THE GILDED AGE
1865-1900
From the APUSH Course Outline:
“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 GILDED AGE
1865-1900
Industrialization

- Causes:
  - natural resources (oil, coal, water, lumber)
  - capital
  - labor
  - technology (Bessemer process, telephone, light bulb)
  - RR (transcontinental RR = national market)
  - laissez-faire polices
Industrialization

- Effects:
  - Big Business
  - Labor Unions
  - Immigration
  - Urbanization
Industrialization

- Big Business
  - vertical & horizontal integration
  - trusts (combinations/monopolies)
    - Sherman Antitrust Act (1890) did little – more useful for busting unions than trusts
  - Carnegie, Rockefeller, Morgan, Pullman
    - Captains of Industry or Robber Barons??
Industrialization

- Labor Unions
  - collective bargaining, strikes, boycotts
  - Knights of Labor – unskilled
    - Haymarket Square (Chicago, 1896)
  - American Federation of Labor – skilled
  - **scabs, yellow-dog contracts, lockouts, blacklists**
  - Great RR Strike (1877), Homestead Strike (1892), Pullman Strike (1894) – all result in violence
Immigration

- “New” Immigrants
  - Southern / Eastern Europe
  - ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious differences
  - mostly poor

- American Reaction
  - “they’re taking our jobs!!”
  - nativism
  - American Protective Association (1887)
  - Chinese Exclusion Act
  - Americanization / Settlement Houses
  - political machines
Urbanization

- Growth of Cities (rapid)
  - tenements
  - skyscrapers
  - mass transit
  - Settlement Houses (Jane Addams, Hull House, Chicago)
  - Social Gospel (YMCA, Salvation Army)
    - ***not to be confused with Gospel of Wealth!***
Agriculture/Environment

- more land being cultivated than ever before
  - Homestead Act & Morrill Land Grant Act (1862)
  - technology – McCormick’s Harvester
    - bonanza (factory) farms
  - dry farming & irrigation
- industrialization & overproduction & growth of RRs hurts independent farmers
  - Grange
  - Farmers’ Alliances
  - Interstate Commerce Act (1887)
  - Populist Party (1892-1896)
Reaction to Industrialization

- Big Business
  - consolidation (trusts)
  - Social Darwinism
- Industrial Workers
  - Labor unions
- Farmers
  - Grange, Farmers’ Alliances
  - Populist Party
Reaction to Industrialization

- Urban Middle-Class
  - Social Gospel
  - settlement houses, “Americanization”
- Government
  - Interstate Commerce Act (1887)
  - Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)
Politics – Corruption

- graft, patronage
  - Pendleton Civil Service Act (1881, passed after Garfield’s assassination)

- Political Machines in the Cities
  - NYC – Tammany Hall & “Boss” Tweed
    - taken down by the cartoons of Thomas Nast
Politics – Currency

- Currency
  - “cheap money” – more paper/silver money = inflation = rising prices & debts can be repaid easier
  - “hard money” – less money, gold standard = deflation = value is maintained

- Panic of 1873
  - Greenback Party (1878)

- Panic of 1893
2011 FRQ:
How and why did transportation developments spark economic growth during the period from 1860 to 1900 in the United States?
2013 FRQ:
Analyze the impact of technological innovations on the lives of the following groups. Confine your answer to the period 1865–1920.

- Factory workers
- Middle-class urban residents
- Midwestern farmers
2007 DBQ:
Analyze the ways in which technology, government policy, and economic conditions changed American agriculture in the period 1865-1900.
2012 DBQ:
In the post–Civil War United States, corporations grew significantly in number, size, and influence. Analyze the impact of big business on the economy and politics and the responses of Americans to these changes. Confine your answer to the period 1870 to 1900.
2003B FRQ:
Analyze the ways in which farmers and industrial workers responded to industrialization in the Gilded Age (1865-1900).
2000 DBQ:
How successful was organized labor in improving the position of workers in the period from 1875 to 1900? Analyze the factors that contributed to the level of success achieved.