Rapid Review: The Gilded Age & Progressive Era, 1865-1914

Directions: Answer questions on a separate sheet of paper and staple to the back of this sheet.

The Gilded Age
1. What was How the Other Half Lives?
2. What was a political machine and what did they do?
3. A company gains control over other companies that produce the same product; Ida Tarbell said that Rockefeller took over her Father’s oil business which led him to despair and suicide. Which business plan did Rockefeller use?
4. A company controls both the production and distribution of its product. Carnegie owned the mines that produced the iron ore AND the factories that turned it into steel. Which business plan did Carnegie use?
5. Corporate business grew fast in the Gilded Age because of laissez-faire capitalism. What is this policy?
6. Explain the concept of scientific management (Taylorism).
7. What is a Horatio Alger story?
8. What groups of people served to significantly expand the labor force during the Gilded Age?
9. The Knights of Labor were the first labor union; what helped their membership grow so large?
10. What happened during the Haymarket Square Riot that made people look down on labor unions?
11. Why was the IWW (Wobblies) considered to be a more “radical” labor union?
12. Which labor union was led by Samuel Gompers?
13. What caused the Pullman strike?
14. “Old immigrants” came from which areas of the world?
15. “New immigrants” came from which areas of the world?
16. What did the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 do?
17. Why did Americans support the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882?
18. What are “nativists” opposed to?
19. Explain the theory of Social Darwinism.
20. What was Carnegie’s “Gospel of Wealth”?

The Progressive Era
21. What were some key goals of the Progressive Reformers (List 3)
22. If someone called you a muckraker; what would that mean?
23. What famous novel did Upton Sinclair write and what was it about?
24. What book did Jacob Riis write and what was it about?
25. What was Ida Tarbell’s issue?
26. T. Roosevelt is known for trust-busting and conservation (starting the National Park Program) but also for his Square Deal. What was its main purpose?
27. Wilson passed the Federal Reserve Act of 1913; what was it?
28. Who started the settlement house movement?
29. What was the 16th Amendment?
30. What was the 17th Amendment?
31. What was the 18th Amendment?
32. President Wilson helped pass the 19th amendment; what was it?
33. Who was Carry Nation and what was her issue?
34. How did W.E.B. DuBois differ from Booker T. Washington?
35. What is the purpose of the NAACP?

Urbanization
The late 19th century saw an increase in the urban population of America. Between 1870 and 1920, the number of Americans living in cities rose from 10 million to 54 million. This rapid increase led to crowding issues and resulted in people living in extremely close quarters in urban areas. Multiple families would have little other choices than to occupy a one-family residence. These multifamily urban dwellings, called tenements, were captured by photojournalist Jacob Riis to expose the unsanitary and overcrowded conditions. Riis published his photographs in his book How the Other Half Lives, with the hope of drawing attention to the terrible living conditions.
Rise of Political Machines
Political machines were organizations that arose to support a political party and keep that party in power. These organizations offered services and favors to voters (mostly new immigrants) in exchange for their votes and financial support. Most major city politics were dominated by political machines. Tammany Hall in New York City was the largest, with William "Boss" Tweed at its head leading the corrupt political ring. The use of graft, or the illegal use of political influence for personal gain, was common among members and bosses of these organizations.

Big Business/The Consolidation of Big Business
*Vertical integration occurs when a company controls both the production and distribution of its product. For example, Andrew Carnegie used vertical integration to gain control over the U.S. steel industry.
*Horizontal integration occurs when one company gains control over other companies that produce the same product. For example John D. Rockefeller used horizontal integration to gain control over the U.S. oil industry.
*By the end of the 19th century, monopolies (trusts) exercised a big degree of control over key aspects of the American economy; this occurred because of laissez-faire capitalism (companies are allowed to operate without government interference).

Consequences of Consolidation: Corporations built large, systematically organized factories where work was increasingly performed by machines and unskilled workers; corporations introduced systems of "scientific management," also known as Taylorism, to increase factory production and lower labor costs by trying to make workers like machines; corporations accumulated huge sums of investment capital; corporations used the RRs to help develop national markets for their goods.

Celebrating American’s Industrial Success: The World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago showcased America’s industrial development; the popular Horatio Alger Jr. (rags to riches) stories of the day provided concrete examples of the ideal of the self-made man who pulls himself up by his own bootstraps and doesn’t look for help or hand-outs from others.

Labor and Labor Unions, 1865-1900
*Key Trends: Immigrants, women, and children significantly expanded the labor force and were the primary source of labor for factory owners because they could be paid less; machines increasingly replaced skilled artisans; large corporations dominated the American economy; corporations developed national and even international markets for their goods.

The Knights of Labor
*Led by Terence V. Powderly. They grew fast because of their open-membership, and the fast growth of the urban population; the Knights welcomed unskilled and semiskilled workers, including women, immigrants, and African Americans; their goal was to create a cooperative society in which laborers, NOT CAPITALISTS, owned the industries in which they worked; the Haymarket Square riot (in Chicago at McCormick Reaper Co. over an 8 hour workday...someone threw a bomb) was unfairly blamed on the Knights. As a result, the public associated them with anarchists and the union began to decline.

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or The Wobblies)
*Led by Eugene Debs, "Mother" Jones, Elizabeth Flynn, Big Bill Haywood; like the Knights they strove to unite all laborers, including unskilled African Americans, who were excluded from craft unions; The IWW’s motto was “An injury to one is an injury to all,” and its goal was to create “ONE BIG UNION.” UNLIKE the Knights, the IWW embraced the idea of class conflict and endorsed violent tactics, so they were viewed as radicals; the IWW was never as large as the Knights and later collapsed during World War I.

The American Federation of Labor (AFL)
*Led by Samuel Gompers; this was alliance of SKILLED workers in craft unions; the AFL concentrated on “bread and butter” issues like higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions.

The Homestead Strike, 1892
*Carnegie had all union workers kicked out of his plant and replaced with non-union workers. Workers rebelled and seized the plant and violence occurred. The state militia was called in; this strike seriously hurt the steelworker’s union.

The Pullman Strike, 1894
*The Pullman Palace Car Company cut wages while at the same time maintaining rents and prices in a company town where 12,000 workers lived. This action caused the Pullman Strike; the strike halted a large portion of American railroad commerce; the strike ended when President Cleveland ordered federal troops to Chicago to crush the strike.
Immigration
*The New Immigrants: Prior to 1880, most immigrants to the U.S. came from northern Europe and the British Isles (these were the old immigrants); beginning in the 1880s, a NEW WAVE of IMMIGRANTS left Europe for America. They came from southern and eastern Europe; they settled in large cities in the Northeast and Midwest (these were the new immigrants); very few NEW IMMIGRANTS settled in the South.

The Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882
*This act prohibited the immigration of Chinese to America for 10 years; American workers felt threatened by Chinese workers who would work for lower wages; support for the law was particularly strong in California.

Nativist Opposition to the New Immigrants
*Nativists had previously opposed Irish and German Catholic immigrants.
*Nativists opposed the New Immigrants for the following reasons:
- The new immigrants were heavily Catholic and Jewish
- They spoke different languages and practiced different cultural traditions
- They did not understand American political traditions
- They threatened to take away jobs because they were willing to work for lower wages.

The New Industrial Order: Supporters and Reformers
*Social Darwinism: the belief that the fittest survive in both nature and society – those who are wealthy are the fittest members of society; elite business and industrial leaders used Social Darwinism to justify their financial success.
*Gospel of Wealth: Promoted by Andrew Carnegie; it expressed the belief that, as the guardians of society’s wealth, the rich have a duty to serve society through charity

The Progressives during the Progressive Era
*Progressive leaders were primarily white, educated, middle-class reformers concerned with urban and consumer issues.
*Progressive reformers believed that government should be used to solve social problems.
*Progressives wanted to use governmental power to regulate industrial production and improve labor conditions.
*Progressives rejected Social Darwinism, arguing that cooperation offered the best way to improve society.

Key Goals and Reforms of the Progressives
*Direct election of senators
*Women’s suffrage (voting rights)
Reform of local governments: Initiative, recall and referendum = ways to make local governments more responsive to public opinion; commission or city-manager forms of government to make local governments more professional; nonpartisan local governments to weaken political machines.
(It’s important to remember that: the Progressives DID NOT fight for civil rights laws; too, many of the goals and reforms had been initiated by the Populists but weren’t passed until the Progressive movement.)

Progressive Constitutional Amendments
16th Amendment: gave Congress the power to collect income taxes
17th Amendment: direct election of Senators
18th Amendment: forbade the sale or manufacture of liquor
19th Amendment: granted women the right to vote

The Muckrakers
Key points: Muckrakers were investigative reporters and journalists who promoted social and political reforms by exposing corruption and urban problems; they were the leading critics or urban bosses and corporate robber barons; the rise of mass-circulation newspapers and magazines enabled muckrakers to reach a large audience.

Leading Muckrakers
*Upton Sinclair: wrote the novel The Jungle, graphically exposing abuses in the meatpacking industry; he helped convince Congress to pass the Meat Inspection Act of 1906 and the Pure Food and Drug Act
*Jacob Riis: wrote the book, How the Other Half Lives, which provided pictures showing the poverty and despair experienced by immigrants living in the tenement buildings on New York City’s Lower East Side.
*Ida Tarbell: was the foremost woman in the muckraking movement; she published a highly critical history of the Standard Oil (as revenge for her Father’s suicide…Rockefeller put her Father out of business).

**The Progressive Presidents**
*Theodore Roosevelt: Addressed all of the following progressive issues – conservation of natural resources and wildlife, unsanitary conditions in the meatpacking industry, monopolization in the RR industry, and unsafe drug products. T. Roosevelt promoted a SQUARE DEAL for labor by using arbitration (conflict resolution). He ran as a 3rd Party Progressive or Bull Moose candidate for President in the 1912 president election because he hated how President Taft (his hand-picked successor to the Presidency) had handled some of the initiatives he had started when he was president (especially those involving conservation).
*Woodrow Wilson: launched an all-out assault on high tariffs, banking problems, and the trusts (monopolies); he supported the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 (this established a system of district banks coordinated by a central board).

**Reformers and Suffragettes, 1865-1920**
*Jane Addams: founded Hull House in Chicago dedicated to helping the urban poor; settlement-house workers established day nurseries for working mothers, published reports condemning deplorable housing conditions, and taught literacy classes.
*The Fight for Suffrage: Frontier life tended to promote the acceptance of greater equality for women; the only states with complete women’s suffrage before 1900 were located west of the Mississippi. Wyoming (1869) was the first state to grant women the full right to vote; the 19th Amendment (1920) guaranteed women the right to vote. (The fight for the right of women to vote was the 2nd wave of the women’s right movement.)
*The Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU): Carry (Carrie) Nation was one of the best known and most outspoken leaders of the WCTU (she carried her Bible and hatchet into saloons and busted up the bars); the WCTU successfully convinced many women that they had a moral responsibility to improve society by working for prohibition (prohibit alcohol).
*Ida B. Well-Barnett was an African American civil rights advocate and an early women’s rights advocate. She is noted for her opposition to lynching; Women reformers were also actively involved in the passage of child labor legislation at the state level and campaigns to limit the working hours of women and children.

**Black Americans during the Progressive Era, 1897-1917**
*W.E.B. DuBois: he emerged as the most influential advocate of full political, economic, and social equality for Black Americans; he founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909 (which focused on using the courts to achieve equality and justice); he advocated the intellectual development of a “talented tenth” of the Black population. Du Bois hope that the talented tenth would become influential by, continuing their education, writing books, or becoming directly involved in social change.

DuBois opposed Booker T. Washington’s program for Black progress. DuBois’s goal was integration and full equality and civil rights, NOT Black separatism. He didn’t think African Americans should have to do anything to be respected by Whites (unlike Booker T. Washington).

**The Birth of a Nation and The Resurgence of the KKK**
*The KKK first emerged during Reconstruction and had a resurgence during the Progressive Era and the 1920s.
*D.W. Griffith’s epic film, The Birth of a Nation (1915,) became controversial because of its showing of KKK activities as heroic and commendable (it was a very ugly and racist movie).
*The film, The Birth of a Nation, played a role in the resurgence of the KKK during the Progressive Era; the KKK favored White supremacy and immigration restriction.