southern states enacted laws such as poll taxes and literacy tests that stripped blacks of the vote. As W.E.B. Du Bois, a leading

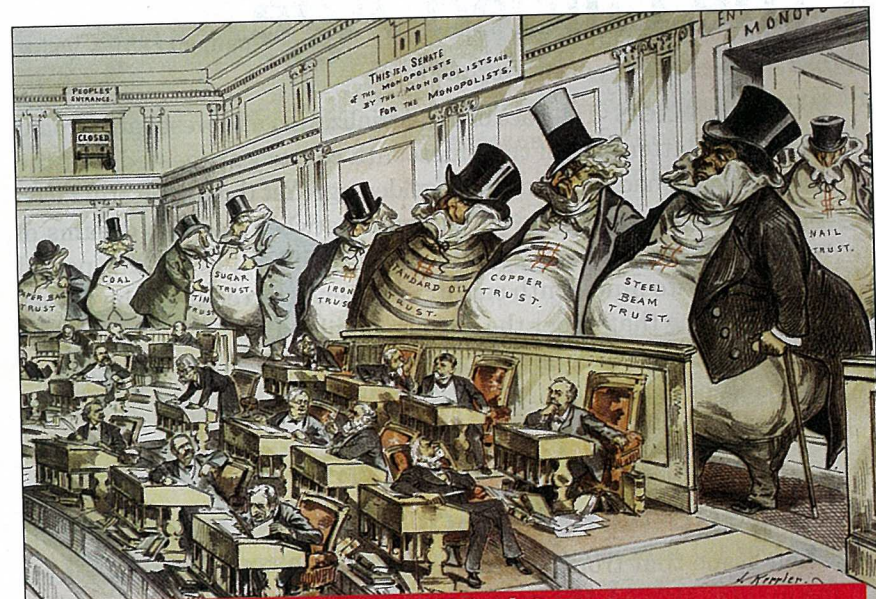
civil rights activist, observed: “The freedman has not yet found in freedom his promised land.”

In spite of these setbacks, some hope for a brighter future emerged. Booker T. Washington, who had been born a slave, built the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama into an important symbol of black self-help. In the same time period, Ida B. Wells’s brave crusade against lynching gained some traction, especially among northern blacks who began to organize into clubs and civil rights organizations to demand full equality.

Mexican Americans and Chinese Immigrants Face Discrimination

During the same period, Mexican Americans struggled against long odds to maintain their lands in the Southwest. Prominent whites prodded the federal government to grant them title over property pledged to Mexicans who lived in the Southwest before it became part of the United States. Federal courts tended to side with the whites when Mexican Americans pressed their legal case for the land. Some Mexican Americans resorted to warlike tactics to protect their lands. For instance, masked men known as *Las Gorras Blancas*, or the White Caps, sabotaged railroad lines and cut holes in fences to protest the displacement of Mexican Americans.

Asian immigrants, especially the Chinese, faced persistent discrimination, too. Western states enacted laws that prohibited the Chinese from working at certain jobs. Mobs of white workers terrorized Chinese migrants, claiming the migrants were taking the white workers’ jobs. In 1882, the federal government temporarily banned further immigration from China for 10 years under the Chinese Exclusion Act. In 1902, the government made the ban permanent.



Analyzing Political Cartoons

This nineteenth-century political cartoon titled “The Bosses of the Senate” shows the influence that large corporations exerted on government.

1. How does the cartoonist illustrate the corruption of the time?
2. What do the men towering over the senators represent?

Women’s Suffrage Makes Gains

Women experienced both gains and setbacks during the Gilded Age. In spite of tireless efforts by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the fight to gain a women’s suffrage amendment stalled, although a few western states granted women the vote. At the same time, educational opportunities for women grew. By 1900, women made up one third of all college students.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** How did racial minorities and women fare during the Gilded Age?

Political Challenges

As future President Woodrow Wilson lamented in 1885, “the conditions of public life in this country are not what they were in the early years of the Republic. We . . . are perplexed at finding ourselves denied a new order of statesmanship to suit the altered conditions.” As a result, many of the nation’s problems went unresolved.

Corruption Plagues Government As cities grew, politicians gained power by providing jobs or patronage and services in exchange for political support. **Graft**, or bribery and corruption, touched nearly all aspects of public life. Some politicians, such as George Washington Plunkitt of New York City’s Tammany Hall political club, even defended their actions.

Tariffs, Civil Service, and Monetary Policy On the national level, few issues divided the major political parties as much as the tariff, with the Republicans supporting high protective tariffs and the Democrats favoring lower duties, or taxes, on imported goods. Following the assassination of President James Garfield by a disgruntled former federal employee, the Democrats supported the **Pendleton Act**, which created a civil service system for the federal government. This meant that individuals who wanted to work for the government were required to take an exam. They were then given a job based on their performance on the exam, instead of on who they knew. Both Republican and Democratic Presidents also favored a hard monetary policy, the **gold standard**, much to the chagrin of many farmers who felt that this hurt them by keeping prices low.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** What issues plagued the government during the Gilded Age?

Farmers and Populism

In the late 1880s and early 1890s, a massive political insurgency developed called populism. It grew out of the frustration that many Americans felt toward the federal government. Farmers in particular displayed their anger.

Farmers Face Complex Problems Farmers migrated to the West knowing that they would have to toil long hours in difficult conditions. But they expected that their circumstances would improve and that their children would be better off. Instead, as the nineteenth century drew to a close, many farmers felt that they were losing ground.

Several interrelated problems beset American farmers during this era. The prices paid for the main crops—corn, wheat, and cotton—declined significantly between the end of the Civil War and the early 1890s. At the same time, farmers accumulated growing debts that they found harder and harder to repay. Government monetary policies contributed to both of these trends.

Farmers Organize and Demand Reforms Immediately following the Civil War, farmers came together to address their problems. First, farmers in the Midwest banded together in the Grange movement. Their counterparts in the South and the Plains states established the Farmers’ Alliance. These organizations sought to lower shipping and storage rates, either through government regulation of the railroads or use of grain elevators, or both.

Members of the Farmers’ Alliance, in both the South and the West, soon formed the People’s Party, or the **Populist Party**, and met in Omaha, Nebraska, to spell out its views. They endorsed General James Weaver for the presidency in 1892, as well as slates of candidates for state and local offices. They did well in several



Farmers’ Alliance Seeks Lower Storage Rates

Farmers waiting to unload wheat at a grain elevator, 1879

Vocabulary Builder

trend—(trehnd) *n.* general course of events



▲ William J. Bryan, during a speech made in the 1896 presidential campaign

Plains states, leading some to believe that they could challenge the two major political parties on the national level.

The Populists favored reforms that addressed their main problems. To lower the cost of transportation, they sought regulation or ownership of the railroads. In order to make it easier for farmers to borrow money and pay off their debts, they called for the creation of subtreasury banks and the coinage of silver or “free silver.” **William Jennings Bryan**, the Democratic and Populist candidate for the presidency in 1896, made the call for free silver the centerpiece of his campaign. The Populists also sought political and economic reforms, such as the secret ballot, the direct election of senators, and a graduated income tax.

Economic Crisis and Populism’s Decline During the election of 1896, the Populists hoped to gain the support of many industrial workers whose situations had taken a turn for the worse because of an economic depression. In one of the hardest fought campaigns in American history, Bryan crisscrossed the country, championing the cause of the American farmer and denouncing the monetary policies of the Republicans, namely the gold standard.

Primary Source “If they [the Republicans] dare to come out in the open field and defend the gold standard as a good thing, we will fight them to the uttermost. Having behind us the producing masses of this nation . . . we will answer their demand for a gold standard by saying to them: You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.”

—William J. Bryan, “Cross of Gold” Speech, 1896

In part because he failed to convince industrial workers that the policy of free silver would benefit them, Bryan failed to win a state outside of the South and the West. As a result, William McKinley, the Republican candidate, won the presidency. The Populist Party never recovered from its defeat in 1896. Yet, even in defeat, the Populist movement had an impact upon the political system. Bryan’s style of appealing directly to the people became the norm rather than the exception. In addition, a number of the Populist’s specific proposals, such as the graduated income tax, became law during the Progressive Era.

✓ **Checkpoint** What factors led to the rise of the Populists?

SECTION 4 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
Web Code: nea-0305

Comprehension

- Terms and People** For each term below, write a sentence explaining its significance.
 - Gilded Age
 - Pendleton Act
 - gold standard
 - Populist Party

- NoteTaking Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes** Use your completed chart to answer the Section Focus Question: What challenges arose for the nation during the Gilded Age?

Writing About History

- Quick Write: Use Numbered Note Cards** It is helpful to use numbered note cards to organize the main points for an oral presentation. On note cards, write the main ideas about the rise of populism. Determine the order in which you will likely deliver your speech on this topic, and number each card accordingly.

Critical Thinking

- Identify Main Ideas** Describe several factors that caused the public to feel demoralized during the late 1800s.
- Predict Consequences** What additional actions might the government have taken to address the political corruption of the Gilded Age?
- Determine Relevance** What impact did the Populists have on society?

TRACK THE ISSUE

Why do Americans disagree over women’s rights?

In early America, women had few legal rights. They could not vote, hold office, or work at most jobs. Married women could not own property and were under the legal authority of their husbands. The women’s movement helped change this, but Americans are still divided over women’s rights. Use the timeline below to explore this enduring issue.

1848 Seneca Falls Convention

Women meet in upstate New York to declare support for women’s rights.

1869 The National Woman Suffrage Association

Anthony and Stanton form organization to fight for women’s suffrage.

1920 Nineteenth Amendment

Women gain right to vote.

1964 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act

Law protects women against job discrimination.

1972 Title IX of the Education Codes

Law bans sex discrimination in schools.



Supporters of women’s suffrage gather in protest.



Today, many women have successful careers, but some still feel limited.

DEBATE THE ISSUE

Women in the Workplace On average, women earn less than men in the workplace. This wage gap has led to charges of sex discrimination. Feminists also argue that a “glass ceiling” keeps many women from rising to the top of their profession. But other factors may be involved, too.

“The wage gap is the result of a number of factors in addition to discrimination, such as the differences in women’s education, their shorter time in the workforce, and their concentration in a narrow range of jobs that are underpaid because women are in them. Nonetheless, a significant portion is attributable to discrimination.”

—Sonia Pressman Fuentes, founding member, NOW

“[Feminists] often portray working women as victims of rampant discrimination . . . [which] renders women powerless in the face of an impenetrable glass ceiling. While discrimination does exist in the workplace, levels of education . . . and time spent in the workforce play a far greater role in determining women’s pay and promotion.”

—Naomi Lopez, Director, Center for Enterprise and Opportunity

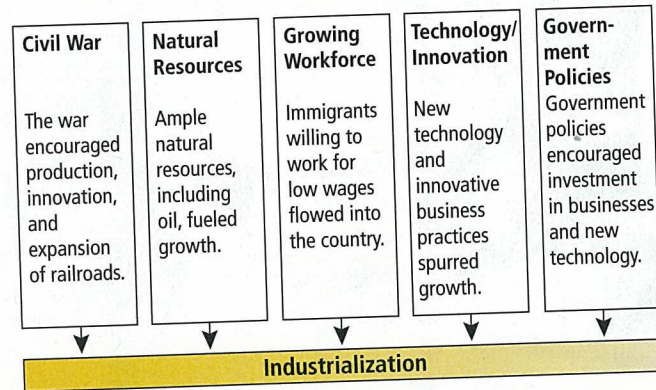
Connect to Your World

- Compare** How do the two writers agree? How do they disagree?
- Analyze** Affirmative action makes it possible for women and minorities to compete in the workplace. Which of the two women quoted above might support this?
- Debate** Learn more about women’s rights and prepare an argument supporting one viewpoint. **Web Code:** nch-1611

Quick Study Guide

Progress Monitoring Online
 For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
 Web Code: nea-0306

Causes of Industrialization



The "New South"

Economic Growth	Limits to Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of new industries such as textiles, lumber, iron, steel Expansion of rail lines Some agricultural diversification to reduce dependence on cotton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortage of skilled workers Wealth concentrated in hands of a few Few banks to finance business expansion

Reasons For Immigrating

Push and Pull Factors	
Push Factors	Pull Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious persecution War and mandatory military service Economic hardship Lack of jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious freedom Political freedom Affordable land Factory jobs

The Populist Party Platform

- Increase in money supply
- Graduated income tax
- Federal loan program for farmers
- Election of U.S. senators by popular vote
- Eight-hour workday
- Restriction on immigration
- Government ownership of railroads

American Issues Connector

By connecting prior knowledge with what you have learned in this chapter, you can gradually build your understanding of enduring questions that still affect America today. Answer the questions below. Then, use your American Issues Connector study guide (or go online: www.PHSchool.com Web Code: neh-0308).

Issues You Learned About

- Migration and Urbanization** Immigrants have overcome many obstacles in their quest to improve their lives in the United States.
 - The Immigrant Experience** Millions of immigrants moved to American cities in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Write a short narrative describing the life of one of these immigrants. Consider the following:
 - reasons for immigration
 - working conditions
 - life in the cities
 - the process of adapting to American culture
- Technology and Society** New technology can bring both positive and negative changes to society.
 - List the three main causes of industrial expansion in the United States.
 - What positive effects did industrialization have on American society? What negative effects did it have?
 - Identify and describe one invention that impacted the lives of industrial workers.

- American Indian Policy** During the 1800s, Native Americans lost their native lands to white settlers.
 - In the post-Civil War years, what policy did the federal government impose on Native Americans? How did they respond?
 - Why did Chief Joseph surrender to federal troops? What were the causes and effects of the Dawes Act?

Connect to Your World Activity

Poverty and Prosperity: Wealthy Companies and Individuals In this chapter, you learned about the leading companies and entrepreneurs from the age of big business. Study the list of companies here, and choose one. Then, go online or to your local library to learn more about your choice. Find out the company's main business, revenue, size, area of operation, and its contributions to society, including charitable work. Write one or two paragraphs to have a profile of the company.

Top Ten Private U.S. Companies by Revenue, 2004

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Cargill | 6. PricewaterhouseCoopers |
| 2. Koch Industries | 7. Ernst & Young |
| 3. Mars | 8. C&S Wholesale |
| 4. Publix Super Markets | 9. Meijer |
| 5. Bechtel | 10. HE Butt Grocery |

Quick Study Timeline

In America	Around the World
<p>1869 Workers finish construction of transcontinental railroad</p> <p>1876 Custer and his men are killed at Battle of Little Bighorn</p> <p>1882 Standard Oil Trust is formed</p> <p>1887 Dawes Act allots land to individual Indians</p>	<p>1869 Suez Canal is completed</p> <p>1876 Korea becomes an independent nation</p> <p>1882 Britain takes control of Egypt</p>
<p>1890 Congress passes Sherman Antitrust Act</p> <p>1894 Pullman Strike occurs</p>	<p>1889 Eiffel Tower is completed in Paris</p> <p>1893 New Zealand grants women the right to vote</p> <p>1899 Boer War breaks out in southern Africa</p>
<p>1890 Immigration to United States reaches all-time high</p>	<p>1910</p>

In America

Presidential Terms	Ulysses S. Grant 1869–1877	Rutherford B. Hayes 1877–1881	James Garfield 1881	Chester Arthur 1881–1885	Grover Cleveland 1885–1889
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1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

History Interactive
 For: Interactive timeline
 Web Code: nep-0307

Chapter Assessment

Terms and People

1. Define **monopoly**. How did the federal government attempt to prevent the formation of monopolies?
2. What was **Social Darwinism**?
3. What were **Ellis Island** and **Angel Island**? What happened at these locations?
4. Explain how **sharecropping** worked. Did sharecroppers have a fair chance to get ahead economically?
5. What were the **Jim Crow laws**?

Focus Questions

The focus question for this chapter is **How did industrialization affect the United States?** Build an answer to this big question by answering the focus questions for Sections 1 through 4 and the Critical Thinking questions that follow.

Section 1

6. What factors led to the industrialization of America, and what impact did industrialization have on society?

Section 2

7. Why did immigrants come to the United States, and how did they impact society?

Section 3

8. What were the most important developments in the South and the West?

Section 4

9. What challenges arose for the nation during the Gilded Age?

Writing About History

Preparing for an Oral Presentation The late 1800s were a time of growth and great change in the United States. As industrialization took hold, immigrants arrived, businesses boomed, and cities expanded as people moved there to live and to work. Soon, industrialization also spread to the South and led to the development of the West. Write an oral presentation that you might deliver to a private corporation during this time to encourage it to play a role in the development of the West.

Prewriting

- Gather information on why corporations might have been interested in the development of the West in the late 1800s.
- Make a graphic organizer to arrange the information you find. In a two-column chart, for example, one column could be entitled "Why People Are Moving West" and the other "Why Businesses Should Move West."

Critical Thinking

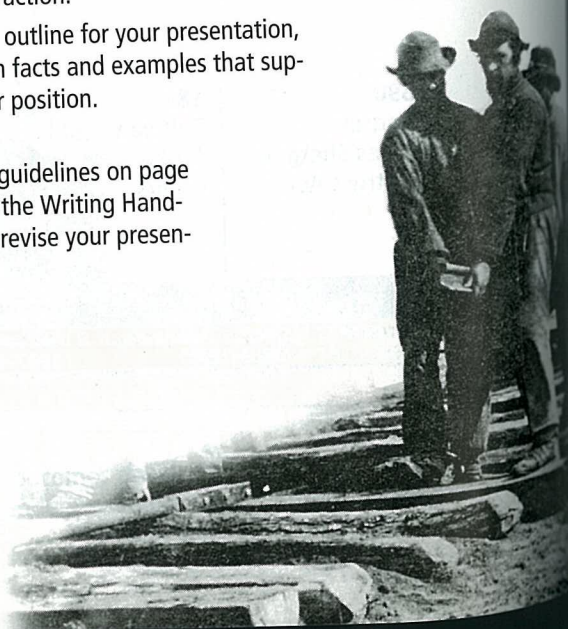
10. **Explain Effects** How did the rise of industrialization change the nature of American businesses?
11. **Predict Consequences** What would a modern-day entrepreneur who believed in the Gospel of Wealth do with his or her fortune?
12. **Determine Relevance** Explain the relationship between the growth of the middle class, the changes in the economy, and new forms of mass entertainment.
13. **Analyze Information** According to Henry Grady, what would characterize the "New South"? Did the society he envisioned develop? What was the "New South" like for African Americans?
14. **Draw Conclusions** Would farmers and ranchers have settled in the West without the construction of the transcontinental railroad?
15. **Explain Causes** Why was the Pendleton Act passed?
16. **Evaluate Credibility of Sources** The editor of a farmers' paper wrote in 1890, "There are three great crops raised in Nebraska. One is the crop of corn, one a crop of freight rates, and one a crop of interest." Do you think this statement should be taken at face value? Explain your reasoning.

Drafting

- Develop a working thesis in which you clearly state the purpose of your speech.
- Write an introduction that will hook your listeners with the top three reasons they should agree with your position and take action.
- Make an outline for your presentation, and fill in facts and examples that support your position.

Revising

- Use the guidelines on page SH31 of the Writing Handbook to revise your presentation.



Document-Based Assessment

Attitudes of business and government toward organized labor

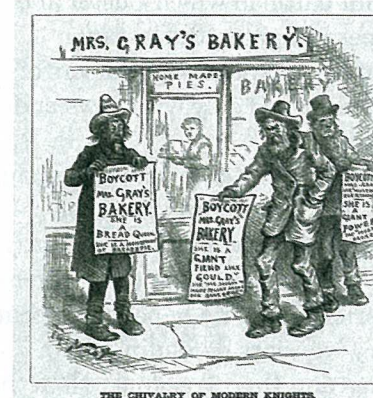
Were labor unions successful in working out their disputes with big-business owners? What roles did the federal government and the courts play in settling these disputes? Use your knowledge of the organized labor movement and Documents A, B, C, and D to answer questions 1 through 4.

Document A

"The workers at the blast furnaces in our steel-rail works once sent in a 'round-robin' stating that unless the firm gave them an advance of wages by Monday afternoon at four o'clock they would leave the furnaces. . . . Gentlemen of the Blast Furnace Committee, you have threatened our firm that you will break your agreement and that you will leave these blast furnaces . . . unless you get a favorable answer to your threat by four o'clock today. It is not three but your answer is ready. You may leave the blast furnaces. . . . The worst day that labor has ever seen in this world is that day in which it dishonors itself by breaking its agreement. You have your answer."

—The Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie, August 1920

Document B



1. In Document A, what view does Andrew Carnegie take toward organized labor?
 - A He believes that businesses should bargain with employees.
 - B He believes that workers should be paid fair wages.
 - C He believes that employees should honor their original work agreement.
 - D He believes that business owners should take workers threats seriously.
2. Which document is a secondary source that describes how the Sherman Act was used as a legal tool to end a strike?
 - A Document A
 - B Document B
 - C Document C
 - D Document D

Document C

"There was a time when workmen were denied the right of leaving their employers, when they were part of the soil, owned by their employers. . . . Not many years ago, when workmen counseled with each other for the purpose of resisting a reduction in their wages or making an effort to secure an increase, it was held to be a conspiracy punishable by imprisonment. Through the effort of organized labor, an enlightened public sentiment changed all this until to-day the right to unite for material, moral, and social improvement on the part of workers is accepted by all."

—Samuel Gompers to Editor, Washington Evening Star, May 15, 1900

Document D

"In the winter of 1893–1894 the employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company . . . were greatly disturbed because of a wage reduction. . . . They joined the new American Railway Union . . . attempting to organize all workers connected with the railways. . . . The [Pullman] company refused to consider arbitration and the boycott went into effect. . . . Indictments charging Debs [president of the American Railway Union] and others of violations of the Sherman Act were secured. . . . As a result of the various injunctions, indictments, and the activities of federal troops which reached Chicago, following directions from President Cleveland, the strike and the consequent violence were practically at an end by the middle of July."

—Labor and the Sherman Act by Edward Berman, 1930

3. Who does the cartoonist make fun of in Document B?
 - A The government
 - B The Knights of Labor
 - C The Sherman Antitrust Act
 - D George Pullman
4. **Writing Task** What were the goals of the labor movement? How did big business, the government, and the courts respond to labor unions? Use your knowledge of the chapter content and specific evidence from the primary sources above to support your opinion.

EMERGENCE OF THE MODERN UNITED STATES

Reflections: Little Bighorn

If one event symbolizes an era, it is the Battle of the Little Bighorn, one of the most misunderstood and myth-filled episodes in American history. On June 25, 1876, George Armstrong Custer and some 200 of his Seventh Cavalry troopers died fighting Sioux and Cheyenne followers of Chief Sitting Bull. Although known as Custer's Last Stand, it was actually the last stand of the Northern Plains Indians. Within a year of the battle, all of Custer's adversaries were either dead, on reservations, or in Canada.

The battle was the direct result of the rapid changes in the West after the Civil War. Following Lee's surrender at Appomattox, thousands of white settlers swarmed across the Great Plains. The Homestead Act of 1862, the transcontinental railroad, and a large influx of European immigrants fueled the massive migration.

Of the 38 million people living in the United States in 1870, about 5 million were foreign born. Many of these immigrants went west seeking homesteads on cheap land. The West had no room for Indians who hunted buffalo and

followed their traditional way of life. As the demand for land grew, the federal government was under intense pressure to place all Indians on reservations. Sitting Bull and his followers were just as determined to remain free and independent.

The Indian victory over Custer spelled their doom. The nation, celebrating its hundredth anniversary, sought vengeance. At the same time, the media idolized Custer, a Civil War hero, and his slain troopers. Journalists, artists, and writers portrayed a gallant battle in which Custer and troopers fought to the last man against overwhelming numbers of Indians armed only with bows and arrows.

In truth, the Indians won because they had better guns than the soldiers, most of whom were recently arrived immigrants with no combat experience and no hope of defeating angry warriors defending their homes and their freedom. Nonetheless, the Battle of the Little Bighorn remains a symbol of the romantic West.

Henry Viola



CONTENTS

CHAPTER 4

The Progressive Era
(1890–1920)

CHAPTER 5

An Emerging World Power
(1890–1917)

CHAPTER 6

World War I and Beyond
(1914–1920)

In France, a Red Cross nurse tends American soldiers wounded in World War I. ▶

