

Year 12 History

Paper 1: USA 1865-1975, the Making of a Superpower.



Warm-up Activity

What can you see from John Gast's *American Progress* (1872)?

How accurate is this painting in portraying 1870s America?

What doesn't this painting tell us about America in the 1870s?

Why would John Gast omit certain events from his painting?



Warm-up Activity Part 2

What does the cartoon tell us about foreign policy in the 1900s, particularly in relation to Roosevelt's 1904 Corollary?

How was the Roosevelt Corollary a de facto extension of the Monroe Doctrine?

How and where was the Roosevelt Corollary put to use?

Activity 1: The Age of Reconstruction

1. Create either a profile or spider diagram of the following people. Include achievements, failures, influence on either social, economic, or political make up of America, and connections they may have to others or key events.

Abraham Lincoln
Andrew Jackson
Ulysses S. Grant
James Fisk and Jay Gould
John D. Rockefeller
Andrew Carnegie
Jay Cooke
John L O'Sullivan
George Custer
William Seward

2. Create a timeline of events in the Reconstruction Era, using the following below. Make sure that you describe what the event is and judge its impact.

The Whiskey Ring Scandal
The Civil Rights Bill 1866
The Battle of Little Big Horn
The 15th Amendment
The Homestead Act
The 13th Amendment
The Depression of 1873
The impeachment of Andrew Jackson
The Black Codes
The 14th Amendment
The end of the Civil War
The US purchase Alaska from Russia

3. Answer the following questions below (You make answer this as a spider diagram or in table. Doesn't have to be paragraphs):

A. What is a Federal government? What were the Federal governments weaknesses?

B. What differences were there between the North and South of the US? How did the Civil War exacerbate these differences?

C. Many historians claim that the era of Reconstruction (Eric Foner to name one historian) was a failure. How accurate is this interpretation? Use examples to substantiate your answer.

D. How successful was Grant's presidency?

- E. Did Reconstruction change the conditions of African Americans? How?
- F. Why was there expansion Westward in this era?
- G. Did Reconstruction change the conditions of Native Americans? How?
- H. How did industrial growth lead to social problems? Explain.
- I. How America's foreign policy a policy of isolationism during this era? Explain.

Activity 3: The Gilded Age

1. Assess which was the weakest President by creating a table of pros and cons for each Gilded Age President.

Rutherford B. Hayes
James Garfield
Arthur Chester
Grover Cleveland

After completing the table of pros and cons, do you think is it fair to describe this era of the era of weak presidents? Explain.

2. Define the following.

Robber Barons
The Knights of Labour
Jim Crow
Cattle Ranching and Cowboys
Frederick Jackson Turner
Nativism
James Blaine
Lynching – (please make mention of Ida B Wells).
The Haymarket Bomb Outrage
Spoils System
The Dawes Act

3. Answer the following questions:

A. Did the lives of Native Americans change for the worse during the Gilded Age? Explain.

B. Did the lives of African Americans change for the worse during the Gilded Age? Explain.

C. Why was there so much immigration in the USA during the Gilded Age? What was the result of this influx?

D. Was the US isolationist in its foreign affairs during this period? Explain.

E. How far do you agree with the cartoon?



Activity 3: The Progressive Era

1. Complete the sentence starters:

Populism is.....

The Populist movement emerged because....

Progressivism is.....

Progressivism emerged because.....

Plessy v. Ferguson was.....

The US became involved in Cuba because.....

Some of Roosevelt's progressive measures include.....

Some of Taft's progressive measures include.....

Booker T. Washington was.....

The US changed its foreign policy from isolationist to..... because.....

The most progressive President in this era was..... because.....

The Pullman Strike was.....

The Roosevelt corollary was.....

2. Answer the following questions:

A. Did the lives of African Americans improve in the Progressive Era?

B. How Progressive was Roosevelt? Use examples.

C. How did Americans respond to the continued influx of immigrants during this period?

D. How did the Depression of 1893 fuel the rise of Progressivism?

E. How imperialistic was America during this period?

Activity 4: America in WW1

1. Define the following:

Woodrow Wilson

Wilsonianism

Federal Reserve Board

Allies

Central Powers

The Lusitania

War Bonds

Zimmerman Telegraph

The Harlem Hellfighters

'Wheatless Mondays'

The Paris Peace Conference

The League of Nations

Mechanisation

2. Make a spider diagram of all of Wilson's progressive reform, outlining pros and cons:

The Federal Reserve Act 1913

Federal Trade Commission 1914

Federal Child Labour Act 1916

Clayton Anti-Trust Act 1914

The Underwood Tariff 1913

The Revenue Act 1916

Also consider foreign policy in Latin America, African Americans, and Labour in America.

From your spider diagrams, how progressive was Wilson?

3. Answer the following questions below:

A. Is Wilson more progressive than Taft? Explain.

B. Why was America neutral until 1917?

C. Why did America brake that neutrality? Was it inevitable?

D. How did the war change America?

- E. Did African Americans lives change because of WW1?
F. Was Wilsonianism a failure? Was it doomed from the start?

Exam Questions and Practise:

25 Markers:

'The main effect of the Era of Reconstruction for African Americans was the introduction of the Jim Crow Laws'. Assess the validity of this view.

To what extent was Manifest Destiny the main reasons for Westward Expansion in the years 1865-90?

'The main effect of increased immigration to the USA in the years 1865-90 was the growth of Nativism'. Assess the validity of the view.

'The lives of Native Americans changed for the worse during the years 1865-90'. Assess the validity of the view.

To what extent was the regulations of big business the most important achievement of the Progressive Movement in the years 1890-1912?

'The Republican Party dominated American politics in the years 1868 to 1912 because it was a party of big business'. Assess the validity of the view.

To what extent was Roosevelt the most progressive American president in the years 1890-1920?

30 Markers:

(Obviously you would have three extracts, but to build up your skills set there is only 2 extracts in question 1. The process and structures are the same though.)

1. Use pages 70-71, Extracts A and B, in your textbook to complete the question,

'With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the impact of business on the USA in the years 1865-90?'

2.

Extract A

The United States was, by 1900, the world's leading industrial nation due to its hard-working population and vast resources rather than the impact of big businessmen. It produced more coal and pig-iron, and manufactured more raw cotton, than its nearest competitor, Great Britain. It produced more iron ore and steel than Germany; more gold than Australia, and nearly as much silver as Mexico; more tobacco and cotton than India, 5 and more wheat than Russia. Britain had a much larger merchant fleet, Russia had far more sheep and produced somewhat more

petroleum; but even in these departments America's achievement was increasingly formidable. Her production of crude oil, for instance, was to more than double between 1899 and 1919. Every year the giant's pre-eminence increased. America was still a debtor nation, borrowing more than she lent; but 10 her enterprises were generating ever mounting quantities of money that were beginning to find their way into investments overseas.

Hugh Brogan, *The History of the United States of America*, 1990.

Extract B

The organisation of US Steel in 1901 brought to a climax a movement which had been under way for a generation: the concentration of business in large trusts. Business combination had many advantages. It tended to eliminate competition, diminishing the hazard that unregulated production would drive prices below costs. The concentration of industry developed swiftly in the years after the Civil War and reached a climax around the turn of the century. The trust movement grew out of fierce competition. Competing railways cut freight rates in the hope of obtaining the lion's share of the business. This led to a downward trend of prices and led to 'gentlemen's agreements' between rival producers to maintain prices and profits. In the 1880s, these 'agreements' were superseded by trusts- a form of combination in which affiliated 10 companies handed control to a board of trustees. The Standard Oil Company was the first and most characteristic of these trusts which piled up fortunes for their founders.

Morison, Commager and Leuchtenburg, *A History of the American Republic*, 1983

Extract C

Many farmers, especially in the West, did not prosper to the same extent as did many of their industrial counterparts. Between 1873 and 1895, agricultural production increased at a greater rate than industrial output; there was therefore substantial overproduction and prices fell. Thus it was typical that wheat, from \$1.05 per bushel in 1870, reached its lowest price of 49 cents in 1894. To make matters worse, the competition of new lands just coming into production in Australasia, Canada and South America meant that the surplus could not be profitably exported. Furthermore, international prices, which were falling, increasingly dictated the domestic price, so that the whole problem of planning production on a single farm became more difficult at the same time as it was becoming more complex technologically. The tariff simply forced the unfortunate farmer to pay more for his manufactured goods. Immigration helped to maintain a persistent land boom in the trans-Mississippi West; by 1886 this had become a frenzy of land speculation.

Adapted from H C Allen, *A History of the USA*, 1968

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the American economy in the second half of the nineteenth century.