**Guided Notes:** Industrialism and Western Growth

**Industrial Revolution:**

Before the civil war, there was a **mini-industrial revolution**. Manufacturing went from **handmade** to **machine-made**. All industry was in the **north.** The **south** was largely agrarian. After the Civil War, there was a surge in the Industrial Revolution, where the economy of the **entire nation** moved away from farming and towards industry.

**Causes of the Surge in Industry:**

1. **Steel**: The **Bessemer process** made the production of steel easier. Steel became widely used as a **building material** and fueled the growth of cites and expansion of railroads.
2. Many new **inventions** improved efficiency and comfort:
   1. **Thomas Edison** invents the **light bulb**, and more than 1,000 other patents come out of his Menlo Park laboratory.
   2. **Alexander Graham Bell** invents the **telephone**.
   3. **Elias Howe** invented the **sewing machine**, which led to **mass production of clothes** in standard sizes.
   4. **Otis** Elevator Company invents the first **electric elevator,** allowing **skyscrapers** to be built**.**
   5. Electricity allowed for the invention of **streetcars** by 1900, which carried passengers in major cities.
3. Improved Transportation: **Canals, railroads, and Steamboats** carried goods and services more easily to market.

**Effects of the Industrial Revolution:**

**Positive Effects:**

1. **More jobs and opportunities were created.**
2. **Inventions like the railroad, telephone, and the electric light bulb, made life more comfortable**. **Negative Effects:**

**1. Only a few people got wealthy—often at the expense of workers.**

**2. Living and working conditions in industrial cities were often poor and unhealthy.**

**Robber Barons and Monopolies:**

**Robber barons** were big businessmen of the late 1800’s who became very **wealthy by driving out competition** in their respective industries. They charged high prices, took advantage of workers, and bribed government officials. The government often helped big business get around the law. They tried to create a **monopoly**: when one business controls an entire industry. While their means to success weren’t always honest, many robber barons were also **philanthropists.** In addition, their success led to this time period being called the **Gilded Age**. Many who were poor thought they could achieve the same success and worked tirelessly to do so. What the Gilded Age masks was **increasing poverty** of factory workers and **widespread corruption**.

**Robber Barons and their Industries**:

1. Cornelius **Vanderbilt Railroads**
2. John D. **Rockefeller** **Oil**
3. Andrew **Carnegie** **Steel**
4. Andrew Mellon Aluminum
5. J.P. Morgan Banking

**More on monopolies:**

Again, a monopoly is when a single person or business owns or controls an **entire industry’s** means of production. Like the game, the goal of having a MONOPOLY is to bankrupt opponents and own everything.

**Vertical Monopoly**

• Total ownership/control of business **through all stages of production: l**and—raw materials—mining—transportation process—refining—delivery to point of sale—stores

**Horizontal Monopoly**

• Total ownership of **one stage of production** ex: all refineries, all coal mines, all train tracks, or all cell-phone towers

**Immigration**:

Thousands of immigrants poured into our shores. Those on the **east** coast came through **Ellis Island**; those on the **west** coast came through **Angel Island**. Immigrants tended to **settle in cities** and with people from their native nation, spawning places like “Chinatown.” Also think of places like Hamtramck… a polish settlement in the Detroit area.

Around the turn of the century, immigrants began facing **prejudice**. Religious groups didn’t want immigrants arriving with different belief systems. Many native born Americans also worried that they would have to **compete with immigrants for jobs**. In 1882, the **Chinese Exclusion Act** was the first law restricting immigration. It banned Chinese immigration for ten years.

**The Rise of Labor Unions:**

**Poor working conditions** led workers to organize.

1. 10-12 hour workdays
2. No sick days
3. Unsafe and unhealthy working conditions
4. Low pay
5. Dull and repetitive jobs.
6. No protection if injured on the job (employer liability)

The first major union, the **Knights of Labor**, was formed after the Civil War. It was a **loose confederation of trade workers** and **didn’t really fight for improved working conditions**. As working conditions got worse and economic conditions led to pay cuts, things changed. **Samuel Gompers** helped form the **American Federation of Labor**, which was a national organization of Unions. Laborers had notable **strikes** in the railroad and steel industries to protest unfair working conditions. Business leaders were not big fans of unions, feeling their demands were **socialist** in nature. (It also cut into their profit margin)

**Problems with Urbanization:**

**Disease and overcrowding** were rampant. Many lived in **slums** and **tenement homes**. **Trash** was thrown in the street and there was **no running water**. Buildings were poorly maintained and there was little government oversight. People like **Jane Addams** were disgusted with living conditions, so she founded the **Hull House** in hopes of offering **daycare, education, and healthcare** to needy residents in slums. Other settlement houses offered similar benefits.

**Transportation:**

The **transcontinental railroad** was a railway completed in **1869** that connected the **Atlantic** and **Pacific** Coasts. The Central Pacific Railroad Company started in **California** and moved **east,** and the Union Pacific Railroad company started in **Nebraska** and moved **west.** They met in **Utah**. Several **immigrants** help build both railroads. In mountainous regions it was especially dangerous. Immigrants were lowered into holes in baskets to set up blast charges. They lit matches, waved, and depended on others to pull them out of the mountain before the bomb went off.

The completion of the transcontinental railroad also **impacted time.** Prior to its completion, citizens calculated time based on the position of the sun, known as **solar time**. To avoid confusion for trains traveling long distances, the railroad companies set up **standard time,** which **divided the United States into four time zones.**

To add to that, Railroad companies were given tons of **free land** from the **government.** The land not being used for tracks was **sold to settlers**. This boosted revenue for railroad companies and encouraged immigrants to settle the west.

**What happened in the West:**

**Farm Economics and Populism:**

In 1862, the government passed the **Homestead Act**, offering **160 acres of free land to anyone who would live on it and improve it for five years**. Many took advantage of the Homestead Act, especially immigrants and African Americans. **African Americans** wanted to leave the violence found during Reconstruction and **compared their journey** **to** the biblical story in **Exodus when slaves left Egypt**. They called themselves **exodusters**. So many people settled in the west that by 1890, the census bureau declared that the **frontier was closed.**

Due to an increase in settlement and crop supply, prices dropped sharply. **Railroads** were charging high shipping prices, so farmers were really losing out. They formed a cooperative called the **Grange,** whose purpose was to meet the social needs of farm families. In the 1890’s, many farm advocacy groups joined together to form the **Populist Party**. They wanted the government to **regulate railroad prices** from becoming too high, and also advocated for the **Free Silver** **policy**. Since silver was plentiful, the unlimited coining of free silver would allow more money to be in circulation and therefore inflation would occur. Opponents favored the **gold standard**, which required each dollar printed to be backed by a certain amount of gold.

**Striking it Rich:**

**Gold and silver strikes** in the west caused several dreamers to move west in hopes of striking it rich. Several **boomtowns** sprang up near successful mines. **Population and economic activity grew rapidly**. Soon mining companies replaced individual prospectors. Paid workers used heavy equipment to dig deep into the mountains. However, mining dust caused lung problems for workers, and collapsed often left workers trapped. By the 1890’s, mines were not producing enough mineral s to cover costs. Boomtowns soon became ghost towns. It’s important to remember that most of the people who went west to find gold, **found nothing and ended up penniless.**

**Cattle:**

Railroad expansion led to growth in the cattle industry. **Ranchers** would **drive** cattle across several states and the **railroad** would **ship** them east to market. However, as the west became settled, free and **open ranch land diminished**. What is often missed is how Mexicans, African Americans, and Native Americans contributed to the boom of the cattle industry.

**A way of life ends:**

As settlers moved west, the Native American **nomadic** way of life was continually threatened. Fighting that occurred was often the result of **broken treaties.** The biggest effort the Native Americans mounted came in 1874, when **Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse** defeated **George Armstrong Custer** and his men at the **Battle of Little Bighorn**. As further insult to injury, American rail workers killed **buffalo** in droves to feed themselves. While natives used the whole animal, Americans used just the meat and the hide. The buffalo slowly began to die out. Finally, Americans continued to force Natives onto **reservations**. They believed **assimilation into American culture** was the best thing for them. The **Dawes Act** was designed to divide reservation land into farm plots for each family, but many didn’t want to farm, and those who did didn’t have the tools. Some young Native Americans were even torn from their families and sent to boarding schools in hopes of assimilating them into American culture.

**Discrimination is still the rule:**

African Americans still faced tough challenges in attaining equal treatment. **Ida B. Wells** was a journalist who helped lead the charge against southern **lynching** of the KKK. **Booker T. Washington** founded the **Tuskegee Institute** to further the **education** of African Americans. **W.E.B. Dubois** helped found the **NAACP**. However, the Supreme Court Case **Plessy vs. Ferguson** was a setback. Plessy sued a railroad company over **segregated seating**, saying it **violated the 14th amendments equal protection under the law.** The Supreme Court held that **separate but equal facilities did not violate the constitution**. This led to a rise in separate facilities for whites and blacks.