I. Gilded Age: two “worlds”

1. Workers

1. Work Conditions

a. industrialization

b. urbanization

c. immigration

d. expansion

e. national markets

f. wage dependent labor

i. long hours, 12-16 hour days, six days a week

ii. below subsistence wages

iii. unhealthful and dangerous

iv. child labor

v. abusive

2. social conditions

i. extensive poverty and disease

ii. squalid urban slums

iii. prostitution, drugs, and crime

B. “Robber Barons”: immense fortunes

1. Rockefeller: oil
   1. violence
   2. kickbacks
   3. monopoly
   4. bribery
2. Carnegie: steel
   1. violence
   2. monopoly
   3. bribery
   4. The Gospel of Wealth
3. Morgan: railroads
   1. fraud
   2. monopoly
   3. bribery

d. wealthfare

1. Gould

5. Vanderbilt: shipping and railroads

1. Conspicuous consumption
   1. Palace-like homes: “Millionaires Row”

2. Resorts: homes and hotels like castles

3. Yachts

4. Clothes, decor, exotic dinners

5. Ocean liner vacations!

C. Culture

1. Acres of Diamonds

2. Horatio Alger, Jr. “rags to riches”

II. Social theory in America

A. Social Darwinism

1. William Graham Sumner

“Let it be understood that we cannot go outside of this alternative: liberty. Inequality, survival of the fittest; not-liberty, equality, survival of the unfittest. The former carries society forward and favors all its best members, the latter carries society downwards and favors all its worst members.

3. Combination of ideas

a. evolution

b. free market

c. biological determinism

d. Calvinism

4. Thesis: Society is progressing through competition between individuals, racial groups, and nations.

5. Evolution

a. humans “struggle for existence”, like animals

i. society is site of struggle, not nature

ii. each individual, each group and each country is engaged in this struggle for survival

iii. this struggle is reflected in economic competition

iv. success and failure are the results

v. rich: “superior ability, foresight and adaptability”

b. successful person is the “survival of the fittest”

c. successful business “survival of the fittest”

d. survival of the fittest guarantees social evolution

i. social progress

ii. strongest individuals

iii. racial superiority

iv. national superiority

e. poverty is failure in struggle for survival

f. government policy to help poor undermines evolution

6. biological determinism: social construction of race

a. craniometry

b. humans classified according to common physical characteristics

c. characteristics are heritable, passed from one generation

to next

d. non-physical characteristics associate with same groups

e. superior and inferior group

7. free market

a. capitalism is best economic system

b. creates the conditions for competition

c. success and failure/strong and weak

i. rich are fittest

ii. poor are unfit for survival

d. government intervention

i. distorts the natural competitive environment of capitalism

ii. allows the weak to survive

ii. weakens the species

iii. undermines natural evolutionary process

8. Calvinism

a. work ethic

b. “Forgotten Man”

B. Social Theory as Ideology

1. social and economic conditions of the times

2. legal segregation

3. imperialism

4. genocide

5. eugenics

C. Eugenics

1. Comes from Greek meaning “Good origin”
2. Def: Science of heredity and good breeding

3. Assumption: a characteristic of evolution was the passing of traits from generation to generation.

a. some traits are good, others are bad.

b. fit and unfit people

c. fit = upper class, unfit=lower class

4. Goal of Eugenics:

* 1. breed “better” traits in

b. breed “bad” traits out

1. poverty

ii. immorality

ii. feeble minded

iii. inferior races (Southern Europeans, Asians, blacks)

c. preserving the “American type”

d. preserving good racial stock

5. Organizations and support

* 1. American Genetic Association (previously American Breeders Association)

b. National Conference on Race Betterment

c. scientists, doctors, philanthropists

6. Means

* 1. Separation

i. institutionalization

ii. miscegenation laws

* 1. exclusion

i. Immigration Act of 1924

ii. Coolidge: Nordics deteriorate when mixed

iii. pick out feeble minded by sight, test them

c. forced sterilization

1. 1930 30 states

ii. 60,000 people

d. movies “The Black Stork”, county fairs, universities

e. Supreme Court Buck v Bell 1927

f. IQ test: scientific measure of intelligence

1. society progressing

ii. more and more intelligent

iii. operationalize “intelligence”

iv. determine: intellectually and morally inferior

v. eliminate “morons”

vi. locate others in role relative to intelligence

vii. Question: Indian comes to town sees a white man . . .

5. Support of eugenics in America

6. American eugenics and Hitler

1. Imperialism

1. Anglo-Saxonism preceded Social Darwinism

a. originally product of nationalism

b. Mexican War and inferiority of Mexican race

c. chief element of American imperialism: Hawaii, Cuba, Philippines, Puerto Rico

2. Social Darwinism supported Anglo-Saxonism

a. anglo-saxon race is superior

b.superior ideas, beliefs, values, institutions, language

* 1. proof: colonialism

spread of Teutonic theory of democracy

America: proof of the mighty history of racial growth

(T. Roosevelt)

d. Africa and Asia, homes to inferior races, need to be subjugated

and shown a civilized way to organize their societies.

3. Anglo-Saxonism and American Imperialism

a. Philippines: manifest destiny of anglo-saxons, survivial of the fittest

b.The rule of the survival of the fittest applies to nations as it does individuals

c. Yellow Peril

4. Anlgo-Saxon Alliance and the brotherhood of humanity