

# Gilded Age & Big Business and & Semi-Organized Labor

Lesson 1—like the other Lessons—provides a copy of the section of the Study Guide for **this** lesson.

## Key Background on the Gilded Age—and the Future

1. 13<sup>th</sup> amendment
2. Defeat of the South, but Andrew Johnson
3. Southern black codes and race riots
4. Reconstruction, and military reconstruction
5. 14<sup>th</sup> amendment
  - “due process” and states
  - citizenship - and why necessary
6. 15<sup>th</sup> amendment
7. Scandals in Grant’s terms
8. Election of 1876, Compromise of 1877, and troops

## Lesson 1 -----

Use the **3 Learning Quizzes 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Gilded Age (meaning of the term)

9. Republican Party, policy pre-Civil War/post-secession
10. Republican party, early years of Gilded Age
11. Rise of Industrial Capitalism and:
  - Rockefeller and his industry
  - Carnegie and his industry
  - Horizontal integration / vertical integration
  - Monopoly, trust (and anti-trust)
12. Rise of financial capitalism and J.P. Morgan
13. Technology 1877-1887 (mainly for new industries)
14. Technology 1887-1893 (mainly for urban life)
15. North, workers in big business
  - Average work week/pay/living costs for laborers
  - Child labor – why?
  - Types of Unions
    - Knights of Labor (industrial- attempted)
    - American Federation of Labor (union of unions—only skilled trade unions)
  - Strikes (Haymarket, Homestead, Pullman)
16. Prohibition (WCTU) – President Frances Willard (1873 to end of the 1800s and beyond)

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## Key Background on the Gilded Age—and the Future

The items about the end of the Civil War and about Reconstruction are in date order.

1	Amendment to the Constitution that ended slavery – <b>13th</b>
2	Defeat of the South and surrender at Appomattox
3	Southern state legislatures create black codes; race riots in the South against blacks
4	Amendment to the Constitution that required states (not just Congress) to follow “ <b>due process</b> ” – <b>14th</b>
5	Amendment granting the vote to <b>all males – 15th</b>
6	<b>Reconstruction</b> , including military
7	Rising <b>corruption</b> in the federal government 1868-1876 and rising <b>violence</b> against black voters in the South
8	Election of 1876, <b>Compromise of 1877</b> , and <b>Union troops out of the South</b>

## Gilded Age—Meaning of the Term and Who Named the Age

From a novel in the early 1870s, *The Gilded Age* and most associated with humorist **Mark Twain**. Want to understand this better? Look up these 2 words in *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*:

- The phrase *golden age*
- The word *gild* or *gilded*

## Corruption and Congress

The party of Lincoln that ended slavery changed to corruption (shown in blue) with newspapers being the ones to expose them. For examples, click on [1867 1877 Andrew Johnson to Hayes Color Coded to Show Trends](http://www.cjbibus.com/1867_1877_AJohnson_to_Hayes1pageColorCoded.htm). (Link Address: [http://www.cjbibus.com/1867\\_1877\\_AJohnson\\_to\\_Hayes1pageColorCoded.htm](http://www.cjbibus.com/1867_1877_AJohnson_to_Hayes1pageColorCoded.htm))

**Video:** The Gilded Age    **Search Word:** corruption - 1<sup>st</sup> use “golden age of American corruption”

## Railroads as the Stimulant

**Video:** The Gilded Age    **Search Word:** summary

## Rise of **Industrial** Capitalism and 2 New Industries

Horizontal and vertical integration are still legal issues in mergers.

- Meaning of **Industrial** Capitalism
- Prior legal concepts used for new purposes:
  - Incorporation
  - Trusts – and Anti-Trust (not until 1895)
- Horizontal (Rockefeller) integration (all the oil) and examples of how he created monopoly:
  - Rebate
  - Drawback
  - And counting his nails
- Vertical (Carnegie) integration (all from the mines to the mills to transport)

## Shift to **Finance** Capitalism by the End of the Gilded Age

- Control of the industry by bankers
- Major figure - J.P. Morgan - remains powerful until the crash of 1929
- Railroads – the first to fall under the control of finance capitalism because of over-building

## Technology 1870-1887 - New Industries

1870	Standard Oil – John D. Rockefeller
1873	Carnegie Steel – Andrew Carnegie
1876	Thomas Alva Edison – Menlo Park
1877	Alexander Graham Bell – telephone Patent: phonograph < <b>What's a patent?</b>
1878	Patent: typewriter < <b>Why need? Why QWERTY keyboard? Tip:</b> If you do not know look at the second row of your keyboard on the left. Prior secretaries had been men, but the manual labor required with the QWERTY keyboard led to typing pools of women workers.
1879	Patent: cash register < <b>Why need?</b>
<b>1880-11</b>	1880s Trends, Railroad – pool, short haul, long haul

## Technology 1887-1890s - New Inventions for Urban Life

- elevator
- skyscraper – Louis Sullivan
- streetcars
- suburbs
- subways
- tenement
- tenement, dumbbell

## Conditions of Factory Labor

These statistics are from the link below them. You will find them on page 2 of the Snapshot.

- Page 2 – Averages, national  
Pre-1900 60-hr., 6 day/week - 20 cents/hr. if skilled. 10 cents/hr. if not  
Average income - \$400-\$500/yr.  
Minimum cost of living – family of \$4 = \$600/yr.
- Page 2 – Factory, South  
12 hrs/day – frequently women/children  
½ pay rate of North

For more, click [Snapshot of America in the 1870s-1890s](http://www.cjbibus.com/1870-1890s_Snapshot.pdf) Link Address: [http://www.cjbibus.com/1870-1890s\\_Snapshot.pdf](http://www.cjbibus.com/1870-1890s_Snapshot.pdf)

## Laborers' Attempts to Organize

Two different approaches to organizing workers:

- Knights of Labor - **General term:** industrial union
- American Federation of Labor

### Tips:

- Pinkertons – a private detective company known as strike breakers
- State militia – a state's national guard
- Federal troops - US army. (Think about it?)

## Making History Real

Notice all of the yellow in the table. Who do you expect to be the **Opposition** to these workers? [Comparison of Labor Events from 1874 through 1893 – and to the End of the 1890s](#)

Now look at who is the opposition to these workers: [Comparison with Answers](#). Why? If you do not know why, ask in the Unit Q & A discussion.

**Do notice** where is the labor unrest and in what industries. Notice how strikes are stopped—is that what you expected to be the method?

## Significant Examples of Strikes in the Gilded Age

- Haymarket – 1886 Chicago - What's anarchism? Socialism?

**Video:** Labor's Struggle    **Search Word:** Haymarket

- Homestead – 1892 Pennsylvania – A Carnegie plant.

**Video:** Labor's Struggle    **Search Word:** Homestead

- Pullman – 1894 Pullman, Illinois – Company town (away from other working places) with a factory making Pullman cars. Lowering of wages, but not lowering of prices in the company store or the rent on houses. Strike, observations by the governor of the state (Altgeld). Lowering of wages remains.

**Video:** Labor's Struggle    **Search Word:** Pullman

## Early Attempt to Deal with Problems in America

WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union) from about 1873 to the end of 1800s, but they still exist today

- Leader: Frances Willard (gender?)
- Major Issue: Temperance – with the Anti-Saloon League developing later and the result of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment (for a while)
- Later Issue: Women's suffrage