America 1877-1929
1850-1900 “Filling In”

- Half a continent- Northern Europeans displace Native Americans
- Hispanics move north to California, Rio Grande Valley (us), Southern Texas
- Russians settle Alaska to No. California
- Upset ecological balance of plains and mountains
- Brought economic development: towns, farms, mines and ranches
Land Policy and Public Needs

Well into 20th C. Americans believed the family farm was best place to live

- Laws favored small farms over large ranches
- Westerners needed forage and timber for homes and livestock
- How to prevent land monopoly and allow ranchers and lumber companies to satisfy demand?
As private individuals used land-abused land

Federal government at turn of century started to regulate use

Regulation leads to tradeoffs: development of timber management yields lumber but impacts wildlife and forestation; irrigation provides water but impacts lakes and streams

A clash between two goods, not good versus evil
LESSON 1

WEST AND SOUTH 1865-1900

Railroads, Water policy, Native peoples, Plains Indians subdued, Hispanics, Mining frontiers, Cattlemen’s frontiers, The South,
Industrialism 1865-1900

- U.S. grew economically and spatially
- Euro-Americans filled up continent; 11 new states; railroad network spanned the continent; “Golden Door” to immigrants
- In one lifetime, U.S. changed from an underdeveloped country into one of the world’s most influential industrial powers
The Growth of American Business and Industry

- As growth occurred, environment was impacted; overgrazing in West; unsanitary water supplies; unhealthy living conditions led to disease and death

- Acids from mine tailings polluted groundwater supplies
Growth of American Business #2

- 1865-1917; U.S. experienced tremendous growth in industry, economy and population
- Industries such as steel, oil, food processing
- Allowed industrialists and business entrepreneurs to lead U.S. to forefront of world business by 1900- “THE GUILLED AGE”
Growth of the U.S. Business

#3

- Myth of “rags to riches” somewhat true but most born into wealth and better education
- Key figures such as Andrew Carnegie, John Rockefeller, Mellon, JP Morgan
- Role of entrepreneur cannot be overestimated
- “Creative destroyer”
Growth of Business #4

- While beneficial to country as whole, some people hurt

- Some historians considered government’s role in the late 19th c. as “laissez-faire”; more governmental paternalism of business

- Gov’t used power to assist business

- Resources such as minerals, timber and waterpower very little cost
Growth of Business #5

- Federal Gov’t shielded business from foreign competition with a tariff
- Very little corporate taxes
- Very little business regulation on predatory tactics
- Gov’t took side of business versus labor
- State level-low taxes plus subsidies
- Courts after mid-1880s reluctant to allow effective regulation of business
Modernization of American Society

- Industrial expansion just one aspect of modernization
- Changes - economic growth, urbanization, secularization of society, growth of public participation in the political process and increasing individualism
- Similar changes in western Europe, Oceania, and western Asia
Modernization of U.S. #2

- New wave of humanity moved into urban areas; promise of better times and wealth
- Urban dwellers—from rural and urban foreign countries
- Many from eastern and Southern Europe (Italy)—from autocratic governments; knew little of democracy
Modernization of U.S. #3

- Immigrants not well received
- Urban problems arise- housing and services
- Industrialization produced discontent
  - Impersonal management led to labor organizations- protect themselves, their incomes and their jobs
  - Farmers also organized- farmers’ alliances and The Populists in early 1890s
LESSON 2: INDUSTRIALIZATION

★ The Great Surge; Economic Infrastructure

★ Industry- steel, meatpacking, Money and Banking, Investment Bankers, Mergers, Retailing, A Business Civilization

★ Labor 1865-1900; Labor Unions, Strikes, Women wage earners, Child Labor, Supreme Court
LESSON 3: CITY AND FARM

- The American City
- Immigrants
- Immigration Restriction
- Crime
- City Political Machines
LESSON 3: #2

✿ New Urban Architecture
✿ Agriculture
✿ Agrarian Discontent
✿ Farmers’ Alliance
✿ Populism
Unions and “Gilded Age”

- Industrialization generated problems
  - Organized labor unions to gain rights and improve working conditions
  - Farmers fell on bad times in late 19th c. and turned to politics and cooperatives
  - Organized political parties to oppose corruption in late 19th c. politics designated “The Gilded Age”
Producer Ideology of Greenbackers and Populists

- Farmers perceived them as less well off as neighbors and friends that moved to cities.

- Greenbackers- 1870s; money lenders cannot ask an interest rate higher than 3.65%; what their labor was worth in a year; 1/100 of 1% per day; 3.65% per year.

- Populists agreed and wanted government to abolish the national banking system and issue currency directly.
Populists also wanted to expand currency and called for public ownership of utilities such as railroads.

Wanted control of political process by workers; direct election of senators; initiatives and referendums.

Agrarians classified people as producers or non-producers.
Greenbackers and Populists

- Employers were producers as long as they engaged in organizational activities.
- Most employers and industrial workers viewed society as divided into socioeconomic classes rather than producer and non.
- Knight of Labor- embraced agrarian ideal endorsed Populist Party; Bryan in 1896.
- AFL- refused to embrace agrarian; McKinley.
Rethinking the Past Through Contemporary Categories

Republican Party favored: Subsidies to business, nationalism, African American rights

Democrat Party: Tariffs for revenues; localism or states’ rights; civil rights realm of states

For the Progressives- social engineering, political reform; civic housekeeping, opposition to monopolies and efficiency could facilitate improvement in society
LESSON 4: CULTURE AND POLITICAL THOUGHT

❖ Education- Public schools, assimilation, college
❖ Sports- bicycling, baseball, boxing and football
❖ Amusements- music, vaudeville, motion pictures
❖ Radical thought-socialism, anarchism
❖ Mainstream Parties
LESSON 4 #2

Politics after 1892
- Bryan Campaign of 1896
- A New Spirit
- Intellectuals
The Progressives

Pragmatists: William James, John Dewey, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Frederick Winslow Taylor

Common features of everyday life - fashion generalizations that matched perceptions of the way people really lived

Religion, family life, and social and economic events
LESSON 5: PROGRESSIVISM
1900-1918

✎ State Progressivism- LaFollette
✎ Teddy Roosevelt- The Roosevelt leadership
✎ Howard Taft- New reforms
✎ The election of 1912
LESSON 5 #2

- Woodrow Wilson
- Tariff, Taxation, Banking
- Farm Legislation
- Antitrust Legislation
- Social Legislation
- The Progressive Record
LESSON 6: THE PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT
1900–1917

❖ Economic Growth
❖ Corporations and Capital
❖ Making Things
   ❖ Consumer Goods
   ❖ Getting Around
LESSON 6 #2

- A New Middle Class
- Urban Progressivism
- The Muckrakers 1902-1912
- Workers
- The New Black Militancy
- An Ethnic Mosaic
- The Artistic Perception