

Chapter Outlines

American Industrialization

I. The Machine Age (1865-1900)

A. Primary characteristics of American Industrialization

1. Production by machine rather than by hand
2. Involvement of an increasing proportion of the work force in manufacturing
3. Production concentrated in large, intricately organized factories
4. Accelerated technological innovation, emphasizing new inventions
5. Expanded markets, no longer local and regional in scope
6. Growth of a nationwide transportation network based on the railroad, along with a communications network based on the telegraph and telephone
7. Growth of large enterprises and specialization in all forms of economic activity
8. Steady increase in the size and predominance of cities

B. Iron and steel--central to development of American industry

1. **Andrew Carnegie**--Scottish immigrant who built the steel industry with a mill that integrated all stages of refinement process (from ore to finished rails)
2. Railroad growth fueled industrial development. Over 100,000 miles of track were laid between 1877 and 1893, doubling the U.S. network
 - a) Standardization of gauge (width of tracks set at 4 feet, 8 1/2 inches) encouraged development
 - b) **Time zone adoption** allowed co-ordination of systems (U.S. divided into four zones)
 - c) Adoption of steel rails, bearing heavier loads
 - d) Massive grants of American land (131 million acres from federal government, 49 million acres from states)

C. Oil & **John D. Rockefeller**

1. First oil derrick drilled in Titusville, Pennsylvania in 1859
2. Rockefeller organized Standard Oil Co. and bought out smaller refiners
3. Organized trusts to combine companies, reduce competition, and increase profits

II. Organization of American Labor

A. Labor strife arose in the 1870s with frequent strikes

1. **Haymarket Massacre**, Chicago, 1886 occurred when a bomb killed 7 and wounded 70
2. **Homestead Strike** in Pennsylvania, 1892 resulted in seven deaths
3. **Pullman Strike**, 1894 in Chicago temporarily stopped railroad traffic and required federal intervention

B. Labor organizations

1. **Knights of Labor** (1869). Sought to create one big union of all workers, skilled and unskilled. Opposed to strikes
2. **American Federation of Labor** (1886). Organized by Samuel Gompers. Focused on higher wages, shorter hours, and safer working conditions
3. **Eugene Debs and American Railway Union** (1892). Socialist approach that viewed government and owners as enemies of workers

Urbanization: The Rise of the American City

Outline

I. Sources of Urbanization

- A. As steam replaced waterpower for mills, industries concentrated geographically (iron makers in Pittsburgh, meat-packing in Chicago, Haverhill, Massachusetts in shoes, etc.)
- B. Large-scale production instantly created small cities of workers--company towns dominated by one industry.
- C. Gateways for **immigrants** (New York, Boston, San Francisco) provided abundant cheap labor.

II. Problems of the City

A. Mass transit

- 1. Until 1890, the horse car (with tracks) accounted for 70% of city traffic.
Limitations: Slow, Limited power, Piles of manure
- 2. Cable cars (first used in San Francisco in 1873) and electric trolley cars (Richmond, 1887) with overhead power lines replaced horses in many cities

B. Overcrowding in tenements

C. Poor sanitation, inadequate water supplies

IV. Corruption in the City

A. Police forces established to maintain law and order

- 1. Poorly defined duties
- 2. Ineffective in controlling theft, prostitution, gambling
- 3. Symbiotic relationships developed between police and institutions, such as saloons, they were supposed to oversee
- 4. Reform came slowly, as independent police commissions were established to control bribery and graft

B. **Political bosses** emerged, controlling city machines

- 1. Ward captains turned out voters on election day
- 2. Jobs handed out as political favors, as were tax breaks and licenses
- 3. While some machines provided welfare services, opportunities for corruption were great
 - a. **Boss Tweed** in New York's **Tammany Hall** controlled 60,000 jobs. He was arrested, bribed his way out of jail, escaped, re-caught and finally died in jail.
 - b. Big Jim Pendergast held absolute power in Kansas City, controlling gambling and liquor licenses

V. Battling the City's Problems

A. Reformers sought to counter poverty and other urban problems by focusing on moral uplift

- 1. YMCAs and YWCAs formed to provide housing and recreation opportunities
- 2. Salvation Army effective in providing emergency aid, housing, street kitchens
- 3. Comstock laws sought to close down gambling, pornography, prostitution, and Sunday liquor sales.

B. **Social Gospel** sought to apply teachings of Jesus' to the problems of urban society. Blame for problems did not rest with the poor, but with society.

- 1. Washington Gladden--true Christianity requires churchgoers to fight social injustice
- 2. Walter Rauschenbusch--Christianity and the Social Crisis. Churches should unite to reform the abuses of industry and fight for peace.

C. Settlement Houses--founded by **Jane Addams** to offer literacy classes, crafts classes, job training, and a sense of dignity to urban dwellers, particularly immigrants

Gilded Age Politics

Outline

I. Corruption of Grant Administration (1869-1877)

A. Gould-Fisk gold scheme--Gould & Fisk, two government-friendly financiers, attempted to use government influence to corner the gold market. Convincing Grant to hold U.S. gold from the market, they then proceeded to buy all the gold available.

B. **Credit Mobilier** scandal--The builders of the Union Pacific Railroad used a construction company they owned to build the rail line. Congress became involved when it was learned that several Congressmen were major stockholders in the company.

II. Civil Service Reform

A. Pres. **Garfield's assassination** by a disappointed office-seeker in 1881 convinced Congress to reform the system of awarding government jobs.

B. **Pendleton Civil Service Act** (1883) created system of competitive examinations for some government positions, thus reducing the influence of the patronage system.

C. Democratic Pres. **Grover Cleveland** added 12,000 jobs to the classified list, thus expanding the merit system.

III. Growth of Populism

A. Frustrated with the **laissez faire** attitude of the federal government and the cycle of falling prices, scarce money, and debt, farmers in the west organized the **Populist Party** in 1892. **Populist Party platform** (goals) was:

1) Tariff reduction 2) Graduated income tax 3) Public ownership of railroads 4) Popular election of senators 5) Currency reform

a) Since silver was removed as a currency in 1873, farmers had pushed for the unlimited coinage of silver in a 16:1 ratio. b) **Sherman Silver Purchase Act** (1890) allowed the government to purchase silver and thus increase the nation's money supply. c) **Panic of 1893** severely reduced farmers' purchasing power

B. As the depression worsened in the 1890s, Populists gained strength. **Coxey's Army** (thousands of protestors) marched to Washington to demand government jobs paid for with paper currency

C. In the election of 1896, the Populists joined the Democrats in supporting William Jennings Bryan, a strong supporter of silver interests which he argued eloquently in his "**Cross of Gold**" speech

D. Bryan was defeated by Republican **William McKinley**, a conservative supporter of business and high tariffs.