

The Age of Innovation and Industry

Was the rise of industry good for the United States?

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

Bessemer process	laissez-faire
horizontal integration	social Darwinism
vertical integration	Sherman Antitrust Act

PREVIEW

Think about this question: *What are the three most important innovations, or inventions, of your lifetime?*

In your notebook, quickly sketch each innovation.

Then write a one- or two-sentence description explaining how each innovation has affected or changed your life.

READING NOTES

Cut Notebook Handout into quarters. Tape each graph into your notebook, two graphs to a page. Leave space to the right of each graph for answering the questions that follow.

During the activity, you will complete the graph and answer the questions for each reading section.

Section 2

1. How did capitalists (investors) in the late 1800s help fuel the development of new technologies?
2. How did the invention of the telegraph and telephone revolutionize communications?

3. Which invention do you think had the greatest impact on America in the 1800s: oil drilling, the Bessemer process, or electricity? Give at least two reasons to justify your choice.

Section 3

1. How did Frederick W. Taylor's studies impact industry in the early 1900s?
2. Why were corporations formed, and how are they run?
3. How do monopolies and trusts differ?

Section 4

1. How were the new big businesses of this time different from traditional companies?
2. How did horizontal and vertical integration lead to larger companies?
3. Why did the government adopt a laissez-faire policy toward business during this time?

Section 5

1. Do you think the term Gilded Age was appropriate for America at the time? Support your opinion with at least two examples.
2. Why do some historians call industrialists robber barons? Which industrialists from this chapter do you think would be considered robber barons, and why?
3. Why do some historians call industrialists captains of industry? Which industrialists from this chapter do you think would be considered captains of industry, and why?

PROCESSING

Suppose you are an industrialist being interviewed for an article in a national newspaper. The journalist interviewing you has brought up some questions about your role in industrialism. Use your Reading Notes and the quotes at right from various U.S. industrialists to help you respond to the questions.

In your notebook, copy each question and record your response (from the perspective of an industrialist).

Question: What are some of the important inventions of this time period? What role have industrialists like you played in their development?

Q: Large corporations and trusts have led to the failure of many smaller businesses. Are these new, larger companies better for Americans? Why or why not?

Q: The government has remained largely uninvolved in regulating the economy. Do you support the government's laissez-faire business policies? Why or why not?

Q: Many people call industrialists like you robber barons. How do you respond to this?

Quotes from U.S. Industrialists

The conditions of human life have not only been changed, but revolutionized . . . The “good old times” were not good old times.

—Andrew Carnegie, steel industrialist

I believe the power to make money is a gift from God . . . to be developed and used to the best of our ability for the good of mankind.

—John D. Rockefeller, oil industrialist

Surplus wealth is a sacred trust which its possessor is bound to administer in his lifetime for the good of the community.

—Andrew Carnegie, steel industrialist

There is one rule for the industrialist and that is: Make the best quality of goods possible at the lowest cost possible, paying the highest wages possible.

—Henry Ford, automobile industrialist

Well, I don't know as I want a lawyer to tell me what I cannot do. I hire him to tell me how to [get around the law so I can] do what I want to do.

—J. P. Morgan, banking industrialist

Whenever it is necessary I can buy a sufficient number of Senators and Congressmen or State Legislators to protect my interests, and when it is necessary I can buy the Judiciary.

—E. H. Harriman, railroad industrialist