Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

12/14/2020

Chapter 17 & 18 Test

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Chapter 17

From the end of the Civil War to the dawn of the new century, the United States and its wealth went through significant changes. Powerful corporations grew in size through vicious practices and horizontal and vertical integration to dominate America. The steel revolution continued to increase railroad production, and continued to bring business to the West. New R&D departments and managerial techniques continued to increase profits. Trusts and agreements between companies evolved into corporate consolidation to create monopolies, and the owners of these gained great wealth. Ideas of the “Self-Made Man” and Social Darwinism grew in popularity to explain the succes of the few, who supported these ideas. However, most of those profiting off the rise of corporations were the upper class, not poor people rising up. Despite this, some of the rich supported the ideas of Andrew Carnegie’s Gospel of Wealth, the ideas that the rich should give back opportunites to the lower classes. Rising inequality was a great problem in this era, but dispite this, Socialism stayed unpopular, with ideas of big government spread by the Socialist Labor Party staying fringe. While the owners and leaders of monopolies grew riches, the lower class was losing power. Much of the industrial workforce was being supplemented with low-skill immigration, depressing wages. The new managerial techniques might raise profits but lowered wages for the workers. In order to take back control, workers formed unions, with the National Labor Union being the first of many. However, the strikes organized by the National Labor Union and its successors were all failures, as powerful corporations were unfazed by these shows, and often put strickes down violently, with the help of the government. Much of the government was in the hands of the corporations, and few laws to help the terrible child labor and harsh conditions were passed in the late 1800s. However rich and industrialized America became throughout this era, most people stayed poor.

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Chapter 18

As America rapidly industrialized during the late 1800s, its cities also evolved to hold massive amounts of people, cultures, and mindsets. Cities in this time grew exponentially, with cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, and Pittsburg in the west growing by factors of 10. Much of this was due to the lure of the city, both to rural residents of America, and foreign immigrants. The source of Immigrants to America also shifted from Western to Southern/Eastern Europe. Dozens of millions of these people populated cities, often forming communities with their ethnicities. However, as their children Americanized, these cities became melting pots of different cultures mixing. These major cities went through significant changes physically as well, with new public space, parks, libraries, art galleries, and pockets of nature forming by the City Beautiful Movement. These lavish public spaces were juxtaposed with the tenements of the lower class, and downtown filth in slums. However, as fires, crime, and diseases ravaged cities, many fought back, with firemen and policemen starting to patrol cities. The political landscape of the cities began to be dominated by the Machine and the Boss, who, supported by widespread corruption, supported their community in exchange for favors. These Bosses gave power to immigrants and were symbols of the great corruption of the time. The late 1800s also gave rise to mass consumption, uniting separate markets and bringing goods to previously unheard-of amounts of people. Department stores and Mail-order catalogs brought even more power to the consumer woman and removed lots of household chores. With some of their new free time, many Americans turned to the new methods of leisure, enabled by more liberal ideas of how one should spend their time. The average working class man might now spend a free day watching national sports, such as the Major League Baseball developing in 1876. The city’s upper class developed their own culture, with artists, education, and literature becoming realistic.

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