Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

11/20/2020

Individual Student Question and Answer

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**Herbert Spencer**

**How did Herbert Spencer adapt evolutionary ideas of Survival of the Fittest and Darwin’s laws of evolution to human society, and how did Industrialists use it to justify their power and actions?**

During the late 1800s, the ideas of Darwinism were becoming popularized in society. The scientific ideas of evolution proved that species would only continue to survive if they were more fit to than others. Herbert Spencer reinterpreted this to individual humans, and, in Social Darwinism, stated that those who were unsuccessful in life should not survive, and so only the smart and talented would. This justified the ruthlessness of industrialists’ corporate consolidation and their attempts to destroy competition, who they deemed less successful. This idea of survival of the fittest was entwined with their ideas of capitalism, which many philosophers said would increase the power of the hardworking and talented. However, the law of competition that would allow every man to have a chance at success was constantly under attack by large corporations. Political opposition formed in response to industrialists in the Socialist Labor parties and more radical ideologies. However, with the widespread promotion of these ideas, much of America came to believe in Social Darwinism.

**William Graham Sumner**

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**How are the ideas of Sumner’s Social Darwinism and the myth of the “Self-Made Man” related, and how did the upper class use both to subdue the working class?**

The ideas of Social Darwinism and the “Self-Made Man” are closely entwined. Many of the rapidly growing millionaire class claimed to have had “rags to riches” experiences. Andrew Carnegie was one of the few who told the truth about this, and most of these millionaires were born into wealth hand only increased it with ruthless tactics. These millionaires, in order to calm Unions and workers, created myths of all workers being able to become rich. Writers such as Horatio Alger reinforced these beliefs with their “rags to riches” stories. All of these stories and books spread ideas that justified the status quo. Using these ideas, businessmen were able to subdue unions and economic regulations by governments, instead saying that Social Darwinism would regulate business practices and be enough to allow every person a chance at success with enough hard work and talent. Some people, such as Russell Conwell, even advocated for the successful and talented to help the weaker failures, in a more generous form of Social Darwinism.

**Lester Frank Ward**

**How did people like Lester Frank Ward respond to the growing popularity of Social Darwinism and the “Self-Made Man”?**

As so many problems permeated American society during the late 1800s, there were some who wanted to change the economic system. There was much pain during the time period. The loss of control for workers over their work conditions during the time period due to corporate power was sickening to many. Women and children were working in harsh industrial jobs, and the ineffective child-labor laws made no difference. Many workers tried to combat this by unionizing, but even the largest National Labor Union fell with a dip in market conditions. Eventually, some workers and philosophers began to turn to radical political systems, and created the Socialist Labor Party. They argued against the social Darwinism, and claimed that humans could control the government and society effectively. However, the ideas of capitalism were planted deep within the American public, and the Socialist Labor Party was never a major force in any elections.

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**Socialist Labor Party**

**The Socialist Labor Party was created in response to what conditions caused by the changes in the late 1800s?**

The Socialist Labor Party was created in response to the terrible conditions that workers had to endure. Through the latter half of the century, as American industry grew rapidly, corporations took control of workers’ lives, hired children, and forced them to work for inhumane amounts of time. With this rapid growth, there was increasing inequality among the populace, despite the country growing so much richer. The rapid Eastern European Immigration overwhelmed America with cheap labor, and turned workers against one another. Henry George tried to combat these problem with taxes for the rich, but he was not popular enough to get elected. The workers eventually turned to the Socialist Labor Party. However, stories of “rags to riches” continued to entice the population, with Horatio Alger spreading the stories of capitalism far and wide. The Socialist Labor Party was able to entice some people to join, but the few stories of riches, and the public’s comfort with capitalism kept most away.

**Mail-order houses& Department stores**

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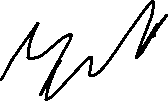
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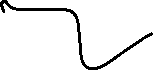
**How did mail-order houses and department stores change the life and habits of regular Americans, and how did they change American culture?**

As America continued to switch to an industrial economy, the mail-order houses and department stores were ready to change life. Chain stores were part of these, and were able to create national networks of stores, while reducing prices. Mail-order Catalogs had similar results, as the accessed customers across the country, while reducing prices for all. They were able to do this with mass production. These stores gave many access to goods, with people choosing to buy instead of make their clothes. However, they did also end up as stiff competition to local stores, who were often forced to close due to these national businesses. Department stores also had a huge effect, and they transformed the shopping into a social event for women. Shopping at these stores became women-dominated, with women as customers and salesclerks. The National Consumers League took advantage of this, and used its membership of women in commerce to gain rights and regulations on women and child workers.

**National Consumers League**



**How did the new National Consumer’s league relate to the increase in women’s education in the late 1800s, and what did they change in women’s roles in society?**



Both the National Consumer’s League and the increase in women’s education occurred in the late 1800s. The Women’s colleges that popped up across the country began to develop a nature of sorority, and connection between educated women. These “Land-Grant” institutions were created in the Civil War, and began to bear fruit now. These women’s colleges also began to introduce strenuous sports to women, breaking more barriers. The women in the National Consumer’s League gained much power for women, controlling a huge sector of the market. Women began to become free from their husbands, as they gained both power and educations just as much as men. Women also played an important part in the new jobs, as they continued to be nurses, but also became huge portions of educators. All of these things, from the Natinoal Consumers’ Association to the women’s’ education increased their ability to fight for their civil rights.

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**Florence Kelley**

**What did Florence Kelley do to increase the power of women? How did she bring about change?**



Florence Kelley was the founder of the National Consumer’s League, and was a power player in the late 1800s. The rise of mass consumption in this time was hugely beneficial for women. With the rising income of the middle class, they were recipients to huge job growth in the consumer economy. With the mass employment of women in this new consumer economy, they started the consumer protection movement, and began to force the hands of large retailers. Florence Kelley also worked to increase working conditions for child workers and women workers, arguably better than some workers’ unions. Florence Kelley also benefited from the new merchandising techniques of the era and was able to spread her messages as leader far and wide. Over time, with her efforts as the head of the National Consumer’s League, she was able to be one of the first major female leaders on the new century.

**Major League Baseball**

**What conditions in American society led to the appearance of national sports, such as Major League Baseball, and how did these tie in with new ideas of leisure?**

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During the late 1800, brand new ideas of leisure were beginning to develop. Before, resting for the point of enjoyment was considered lazy. Simon Patten, however, challenged the ideas of this and spread that the purpose of life was to have pleasure. After these ideas became popular, many were willing to spend a day just enjoying their time. This lead to the rise of Spectator Sports, which were popularized after the civil war. Major League Baseball was one of these sports, spread across the country during the Civil War, and after the formation of professional teams across the country, the MLB was formed. This new national pastime was popular among all ages. This new sport came alongside gambling, which was also growing steadily with new ideas of leisure. These new sports formed a distinctively male culture in parts of many cities, and created a new space for men to relax.