##### Unit 7 Overview: The Gilded Age, The Rise of Industry & Immigration (late 1800’s)

**Industrialization** is when a country goes from making products by hand to mass-producing products in factories with machines. Industrialization was made possible by inventions like steam engines, railroads, iron, steel, electricity, and the production of raw materials (gas, coal, and oil).

Industrialization boosted the economy of the U.S. and made it a very powerful and wealthy nation. However it has also created many serious problems for people and the environment. Industrialization was fueled by the United States Economic System of **Free Market Capitalism**, an economic system based on no government interference in the economy, private ownership of business and businesses competing with each other. Capitalism benefits consumers by increasing the variety of goods available and keeping prices low. At the same time, capitalism can hurt certain workers as owners attempt to increase profits through poor working conditions and low wages. As businesses defeated their competition, their businesses became the only business in the entire industry – a **monopoly**. **Monopolies** eventually became powerful enough to influence politicians in the government. They pressured politicians to pass laws that would benefit the monopolies but not the public. The government tried to limit monopolies using **anti-trust laws**, but it was not until Theodore Roosevelt became President during the **Progressive Era**, that the power of monopolies was limited.

**“New Immigrants”** came to the U.S. during this period of industrialization seeking jobs and religious freedom, which led to the rapid growth of cities. Cities grew too fast for governments to handle and many problems such as pollution, crime, poverty, and anger towards new immigrants quickly spread. Anti-immigration laws such as the **Chinese-Exclusion Act** were passed to limit them.

Workers formed **Labor Unions** to try to fight for their rights and protect American jobs against immigrants. They used strikes, boycotts and collective bargaining to try to fight the monopolies, but the early labor unions and their efforts were usually not successful. The **Knight of Labor** fell apart after the **Haymarket Riot**, and the government took the sides of big business (because big business supported the government) during strikes such as the **Pullman Strike and Homestead Strike.** Again, it would not be until the Progressive Era where unions started to gain more power and workers began receiving more rights. America was growing, becoming richer and more powerful, but there were many underlying problems. This is why America during this time was known as **The Gilded Age (**gilded means shiny but dull inside)**.**

**Part I: Instructions: Copy these words and definitions into your notebook**

**Unit Vocabulary Words**

1) **Industrialization** - the rise of technology, factories and big business.

2) **Gilded Age** – nickname for the industrial era in which rich Americans dominated the US. There were many successes but also many problems.

**3) Free Market Capitalism** - an economic system where individuals can privately own and run their own businesses without government interference.

4) **Urbanization** - when people move from **rural** areas (the countryside) to **urban** areas (cities)

5) **Laissez-faire** - when the government keeps its "hands off" business

6) **Corporation** - a large company where many investors own a part of the business by purchasing stock

7) **Entrepreneur** - a person who starts his or her own company

8) **Social Darwinism** – “Survival of the fittest” in society and economics

9) **Rugged Individualism** – people must help themselves. People need a good work ethic.

10) **Supply and Demand: Prices are determined by consumers and businesses**

11) **Monopoly/Trusts** - a company that has complete control over an industry and prevents competition

12) **Robber Barons** – a nickname for very rich **Monopolists** that were accused of being too greedy

13) **Captains of Industry:** nicknames for rich monopolists that helped grow industry and make affordable products for the public.

14) **Andrew Carnegie** - businessman who ran a steel monopoly by destroying his competition. He also donated large amounts of money to build libraries and theaters.

15) **John D Rockefeller** - businessman who ran an oil monopoly and forced his competition out of business. He also donated large amounts of money to build public spaces.

16) **Knights of Labor** – Labor union created by **Terrence V. Powderly.**

17) **Labor Union**- organization of workers that fought for workers’ rights and pay using strikes, boycotts and collective bargaining.

18) **Haymarket Riot**- riot that ends the Knights of Labor.

19) **American Federation of Labor** – Created by **Samuel Gompers**. Largest labor union in America. Did not accept blacks, women or immigrants though.

**20) Pullman Strike and Homestead Strike:** Workers strikes on railroads that was put down with force by the government and workers did not get benefits.

**21) Importance of Railroads :** As America was growing, railroads connected America and transferred its population (including immigrants) all over. The main railroad monopolist was John Vanderbilt.

22) **Interstate Commerce Act (1887) –** Congressional Act that stated only the government controls trade between states (and not businesses)

23) **Sherman Anti-Trust Act** (1890) – Congressional Act that tries to make monopolies and trusts illegal, but does not have initial success.

24) **The Old Immigrants** - immigrants from Northern and Western Europe who moved to America between 1607-1880**.**

25) **The New Immigrants** – immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe who moved to America between 1880-1920 for jobs and to escape poverty.

26) **Pluralism** – diversity, a mixture of people from different religions and cultures

27) **Assimilation** – the process of immigrants becoming culturally American (learning English/eating American food)

28) **Nativism** - the dislike of immigrants and a strong pride for those born in the U.S.

29) **Chinese Exclusion Act** – (1882) law that completely banned immigrants from China

30) **Gentleman’s Agreement** - (1907) law that limited immigrants from Japan

31) **Immigration Quotas** – laws that restricted the number of immigrants from certain countries

**Part II: Study Questions**

**Answer the following questions in one T.E.A.L. paragraph each (5-7 sentences, with specific details and analysis), using AND citing at least two documents in each answer.**

1. **Discuss the impact of industrialization on American society. To what extent was it more positive or negative?**
2. **Why were labor unions formed? To what extent were they successful in achieving their goals?**

**\*\*\*\*Documents are on the next page\*\*\*\***

**Document #1: Industrial Growth 1860-1890**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Industrial Growth (1860-1890)** | **1860** | **1890** |
| **U.S. Population** | 31,450,000 | 62,600,000 |
| **Number of factories** | 140,500 | 335,400 |
| **Value of factories** | 1,000,000,000 | 6,500,000,000 |
| **Value of manufactured goods** | 1,900,000,000 | 9,400,000,000 |
| **Industrial Workers** | 1,300,000 | 4,200,000 |

**Document #2: Life of a Sweatshop Girl, 1902**

*The machines go like mad all day, because the faster you work the more money you get. Sometimes in my haste I get my finger caught and the needle goes right through it. It goes so quick though that it does not hurt much. I bind the finger up with a piece of cotton and go on working. We all have accidents like that. When the needle goes through the nail, it makes a sore finger. Or when it splinters a bone, it does much harm. Sometimes a finger has to come off. Generally though, one can be cured by a salve [bandage].*

*…We have just finished a strike in our business. It has spread all over and the United Brotherhood of Garment Workers was in it. We struck for shorter hours and after being out four weeks, won the fight. We only have to work 9 ½ hours a day and we get the same pay as before. So the union does good after all in spite of what some people say against it – that it just takes our money and does nothing.*

**Document 3: Pullman Strike, 1894**

In 1894, rail-car makers for the Pullman factory strike because their pay was decreased by at least 50% while the rent for the company homes they lived on was not decreased. Railway workers and unions from all over the country joined the Pullman workers. President Grover Cleveland sent in soldiers to break up the strike resulting in jailing of workers, riots between workers and soldiers and 4 dead and 20 injured workers.

“*We do not expect the company to concede our demands. We do not know what the outcome will be, and in fact we do not care much. We do know we are working for less wages than will maintain ourselves and our families in the necessaries of life, and on that proposition we absolutely refuse to work any longer”* – *Pullman Strike Spokesman*

**Document #4: Eugene V. Debs (labor union leader) on the need for labor to organize, 1894**

*We have only got a number, and a limited number, of poorly paid men in our organization, and when their income ceases they are starving. We have no power of the Government behind us. We have no recognized influence in society on our side. . . . On the other side the corporations are in perfect alliance; they have all of the things that money can command, and that means a subsidized press, that they are able to control the newspapers, and means a false or vitiated public opinion. The clergy almost steadily united in thundering their denunciations; then the courts, then the State militia, then the Federal troops; everything and all things on the side of the corporations.*