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AP US History – Reading Notes

CHAPTER 24

Industry Comes of Age, 1865–1900

# Chapter Themes

**Theme:** America accomplished heavy industrialization in the post–Civil War era. Spurred by the transcontinental rail network, business grew and consolidated into giant corporate trusts, as epitomized by the oil and steel industries.

**Theme:** Industrialization radically transformed the practices of labor and the condition of the American working people. But despite frequent industrial strife and the efforts of various reformers and unions, workers failed to develop effective labor organizations to match the corporate forms of business.

**Theme:** With the concentration of capital in the hands of a few, new moralities arose to advance justifications for this social and economic phenomenon. A “survival of the fittest” theory emerged, a popular theory based on the thought of Herbert Spencer and William Graham Sumner, which argued that millionaires were products of natural selection. Another theory known as the “Gospel of Wealth” argued that well-to-do societies had to prove themselves morally responsible.

# People, places, and events

1. Leland Stanford

2. Russell Conwell

3. James J. Hill

4. Cornelius Vanderbilt

5. James Buchanan Duke

6. Alexander Graham Bell

7. Thomas Edison

8. Terence V. Powderly

9. William Graham Sumner

10. Samuel Gompers

Chapter 24 Study Guide

**The Iron Colt Becomes an Iron Horse**

What were the advantages and disadvantages of government subsidies for the railroads?

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**Spanning the Continent with Rails**

Describe how the first transcontinental railroad was built.

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**Binding the Country with Railroad Ties**

Explain how the railroads could help or hurt Americans.

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**Railroad Consolidation and Mechanization**

What technological improvements helped railroads?

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**Revolution by Railways**

What effects did the railroads have on America as a whole?

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**Wrongdoing in Railroading**

What wrongdoing were railroads guilty of?

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**Government Bridles the Iron Horse**

Was the Interstate Commerce Act an important piece of legislation?

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**Miracles of Mechanization**

What factors made industrial expansion possible?

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**The Trust Titan Emerges**

How did businesses organize to try to maximize profits?

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**The Supremacy of Steel**

Why was steel so important for industrialization?

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**Carnegie and Other Sultans of Steel**

Briefly describe the careers of Andrew Carnegie and J.P. Morgan.

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**Rockefeller Grows an American Beauty Rose**

How was John D. Rockefeller able to become so wealthy?

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**The Gospel of Wealth**

How did the wealthy justify their wealth?

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**Government Tackles the Trust Evil**

What two methods were tried by those who opposed the trusts?

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**The South in the Age of Industry**

How successful were Southerners at industrializing?

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**The Impact of the New Industrial Revolution on America**

Describe the positive and negative effects of the industrial revolution on working Americans.

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**In Unions There is Strength**

What conditions existed in America that led Jay Gould to say, "I can hire one half of the working class to kill the other half"?

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**Labor Limps Along**

Explain the similarities and differences between the National Labor Union and the Knights of Labor.

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**Unhorsing the Knights of Labor**

What factors led to the decline of the Knights of Labor?

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**The AF of L to the Fore**

How was the AFL different from previous unions?