

Topic #16 Overview

Main Themes:

1. How various factors (raw materials, labor supply, technology, business organization, growing markets, and friendly governments) combined to thrust the United States into worldwide industrial leadership.
2. How this explosion of industrial capitalism was both extolled for its accomplishments and attacked for its excesses.
3. How American workers, who on the average benefited, reacted to the physical and psychological realities of the new economic order.

Objectives: [You should be able to explain each of these in some detail]

1. The reasons for the rapid industrial development of the United States in the late nineteenth century.
2. The specific impact of technological innovation in promoting industrial expansion.
3. The role of the individual entrepreneur in the development of particular industries.
4. The changes that were taking place in American business organizations.
5. The ways in which classical economics and certain ideas of Darwin were used to justify and defend the new industrial capitalism.
6. The critics of the new industrial capitalism and the solutions they proposed.
7. The conditions of immigrants, women, and children in the workforce.
8. The rise of organized labor on a national federated basis.
9. The reasons organized labor generally failed in its efforts to achieve its objectives.