

# Unit 5 1865-1898

## INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



Urbanization  
The "New" South  
Closure of the Frontier  
Indian Wars



### Brief Summary

This summary is not meant to replace your reading and study time in your AMSCO guide, and it by no means covers every significant fact from the era... but it will provide a simple overview/review of the era with some of the major terms in bold as a reminder of those items most likely to show up on the exam. Consider it an introduction to the era review. As you **READ**, **highlight** any event/item that you do not recall or understand. (Summary written by John Braithwaite with minor adaptations by Rebecca Richardson, Allen High School)

Land was abundant and, thanks to the **Homestead Act**, it was cheap. With the completion of the **Transcontinental Railroad** in 1869, settlers now had a fast and reliable way to get there. After the Civil War, many people traveled west for a fresh start. The transcontinental railroad tied the nation together. It became a curse however, to farmers who were overcharged to ship their crops to market. Native Americans fought with the government to maintain their identity. Ultimately, they failed and were consigned to live their lives on **reservations** and to become assimilated into white society. Among the various groups of western settlers were cowboys. They herded thousands of cattle at a time to railroad heads. This **open range** time ended with the introduction of **barbed wire** in 1874. Others included miners and ranchers. There was a gold rush in Colorado (**Pike's Peak**) and gold and silver rush in Nevada (**Comstock Lode**). Boomtowns followed these rushes with banks, saloons, brothels following the economic activity. Many boomtowns went bust.

The main problem in moving west was that settlers encountered hostile Native Americans. The U.S. government had pushed them westward with the promise of not being bothered again. Starting with the close of the Civil War in 1865, however, United States soldiers began moving them to reservations. The natives had one *major* battle at **Little Bighorn** in 1876 that they won. The U.S. government then began to aggressively shove the natives to the reservations. In Florida, the army fought the Seminole Indians, eventually capturing and moving many of them. The survivors escaped to the Everglades. A movement called the **ghost dance** swept through the reservations. It called to the spirits to bring back the buffalo that the army had purposely destroyed and eliminate all white people. Some of the Natives left the **reservations** and were pursued by the cavalry to **Wounded Knee** where they were slaughtered. By 1890, most Indians were living on reservations in squalid conditions. Congress passed the **Dawes Act** in 1887 which tried to "whiten up" the Natives. This policy, known as **assimilation**, would remain official government policy until the 1930's.

The **Gilded Age** is the time period between **Reconstruction** (1865-1877) and the **Progressive Era** (1890-1920). Although U.S. Grant's two terms as President were in Reconstruction, he is often defined as the beginning of the Gilded Age. It is a time when big business and the rich businessmen ran the country. The presidents were a bland, bearded bunch who let millionaire businessmen do what they wanted with very little government interference. Corrupt politicians ran the big cities and most states. These politicians openly took bribes to ensure that the government would not interfere with business making money at the people's expense. The business practices of the time such as the exploitation of the workers forcing them to labor for ridiculously long hours and low pay (which forced them to put all family members including small children to work), and the damage done to the environment would be considered illegal today. But, in the age of **rapid industrialization**, these men were admired by many for their ability to make enormous sums of wealth. An invention of major importance was the light bulb (**Thomas Edison**), which allowed people to work twenty-four hours a day.

The millionaires roll call included: **Andrew Carnegie**, who controlled U.S. Steel, Carnegie used **vertical integration** to dominate the steel industry. **John D. Rockefeller** ran the monopoly of Standard Oil as a **horizontal consolidation** he used cut throat business practices to put small companies out of business then purchased them at a deep discount. **Cornelius Vanderbilt** made his fortune in railroads. **J.P. Morgan** was a banker who was so wealthy that he actually loaned the United States money during the **Panic of 1893**. Although there were many examples of greed, these "**Captains of Industry**" also helped the new, urbanizing and industrializing society evolve into an economy where Americans had the highest standard of living in the world. Rich businessmen fought the negative stereotype of "**robber baron**." This included Carnegies "**Gospel of Wealth**" which stated that the rich had a moral responsibility to help the poor and better society by investing in things like libraries, education, and other public facilities.

The railroads were growing very fast. It was also the only way for farmers to get their crops to market. The railroads took advantage of the farmers by overcharging them for shipping and storing the crops. The disgruntled farmers organized into a group called the **Grange**, aka the **Patrons of Husbandry**. They pushed Congress to regulate the railroads. The **Farmer's Alliance** later took up the call and put more pressure on the government to stop the railroads from taking advantage of farmers. Eventually, the **Interstate Commerce Commission** was set up to regulate the railroads. It was the first time the government regulated an industry.

The cities of this time period were dominated by political machines. This was an organization who would buy votes to remain in power. Once in power, they would steal as much money as possible from the government. The most notorious **city boss** was from New York named **William "Boss" Tweed**, who controlled **Tammany Hall**. Political machines would also hand out jobs to supporters in a practice known as **patronage**. This practice extended all the way to the White House. President Garfield was assassinated by a crazed, disgruntled office seeker. The U.S. government finally passed the **Pendleton Civil Service Act**. It made people who wanted a federal government job take a test. It then based hiring on qualifications, rather than who you knew for approximate 10% of government jobs. Eventually that percentage increased.

As industry grew and working conditions worsened...outraged workers began to organize into **unions** to increase their rights and benefits at work. [Examples were: **National Labor Union, Knights of Labor, & AF of L**. The big businessmen violently crushed any labor movement because they didn't want to pay workers more due to the fact that it would cut into their profits. Any **strike** by labor would be broken up by night stick wielding policemen who were usually paid by the businessmen, **Pinkertons**. The newspapers didn't help the unions by painting the strikers as **socialists** and **anarchists**, bent on destroying society. One of the most successful unions was the **American Federation of Labor** or the **AFL**. It was composed of skilled workers who couldn't be easily replaced by **scab labor**. They pushed for tangible benefits such as shorter work hours and better pay.

Two groups in society faced special discrimination. The Chinese out west were constantly harassed. In 1882, the **Chinese Exclusion Act** was passed that outlawed Chinese immigration for ten years, later extended to twenty years. There were new waves of immigrants in the late 1800s such as the **Italians** who also faced intense discrimination. Anti-immigrant sentiment continued into the next era, **Progressive Era**.

African Americans were treated little better than during slavery. They faced a time of **legal or de jure segregation** called **Jim Crow**. A Supreme Court case called **Plessey vs. Ferguson** ruled that **separate but equal** facilities in the south were fine. This was the law until the 1954 case of **Brown vs. Board**, which overturned the **separate but equal doctrine** and began the Civil Rights Movement. During the 1890's there were two prominent African Americans who became spokesman for their race. **Booker T. Washington**, who founded the **Tuskegee Institute**, was more conciliatory toward white society and wanted African Americans to get an education before demanding equal rights. **W.E.B. Dubois**, a Harvard graduate, wanted the top ten percent (**Talented Tenth**) of African Americans to be given total equality with whites. He advocated for a more progressive and more aggressive form of civil rights. These efforts were also a part of the next era, **Progressive Era**, which saw many attempts to better society for many groups including women, workers, immigrants, etc.

## Unit 5 Timeline Review

**Important Dates and Chronological Review**-Keep in mind that memorizing dates is not required, however sometimes significant years do pop up on tests. Those dates in bold are years that have popped up in the past. Far more important is reviewing general chronology. You are expected to understand chronology, so use this list to help you review sequencing. Add notes as you review to make the timeline complete, **and highlight any information that you do not yet have in long term memory**. Some of the items on this timeline are more significant to unit 4 Civil War and Reconstruction, unit 6 Populism and Progressivism, or unit 6 Imperialism and World Wars. Remember this time period has **several overlapping themes**.

Chronological Review

1862 **Homestead Act**

The "yeoman farmer" ideal of Jeffersonian democracy was still a powerful influence in American politics during the 1840–1850s, with many politicians believing a homestead act would help increase the number of "virtuous yeomen". The Free Soil Party of 1848–52, and the new Republican Party after 1854, demanded that the new lands opening up in the west be made available to independent farmers, rather than wealthy planters who would develop it with the use of slaves forcing the yeomen farmers onto marginal lands. Southern Democrats had continually fought (and defeated) previous homestead law proposals, as they feared free land would attract European immigrants and poor Southern whites to the west. After the South seceded and their delegates left Congress in 1861, the Republicans and other supporters from the upper South passed a homestead act. The homestead was an area of public land in the West (usually 160 acres or 0.65 km<sup>2</sup>) granted to any US citizen willing to settle on and farm the land for at least five years. The law (and those following it) required a three-step procedure: file an application, improve the land, and file for deed of title. Anyone who had never taken up arms against the U.S. government (including freed slaves) and was at least 21 years old or the head of a household could file an application to claim a federal land grant. The occupant had to reside on the land for five years, and show evidence of having made improvements.

**Morrill Land Grant Act**

The Morrill Act was first proposed in 1857, and was passed by Congress in 1859, but it was vetoed by President James Buchanan. In 1861, Morrill resubmitted the act with the amendment that the proposed institutions would teach military tactics as well as engineering and agriculture. Aided by the secession of many states that did not support the plans, this reconfigured Morrill Act was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862. Under the act, each eligible state received a total of 30,000 acres of federal land, either within or contiguous to its boundaries, for each member of congress the state had as of the census of 1860. This land, or the proceeds from its sale, was to be used toward establishing and funding the educational institutions. Many universities across the country today originated due to this act.

**Pacific Railway Act**

The Pacific Railroad Act of 1862 began federal government grant of lands directly to corporations; before that act, the land grants were made to the states, for the benefit of corporations. authorized extensive land grants in the Western United States and the issuance of 30-year government bonds (at 6 percent) to the Union Pacific Railroad and Central Pacific Railroad (later the Southern Pacific Railroad) companies in order to construct a continuous transcontinental railroad between the eastern side of the Missouri River at Council Bluffs, Iowa (opposite from Omaha, Nebraska) and the navigable waters of the Sacramento River in Sacramento, California. Section 2 of the Act granted each Company contiguous rights of way for their rail lines as well as all public lands within 200 feet (61 m) on either side of the track.

These three acts are **extremely significant** to the remainder of the century. Understand them and be able to analyze causes and effects of them!

- 1865 Civil War ended, Reconstruction began, Lincoln assassinated, Johnson took over, & **13<sup>th</sup> Amendment** ratified
- 1866 **Transatlantic cable** completed... communication increased between western Europe and the North America
- 1867 **U.S. acquired Alaska**... Secretary of State **W.H. Seward** purchased it from Russia; "**Seward's Folly**"  
**U.S. annexed Midway Islands**  
 New York City passed the **Tenement House Act** (first law regulating tenements)  
**The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry** formed (The Grange)
- 1868 **Andrew Johnson** acquitted by the Senate after being **impeached** by the House for breaking the **Tenure of Office Act**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Amendment** ratified  
**Ulysses S. Grant** elected president  
**Burlingame Treaty** signed with China... also known as the **Burlingame-Seward Treaty of 1868** amended the Treaty of Tientsin of 1858 and established formal friendly relations between the two countries, with the United States granting China most favored nation status.
- 1869 Construction began on the Sante Fe Railroad  
**Transcontinental Railroad completed**; Union Pacific and Central Pacific joined at Promontory Point, Utah Territory
- 1870 **15<sup>th</sup> Amendment** ratified making former slaves citizens and making it a crime to deny freedmen the right to vote  
**Farmers Alliance** formed
- 1871 **Treaty of Washington** was signed in order to settle the question of the **U.S.-Canada border**; **de-militarized** border, shared Great Lakes, led to increased cooperation and trade
- 1873 The end of minting of "Liberty" silver dollar... **gold now sole monetary standard**  
**Panic of 1873**  
 Grant begins second term  
**Slaughterhouse cases** test the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment A distinction was drawn between United States and state citizenship, and it was held that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment did not intend to deprive the state of legal jurisdiction over the civil rights of its citizens. The restraint placed by the Louisiana legislators on the slaughterhouse operators was declared not to deprive them of their property without due process.  
**William Marcy Tweed (Tweed Ring) imprisoned**
- 1874 **Barbed wire** invented/patented which led to "closure" of the west  
 Grant refused to increase the paper money supply
- 1876 Rutherford B. Hayes elected... **Compromise of 1877** and the end of Reconstruction  
**Battle of Little Big Horn** (Custer's Last Stand)... in Montana the U.S. Calvary under the command of **General George Armstrong Custer** decimated by native tribes including Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho... this was the **last great Indian victory**... **Sitting Bull is the only remaining great native power left**  
 Mark Twain wrote *Tom Sawyer*  
 Alexander Graham Bell patents **telephone**
- 1877 **Compromise of 1877** ends Radical Reconstruction; military withdraws from the South and Redeemers take over  
**Munn v. Illinois**: Railroads are "private property acting in the public good" and are thus subject to government regulation (later reversed)  
**Exodusters** migrated to Kansas (southern blacks looking for land and opportunity)  
 U.S. acquired the naval rights to **Pearl Harbor, Hawaii**
- 1878 **Bland-Allison Act** required the treasury to buy silver to begin coinage again  
 Susan B. Anthony's **women's suffrage amendment** defeated
- 1879 **Thomas Edison** invented the **light bulb**
- 1880 **James Garfield** elected president  
 Publication of major works on Indian tribes including *Our Indian Wards* by George W. Manypenny and  
**A Century of Dishonor** by **Helen Hunt Jackson**
- 1881 Garfield assassinated, **Chester Arthur** in
- 1882 **Timber and Stone Act** passed  
**Standard Oil Trust** formed by **John D. Rockefeller**  
**Chinese Exclusion Act**

- 1883 **Pendleton Civil Service Act** ended the “spoils” system (favoritism) and began merit system (exams) by establishing the **Civil Service Commission**.  
**Civil Rights cases** repealed most of the earlier civil rights legislation and established **segregation** as lawful  
**Time Zones** established across the country  
**Brooklyn Bridge is completed** and New York City expanded
- 1884 **Grover Cleveland** elected president  
**Mark Twain** wrote *Huckleberry Finn*... the first truly American novel (critics said)
- 1886 **Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Railroad Co. v. Illinois**: reverses **Munn v. Illinois**... states cannot control interstate railroad lines; only Congress can regulate interstate railroad rates  
**Jane Addams** and Ellen Gates Starr opened the **Hull House** in Chicago to provide services to poor immigrants... the **settlement house movement** is also aided by Florence Kelley and Graham Taylor  
**American Federation of Labor** established
- 1887 **Interstate Commerce Act**... **Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) formed**... federal government takes more responsibility to regulate railroad after state “Granger” laws are declared unconstitutional  
Farm and land prices collapsed  
**Dawes Severalty Act** passed which dissolved community-owned Indian land, provided an allowance for individual Indian ownership of government allotted land and citizenship (forced assimilation)  
**Hatch Act** put agricultural experimental stations in every state to help expand technology
- 1888 **Benjamin Harrison** elected president
- 1889 North and South Dakota, Washington, and Montana - new states  
**Thomas Edison** invented the **kinescope (motion picture camera)**  
**Pan-American Conference** held in D.C.  
**Andrew Carnegie** publishes the **Gospel of Wealth**
- 1890 **McKinley Tariff** adds 48.4% to the cost of imported goods, allowing American businesses to undersell other countries  
**Sherman Silver Purchase Act** directed Treasury to purchase 50% more silver than current law (repealed in 1893)  
**The Mississippi Plan** began in the South to prevent Blacks and poor Whites from voting by establishing a **poll tax** with unreasonable requirements for payment  
**The Sherman Anti Trust Act** passed, limiting trusts but ineffective... used mainly to control labor  
**Wounded Knee massacre**... following the murder of Chief Sitting Bull, U.S. troops are ordered to subdue his people; near Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota, hundreds of Lakota Sioux (including women and children) are slaughtered by U.S. troops when chaos ensued after a botched disarmament order... this tragedy marks the **end of the Indian Wars**.  
Wyoming and Idaho became – new states  
First National Park: Yosemite established  
**Census Bureau declared the frontier is now officially closed**  
**Alfred T. Mahan** wrote *The Influence of Sea Power upon History*... which had worldwide impact on expansion
- 1891 **Electric Trolleys** replaced horse-driven mass transit  
**The People Party** (third party, aka **the Populists**) formed from many other groups and parties including Greenback Party, Silver Party, Farmer’s Alliance
- 1892 **Grover Cleveland** elected president (second term; only president to have non-consecutive terms)  
**Homestead Steel Strike**  
**Election of 1892, Populist James Weaver (third party) wins 8.5% of the vote**
- 1893 **Sherman Silver Purchase Act repealed**  
**Economic depression begins... lasted until 1897**  
**Frederick Jackson Turner; Frontier Thesis**... states that the U.S. frontier was the essential building block of American character... so America needed to look to new frontiers overseas  
**World Colombian Exposition (Chicago World Fair)**  
**Anti-Saloon League** formed (later joined the Women’s Christian Temperance Union - crusade to limit or prohibit alcohol)
- 1894 Democrats reduced McKinley Tariffs, but then the **Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act** re-established them  
**Pullman Strike**... railroad workers virtually paralyzed the nation; Cleveland called in federal troops;  
**Eugene V. Debs** (president of the railway union) was arrested and, while in prison, formulated a plan to make him the socialist leader then president of the U.S.  
**Coxey’s Army** marched on Washington D.C. demanding that the government provide jobs for the unemployed

1895	<p><b>William Randolph Hearst</b> bought The New York Journal... a rivalry with <b>Joseph Pulitzer's</b> New York World set the tone for <b>yellow journalism</b> (distorted, sensationalized stories)</p> <p><b>U.S. v. E.C. Knight Co.</b> (aka "Sugar Trust Case") limits government's ability to control monopolies under <b>Sherman Anti-Trust Act</b></p> <p><b>Cuban Revolution</b></p> <p><b>Booker T. Washington... Atlanta Compromise</b> speech accepted "separate but equal" while pushing for education and economic independence for blacks.</p>
1896	<p><b>William McKinley</b> elected president; election included Democrat, <b>William Jennings Bryan</b>, who gave famed <b>"Cross of Gold" speech</b></p> <p><b>Plessy v. Ferguson</b> Supreme Court case declares <b>"separate but equal"</b> is alright... segregation continued</p> <p>Utah – new state, Mormon Church no longer supports polygamy</p> <p><b>Klondike Gold Rush</b> in Alaska begins, lasts 3 years, increases supply of gold and decreases demand for Silver</p>
1897	<p><b>Dingley Act</b> raised tariff rates to counteract <b>Wilson-Gorman</b>... remained in effect until 1909</p> <p><b>Maximum Freight Rate Case</b>... Supreme Court ruled that the ICC does not have the power to set rates which weakened the ICC</p>
1898	<p>The Louisiana <b>Grandfather Clause</b> established literacy and property qualifications for voting, but exempts sons and grandsons of those eligible before 1867</p> <p><b>USS Maine</b> sunk in Havana Harbor - Cuba, Spain blamed,</p> <p><b>Spanish-American War</b> began</p>
1899	<p><b>Cummings v. Country Board of Education</b> ruled that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment allows the use of taxes to fund black but not white public high schools</p> <p><b>Treaty of Paris</b> ended <b>Spanish American War</b>... Cuba gained independence from Spain, U.S. gained <b>Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam from Spain</b></p> <p><b>Open Door Note</b> sent to <b>European powers in China which urged free trade</b></p> <p><b>Filipino Insurrection</b> began... Emilio Aguinaldo leads attempt to push out Americans (he is captured in 1901 and insurrection ends... America retains control of Philippines)</p> <p>United Fruit Company gave U.S. power in Latin America</p>
1900	<p>McKinley re-elected</p> <p><b>Gold Standard Act</b> ... paper money only backed by gold</p>

## ERA OVERVIEW

The Era Was Ushered in with the end of the Civil War (or the policies of the Lincoln Administration during the war).  
 The Era Was Eased out with America's Rise to Power or the election of McKinley.

### Essential Questions:

- Explain how Gilded Age politics were intimately tied to big business.
- In what ways did Gilded Age politicians deal with economic issues such as tariffs, currency, corporate expansion, and laissez-faire economic policy. How did these actions engender numerous calls for reform?
- Analyze the ways the rise of big business in the United States *encouraged* massive migrations and urbanization, sparked government and popular efforts to reshape the U.S. economy and environment, and renewed debates over U.S. national identity.
- Explain how leaders of big business *were challenged in different ways* by demographic issues, regional differences, and labor movements as they and their allies in government aimed to create a unified industrialized nation.
- Analyze the impact of Westward migration, new systems of farming and transportation, and economic instability on political, economic, and social norms within the United States.
- In what ways and to what extent did transcontinental railroads impact American Indians, migration patterns within North America, and the Western environment.
- Evaluate the success of American society in adjusting to the changes stemming from international and internal migrations which increased both urban and rural populations.
- Identify the ways gender, racial, ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic inequalities abounded during the Gilded Age, inspiring some reformers to attempt to address these inequities.

### Essential Themes and Main Ideas:

- The "Gilded Age" witnessed new cultural and intellectual movements in tandem with political debates over economic and social policies.
- The transformation of the United States from an agricultural to an increasingly industrialized and urbanized society brought about significant economic, political, diplomatic, social, environmental, and cultural changes.
- The emergence of an industrial culture in the United States led to both greater opportunities for, and restrictions on, immigrants, minorities, and women.