

SSUSH11 – Examine connections between the rise of big business, the growth of labor unions, and technological innovations.

The modern United States was influenced by the growth of big business, the rise of labor unions, and advances in technological innovation. By the early 20th century, the American industrial economy had outstripped that of European competitors. Entrepreneurs, including Andrew Carnegie and J.D. Rockefeller, built vast corporations that changed the business landscape. By forming trusts and monopolies, big businesses were able to control production and prices in the market. Production and industries were also supplemented by new technologies that allowed for instant communication and twenty-four hour factory operation. With greater factory production demands came greater demands on workers. Large immigrant populations arriving in the United States during the period filled the labor force. These immigrants were poor and willing to work for low wages. They also outnumbered the jobs available. As a result, business owners had the upper hand and often took advantage of workers. Labor unions emerged in the United States to address the nation's growing labor concerns. The period of economic growth in the United States also brought with it challenges to balance big business and labor.

Resources:

1. The **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** is a resource that provides teachers with lesson plans, primary documents, secondary source essays, and multimedia specific to each historical era. Gilder Lehrman resources include ready-to-use classroom materials and quality background information for teachers to better understand the deeper contexts of American history topics. Full access to the materials requires the teacher to obtain a free login.
Historical Era #7 - "Rise of Industrial America, 1877-1900"
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/rise-industrial-america-1877-1900>

SSUSH11 – Examine connections between the rise of big business, the growth of labor unions, and technological innovations.

- a. Explain the effects of railroads on other industries including steel and oil.

A period of technological growth emerged after the Civil War and transformed American society with wide ranging new innovation. However, it was the railroad industry that impacted the economy like no other. Railroad construction dramatically increased after the Civil War. In fact, the United States went from having 35,000 miles of track in 1865 to over 193,000 miles of track by 1900. **Railroads** connected vast regions of the United States and allowed for the efficient transport of goods. The geographic connections railroads allowed created a national market. No longer were goods and products regional. Instead mass production and distribution of items created larger corporations and enormous profits.

The **steel industry** made possible the expansion of railroads given that the tracks are made of steel. The railroad companies were the biggest customers of the steel industry because thousands of miles of steel track were laid to connect all areas of the United States. To supply their biggest customers, steel producers developed cheap, efficient methods for the mass production of steel rails.

These low-cost methods enabled more industries, beyond just railroads, to afford the steel companies' products. Large steel corporations, such as Carnegie Steel, produced more steel than any other company in the world.

Oil production in the late 19th century was also linked to the growing railroad industry of the period. Drilling for oil in remote areas meant that the product had to be transported east for consumption as a fuel supply. The railroads made the transport possible from pipelines to the market. Oil companies, such as Standard Oil, and railroads that transported the oil both made vast fortunes during the period.

Other industries were also impacted by the expansion of railroads. Consider, for example, the Pullman Sleeping Car, which was developed for the comfort of long distance travelers. These cars needed glass for windows, cloth for seats, wood for the car construction, bedding for the sleepers, and a myriad of other small fittings to hold the entire car together. To increase train safety, signal systems were developed, better braking systems were invented, and the national time zones were created out of necessity. All of these components were driven by production to support the railroad industry.

The railroads, as the single largest business in the United States in the late 19th century, also changed the way businesses were organized. Significant capital investment was needed to create and maintain a nation-wide business. This capital was acquired through both public (i.e. government) subsidies to railroads and from private business investments. Large professionally trained managerial staffs were needed to keep up with passengers, cargo, and equipment. It became necessary for new means of accounting to track the large quantities needed for railroads to be efficient, cost effective, and profitable. Internal organization led in turn to the consolidation of many railroads. This was especially true as economic panic caused less profitable lines to collapse and be absorbed by larger more profitable firms.

Resources:

1. **The Library of Congress** has an online American Memory Timeline featuring "Railroads in the Late 19th Century." Included on the site are links to documents and a background essay. <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/riseind/railroad/>

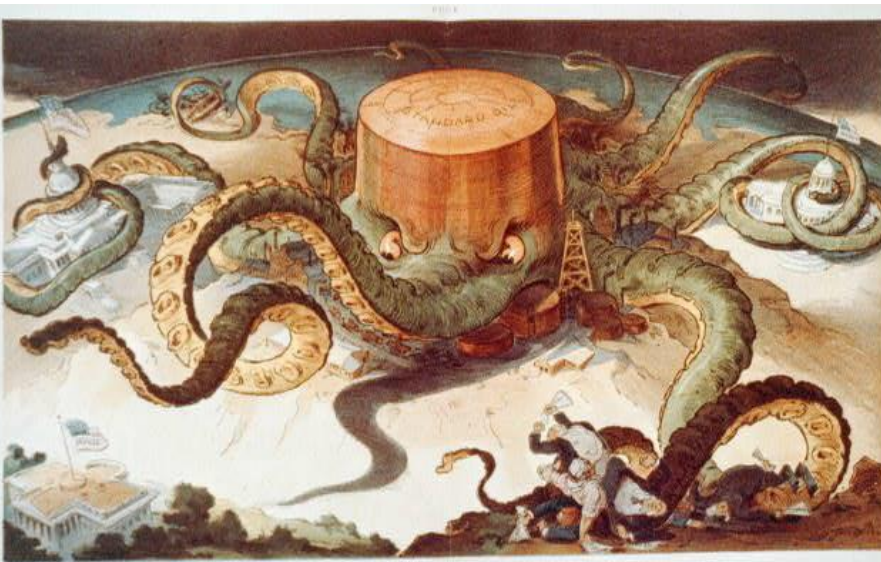
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b. Examine the significance of John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie in the rise of trusts and monopolies.

The period after the Civil War was a time when businesses sought to maximize their profits by combining competing corporations into a single entity. These large consolidated companies were able to control prices, production, and sales and also able to establish a monopoly. There are several individuals from this era who are known for the monopolies they created. These include John D. Rockefeller (Standard Oil) and Andrew Carnegie (Carnegie Steel). Others of the period, who are not specifically included in this SSUSH11 element but could be used as other examples, include Cornelius Vanderbilt (Railroads), Jay Gould (Railroads), and J.P. Morgan (banking and finance).

John D. Rockefeller was known for his economy, precision, and foresight in creating one of America's landmark corporations - Standard Oil. After obtaining a degree in business, Rockefeller started out as a bookkeeper and clerk in a wholesale grain and produce business in Cleveland, Ohio in 1855. His diligence and hard work won him great admiration. His idea of thrift gave him the capital to start his own wholesale grain business in the early 1860s. However, Rockefeller soon realized that the growth of agriculture in the upper Mississippi Valley would eclipse Cleveland's role in grain sales and foresaw Cleveland's location could serve as a clearinghouse for raw materials.

The newest commodity gaining popularity and usage was oil. In 1863, Rockefeller entered the oil refining business. Oil had been discovered in Pennsylvania in 1859. In order for the oil to be used, it needed to be refined into a distilled spirit - kerosene. Rockefeller began by developing a business that transported petroleum products. Rockefeller sought to cut his costs by creating his own barrel-making factory. He also cut costs by buying forestland for the wood to make the barrels and horses and wagons to transport the petroleum products to market. His practice is what is known today as vertical integration. This creates a business that consists of all elements of production from raw material to sale of the finished product. As a result, profits can be maximized by cutting costs of production.



"Next!" by Udo Keppler, 1904

In 1870, Rockefeller created Standard Oil. Rockefeller began to buy up inefficient refineries and closed those that were too expensive to renovate and improved those that showed promise. When railroads proved inefficient for his needs, he built a pipeline from the oil field to the refinery. By 1879, Rockefeller and Standard Oil controlled 90% of the refining capacity in the United States. In 1882,

Rockefeller combined his many companies into the Standard Oil Trust. The trust enabled Standard Oil to monopolize all aspects of the oil industry from production to marketing. With a **monopoly or trust**, the competition has been eliminated in the market. No competition means a business owner can set any price they want for the goods they are selling. A monopoly or trust is good for the business owner but harmful to consumers who pay higher prices.

Another successful big business owner of the late 19th century was **Andrew Carnegie**. As a boy, his family immigrated to the United States from Scotland. The family worked hard to barely scrape by as they settled in Pennsylvania. Andrew began working in a textile mill at age thirteen. He later began working in the railroad industry and progressed through the ranks to superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad. With good investments, his wealth began to build. By the 1860s, Carnegie had moved to the ironworks industry.

The Carnegie Steel Company used the latest technology of the Bessemer process to forge steel more efficiently. The increased production of steel and the use of vertical integration allowed Andrew Carnegie to amass the first billion-dollar company. Carnegie's use of vertical integration is similar to that of J.D. Rockefeller. He controlled the entire production process from resource to finished product, which included mining the raw materials, industrial production of steel, and transportation for both resources and finished products.



"Our 'infant' industries --
Why can't they be content with the half they make honestly?"
by Udo Keppler, 1900

A feature that distinguishes Andrew Carnegie from other big business entrepreneurs is the level of philanthropy he supported with his wealth. The others certainly contributed huge sums to charity but it was Andrew Carnegie that made a mark with his investments in society. He was devoted to educational opportunities for the masses - not just the wealthy. To this end, Carnegie funded over 3,000 libraries across the United States. In addition, he gave millions of dollars to finance higher education universities in the United States and in Scotland. At the time of his death, Carnegie had given over \$350 million to charitable causes. The value of his charitable donations today would be in the billions of dollars.

The rise of both J.D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie as powerful and wealthy entrepreneurs is attributed to their skillful and shrewd business dealings. They were able to successfully maximize their

profits by cutting costs in production through the practice of vertical integration. They also limited their competition by forming monopolies. The monopolies they created in the oil and steel industries allowed them to control the prices of their goods; thus keeping them as high as possible. There was limited competition in the market to undercut their prices. The fortunes they amassed were often at the expense of small business owners and consumers. While society benefitted from their charitable investments, many people were also hurt by their business methods.

Resources:

1. **The History Channel** has a comprehensive mini-series entitled "The Men Who Built America." The documentary is highly engaging for students and there are episodes devoted to the rise of Carnegie and Rockefeller. The link below is to a PDF document created by the History Channel to guide teachers in using the documentary effectively with students.
<https://history-prod-content.s3.amazonaws.com/shows/classroom/Men Who Built America.pdf>

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- c. Examine the influence of key inventions on U.S. infrastructure, including but not limited to the telegraph, telephone, and electric light bulb.

The infrastructure of the United States was changed over time by various inventions. Some of the most important inventions were influenced by the conduction of electric current that was realized in the 1830s. Transmitting electric current enabled instant communication by way of telegraph transmission and later the telephone. In the 1870s, Thomas Edison changed American businesses and homes with the invention of the electric light bulb. The effects of technological advances forever changed how people lived and worked.

The changes in communication, as well as the expansion of railroads, helped to better connect the quickly expanding West with the industrializing East. The transfer of information, resources, and marketable goods connected all regions of the United States. **Telegraph** communication was the first nationwide information transmitter. Samuel Morse invented the technology in 1832. The telegraph machine received coded messages across electric wires connecting long distances. Morse Code is the system of dots and dashes that correspond to letters of the alphabet. Telegraph operators decoded the messages sent instantaneously across the telegraph wires. With the development of telegraph technology, business could be more efficiently conducted between industrial centers in the East and their sources for raw materials in the South and West. The Civil War was the first war conducted with the use of widespread telegraph connectivity. Abraham Lincoln and his Secretary of War Edwin Stanton received almost daily updates at the Washington DC telegraph office from various fighting fronts and were able to coordinate the entire war based on real time information from the field.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell further expanded on the telegraph's capability for instant communication. He invented the **telephone**, which allowed for voice - to - voice communication over electric wires. As was true for the telegraph, the telephone impacted the United States by allowing

instant communication. With the invention of the telephone, conversations were more efficient and true discussion between individuals in distant locations was made possible.

Thomas Edison was one of the most famous and successful American inventors. He invented a wide variety of technologies and held over 1,000 patents. Edison established the concept of industrial research, which allowed him to develop and expand his wide-ranging ideas. He founded a research laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey that was staffed by engineers and technicians under his direction.

One of Edison's most revolutionary inventions was the **electric light bulb**. Not only did this development allow factories to be lit and operate twenty-four hours a day, but the light bulb also illuminated buildings, streets, and neighborhoods across the United States. The light bulb was developed in the 1870s and quickly replaced the more dangerous and expensive lamp oils that burned for illumination.

With greater technological innovation, such as the telegraph, telephone, and electric light bulb came greater connectivity and productivity for the development of industry in the United States. The late nineteenth century was a time of great change in the way people lived and conducted business in part because of these inventions. Communities invested in the technology that in turn cut costs to individuals. The United States became a contending industrial producer during the same period in part because of the efficient production of products and ease of communication for business across great distances.

Resources:

1. **Thomas Edison's Menlo Park Museum** includes background information on Edison's research laboratory and resources for teachers.
<http://www.menloparkmuseum.org>

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d. Describe Ellis and Angel Islands, the change in immigrants' origins and their influence on the economy, politics, and culture of the United States.

The last quarter of the nineteenth century was marked by a great deal of turmoil in Europe. Low wages, unemployment, disease, forced military conscription, and religious persecution inspired immigrants to flee their homelands and immigrate to the United States. These groups formed the bulk of the "new immigration" coming to America. Chinese immigrants also came to America and settled in California. Immigrants who entered the United States were processed at Ellis Island in New York and Angel Island in California. Each facility conducted the screening of immigrants in vastly different ways. The immigrants who did gain entry into the United States influenced the nation's economy, politics, and culture.

Prior to the 1880s, the majority of immigrants to the United States came from northern and western Europe. During the colonial period immigrants were overwhelmingly English, with smaller

groups of Scots, Germans, and French settling in America. In the decades after the American Revolution, large groups of Irish and German immigrants arrived. After the Civil War, more Eastern and Southern Europeans immigrated to America. Between 1880 and 1920, over 20 million immigrants entered the United States.

These latest newcomers greatly affected the social as well as the economic and political landscape. Because poverty and political instability were common in their home countries, the new immigrants were likely to be poor. Often they were Jewish or Catholic and spoke no English. Poverty prevented many from buying farmland, so most worked as unskilled laborers and mostly lived in northern cities. Whether Asian on the west coast or European on the east coast, these new immigrants tended to settle in areas populated by people from their same country. They formed neighborhoods where immigrants spoke the same languages and worshipped in the same ways. The new immigrants did not appear to blend into American society in the way earlier immigrants had.



There were 21 immigrant-processing centers. The two most famous were Ellis Island in New York and Angel Island in California. **Ellis Island Immigrant Station** located in New York Harbor was opened in 1892. By 1924, the station had processed 12 million immigrants. By some estimates, 40% of all Americans today can trace their port of entry back to Ellis Island. Upon arrival in New York Harbor, immigrants were transported from their ships by barges to the immigrant-processing center.

Arrivals to Ellis Island were asked 29 questions including name, occupation, and the amount of money carried. The inspection process lasted from three to seven hours. As more restrictive laws were passed in the 1890s, more rigorous provision for entry was required. About 2% of the immigrants seeking entry were denied admission to the United States and sent back to their country of origin. Some of the reasons for denied access were chronic and contagious disease, criminal background or insanity.

Angel Island Immigrant Station was quite different from Ellis Island. Approximately 1 million Asian immigrants were processed at Angel Island between 1910 and 1940. There was strong resistance to Chinese immigrants in the late 1800s, which resulted in the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. Chinese immigrants had been hired as workers to complete construction of the Transcontinental Railroad in the 1860s. They were discriminated against and taken advantage of by railroad companies. The Chinese workers were paid half of what European workers earned and were required to do the most dangerous jobs of blasting and laying rail ties over the treacherous terrain of the high Sierra Mountains. Once the railroad was complete, the hostility toward Chinese immigrants escalated.

As a result of this open discrimination and Nativist opposition, Chinese immigrants wanting entry into the United States spent weeks, months, and sometimes years on Angel Island awaiting approval for entry into the United States. Approximately 18% of immigrants to Angel Island were rejected, of which the vast majority were from China. The interrogation process at Angel Island was

much more lengthy and specific than at Ellis Island. Immigrants had to have American witnesses or family members come to Angel Island to vouch for the accuracy of their answers.

The impact of immigrants on American society was significant. Over-crowded cities led to increased problems with crime and disease. Increased demand for agricultural and industrial goods spurred economic growth. Low-wage labor was available to work in the growing American industrial economy. New cultural items such as Italian opera, Polish polkas, Russian literature, kindergarten, and new foods, such as spaghetti, frankfurters and hamburgers, became a part of the American culture and diet. Nativists viewed the fast-growing immigrant population as dangerous to the American political system. Poll taxes and literacy tests were used to restrict immigrants from voting in ways similar to those used to restrict Blacks from voting in many Southern states.

The United States is a nation of immigrants. The number of immigrants coming to the United States for opportunity increased during the last decades of the nineteenth century. The immigrants arriving at that time were also from different areas of Europe and Asian than had previously been common. Although there was bitter resistance to these immigrants, there were many positive contributions to the economy and social makeup of the United States.

Resources:

1. **The National Park Service Ellis Island** website contains background information on the facility as well as collections of documents and data about immigrant arrivals. There are resources for teachers included as well.
<https://www.nps.gov/elis/index.htm>
2. **The California State Park Angel Island** website contains background information on the immigration station as well as the island itself.
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1309

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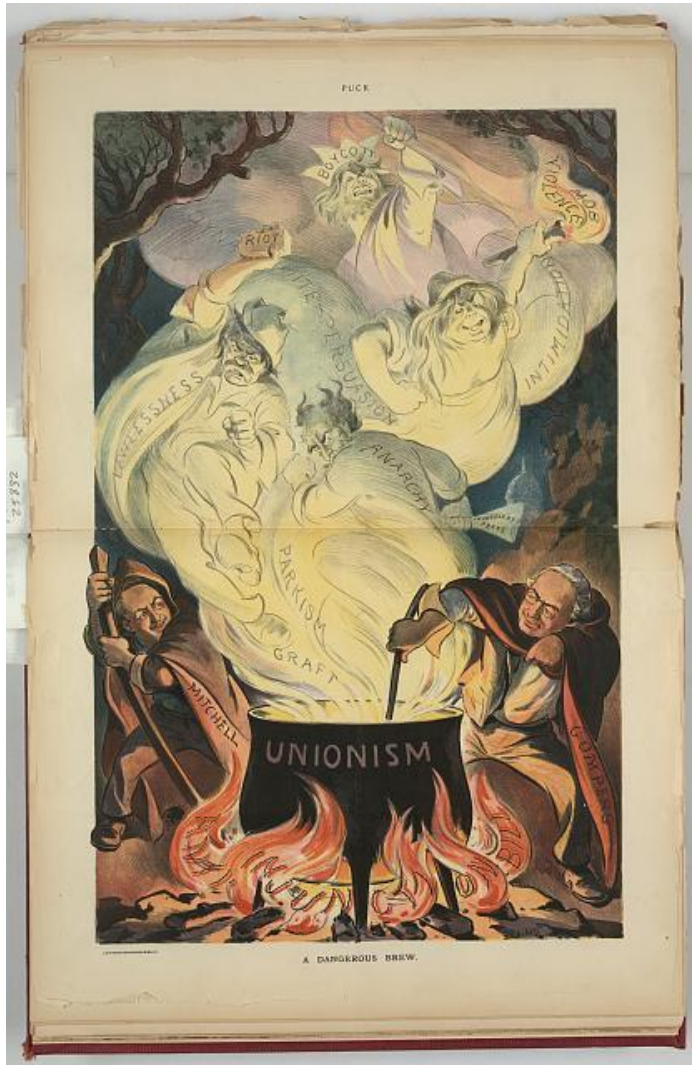
e. Discuss the origins, growth, influence, and tactics of labor unions including the American Federation of Labor.

Unskilled laborers were subject to low wages, long workdays, no vacations, and unsafe workplaces. Because individual workers had little power to change the way an employer ran a business, workers banded together in labor unions to demand better pay and working conditions. There was strength in numbers. Over time, labor unions grew significantly and influenced business operation. Union strategies included strikes, protest, and political influence. The American Federation of Labor is an example of one of the early labor unions in the United States that wielded significant power.

Originally, **labor unions** were organized for either skilled or unskilled workers. Each group had its own union. The unions relied on collective bargaining to obtain their demands. However, when employers refused to bargain, unions used direct action (i.e., labor strikes) to obtain concessions. The earliest national labor union to use these methods was the Knights of Labor, which was founded in 1869. Members of the union were both skilled and unskilled workers. While initially effective, the union lost

influence and power after the organization failed to win concession in the Missouri Pacific Railroad Strike and suffered distrust from the Haymarket Affair in 1886. Furthermore, skilled workers were reluctant to support lower paid unskilled workers when the latter went out on strike.

Samuel Gompers, a Jewish immigrant from England who came to the United States in 1863, was a cigar maker by trade. In 1886, he helped create the **American Federation of Labor**, often referred to as the AFL. He was president of the union from 1886-1924. His union accepted only skilled workers. The AFL was also designed in such a way that workers were organized by craft rather than by geography, which had been the method used by the Knights of Labor.



"A Dangerous Brew" by S.D. Ehrhart, 1904

Gompers did not see capitalism as the enemy, as had radical members of the Knights of Labor. He also urged union members to work with owners for higher pay and better working conditions. The American Federation of Labor was not trying to reform the universal economic system; rather it promoted practical goals that would impact the daily lives of individual workers. Even though Gompers supported negotiation between workers and owners, he was not above using work stoppages (labor strikes) to obtain what was desired.

Gompers' tactics proved to be very effective until the Great Depression. The AFL was successful due to its sheer numbers - over one million members by 1901 and four million members at its height of power. The development of labor unions of the United States, including the AFL and others, brought more awareness to the growing division between business management and workers. The conflict between the two groups sometimes turned violent, as was the case at the Haymarket protest and the Homestead Steel Factory strike. The labor unions did bring about a much greater awareness of the need for better unity between all employee levels in a

business.

Resources:

1. **The History Channel** provides background information on the labor movement in the United States. Discussion of the rise of labor unions is included in the material. In addition to a background essay, there are video clips that can be used with students.
<http://www.history.com/topics/labor>

SSUSH12 – Evaluate how westward expansion impacted the Plains Indians and fulfilled Manifest Destiny.

As eastern regions of the United States became more industrialized after the Civil War, people seeking rural livelihoods moved farther and farther west. In turn, American Indians had to compete with these newcomers for land. A series of brutal wars ensued as various Plains Indian tribes attacked settlers, wagon trains, and the Army in an effort to protect their lands. While the American population of settlers spanned the continent and fulfilled the Manifest Destiny of Americans to control the lands between and including both coastlines, the American Indians suffered grave consequences.

Resources:

1. The **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** is a resource that provides teachers with lesson plans, primary documents, secondary source essays, and multimedia specific to each historical era. Under the link to this particular era is a section devoted to the development of the West. Gilder Lehrman resources include ready-to-use classroom materials and quality background information for teachers to better understand the deeper contexts of American history topics. Full access to the materials requires the teacher to obtain a free login.
Historical Era #7 - "Rise of Industrial America, 1877-1900"
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/rise-industrial-america-1877-1900>

SSUSH12 – Evaluate how westward expansion impacted the Plains Indians and fulfilled Manifest Destiny.

- a. Examine the construction of the transcontinental railroad including the use of immigrant labor.

The construction of the Transcontinental Railroad would not have been possible had a large supply of immigrant labor not been available. Other critical components of the railroad's construction include public investment through land grants and guaranteed construction costs. The federal government granted vast areas of western land to railroad owners. Railroad right-of-ways were 10 miles wide, plus 400 feet so the railroads could sell the land to help finance the cost of construction.

Generally, Irish and German laborers constructed the rail route from east to west. The owners of the Central Pacific Railroad, who were building the line from California initially brought European immigrants from the east but had trouble keeping them working due to the proximity and lure of the gold fields. As replacements, the owners hired available Chinese labor in California and then brought in



Driving the Last Spike Ceremony - Promontory Summit, Utah (May 10, 1869)

additional Chinese labor to complete the task. Chinese workers were paid approximately \$28-\$35 per month (compared to \$50 European workers earned) to do the very dangerous work of blasting and laying ties over the treacherous terrain of the high Sierras. The work was very dangerous and many Chinese laborers died in the explosive blasts they ignited to cut the solid rock roadbed. Many others died under landslides and heavy snowfalls before the Transcontinental Railroad was completed.

The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad connected the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Workers drove the final spike at Promontory Point in the Utah territory in 1869 to open the railroad. The ability to transport people and goods across the nation with the efficient speed of the railroad opened the West to greater population migration. Manifest Destiny was furthered by the connection of the West by rail.

Resources:

1. **The Gilder Lehrman Institute** features an essay and resources on “The Joining of the Rails: The Transcontinental Railroad.” There are essays, images, documents, and teacher resources compiled on the site.

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-now/2014-01/joining-rails-transcontinental-railroad>

SSUSH12 – Evaluate how westward expansion impacted the Plains Indians and fulfilled Manifest Destiny.

- b. Evaluate how the growth of the western population and innovations in farming and ranching impacted Plains Indians.

The railroad companies contributed to the development of the West by selling low-cost parcels of their western land for farming. Settlers, lured by the Homestead Act of 1862, traveled west on the trains to farm the fertile soil. Western farmers used the trains to ship their grain east and cattle ranchers shipped their steer to eastern butchers. Both farmers and ranchers sold their goods to people who could not easily be reached without railroads. The railroads earned money by transporting settlers west and goods east. As settlers began to populate the west in growing numbers, they brought with them new farming and ranching techniques.

Ranching in the West had been based on the open-range system prior to the 1880s. Cattle were branded with the symbol of their owner’s ranch.



Round Up Scene - 1887

Property was not enclosed by costly fencing, which meant the branded cattle roamed freely. Cowboys were hired by ranch owners each spring to go on extensive round-ups to collect the cattle belonging to that owner. The round-up could cover hundreds of miles given the open-range. The cowboys would then “drive” the cattle to the closest railroad line, which could also be hundreds of miles away and take weeks or even months to complete. The work of the cowboys was difficult and often lonely.

During the late 1880s, the open-range system declined with the development of barbed wire fencing. The new fencing material made it incredibly cheap and easy to enclose even the largest of ranches. The work of cowboys changed as cattle round-ups and drives took on new characteristics centered within the newly enclosed ranches. Plains Indians were impacted by the change in ranching. Many of the nomadic tribes became restricted in their ability to roam freely when land was roped off by barbed wire fencing. Conflict over land claims also escalated as ranchers began to claim larger tracts of land that were also inhabited by American Indians.

Farming in the West was also transformed after the Civil War as more settlers moved to the region. Life was hard for the homesteaders who worked to make a life for their families. New plows were introduced that could tackle the tough sod of the West. With the increased plowing and more scientific methods of farming, the West was a more desirable location for settlers to make a new start. The increased plowing and farming coupled with drought led to environmental challenges that became significant issues in the early twentieth century.

American Indians in the region were impacted by the increased population and farming because once again their land was being claimed by White settlers. The ability of Plains Indians to migrate with the buffalo herd was limited as more farmers sectioned off their land with barbed wire and changed the landscape with their farming methods.

Resources:

1. **The University of Nebraska- Lincoln** hosts an Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, which contains information of cattle ranching, farming, cowboys, and American Indians in the West during the 1800s. There are images as well as essays containing background information on this site.
<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.ag.019>

SSUSH12 – Evaluate how westward expansion impacted the Plains Indians and fulfilled Manifest Destiny.

- c. Explain the Plains Indians’ resistance to western expansion of the United States and the consequences of their resistance.

In 1868, the United States government reached an agreement with many of the Plains Indian tribes when they signed the Fort Laramie Treaty. The provisions stated that in exchange for receiving land set aside for them in the Black Hills of the Dakotas, the Plains nations agreed to not harass or threaten western settlers. The treaty was not very effective after gold was discovered in the Black Hills in 1875. Settlers flooded the area searching for gold in violation of the treaty and warfare broke out.

The Great Sioux War of 1876-1877 culminated in the Battle of the Little Big Horn that resulted in the deaths of most of the United States' Seventh Cavalry Unit. Even though the Plains Indians won the battle, they still faced insurmountable challenges with the superior numbers and organization of the U.S. Army. The United States government challenged the American Indians by targeting the buffalo and wiping out the Plains tribes' main food supply. While some American Indian bands escaped to Canada, most of the surviving Plains tribes were forced to live on reservations.



Sitting Bull

One of the great American Indian leaders of the period was the Lakota leader, Sitting Bull (Tatanka-lyotanka). He became a noted warrior as a result of the fighting between the United States and the Lakota in 1863. After continued incursions into Lakota Territory in 1876, Sitting Bull led the coalition of Plains tribes against the U.S. Army. The resulting conflict was the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Afterward, a large force of U.S. Army troops relentlessly pursued the Plains bands subduing some groups but Sitting Bull led his people into Canada. After five years in exile and unable to feed his people, Sitting Bull returned to the United States and finally agreed to settle on a reservation.

About ten years later, Sitting Bull's tribe was urged to join the new Ghost Dance religious movement that was sweeping through the Plains tribes. The American Indians believed their ceremony would reestablish their ancestral lands and repopulate the buffalo herd, thus restoring the Sioux's lost greatness. As some of Sitting Bull's followers were ordered to be brought back to the reservation, a confrontation with elements of the Seventh Cavalry ensued.

As the soldiers began to confiscate weapons from the Sioux, a shot was fired. Some of Sitting Bull's followers may have been convinced that their Ghost shirts would protect them as they resisted the soldiers. This tragic gun battle at Wounded Knee ended in the deaths of over 300 Sioux, including women and children. This was the last major conflict between American Indians and the U.S. Army and signaled the end of resistance to white settlers' westward expansion.

Resources:

1. **The Smithsonian National Museum of American History** offers a collection of artifacts and images to supplement background information regarding the Plains Indian Wars in the West. Featured topics include the Battle of Little Big Horn and the Buffalo Soldiers who fought with the American forces.
<https://amhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/printable/section.asp?id=6>

SSUSH13 – Evaluate efforts to reform American society and politics in the Progressive Era.

The perceived excesses of business and industry coupled with growing social concerns inspired reformers to make important improvements in America’s political and social environment. These reformers were known as Progressives. The Progressive Era marks the second definitive era of social and political reform, comparable to the reform movements of the 1840s. Progressive reforms strengthened American democracy in ways carried forward into present times. Sadly, these reforms did not extend to all parts of American society as Blacks found themselves left out of reform efforts.

Resources:

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Historical Era #8 - Progressive Era to New Era, 1900-1929
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/progressive-era-new-era-1900-1929>

SSUSH13 – Evaluate efforts to reform American society and politics in the Progressive Era.

- a. Describe the influence of muckrakers on affecting change by bringing attention to social problems.

The term “**muckraker**” originated from a speech given by President Theodore Roosevelt in which he praised journalists for their role in uncovering corruption and problems often hidden from society. Through their writing in well-circulated newspapers and books that were published during the time period, an awareness of underlying societal problems drove demands for reform from the public and government officials.

One book, in particular, had a significant impact on the meat processing industry. *The Jungle* (1906) was intended to expose the dangerous working conditions faced by immigrant workers. Instead, the book is remembered for exposing the unclean procedures common in the Chicago meatpacking industry. In 1904, Upton Sinclair was sent by a socialist magazine to work undercover in the Chicago meatpacking industry. In his undercover research, Sinclair learned about all aspects of meat processing and about the lives of the immigrant workers who made up the labor force. It took Sinclair two years to publish his novel because of its horrific subject matter. The novel was an instant success.

Just as *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* brought the issue of abolition into middle class homes of the 1850s, Sinclair’s novel had a similar effect in rousing the middle class in calling for action against unsafe food packaging and preparation. Popular history has President Theodore Roosevelt reading the novel at breakfast and resolving to take action against the practices described by the novelist. *The Jungle* served as an impetus for passage of laws to regulate the meatpacking industry.

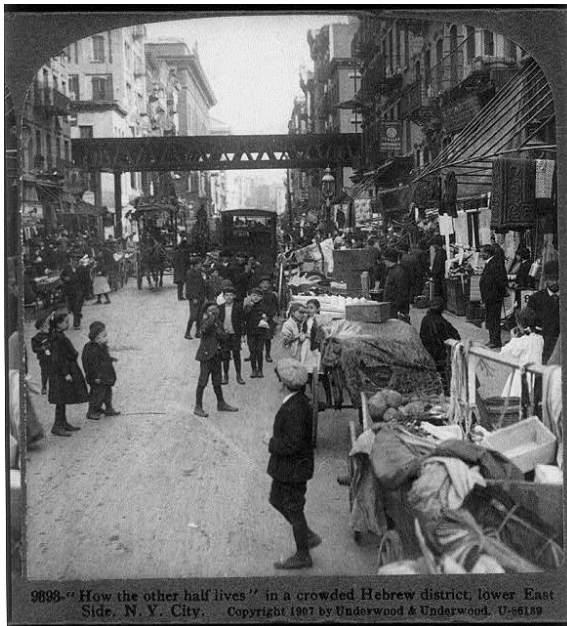
The role of the government was expanded by the Progressive's efforts to protect the United States population and to require regulation of business practices. As a result of the public outcry created by *The Jungle*, the United States government passed the Meat Inspection Act. The new law set

cleanliness standards that had to be followed by meat processing facilities. A new federal agency, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), was also established to monitor facilities for their compliance with the regulations. The reform was prompted by the uproar created by Upton Sinclair's book.

Ida Tarbell was another famous muckraker, whose writing led to reform. Between 1902 and 1904, Tarbell wrote a series of magazine articles exposing Standard Oil's unfair business practices. There were 19 installments of "The History of the Standard Oil Company" and marked the beginning of investigative journalism.

Spurred by her father's business loss at the hands of J.D. Rockefeller, Tarbell's methods became a model for other investigative journalists. She researched Standard Oil for two years by examining public records, newspaper coverage, and interviewing former company executives in order to piece together how Rockefeller was able to create the company. The articles told how Rockefeller used his business methods to destroy independent oilmen in Pennsylvania in order to create an oil monopoly. Tarbell concluded her series by examining Rockefeller's character, which she described as "money-

mad." She also claimed that Rockefeller had created a national life that was far meaner, poorer, and uglier than had existed prior to his creation of Standard Oil. Tarbell's series was well received because she was not critical of capitalism. Instead, she focused her criticism on the unethical practices of Rockefeller and his associates in building Standard Oil.



9899- "How the other half lives" in a crowded Hebrew district, lower East Side, N. Y. City. Copyright 1987 by Underwood & Underwood. U-86189

From Jacob Riis -
How the Other Half Lives

Another important muckraker of the Progressive Era was Jacob Riis. He was a New York photojournalist who documented the living conditions of the urban poor. His work, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890), exposed the unhealthy tenement housing that workers and families were forced to live in, as well as the unsanitary conditions of slum streets. Riis's work led to the institution of municipal housing codes calling for the re-design of urban housing and the creation of sanitation departments that removed garbage and dead animals from the city streets. In addition, large

urban centers began providing sewer and water services in order to lessen the chances of typhoid and cholera outbreaks in cities.

Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, Jacob Riis, and other muckrakers highlighted issues that led to the growing belief that the government should intervene in corrupt businesses and legislate to protect society from harm. Through the words and photographs of muckrakers, the public became more acutely aware of underlying problems that needed to be addressed.

Resources:

1. **The Gilder Lehrman Institute** features an essay on Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. The essay provides good background information on the time period, the book, and reform efforts.

<https://gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/politics-reform/essays/jungle-and-progressive-era>

SSUSH13 – Evaluate efforts to reform American society and politics in the Progressive Era.

b. Examine and explain the roles of women in reform movements.

By the last quarter of the 19th century, many middle class women had received considerable education. Even with newfound educational independence, society still viewed women as nurturers and agents of stability. Women used this influence and their educational attainment to advocate for social change. These reforms included a re-born temperance movement, women's suffrage, sanitation, educational reforms, and attacks on racism.

Women such as Jane Addams, played a huge role in improving the lives of the urban poor, especially immigrant women and children who were forced by circumstances to work and live in dangerous and unhealthy conditions. Addams was the founder of the Settlement House Movement in the United States. The Settlement House Movement began in urban England as a way of helping the poor by securing donations from the wealthy in an effort to improve the lives of the destitute. Jane Addams decided to create a similar settlement house in Chicago after visiting Toynbee House in London, England.

Jane Addams founded Hull House in 1889 in an immigrant community for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for immigrants, especially immigrant women. By 1893, Hull House was serving 2,000 clients. Addams was also gradually drawn into advocating for legislative reforms at the municipal, state, and federal levels. The issues she addressed included child labor, healthcare, and immigration. Later, Addams became actively involved in women's suffrage and was a charter member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

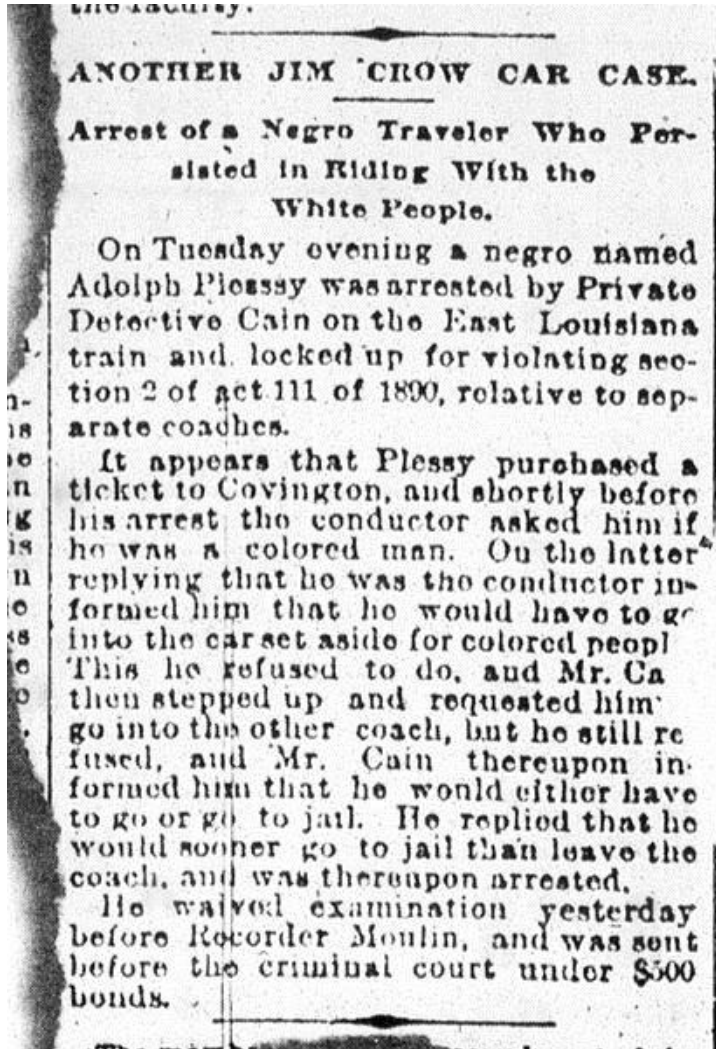
Resources:

1. **University of Chicago's Hull House Museum** provides a wide range of resources on their website. There is background information on both Jane Addams and the Hull House. There are documents and teacher resources also available.
<http://www.hullhousemuseum.org>

SSUSH13 – Evaluate efforts to reform American society and politics in the Progressive Era.

c. Connect the decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson* to the expansion of Jim Crow laws and the formation of the NAACP.

Following the end of Reconstruction, White Democrats regained power in Southern legislatures. Beginning in 1876, ten of the eleven former Confederate states had created a legal framework for separating Whites and Blacks known as "**Jim Crow laws.**" The initial purpose of Jim Crow laws was to prevent Blacks from participating in the political process, which included voting, serving in office, and



New Orleans *Daily Picayune*- June 9, 1892

participating in jury trials. Gradually, Jim Crow laws were extended to include public education, transportation, and other public facilities. There were separate water fountains, waiting rooms, and restrooms for Whites and Blacks. The laws were supposed to provide "separate but equal" facilities. However, the facilities for Blacks were separate and inferior. Jim Crow laws were initially created by states but during the Woodrow Wilson administration, Jim Crow was extended to the federal government.

In 1890, Louisiana passed a Jim Crow law that required separate facilities on railroads. Concerned citizens, of all races, were determined to challenge the legality of the new law. The opportunity came in 1892 when Homer Plessy decided to challenge the law. Plessy was 1/8 Black, which met the period's prevailing legal definition of the race although he could visually pass for White. He was arrested for refusing to leave a Whites only railroad car. Plessy's case wound its way through the judicial system to the Supreme Court. In 1896, the Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that "separate but equal" was

indeed constitutional. Racial discrimination was thus legal according to the federal government and the ruling upheld the state level Jim Crow segregation provisions.

Widespread violence, including lynching, against Blacks led to the formation of the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** in 1909. Created by a group of White supporters and W.E.B. DuBois, the NAACP's stated goals was to secure for all people the rights

guaranteed in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution. The organization quickly began to challenge Jim Crow laws and lynching through the courts. Success in an Oklahoma case enhanced the organization's reputation and foreshadowed the success the NAACP would have in ending public school segregation in 1954.

The Supreme Court ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson* affirmed the state level segregation of Jim Crow laws. Legal segregation would be the standard from 1896 until the Supreme Court ruled differently in the 1954 case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Conditions got worse, especially in the South, for Blacks seeking safety, social equality, and fair hiring practices. As a result of the even more strained race relations, W.E.B. DuBois created the NAACP to lead other legal challenges to segregation, which was being propped up by the *Plessy* decision.

Resources:

1. **Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society** provide excellent materials for classroom use and research related to the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case. Included is case background, teacher resources, and details about the ruling.
http://landmarkcases.org/en/landmark/cases/plessy_v_ferguson
2. **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** includes a historical record of the organization's founding on the website.
<http://www.naacp.org/oldest-and-boldest/>

SSUSH13 – Evaluate efforts to reform American society and politics in the Progressive Era.

d. Describe Progressive legislative actions including empowerment of the voter, labor laws, and the conservation movement.

In the early 20th century, Progressivism emerged as a movement to improve American democracy, to achieve social and economic justice, and to correct the evils of industrialization and urbanization. The Progressive Movement was generally made up of the educated middle class who saw reform as a civic duty. Politically, the Progressives planned to attack graft, the political machine, and the influence of big business in government. The Progressive Movement also planned to create new political procedures that would enable greater political participation. To attack poverty, the Progressives planned to lobby for greater governmental regulations to **empower voters** and to protect consumers, workers, and the environment.

There were a number of political reforms attributed to the Progressive Movement. Some were aimed at the federal level and some were focused on local and state reform. Federal political reforms of the Progressive Era included the passage of the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. This amendment provides for the direct election of United States Senators. The change instituted with the Seventeenth Amendment ended the state legislative cronyism previously responsible for the appointment of Senators. With the change, more political power was given directly to the voters.

Voters were also afforded more political power at the local and state levels during the Progressive Era. The policies passed included the initiative/referendum and recall votes.

Initiative/referendum allows voters to suggest and approve laws directly without the statute having to go through the state legislature. The people vote on an issue directly rather than representatives voting on the issue in the state legislature. The recall vote provision allows voters to remove politicians from office who are unsatisfactory, without having to wait for the person's term in office to end. In each of these new political reforms, more power is given directly to the people.

Workers were also empowered by Progressive reform with the passage of new **labor laws** that restricted the power of business owners. For example, new child labor laws set a minimum age for employment and restricted the types of jobs children could hold. Laws were also created to protect women in the workplace by setting a minimum wage and maximum work hours. Business owners were also required under new Progressive reform laws to complete work site inspections to ensure health, safety, and sanitation. Worker's compensation laws were also passed that required financial assistance for workers injured on the job.

Another key area of Progressive reform was the **conservation movement**, which began in the 1870s. There were three schools of conservation thought at the time. First, business supported a laissez-faire approach believing that business should be allowed to do as they wished with public lands. Second, there was the Environmentalist approach led by John Muir. The Environmentalists believed that nature was sacred and humans were the intruders. They also believed that humans should make a minimal impact on nature and that preservation of the environment in its undisturbed form was most desirable. Theodore Roosevelt and his mentor, Gifford Pinchot, supported the Conservationist approach. They believed that nature could be used responsibly but it should also be protected.

Theodore Roosevelt was a life-long naturalist, who majored in Natural History at Harvard. He was also an avid hunter. Roosevelt saw the continued despoliation of land for timbering and mining would result in the loss of key habitats needed for hunting and future economic development. Throughout his presidency, Roosevelt increased national reserves of forests, mineral lands, and hydropower sites. During his tenure in office, Roosevelt created the National Forest Service, five new national parks, 18 new U.S. national monuments, 51 bird reserves, four game preserves, and 150 national forests. This emphasis on conservation also encouraged states to follow the lead of the national government.

Legislative action during the Progressive Era took many forms. Voters, workers, and environmental conservationists were all empowered by laws that were passed.

Resources:

1. **The Library of Congress** features an online exhibition on "Conservation in the Progressive Era." There are documents and background information about the policies and reforms created during the period of reform.
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/progress/conserve/>



Theodore Roosevelt and His Distinguished Party Before the "Grizzly Giant" Big Trees of California - 1903