Revised Reading Assignments and Reading Guide

I have decided to revise (shorten) the reading assignments for the first exam. Questions on this exam will come from these readings:

The Mismeasure of Man: Introduction (to original edition)

Gangs of America: Chapters 4 and 5

The Age of Acquiescence: Chapters 1, 2 and 3. (Chapters 4 and 5 will be on the next exam)

Reading Guide for The Age of Acquiescence

Chapter 1 Progress

1. Fraser argues that a new understanding of Progress emerged during the First Guilded Age. What was this new understanding? How was it different for the older understanding?

2. In the section Providence and Progress, Fraser identifies factors that contributed to America’s ascendancy to the greatest industrial power of the time. What were they?

Chapter 2 Progress, Property and Primitive Accumulation

1. Fraser argues that dispossession and the accumulation of wealth created by pre-capitalist economies created the economic base for capitalism. What were the means by which this was accomplished and what were the consequences for the “others.”

2. Fraser also argues in this chapter that a newly emerging capitalism needed a workforce? How was this workforce created? What were the consequences for the new working class? Who benefited and to what degree?

Chapter 3 Premonitions

Fraser argues that there were indications/signs of the coming conflict, what he calls the Second Civil War between workers and owners. What were they?