

## Chapter Summary

### **Section 1: Triumph of Industry**

In the late 19th century, America came to be dominated by large corporations. This led to clashes between workers and owners and the growth of labor unions.

### **Section 2: Immigration and Urbanization**

A new wave of immigrants, many Catholic, Jewish or Chinese, faced discrimination and the challenges of urban life in the late 19th Century.



## Chapter Summary (continued)

### **Section 3: The South and West Transformed**

Industry grew, but sharecropping and Jim Crow laws dragged down the economy. In the West, settlers pushed the Plains Indians off their land.

### **Section 4: Issues of the Gilded Age**

Farmers banded together against corruption in the Gilded Age. A civil service was established. Populists challenged the major parties in 1896.

## Objectives

- Analyze the growth of the United States as an industrial power.
- Summarize the rise of big business.
- Understand the plight of the industrial worker and how workers tried to improve their condition.
- Identify reasons that workers and big business clashed.



## Terms and People

- **Thomas Alva Edison** – inventor who designed the light bulb, phonograph, and many other devices
- **Andrew Carnegie** – Scottish immigrant who built a fortune in the steel industry
- **John D. Rockefeller** – industrialist who became a leader of the oil industry
- **trust** – group of separate companies that are placed under the control of a single managing board of trustees

## Terms and People (continued)

- **Social Darwinism** – the belief held by some in the late nineteenth century that certain races and nations were superior to others and therefore destined to rule over them
- **Gospel of Wealth** – doctrine that called on those who accumulated wealth to share their riches for the betterment of society
- **monopoly** – exclusive control by one company over an entire industry

## Terms and People (continued)

- **Knights of Labor** – labor union that sought to organize all workers and focused on broad social reforms
- **American Federation of Labor (AFL)** – labor union that organized skilled workers in a specific trade and made specific demands rather than seeking broad changes
- **anarchist** – political radical opposed to any form of government



## What factors led to the industrialization of America, and what impact did industrialization have on society?

At the end of the nineteenth century, American businesses expanded and industries boomed.

Industrialization transformed the United States and the everyday lives of its people.

In the late 1800s, production in key industries—both new and old—skyrocketed.

- Petroleum
- Electrical power
- Coal
- Steel
- Railroads





## Several factors encouraged rapid industrial growth.

Abundant **natural resources**

---

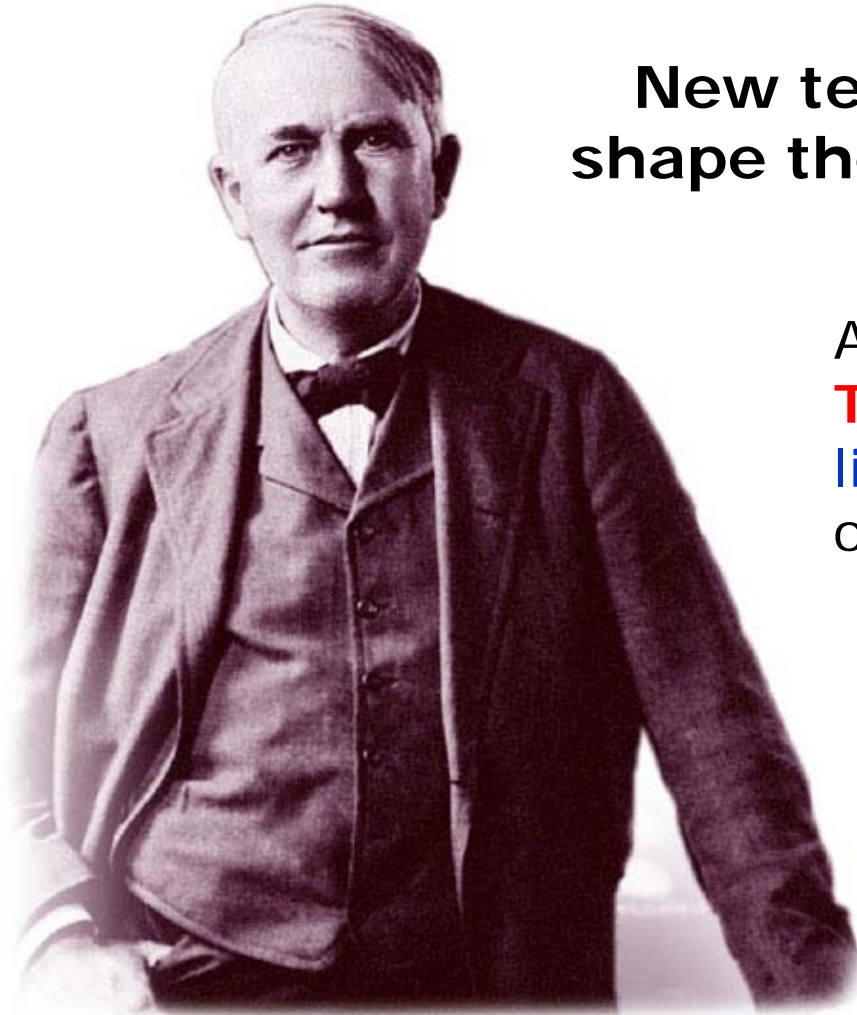
An ample **labor supply** supported  
by a flood of new immigrants

---

Favorable **government policies**

---

A cultural climate supportive of  
**entrepreneurs**



## New technologies helped shape the growing economy.

Americans were amazed by **Thomas Alva Edison's** light bulb, phonograph, and other inventions.

An improved telegraph and the invention of the telephone revolutionized communication.

Utility companies built power plants to light up homes and businesses.

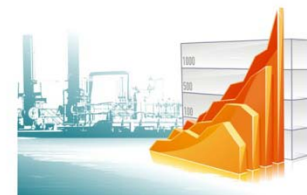
New forms of **transportation** changed where people worked and lived.

### Technology Advances

- ⚡ **1868** New York City installs elevated transit with steam-driven engines
- ⚡ **1873** San Francisco installs steam-driven cable cars
- ⚡ **1880** First practical lightbulb
- ⚡ **1882** New York City installs first permanent commercial central power system
- ⚡ **1888** Richmond, Virginia, introduces streetcars powered by overhead electric cables
- ⚡ **1897** Boston opens public underground subway

## Industrialization brought lasting changes to the nation.

- For many people, the standard of living rose.
- Cities grew upward and outward.
- The availability of new, less expensive products led to a rise in mass consumerism.



## Big businesses thrived during the late 1800s.

Large corporations owned by the rich and powerful brought both costs and benefits.



Some called the wealthy industrialists **robber barons** for exploiting workers.

Others called them **captains of industry** for building America's economy.

Many corporations owed their success to the development of new business organizations.



Coordinated prices and production



Combined companies under board of trustees

Such cartels and trusts, however, often **crushed smaller competitors.**

Industrialists such as **Andrew Carnegie** and **John D. Rockefeller** justified their cutthroat methods and vast fortunes using the philosophy of **Social Darwinism**.

In business,  
as in life, only  
the fittest  
survive.

Andrew  
Carnegie  
added his  
own  
philosophy,  
the **Gospel  
of Wealth**.

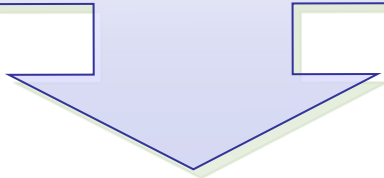
Those who  
accumulate  
wealth  
should share  
it for the  
betterment  
of society.

**Under pressure from small businesses, Congress passed laws to regulate industries.**

- In 1887, the **Interstate Commerce Commission** was established to oversee railroads.
- In 1890, the **Sherman Antitrust Act** outlawed mergers and monopolies.



**Such regulations, however, were not always enforced.**



Many preferred a policy of *laissez faire*—businesses should operate with little or no government interference.

**Most workers, meanwhile, endured long days in poor or unsafe working conditions.**



They received **little pay, no health benefits, and no vacations.**

Many **women and children worked** in factories alongside men, as well as in textile mills, mines, and sweatshops.

## Unions tried to organize to help workers.

<b>Knights of Labor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Included skilled and unskilled workers, men and women, blacks and whites.</li><li>• Focused on achieving social reform.</li></ul>
<b>American Federation of Labor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Included skilled workers who practiced certain crafts or trades.</li><li>• Focused on specific workers' issues.</li></ul>

**Some workers turned to socialism as a means to improve their lives.**

- [Eugene V. Debs](#), a Socialist candidate for President, called for government ownership of the railroads and the formation of unions.
- Socialists had some success in local politics, but not nationally.

## Workers and businesses clashed, sometimes violently, in the 1880s and 1890s.

Haymarket Riot,  
1886

During a Chicago labor rally.

A bomb was thrown during a labor rally.

Police officers and civilians died in the riot that followed.

Several **anarchists** were jailed.

## Homestead Strike, 1892

Strikebreakers and the National Guard broke up a Pennsylvania steelworkers' union.

## Pullman Strike, 1894

A nationwide strike against the railroads to protest wage cuts ended when President Cleveland called in federal troops.

## Objectives

- Understand the reasons that immigrants came to America.
- Explain the immigrants' experience upon arriving in the United States.
- Identify the changes that took place in cities of the nineteenth century.
- Describe the urban middle class.



## Terms and People

- **Ellis Island** – island in New York Harbor that served as an immigration station for millions of immigrants, especially those from Europe
- **Angel Island** – island in San Francisco Bay that served as an immigration station for immigrants from Asia
- **suburb** - residential area surrounding a city
- **tenement** - multistory building divided into apartments to house as many families as possible





## Why did immigrants come to the United States, and how did they impact society?

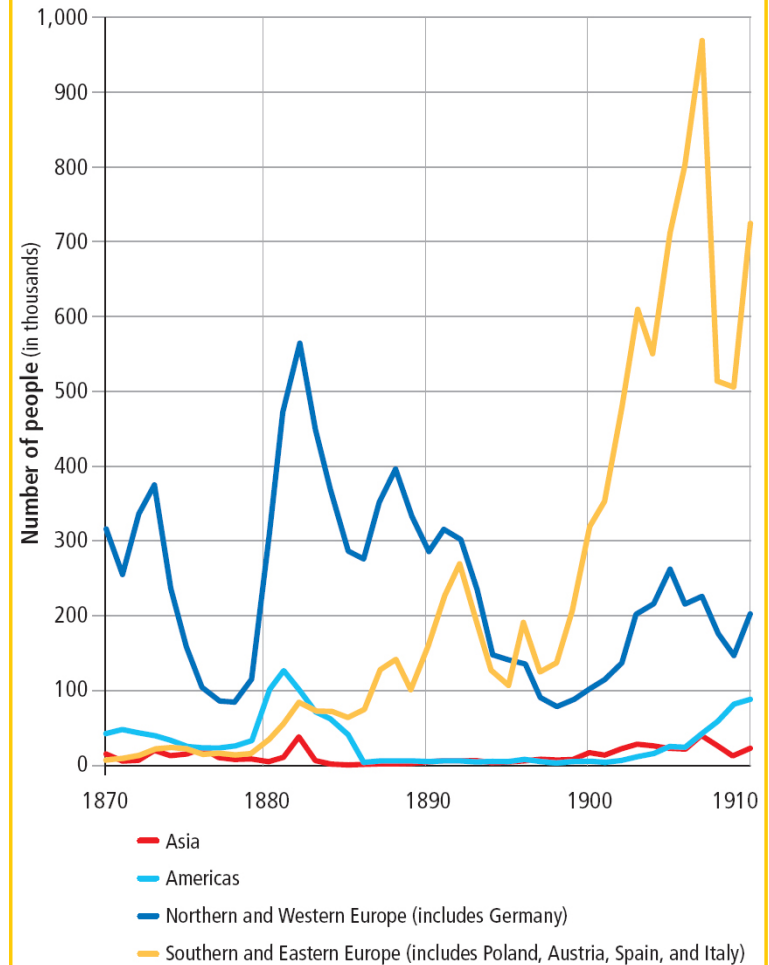
The turn of the century was a time of great change as **industries boomed** and **cities grew**.

It also was a time of change for the population, as **immigrants from around the world poured into the United States**.

In the late 1800s, the number of immigrants entering the United States soared.

More than 18 million came from Europe, most from Southern and Eastern Europe.

Immigration, 1870–1910



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

Unlike many of the earlier immigrants from Europe, most of the newcomers were **Catholic or Jewish**.

**Few spoke English.**



## Immigrants came to the United States for many different reasons.

Some factors seemed to push people from their homelands.

### Push Factors

- Religious persecution
- Mandatory military service

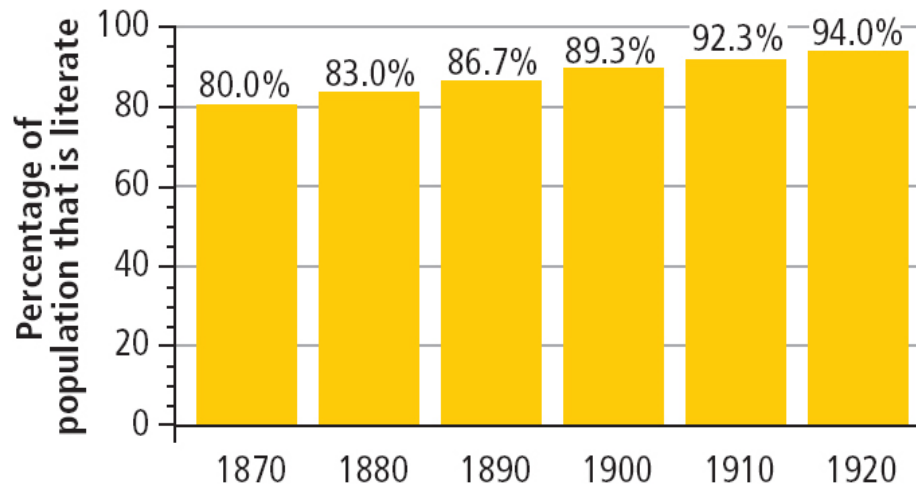
Other factors  
seemed to  
pull people  
toward the  
United States.

### Pull Factors

- Jobs
- Political and religious freedom

**The new middle class also supported the expansion of education.**

**U.S. Literacy Rates, 1870–1920**



SOURCE: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

Literacy increased as more people graduated from high school and college.

After a long and difficult journey, immigrants were taken to immigration stations for processing.

Most Europeans entered through **Ellis Island** in New York.

Most Asians came through **Angel Island** in San Francisco.



Once in the U.S., many immigrants found it difficult to adjust to urban industrial life.



They worked long hours and lived in crowded neighborhoods.

Many faced prejudice.

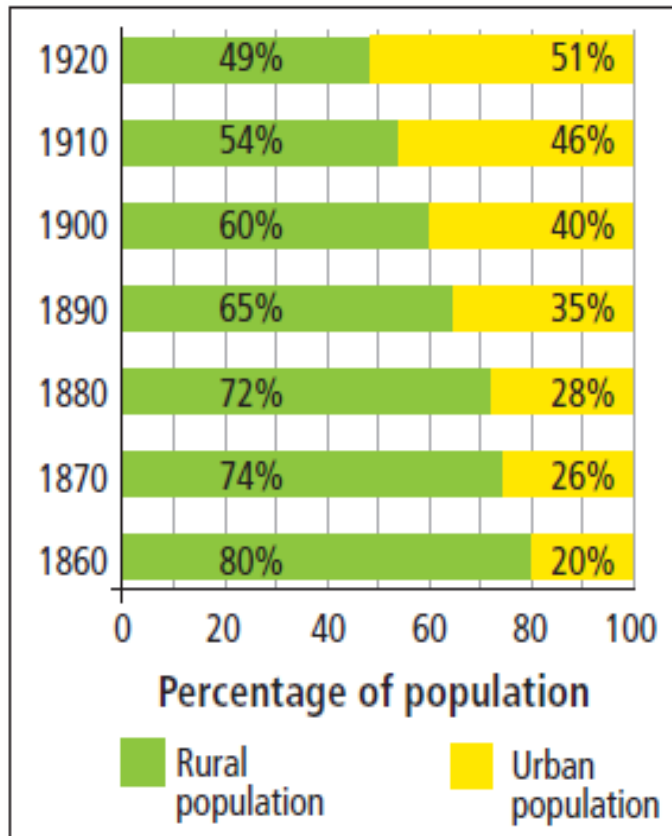


**Fraternal organizations** helped many immigrants. So, too, did family members or others from the same homeland.

With hard work, many immigrants built successful new lives.

**In time, immigrants made countless contributions to the growing nation.**

## Rural and Urban Population



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

**Cities grew rapidly as more and more people moved from farms to the sprawling urban areas.**

Newcomers marveled at the **skyscrapers** above and the **subways** below.

## City planners used new technologies to help improve urban life.

- Electric street lights and sewage treatment projects improved the **infrastructure**.
- Electric trolleys and elevated trains allowed some people to move to the expanding **suburbs**.




Despite such advances, however, urban dwellers still faced the problem of overcrowding.

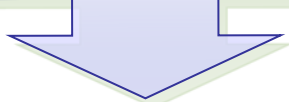
- Rapid growth led to a **housing shortage**.
- Unscrupulous landlords took advantage of desperate immigrants.
- Many families crowded together in **tenements**.
- The tenements were unhealthy and dangerous.

**Urbanization resulted in many changes, including the growth of a middle class.**

Growing industries created a demand for skilled, white-collar workers.



These middle class workers had enough money to spend on the variety of products now available.



Discretionary spending led to the success of another new business—**department stores**.

## Arts and entertainment thrived as cities grew.

Authors

- Mark Twain
- Emily Dickinson
- Henry James

Mass entertainment

- Collegiate and professional sports
- Amusement parks

Interest in religion also surged, as religious leaders appealed to the growing number of city dwellers.



- The **Social Gospel movement** promoted better wages and working conditions.
- Evangelical Protestants traveled from city to city with **religious revival meetings**.

## Objectives

- Explain the development of the New South.
- Understand the impact on Native Americans as settlers moved to the West.
- Identify who moved to the West and their reasons for doing so.





## Terms and People

- **sharecropping** – system in which a farmer tended a portion of a planter's land in return for a share of the crop
- **Dawes Act** – 1887 law that divided Indian reservations into privately owned plots of land
- **assimilate** – to be absorbed into the main culture of a society
- **open range** – vast area of grassland on which livestock roamed and grazed



## What were the most important developments in the South and the West?

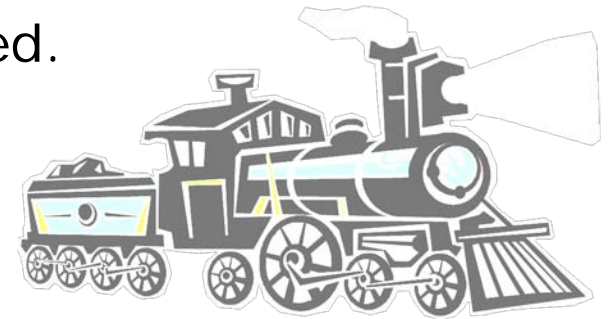
During the late 1800s, life changed dramatically in both the South and the West.

As southerners struggled with a lagging economy, westward migration led to a boom in mining, farming, and ranching.

## After Reconstruction ended, southerners hoped to build a “New South.”

Business leaders worked to diversify the economy and support manufacturing.

- Textile, lumber, and steel industries emerged.
- Railroad construction boomed.

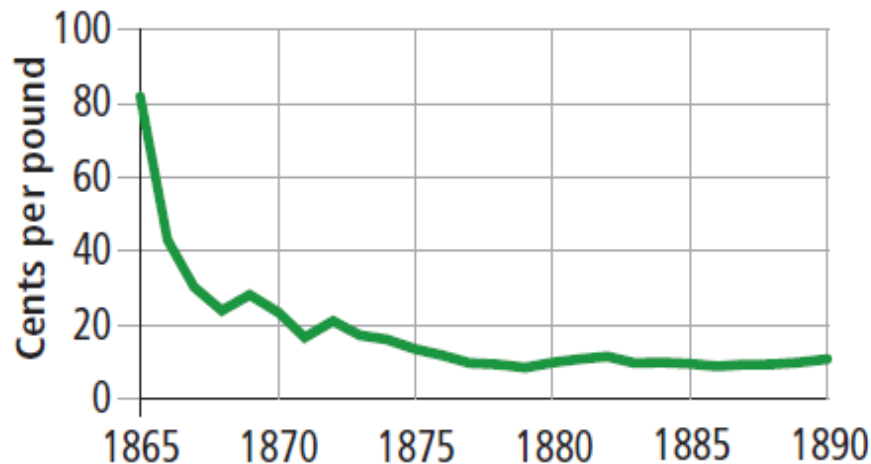


**Despite such progress, however,  
problems persisted.**

- The **southern economy** grew more **slowly** than economies in the North and Midwest.
- A **shortage of capital** led to dependence on northern bankers.
- **High illiteracy rates** and **discrimination** weighed down the region.

For many southern farmers, it was a struggle to survive.

Wholesale Price of Cotton, 1865–1890



SOURCE: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

- The price of cotton—their main crop—plummeted after the war.
- Boll weevils wiped out entire crops.

The **sharecropping** system added to the hardships as many farmers fell into a **cycle of poverty**.

### Sharecropping Cycle of Poverty

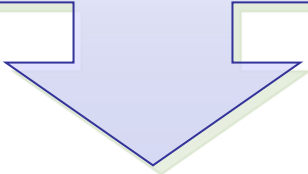




**Life was especially hard for Blacks, who suffered bitter setbacks.**

- Newfound political and civil rights were stripped away.
- Groups like the **Ku Klux Klan** terrorized African Americans.

**In the West, meanwhile, the threat to Indians grew even more urgent.**



- **Settlers** continued to push Indians from their lands.
- The **buffalo** were being hunted nearly to extinction.
- The government was forcing Indians to move onto **reservations**.



## Some Indians fought to defend their lands.



- The Sioux were victorious at **Little Bighorn**.
- **Chief Joseph** and the Nez Percé were defeated after attempting to retreat to Canada.

**Indian resistance was eventually crushed, and Indians were moved onto reservations.**



Chief Joseph

The **Dawes Act** gave the government the authority to divide reservations into privately owned plots and urged Indians to **assimilate**.

In time, however, many **lost their land** and fell into **poverty**.

**Some Indians looked to the ancient ritual of the Ghost Dance to help regain their spirit.**

Fearful of insurrection, authorities **banned Ghost Dances.**

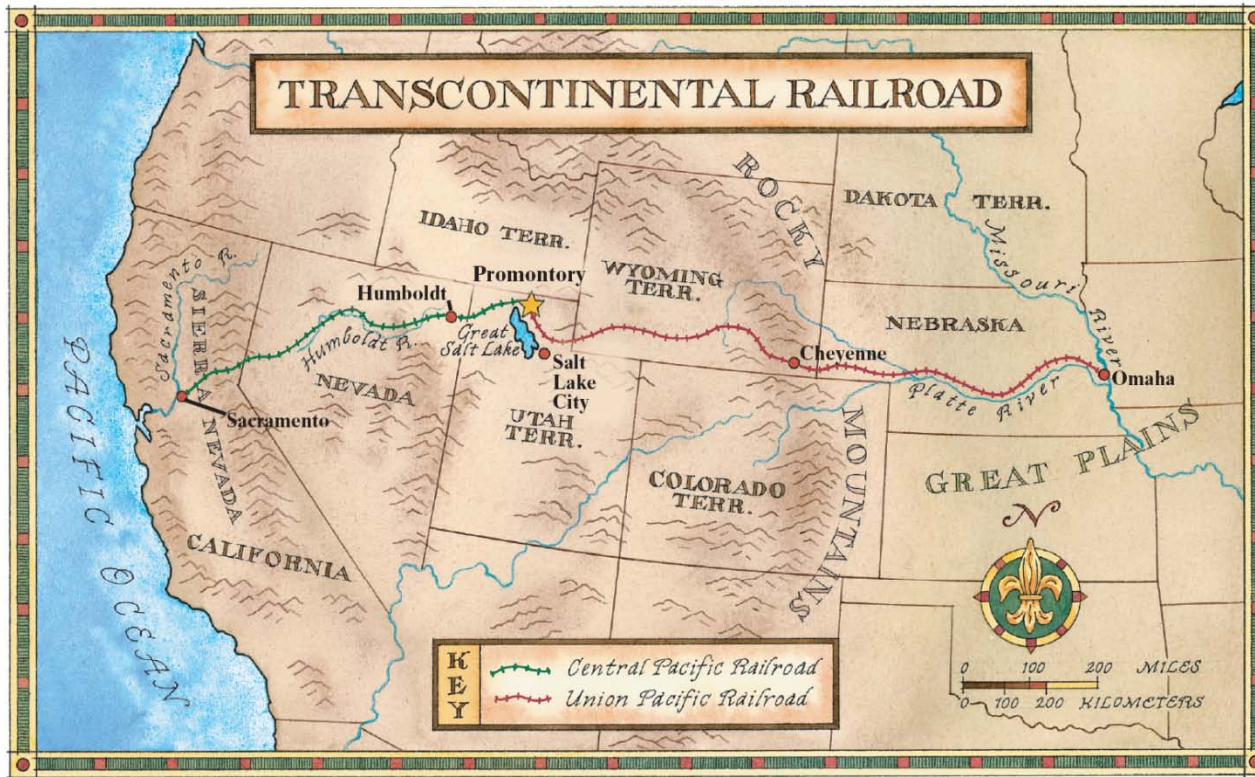
In 1890, tragedy struck when officials tried to stop a Ghost Dance.

Soldiers killed 250 Indians, mostly women and children, at **Wounded Knee.**

**As Indians were being forced onto reservations, millions of settlers continued to move west.**

- Among the first were prospectors, attracted by **discoveries of gold and silver** in the mid-1800s.
- Mining towns boomed—until the gold and silver ran out.

The transcontinental railroad helped open the West to long-term development.



Railroads were soon carrying people and products across the country.

Frontier farmers realized their dream of owning their own land, but many found life on the Great Plains to be lonely and difficult.

There were few trees, little rainfall, and plagues of grasshoppers.

---

Homes were built of sod and heated by burning dried buffalo dung.

---

With no wood, barbed wire was used for fencing.

## Other settlers turning to ranching.

- At the end of the Civil War, some 5 million head of **cattle roamed freely in Texas.**
- Ranchers began rounding up the cattle as the **demand for beef grew.**
- Ranchers hired **cowboys** to herd the cattle north to **railroad lines.**



The long **cattle drives** ran along well-worn trails ending at railroad depots.

From there, the cattle was shipped east.



In time, ranchers began to raise steer on the **open range**, closer to the railroad lines.

A series of **terrible winters** ended open-range ranching.

No longer able to rely on open grazing lands, ranchers began to **fence their land** and **raise feed** for their herds.



## Objectives

- Understand the segregation and social tensions that troubled the nation during the late 1800s.
- Identify the political and economic challenges that existed during the Gilded Age.
- Analyze the effects of the Populists' programs and activities.



## Terms and People

- **Gilded Age** – period during the late nineteenth century when a façade of prosperity covered underlying problems
- **Jim Crow laws** – Reconstruction era laws passed in the southern states that separated blacks and whites
- **graft** – bribery and corruption
- **Pendleton Act** – law that created a civil service system for the federal government

## Terms and People (continued)

- **gold standard** – economic system in which money is backed by gold
- **Populist Party** – People's Party; political party that favored the coinage of silver and several political and economic reforms
- **William Jennings Bryan** – Populist candidate for President in 1896



## What challenges arose for the nation during the Gilded Age?

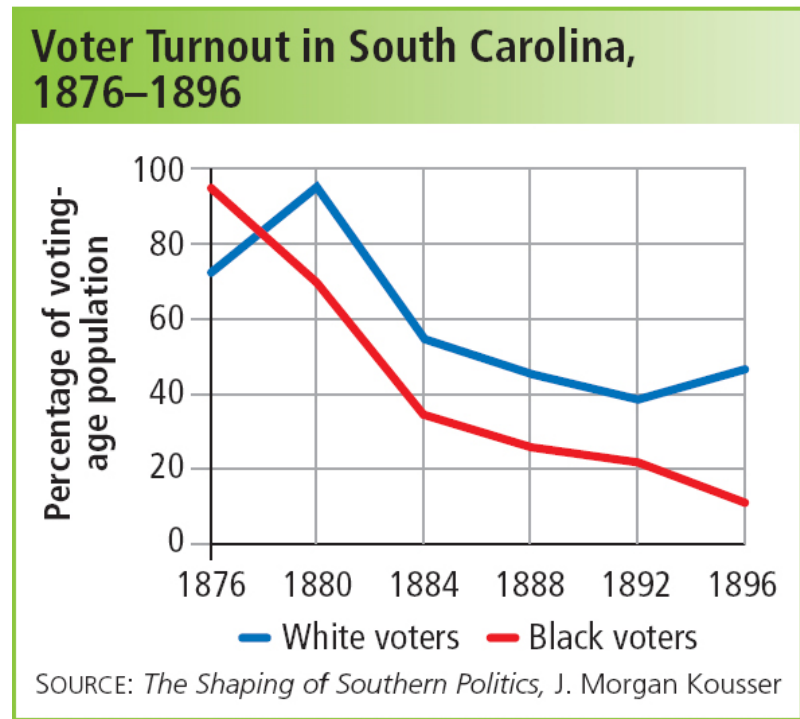
With the rapid pace of industrialization and the boom in the West, it seemed the nation was experiencing a new golden age.

Beneath the glittery surface, however, lurked many serious problems.

The issue of racial inequality continued to trouble the nation.

- Southern states passed **Jim Crow laws** to separate blacks and whites.
- In *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court upheld segregation as long as states maintained “separate but equal” facilities.

The separate facilities for African Americans, however, were **rarely equal**.



At the same time, southern states passed **poll taxes** and **literacy tests** that prevented blacks from voting.

**African American leaders responded to discrimination in different ways.**

**W.E.B. Du Bois**  
became a vocal  
activist for civil  
rights.

**Booker T.  
Washington**  
built Tuskegee  
Institute  
as a symbol of  
black self-help.

**Ida B. Wells**  
campaigned  
against  
lynching.



## Members of other minority groups also struggled against discrimination.

Mexican Americans fought to maintain their property rights.

*Las Gorras Blancas* resorted to warlike tactics to protect their lands.

Asian immigrants were terrorized for taking white workers' jobs.

The Chinese Exclusion Act banned Chinese immigration.

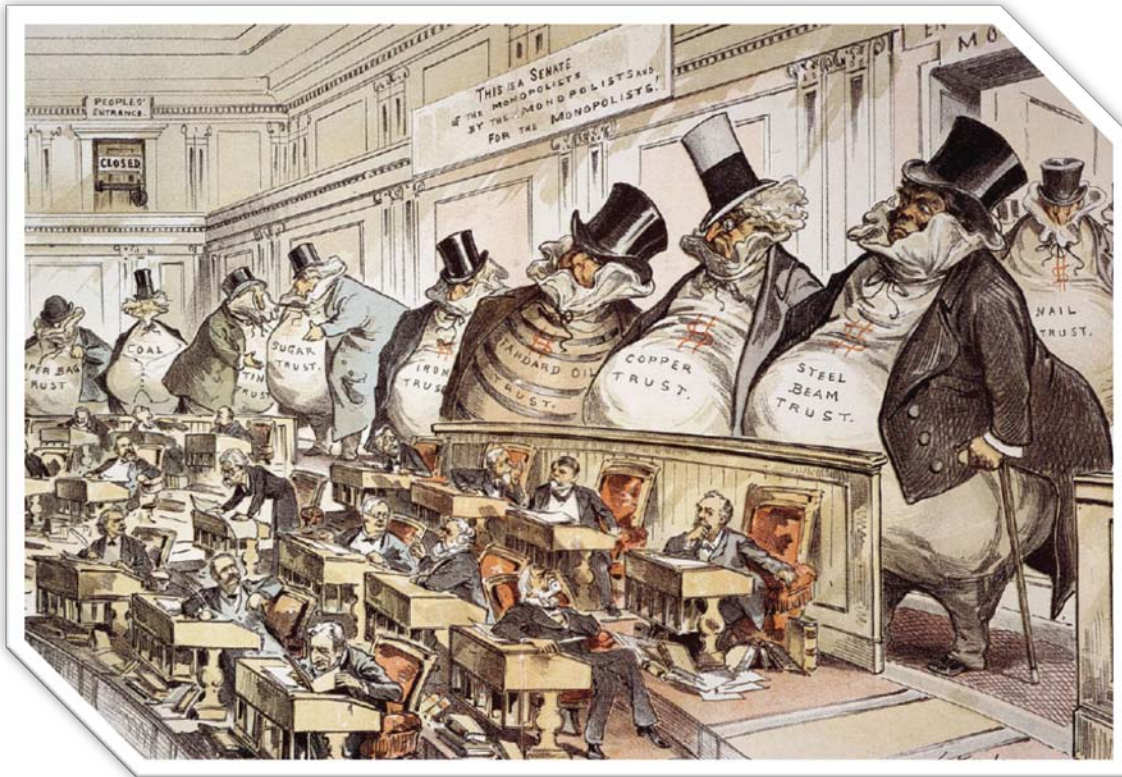
Though they made important gains in education, women still fought for the right to vote.



Several western states allowed women to vote, yet the fight for a **national suffrage amendment** stalled.

Inspired by **Susan B. Anthony** and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, women continued to campaign for equality.

## Adding to the nation's problems was government corruption.



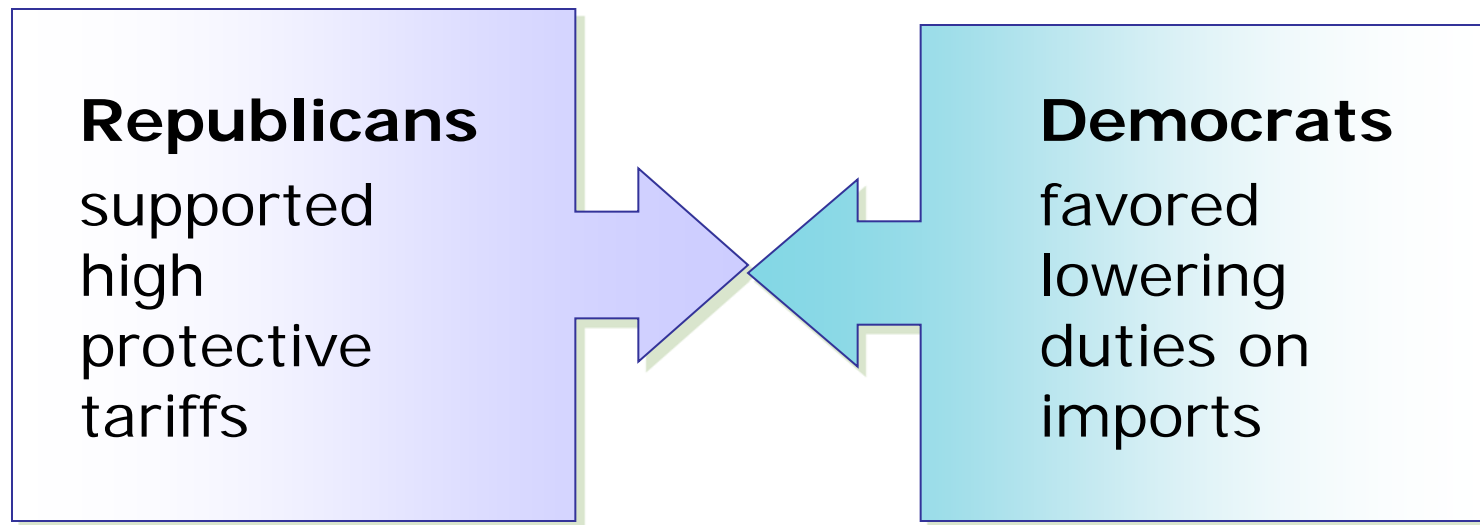
Dishonest politicians gained power by giving government **jobs** to those who promised political support.

**Graft** was rampant.

Congress passed the **Pendleton Act** to help control government corruption.

- Created a federal **civil service system**
- Awarded jobs to those scoring the highest on **written exams**

Tariffs were a key political issue of the time.



**While the two parties argued over tariffs, however, other issues developed that would soon lead to the creation of a third party.**

Given the nation's many problems, some Americans had become angry with the government.

■ Wheat Prices, 1866–1896



SOURCE: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

Farmers were among those expressing this anger.

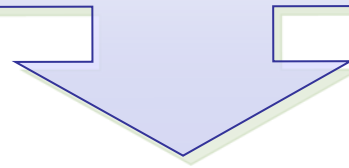
With crop prices falling and debts mounting, many feared they would lose their land.



Farmers joined together to form organizations to push for reforms.

- The Grange
- The Farmers' Alliance

Members of the Farmers' Alliance soon formed the **Populist Party**, or People's Party.



- Sought government ownership of the railroads
- Called for the creation of subtreasury banks
- Favored the coinage of silver
- Supported reforms such as the secret ballot, the direct election of senators, and a graduated income tax

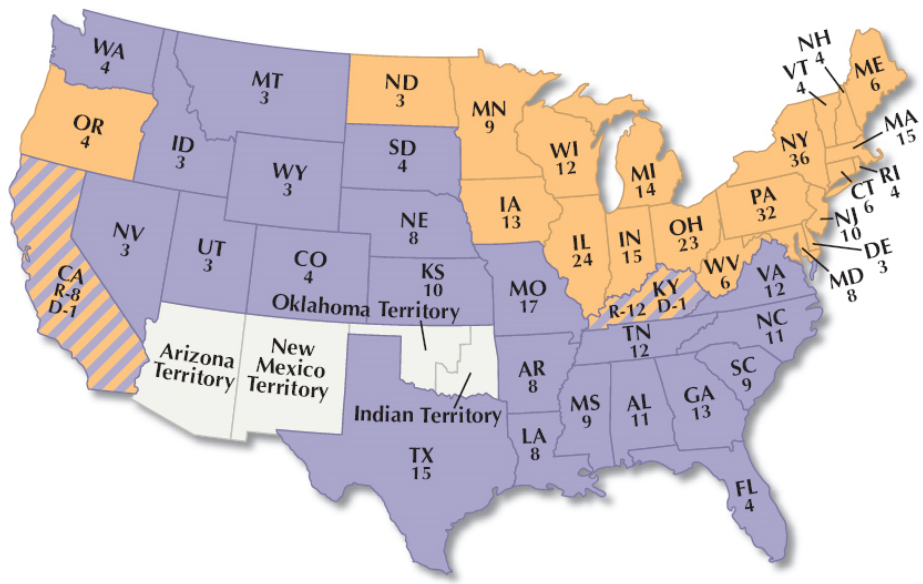


In 1896, the Populists supported Democrat **William Jennings Bryan** for President.

In a hard-fought campaign, Bryan took his case directly to the American people.

- Championed the cause of **the American farmer**
- Denounced the **gold standard**
- Made **“free silver”** the centerpiece of his campaign

The Presidential Election of 1896



Despite his support in the South and the West, Bryan lost the election to Republican William McKinley.

Candidate (Party)	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote	% Electoral Vote	% Popular Vote
William McKinley (Republican)	271	7,104,779	60.6	51.0
William Jennings Bryan (Democratic)	176	6,502,925	39.4	46.7
Other	—	314,226	—	2.3

**Though the Populist Party soon faded away, it had a lasting impact on the political system.**

- Several **Populist proposals**, such as the graduated income tax, eventually became law.
- Bryan's **style of appealing directly to voters** became the norm in American politics.

