

Essay Questions for Essay #4

1. How far is it justified to speak of an agrarian revolt among American farmers in the period 1865-96?
2. How serious were the problems caused by the vast expansion of US industry and commerce in the period 1865-1901?
3. Assess the role of technical innovation in the rapidly expanding US economy from 1865 to 1914.
4. ‘Progressivism was simply a set of superficial reforms which evaded rather than addressed the ills of American society.’ How far is this judgement valid?
5. Account for the rise and fall of the People’s Party (Populists).
6. Which of the three ‘Progressive’ Presidents was the most successful in tackling American social and economic problems in the period 1901–1917?
7. Is it correct to say that there was an ‘agrarian revolt’ in the 1870s and 1880s?
8. To what extent is it true to say that Progressivism was simply Populism moved up into the middle classes?
9. Account for the rise of giant corporations in the period 1870–1914.
10. Assess the impact of immigration on American social and economic life from 1865 to 1914.
11. How important were trade unions to the development of the US economy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?
12. How successful were the reforms of the Progressive era?
13. How far and how quickly did Henry Ford’s production line revolution transform American industry in the early twentieth century?
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