The Gilded Age: (Late 1800s)

Main Idea:

During this era, there was a massive industrial growth in the United States, making America the major industrial producer of the world. This growth was largely a product of the expansion of heavy industry; steel was an important component of the industrial growth. The development of the assembly line and Taylorism, which encouraged efficiency in the workplace, created a factory setting where skilled workmanship was de-emphasized and Horizontal and Vertical integration allowed major American businesses such as Standard Oil and United States Steel to expand greatly. American workers began to unionize in this era through labor organizations such as the Kings of Labor, the American Federation of Labor and the Industrial Workers of the World. “New” immigrants from eastern and southern Europe took unskilled jobs in many of the expanding factories but were not wanted by some labor organizations. The American city was also greatly transformed in this era. Political machines dominated many city governments although efforts took place at the federal level to create a professional civil service system.

Events and Terms to Know:

1. Taylorism: following management practices of the industrial engineer Fredrick Winslow Taylor the belief that factories should be managed in a scientific manner, utilizing techniques that would increase the efficiency of the individual workers and the factory process as a whole.
2. Horizontal integration: a strategy of gaining as much control over a single industry as possible, oftentimes by creating trust and holding companies this strategy was utilized by John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil.
3. Vertical integration: a strategy of gaining as much control over a single industry as possible by controlling the production, marketing and distribution of the finished product. Andrew Carnegie and U.S. Steel are the best example from the era of this approach.
4. Gospel of Wealth: the philosophy of Andrew Carnegie, who believed that wealthy industrialist, had an obligation to help local communities and philanthropic organizations.
5. Knights of Labor: established in the 1880s this was the major union of the decade. It was made up of unions of many industries and accepted unskilled workers.
6. Gilded Age: a depiction of late-nineteenth-century America that emphasizes a surface of great prosperity hiding problems of social inequality and cultural shallowness.
7. Tammany Hall: political machine that ran New York City Democratic and city politic beginning in the 1870; became a model of other urban political machines in the late 1800s.
8. Laissez- fare: let the people alone. No government regulation.
9. Trust: a new way of merging business that does not violate the law against owning other companies. A trust is a legal concept that allows one person to manage another person’s property. The person who manages another person’s property is called a trustee.
10. Holding company: A holding company does not produce anything itself. Instead it owns the stock of the company that does produce goods.
11. Nativism: preference for native-born people and desire to limit immigration.
12. Immigration: Foreigners coming into a country.
13. Emigration: Citizens getting out of the country.
14. Migration : Citizens stuck in the country going place to place within that country.
15. Political Machines: an informal political group designed to gain and keep power, came about partly because cities had grown much faster than their governments.
16. Political Bosses: man in charge of the Political Machine. EX. William M. “Boss” Tweed
17. Tenements: Dark and crowding multi-family apartments.
18. Social Darwinism: the theory that persons, groups, and races are subject to the same laws of natural selection as Charles Darwin had perceived in plants and animals in nature. According to the theory, which was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the weak were diminished and their cultures delimited, while the strong grew in power and in cultural influence over the weak. Social Darwinists held that the life of humans in society was a struggle for existence ruled by “survival of the fittest,” a phrase proposed by the British philosopher and scientist Herbert Spencer.
19. Americanization:  is the process of an immigrant to the United States becoming a person who shares American values, beliefs and customs and is assimilated into American Society.

People to Know:

1. Alexander G. Bell: inventor of the telephone.
2. Thomas Edison: inventor of the light bulb.
3. Cornelius Vanderbilt: Railroad Tycoon.
4. Andrew Carnegie: Owner of U.S. Steel.
5. John D Rockefeller: Owner of Standard Oil.
6. Jacob Riis: published “How the Other Half Lives, a documentary account of slum life in New York City.
7. William M. “Boss” Tweed: was a rather second-rate politician who moved up the ranks of the Tammy Hall political organization in New York City in the 1850's and 1860's to become one of the most powerful men in New York City politics. At that time, party politics were controlled by many of these organizations, and Tammany became one of the most powerful.
8. Jane Addams: co-founded one of the first settlements in the United States, the Hull House in Chicago, Illinois, in 1889, and was named a co-winner of the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize.

Time Line:

1869: Kings of the Labor founded in Philadelphia

1870: Beginning of Tammy Hall’s control over New York City politics

1881: Assassination of President James Garfield

1882: Chinese Exclusion Act passed by Congress

1883: Pendleton Civil Service Act enacted

1890: Publication of How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis

1892: Ellis Island open to process immigrates on the East Coast.

1901: Assignation of President William McKinley

1903: Ford Motor established

1905: Industrial Worker of the World Formed

1906: Publication of the Jungle by Upton Sinclair

1913: Ford creates the assembly line

Review Questions:

During the nineteenth century, one way political bosses gained voter support was by —

1. campaigning for women’s suffrage
2. advocating the use of poll taxes
3. making improvements in urban infrastructure
4. providing public assistance for former slaves

During the 1920s, what was one result of innovations in U.S. transportation technology?

1. Commercial airplanes replaced ocean liners as the primary means of travel to Europe.
2. Mass-produced automobiles made travel more affordable for many people.
3. Cable cars provided a comfortable means of quick travel to any city within a state.
4. Container ships delivered agricultural goods to ports along the Pacific coast.

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THEY WOULD CLOSE TO THE NEW-COMER

THE BRIDGE THAT **CARRIED** THEM AND THEIR FATHERS OVER

Which group of people most likely inspired the creation of this 1893 cartoon?

1. Union leaders
2. Political bosses
3. Philanthropists
4. Nativists

During the Gilded Age there was a notable increase in federal support for —

1. the growth of big business
2. involvement in foreign wars
3. the acquisition of foreign territories
4. increased temperance regulations