

The Gilded Age Guided Notes

- Time period: 1870s to 1900
- Mark Twain “labeled” this period the Gilded Age because the outward appearance of wealth & prosperity (gilding/gold) concealed the real truth of an increasingly troubled nation (base metal)
- The Gilded Age cannot be fully understood without addressing both the progress made during this time and the underlying problems it created

4 key concepts

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Industrialization

- **Industrialization** occurs when a nation's economic system _____ its reliance upon producing _____ and _____ its reliance upon producing _____.
- _____ arise when huge supplies of capital (money/funding) and labor are combined to lower production costs, raise each worker's output, and subsequently, create large amounts of goods.

The First Industrial Revolution

- Occurred between _____
- _____ textile mills employed thousands to turn the _____ from the _____ (mostly cotton) into finished products.
- Outside of the growing textile industry, however, most Americans considered a large business to be one that employed 100 workers.
- America's industrial base was limited to _____ - small businesses carried out in homes and communities with 2-5 employees
- Most of the goods were _____
- By the end of this _____ most people still worked on _____.

The Second Industrial Revolution

- Occurred during the _____ between _____
- New businesses emerged to _____ for America's growing industries and goods desired by American consumers.
- Most goods were produced by _____
- Most industrial businesses were located in _____ and employed thousands of workers.
- Industrial cities grew rapidly, especially in the northeast along the _____ region.
- By the end of this Second Industrial Revolution, the U.S. had become a mature industrial society in which two-thirds of Americans worked for wages in city jobs.
- After the Civil War, American industry changed dramatically

- _____ replaced hand labor as the main means of manufacturing, increasing the production capacity of industries
- _____ developed _____ the public wanted, and businesses made the products in _____
- Investors and bankers supplied the huge amounts of _____ (capital) that business leaders needed to expand their operations
- A new nationwide network of _____ distributed goods far and wide
- Factors that contributed to this dramatic change
- Improved _____ and _____
- The growth of _____ and a growing number of _____
- New _____ and _____
- Plentiful _____
- Plentiful _____
- _____ support

Transportation and Communication

- By the 1890s, the U.S. had the most extensive _____ in the world - railroads linked together cities in every state.
- By 1900, there were _____ of tracks in U.S.
- _____ carried natural resources like iron, coal, and minerals to cities where they became the raw materials for industrial use.
- Trains also carried food to the growing _____ and _____ from factories to consumers in all parts of the nation.
- The first _____ line was completed in 1869
- Railroad linkage with _____ and later _____ allowed it to standardize its operation and utilize uniform arrival and departure times
- Communication between trains and train stations was essential to safely move people and products across the nation
- Railroad expansion promoted the growth of heavy industry - such as _____ - because the railroads were the nation's largest purchaser of steel.

The Growth of Capitalism

- _____ is an economic and social system in which the means of production is privately owned by individuals
- Under capitalism, _____, _____, and _____ are traded and the profits are distributed to owners and/or investors
- This economic system gave rise to a group of Americans known as _____
- Their ownership of or investment in America's new industries generated immense personal wealth
- Among these new industrial capitalists were men like Cornelius _____ (railroad), John D. _____ (oil), and Andrew _____ (steel)
- The emergence of this ultra-wealthy class led to a widening socio-economic gap and sharp divisions in public opinion
- Those who regarded these industrial capitalists as a positive force in America referred to them as "_____"

- Those who regarded them as a negative force referred to them as “_____”

Captains of Industry

- Created _____
- Improved the _____
- Responsible for increasing the _____
- Established _____
- Used their wealth for the _____
- Established schools/universities
- Founded libraries
- Built museums
- Those who believed capitalists to be a positive force supported their position by referencing “the _____”
- Once personal needs have been met excess wealth should be used for the public good

Robber Barons

- _____ all competition (monopolies/trusts)
- _____ and underpaid their employees
- Allowed factories to operate in _____ and _____ conditions
- _____ the nation’s natural resources
- To counter the argument that capitalists were a negative force, many applied Darwin's theory of “_____”
- Government should not regulate competition allowing the “strongest” to rise to the top
- The wealthy are the most “valuable & fit” group in society
- Those who cannot achieve success are considered unfit and should be “weeded out” of society

New Technology

- During the Gilded Age, the number of new inventions skyrocketed
- Between 1860 and 1890 the US Patent Office registered _____
- Inventions were created in conjunction with the emerging new technologies –
- _____ – removed impurities from iron creating steel which was both lighter and stronger
- _____, _____, _____
- _____ replaced steam power
- _____ production replaced individual production
- _____ with huge output capacities replaced single workers with limited output capacity
- Early in the 1900s, innovations improved earlier technologies
- _____ were replaced by oil drills to extract crude oil directly from underground sources
- Centralized _____ replaced single use generators
- _____ boosted electrical output from central power stations
- _____ replaced direct current allowing electricity to travel longer distances
- _____ is developed to broaden the use of telegraphs

- _____ were replaced by “talking telegraphs” (telephone)
- _____ were developed to handle multiple phone routes rather than the earlier single connection process

Plentiful Resources

- The nation's abundant _____ helped power the industrial machines
- Forests provided _____ for construction and wooden products
- Miners took large quantities of _____ and _____ from the ground.
- Both of these resources were essential in the production of steel
- Steel was used to build machines, railroad tracks, bridges, automobiles, and skyscrapers.
- Other industrially valuable minerals included _____, _____, and _____
- Petroleum - the source of gasoline - became especially important with the mass production of the automobile in the early 20th century.

Plentiful Labor

- As industries grew, millions of people flocked to the cities in search of jobs
- By 1890, _____ of Americans _____ for wages, rather than owning a farm, business, or craft shop
- These workers came from varied sources including _____, _____, _____, and _____

American migrants

- Many Americans moved from the country to the city during this period
- Several factors contributed to such migration:
 - _____ drought reduced crop production
 - _____
 - _____ of new machinery
 - Young Americans drawn to the “_____” of city life

Women

- In the 1870s and 1880s, one in every six paid workers was a woman
- Most women who worked outside the homes were the ones with the _____
- The vast majority of working women (6 out of 7) were _____
- The _____ of women wage-earners was twice that of other women
- Working women received _____ and were often _____

Children

- By the 1880s, children made up more than _____ of the industrial labor force
- Nearly 1 in 5 children between the ages of _____ was employed
- Across America, many _____ were dependent upon the incomes of their children

- The wages of children laborers were usually about _____ of what adults received
- Laboring in the _____ of factories or mines was especially _____ to children who often suffered from _____

Immigrants

- A substantial proportion of the labor force consisted of _____
- From 1871-1901, _____ immigrants arrived, more than all previous immigration combined
- This was the largest _____ immigration in world history

Government Support

- Rapid industrialization would not have been possible without a great deal of support from _____ and _____, as well as the _____ and _____
- Government was hesitant to _____ fearful that the overall national economy would suffer
- Government practiced a “_____” (hands off) policy
- Although Congress passed the _____ to limit the formation of monopolies, it was seldom enforced

Immigration

- In the late 1880s, people across the world were on the move as a result of
- crop failures, job shortages, rising taxes, political instability, or religious persecution (_____)
- The United States received a huge portion of this global migration
- Between 1865 and 1890 close to 10 million people entered the US
- Hopes for freedom, desire to “get rich”, education, no forced military service (_____)
- Prior to 1890, most immigrants came from central and western Europe. After 1890 that shifted to southern and eastern Europe
- Prior to 1880 the decision about who could or could not enter America was controlled by the individual states
- By 1891 the _____ was fully responsible for determining who would be allowed to settle in America
- Immigrants entered America through several _____
- The majority of European immigrants came through _____
- Asian immigrants usually arrived through _____
- At either _____, immigrants faced severe scrutiny
- Physical exams- no contagious diseases
- Proof of a place to stay (friends or family)
- No criminal record
- Once admitted, most immigrants settled into urban “_____”– areas where one racial or ethnic group dominated
- Well-known ghettos included New York’s “_____” and San Francisco’s “_____”

- _____, physically and culturally dissimilar to Americans and Europeans, were often the targets of suspicion and hostility
- In the mid-1800s, approx. 250,000 Chinese arrived in America as indentured workers for _____
- Chinese immigrants often avoided conflict with non-Chinese by choosing to live in their _____ **(self segregating)**
- _____ fought to exclude Chinese laborers because of the impact of their willingness to accept _____
- Other groups, believing that Asians were inferior to white Americans, claimed that the Chinese were not “_____” of becoming Americans
- Congress responded to the demands of the unions and others by passing the _____
- Prohibited the entry of Chinese laborers into the US
- Those who had already become residents could stay
- Act was not repealed until 1943
- Japanese immigrants faced similar discrimination
- Many arrived through Hawaii after annexation in 1898
- Most owned private businesses and did not compete for jobs
- Prejudiced San Francisco schools voted to segregate white and Japanese students
- Japan’s government condemned this action as a treaty violation
- _____ was reached between Teddy Roosevelt & Japan (no segregation in return for no new immigration)
- With the passage of the _____, millions of acres of newly irrigated land became farmable
- Facing a _____ in the region, employers hired _____ laborers to work on their farms and ranches
- Between 1900 and 1910 nearly 50,000 Mexicans entered the United States.
- Mexican immigrants were “_____” to the US by the opportunity at a better life. They were “_____” by the 1910 Mexican Civil War
- Between 1910 and 1920 hundreds of thousands of Mexicans had come to America to escape the war
- By 1925, _____ had the largest Spanish-speaking population of any city outside of Mexico

Urbanization

- The impact of _____ and _____ was felt most profoundly in America’s _____
- Between 1880 and 1910, the percentage of the nation’s population living on farms fell from 72 to 54 percent
- Machines replaced the need for farm laborers
- Natural disasters such as drought and floods ruined crops
- Opportunities in the factories attracted young rural residents
- Post Reconstruction violence and Jim Crow discrimination prompted African Americans to leave the South
- Before the Civil War, cities were no larger than 3 or 4 miles across
- Most city residents lived close to their jobs and walked

- As the size and populations of cities grew, workers were forced to live wherever they could find _____
- Many found themselves in _____ buildings where sanitation and safety were below standard
- Typical tenements housed hundreds of families in a space designed for only a few families
- The lack of _____ and _____ made these tenements attractive to rats who often spread disease to the people living there
- The development of _____ changed that pattern as people could now move out of the city center
- “_____” areas developed around the perimeter of the cities making them larger and more widespread
- _____ was essential in this urban transformation as residents in these new “suburbs” needed _____, _____, and _____ to get to work
- Cities grew _____ as well as _____ at this time
- Before 1865 buildings were no more than five stories tall
- After the introduction of steel and the invention of the elevator, buildings could now rise well beyond ten stories
- There were both positive and negative outcomes from urbanization
- _____ --new jobs, new opportunities, new housing, and new transportation
- _____ --urban poverty, sub-standard housing, environmental degradation, increased crime and violence

Political Corruption

- The US faced many challenges in the postwar era
- _____, the emergence of a _____, and the _____ of America’s cities required a change in government’s involvement
- Among the issues “PROGRESSIVELY” needing to be addressed were _____, _____, and _____
- Politicians often ignored these public needs focusing instead on their own personal gains
- In the late 1800s, businesses operated largely without _____
- The common belief was that if left alone, strong businesses would survive and the country would benefit
- This hands off approach, known as *laissez-faire*, allowed industries and corporations to do whatever they wanted to generate a profit
- The lack of intervention often created a sense that government was pro-business and anti-worker
- To ensure that government would continue to support them, many capitalists gave politicians money and gifts
- Corruption in government was not limited to industry
- Often, politicians would use their influence to place their friends and families in government jobs, regardless of their qualifications (spoils system)
- Providing unqualified people with jobs in return for help in an election led to inefficiency and dishonesty in government

