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Mock AS-Level Assignment

#3- Write 200 word newspaper account of a key event from the times. It can be written from a neutral, a particular point of view. It is your choice what material to include. This article should include the newspaper name, town, and date of the article. The document should be followed by a question you would like to pose. Then write a paragraph explaining the content, source, and how it answers the question. The paragraph should include quotes, analysis of source and content, evaluation of source and content, and a final judgement that ties to the question. The assignment will be judged on completion 1/3rd , the strength and knowledge understanding in the article 1/3rd , display of analysis, evaluation, and judgement1/3rd .

Topic/Time Period: Robber Barons (Innovation/Industrial Age)

“Robber Barons” Have They Really Robbed Us?

December 1882

I daresay the opposition is wrong about these so-called “Robber Barons”. Where would our industry today be without them? Andrew Carnegie creates a multitude of jobs for the average worker, and his innovative ideas on how to run a business allows for efficiency, growth and hope. This brilliant man albeit is very well off is also very generous to spread his wealth. Why, just last month of last year, he wrote a letter to the mayor of Pittsburgh to donate quite a sum of money for a FREE library. I bet nothing pleases our readers more than knowing our economy is warding off those communists and socialists. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is capitalism at its finest. It allows us to become just like him. A classic Horatio Alger story by the books.

Now this recent strike at his factory proves nothing of the sort that they have “robbed” the American public. Carnegie was just protecting the business from these rioting, dangerous, workers. Unions are just another coverup for socialist ideas and nothing good ever comes from fruition of these radical ideas. He just was trying to provide order. It is outrageous that workers even tried to make attempt on Manager Frick’s life. Organized society should do nothing of the sort.

How did robber barons impact the late 19th to the early 20th centuries? I would change this to a 1B question: How far do A-D support the idea that Robber Barons were in fact a positive force in American in the late 19th Century? I would use your question for a 2B. It is a good question.

This source comes from an opinionated editorial, in 1882. During this time period, the civil war had ended a few decades prior, the reconstruction era had come and gone, and the robber barons had begun to overtake the market which caused discrepancies in the role of the government and in fair labor practices. The source uses quotes that express a clear position on robber barons such as, “I daresay the opposition is wrong about these so-called “Robber Barons”. Where would our industry today be without them?” This means that the Robber Barons heavily contributed to industry. This source comes directly from the time period but presents a clear bias towards the leader of the industry. It dismisses events such as the strikes by labor workers and says “Unions are just another coverup for socialist ideas and nothing good ever comes from fruition of these radical ideas”, which suggests that unions are nothing more than a political ploy. The article answers the question by presenting a perspective on the climate of the workforce and those who controlled the workforce during the time period specified. This is a unique position which could be helpful in presenting a side in favor of robber barons and contains historical facts to support the ideas being presented. Overall, this source is reliable in that it comes directly from the societal climate of 1882, but contrarily, it presents a clear bias and rabidly opposes social reform. This makes the article a primary source, but should be used in conjunction with quotes that present less of a stark opinion.

Improvements that could be made to the assignment:

- Students should be asked to preface their source with 2 historical events that could have influenced the position of the article they wrote. This will help to build the atmosphere of their assignment. **Let's talk.**
- Maybe be more specific in the types of sources that can be written and how you would like the paragraph structures, especially if this is given earlier in the year. **Good point that is why I would use your model to assist their first try.**
- Could be helpful for paper 1 in analysis of sources but could also act as recall for historical events which could be beneficial for paper 2, so this assignment is very applicable. **Yes, I agree.**
- Maybe include a short reflection at the end explaining why the student(s) added some of the linguistic elements they used in their source and how their writing works for the time era (similar to Lang). **good idea**
- I think this assignment could be done individually rather than a group and then all the assignments could be combined into a study guide when studying for the AICE tests. Maybe assign each student a historical time/event? **I agree individually I just wanted you guys to work together to help your first time, Assign, let's talk.**
 - If it is a group project, work in class together and consider adding more components so more people can contribute.