

## AP United States History

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### Gospel of Wealth and Social Darwinism

- Economic Ideologies
  - Variety of perspectives on the economy and labor developed during a time of financial panics and downturns
  - Some (most) argued Laissez-faire policies and competition (separate things) promoted economic growth in the long run
    - These people opposed government intervention in the economy
    - Claimed that government in the economy only made the playing field less even
- Social Darwinism in America
  - Individuals must have absolute freedom to struggle, succeed, or fail
    - As a result, state intervention to reward society and the economy was a bad idea
- Gospel of Wealth by Carnegie
  - Wealthy have a duty to live with responsibility and give back to society
    - The wealthy should, in turn, distribute wealth for good causes, not frivolous items (philanthropy)
    - The wealthy should help social causes too (no government needed)