APUSH PERIOD 6: 
1865-1898 
REVIEWED!

1.) Economic opportunities: Mining, farming, cattle industry
2.) Federal government policies: Homestead Act, Pacific Railroad Act
3.) Active federal government: Removing Native people, subsidies for railroads

Conservationist Movement

- Government agencies and conservationist vs. corporate interests over the extension of public control over natural resources such as land and water.
- Department of the Interior (1849): responsible for management and conservation of federal land & resources
- U.S. Fish Commission (1871): created to preserve the fisheries of the U.S.
- Sierra Club founded by John Muir to fight for conservation and preservation of natural resources.
Native American Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violent Conflict</th>
<th>Assimilation Policies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sand Creek Massacre (1864): Colorado Militia attack and kill over 100 Native people</td>
<td>Tribes forced onto reservations (Great Sioux Reserve)</td>
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<td>Battle of Little Big Horn: (1876): The Sioux tribe (Inspired by Sitting Bull) kill Custer and his men in the 7th Cavalry (Custer’s Last Stand)</td>
<td>Dawes Severalty Act (1887): intended to end tribal ownership of land</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghost Dance movement begins amongst the Sioux in Dakota territory</td>
<td>Carlisle Indian School: intended to assimilate Native people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battle of Wounded Knee (1890) U.S. army go into the Dakotas and killed over 200.</td>
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INDUSTRIALIZATION

- large scale production
- Tremendous technological change
- Improved communication networks
- Business seeking to maximize the exploitation of a growing labor force and natural resources

- Industry leaders such as Carnegie (steel) and Rockefeller (oil) sought to dominate their respective industries through a variety of techniques:
  - Horizontal Integration: Controlling all competition in a particular industry. Consolidating all competitors to monopolize a market.
  - Vertical Integration: Control all aspects of manufacturing from extracting raw materials to selling the finished product
  - In order to eliminate or reduce competition business leaders sought to establish monopolies, trusts, and pools.
- Business leaders defended their wealth with ideas such as Social Darwinism (survival of the fittest)
- Advocated for laissez faire policies
  - The government should not regulate business

Regional Differences: “The New South”

- There was an attempt at industrializing the southern economy
- Increase in the number of textile factories
- The south remained dependent on agriculture
  - Tenant farming and sharecropping continued to be the predominant labor system of the southern economy
    - Especially African American laborers in post Reconstruction south
INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- Industrialization and urbanization brought new economic opportunities for immigrants and workers.
- New career opportunities developed (in spite of social prejudice) for African Americans and women.

WORKERS ORGANIZE

- **Knights of Labor** (1869)
  - Terence Powderly opened the union to all workers (skilled & unskilled workers; women & African Americans)
  - Decline following Haymarket Riot in 1886
- **American Federation of Labor** (1886)
  - Under the leadership of Samuel Gompers focused on skilled workers
  - Focus on “bread & butter” issues—wages, working conditions
  - By 1900 it was the largest union

While industrialization brought numerous opportunities to workers and dramatically expanded the work force, low wages and dangerous working conditions continued to be a problem.

Evaluating the Labor Movement

**Successes**
- Workers did form local and national unions that did directly confront growing corporate power
- Beginning of a national labor union movement and rise of union leadership (Eugene Debs, Mother Jones)

**Failures**
- **Homestead Strike** (1892): Workers at Carnegie’s steel plant are defeated
- **Pullman Strike** (1894): President Cleveland uses the army and court injunction to defeat the strike.
- Divisions between skilled vs. unskilled workers, ethnic and racial groups
- Hostility from corporations, no protection by government
The lives of farmers was also changing as they had to adapt to mechanized agriculture and dependence on powerful railroad companies.

Problems for farmers: 1) Falling prices 2) unfair railroad business practices 3) high cost of machinery 4) tight money supply 5) high tariffs

FARMERS ORGANIZE

- The Grange Movement: organized social and educational activities.
  - Lobbied state legislatures for reforms
- Farmers Alliance: Founded in Texas (1870s)- excluded blacks (Colored Farmers Alliance), ignored tenant farmers
- Significant 3rd Party: Populist Party
  - Platform: 1) Government ownership of railroads, 2) free & unlimited coinage of silver (increase $$$ supply), 3) graduated income tax (rich pay more), 4) direct election of Senators, 5) use of initiatives and referendums

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

- Mark Twain called the era the “Gilded Age”
  - Below the surface things are not as good as they seem
- Politics during the Gilded Age was tied to big business
- Laissez faire philosophy prevented the government from actively regulating the economy

Start of Government Regulation

- Grange Movement: Munn v. Illinois ruled that states could regulate railroads
- Wabash Case (1886) states cannot regulate interstate commerce
  - Leads to passage of Interstate Commerce Act (1887)
- Sherman Anti-Trust Act: Outlawed trusts & other monopolies that fix prices & restrained trade
  - Used against labor unions

The Movement of People

- Large scale internal and external migration takes place

Internal:
- Settlers seeking opportunities on the frontier (available as a result of the Homestead Act and completion of the transcontinental railroad) head west
- Mass movement of people to urban areas
- African Americans moving out of the south into northern cities (“Great Migration”)

External
- Large scale immigration from China (Chinese Exclusion Act 1883 will change this)
- Post 1880- “new immigrants” from southern and eastern Europe (Russia, Italy, Poland, etc.)
  - Largely settle in urban areas
RESPONSE TO CHANGING IMMIGRATION

- As a result of these new immigrants there was a rise in Nativism
- Attempts to exclude:
  - Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)
  - American Protective Association = anti-Catholic group made up of American Protestants
  - Literacy Test proposed to keep southern and eastern European immigrants out

Challenges of Urbanization & Immigration

- Cities were often divided among classes, races, ethnicities, and cultures
- Low wages and dangerous working conditions kept many workers in extreme poverty
  - Contrast between the poor and the wealthy who enjoyed lives of “conspicuous consumption”
  - Tenement housing was common (documented by Jacob Riis “How the Other Half Lives”)
- Child labor increasingly became a problem
- Immigrants attempted to both assimilate (i.e. learn English) and maintain their own unique cultural identities
- Political machines dominated city life by exchanging welfare services and jobs for political support

Addressing the Challenges of the Gilded Age

- Gospel of Wealth: Belief that the wealthy had a moral obligation to help out those less fortunate
  - Andrew Carnegie “Wealth”
- Settlement House movement sought to relieve urban poverty and provide assistance to immigrants
  - Jane Addams Hull House in Chicago
- Social Gospel movement challenged the dominant corporate ethic
  - Christians had a responsibility to deal with urban poverty
- Socialist Party and other organizations challenged capitalism
  - Edward Bellamy “Looking Backward” about a utopian socialist society that has fixed the social and economic injustices of the time.
- Effort to reform these problems will eventually lead to a movement known as the Progressive Movement in the 1890s
Addressing the Social Challenges of the Gilded Age

- National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) sought to secure the right to vote for women (suffrage)
  - Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Carrie Chapman Catt
- Various African American leaders sought to advance the cause of civil rights
  - Booker T. Washington: African Americans should acquire vocational skills to gain self-respect and economic security
    - Established Tuskegee Institute
  - Ida Wells-Barnett: active in women's rights movement and in the campaign against lynching

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