

Grossmont High Sentinel

UNIT THREE

January 3, 2022

R.G. VI

FORGING AN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY, 1865-1900

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Readings! Every Four Days!

- A. Politics and Paralysis in the Gilded Age, 1869-1896 (AP-Ch. 23) (CP-Ch. 7.3)
- B. Industry Comes of Age, 1865-1900 (AP-Ch. 24) (CP-Ch. 6-All)
- C. America Moves to the City, 1865-1900 (AP-Ch. 25) (CP-Ch. 7.1 & 7.2 & All of Chapter 8)
- D. The Great West and the Agricultural Revolution, 1865-1896 (AP-Ch. 26) (CP-Ch. 5-All)

KEY CONCEPTS

- Politics in the *Gilded Age* was marked by fierce party competition and battles over spoils, even though few significant national issues divided Republicans and Democrats.
- Politicians of both parties avoided confronting major problems of race and class that simmered beneath the surface.
- America accomplished heavy Industrialization in the post-Civil War era. Spurred by the transcontinental rail network, business grew and consolidated into giant corporate trusts, as epitomized by the oil and steel industries.
- Industrialization radically transformed the condition of American working people, but workers failed to develop effective labor organizations to match the corporate forms of business.
- In the late 19th century, American society was increasingly dominated by large urban centers. Explosive urban growth was accompanied by disturbing changes, unique opportunities, and profound expression.
- After the Civil War, whites overcame the fierce resistance of Plains Indians and settled the Great West in successive waves, bringing to a close the long frontier phase of American History.
- Farmers, South & West found themselves the victims of economic revolution. Trapped in a permanent debtor dependency, in the 1880s, in the West they finally turned to political action to protest their condition.
- High-tariff, tight money economic policies and the severe depression of 1893 created a sharp conflict between debt-ridden farmers and eastern economic and social conservatives. This conflict culminated in McKinley's defeat of Bryan in the critical 1896 election.

Essential Details

Gilded Age
Political Machines
Laissez-Faire
Politics (People's) Party
Immigrants from Asia
Transcontinental Railroads
Industrialization
Rise of Big Business
Industrial Capitalism
Business Consolidation
Trusts and Holding Companies
Social Darwinism
The Gospel of Wealth
Labor Movement
Child Labor
"New South"
"New Immigrants"
Americanization
Settlement Houses
Jane Addams
Social Gospel
African-American Reformers
Westward Migration
Boomtowns
The Reservation System
Assimilation
Mechanized Agriculture

"Horatio Alger Stories"

"Ragged Dick" was contributed as a serial story to the pages of *the Schoolmate*, a well-known juvenile magazine, during the year 1867. While in course of publication, it was received with so many evidences of favor that it has been rewritten and considerably enlarged and is now presented to the public as the first volume of a series intended to illustrate the life and experiences of the friendless and vagrant children who are now numbered by thousands in New York and other cities.

. . . The author hopes that, while the volumes in this series may prove interesting stories, they may also have the effect of enlisting the sympathies of his readers in behalf of the unfortunate children whose life is described, and of leading them to co-operate with the praiseworthy efforts now making by the Children's Aid Society and other organizations to ameliorate their condition.

New York April 1868

Debate Topics

1. Was John D. Rockefeller a "Robber Baron"? (9th/40th ed.)
2. Did 19th Century Women of the West Fail to Overcome Hardships of Living on the Great Plains? (9th ed.)
3. Did the Industrial Revolution Disrupt the American Family? (9th/40th ed.)
4. Were American Workers in the Gilded Age Conservative Capitalists? (9th/ 13th/15th ed.)
5. Was City Government in Late 19th Century America a "Conspicuous Failure?" (9th/40th ed.)
6. Was the Wild West More Violent than the Rest of the United States? (13th ed.)
7. Were the Nineteenth-Century Entrepreneurs "Robber Barons?" (15th ed.)
8. Were Late 19th Century Immigrants "Uprooted?" (15th ed.)
9. Did a "New South" Emerge Following Reconstruction? (15th ed.)
10. Were Populists Irrational Reactionaries? (15th ed.)

"The Gospel of Wealth"

The problem of our age is the proper administration of wealth, so that the ties of brotherhood may still bind together the rich and poor in harmonious relationship. The conditions of human life have not only been changed, but revolutionized, within the past few hundred years. In former days there was little difference between the dwelling, dress, food, and environment of the chief and those of his retainers. The Indians are to-day where civilized man then was. When visiting the Sioux, I was led to the wigwam of the chief. It was just like the others in external appearance, and even within the difference was trifling between it and those of the poorest of his braves. The contrast between the palace of the millionaire and the cottage of the laborer with us to-day measures the change which has come with civilization.

This change, however, is not to be deplored, but welcomed as highly beneficial. It is well, nay, 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, and for all the refinements of civilization, rather than that none should be so. Much better this great irregularity than universal squalor. Without wealth there can be no Mæcenas. The "good old times" were not good old times. Neither master nor servant was as well situated then as to-day. A relapse to old conditions would be disastrous to both--not the least so to him who serves--and would Sweep away civilization with it. But whether the change be for good or ill, it is upon us, beyond our power to alter, and therefore to be accepted and made the best of. It is a waste of time to criticize the inevitable.

BY ANDREW CARNEGIE