

Period 6 (1865-1898)

Key Concept 6.1

Technological advances, large-scale production methods, and the opening of new markets encouraged the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States.

A) Large scale production – accompanied by massive technological change, expanding international communication networks, and pro-growth government policies – generated rapid economic development and business consolidation.

- Government subsidies for transportation = new markets
- Technology, redesigned financial and management structures, and growing labor led to an increase in production in goods.
- Due to the decrease in the price of goods, workers real wages increased.
- Many Americans standard of living improved, but the gap between the rich and poor grew.
- Trusts further concentrated wealth.

B) A variety of perspectives on the economy and labor developed during a time of financial panics and downturns.

- Some argued that laissez-faire policies and competition promoted growth.
- They opposed government intervention.
- The industrial workforce expanded, child labor increased.
- Labor/Management battle over wages and working conditions.
- Workers organized into unions to confront business leaders.
- Some parts of the South industrialized (New South) but sharecropping remained dominant.

C) New Systems of production and transportation enabled consolidation within agriculture, which, along with periods of instability, spurred a variety of responses from farmers.

- Mechanization causes production to increase, crop prices fall.
- Farmers start to create local and regional cooperative organizations (Grange, Farmer's Alliance)
- The People's (Populist) Party called for stronger government regulation (bimetallism, W.J.B – Cross of Gold Speech)

Key Concept 6.2

The migrations that accompanied industrialization transformed both urban and rural areas of the United States and caused dramatic social and cultural change.

A) International and internal migration increased urban populations and fostered the growth of a new urban culture.

- Cities attracted immigrants from southern and eastern Europe, as well as African-American migrants from the South.
- Urban neighborhoods based on ethnicity developed.
- Debates about Americanization developed, immigrants made cultural compromises.
- Political machines developed, they provided immigrants and the poor with social services.
- The need for managers and clerical workers led to increased educational opportunities.
- A middle class grew, leisure time increased.

B) Larger numbers of migrants moved to the West in search of land and economic opportunity, frequently provoking competition and violent conflict.

- Transcontinental RR, new mineral resources, and government policies promoted economic growth.
- Migrants moved west for new opportunities – RR, mining, farming and ranching
- Bison population was decimated, competition led to violence.
- Native American – treaties violated, use of military force, put onto reservations
- Many American Indians preserved tribal identities, government policy promoted assimilation.

Key Concept 6.3

The Gilded Age produced new cultural and intellectual movements, public reform efforts, and political debates over economic and social policies.

A) New cultural and intellectual movements both buttressed and challenged the social order of the Gilded Age.

- Social Darwinism
- Gospel of Wealth

B) Dramatic social changes in the period inspired political debates over citizenship, corruption, and the proper relationship between business and government.

- Political parties appealed to lingering Civil War divisions
- Tariffs and currency issues
- Women sought greater equality with men – joined voluntary organizations, went to college, promoted social and political reform.
- Settlement Houses – Jane Addams
- *Plessy v. Ferguson*