I. American Culture: Late Nineteenth century and industrialization

A. Prior to Civil War US was mainly an agrarian society. The last part of the nineteenth century the US became transformed from an agrarian society to an industrial

B. by 1894 the US had become the world's leading industrial power producing more than England, France and Germany combined

C. Frederick Jackson Turner proclaimed the Frontier closed.

D. Symbolic and ritualistic expression of this transformation:

The Centennial Exposition, May 1876

1. US is model by which other countries measure "progress"

2. May 10, 1876 for 6 most, 6 days, 10 million people

3. 450 acres, eleven huge pavilions, and the largest

building in the world

4. Agricultural Hall - 5 acre building - celebrating the

automation of agriculture, latest mowing and reaping

machines

5. However, the central attraction, were Main Hall, with

products from all over world that were results of the

Industrial Revolution

6. Machinery Hall -- there stood the symbol of the

new Industrial Revolution

Corliss double Wlaking Beam Engine powered by

steam boiler which was forty feet high and able

to generate 14oo horsepower

7. Also, in the world's largest room were Edison's telegraph, Remington typewriter, and Bell's telephone,

the latter commented to New York Tribune "Of what use

is such an invention"

Harper's Weekly: "thoughts have been truned from old, worn channels, their feelings quickened and freshened . .For months to come there will be somethig for the farmer to talk about besides his crops; the views of the machinist and mechanic have been widened;. . the merchant has had a thought of something different from banks and creditors tucked into his brain; and thousands of young people have had their minds enriched as by a visit to foreign countries."

II. What was the technology that made this change possible, what were the conditions, forces at work, and how did it change American society

A. Steam power and the train

1. By 1869 the transcontinental lind was completed,

within 25 years 100, 000 miles of track had been laid

2. This fueled other industries, especially, mining - coal,

lumber, and most importantly steel

3. Bessemer Converter - pig iron to steel - output 10x

4. Once standard gauge track was accepted goods could

be moved across country much more quickly and efficiently, 1885 first meat packing company with

invention of ice-cooled railway car and wharehouse

5. Machines transformed agriculture, pre-CW, 61 hours

of labor to produce an acre of wheat, by 1900 3hrs +

6. steam drove textile mill spindles, sewing machines,

pneumatic drills -- coal 1860 14 million tons mined,

1884 100 million

B. What were the forces at work? not like this just happened

1. An ideology of conquest -- manifest destiny -- the train and its miles of tracks is symbol and technological

reality of conquest and the consolidation of land, resources.

2. Rugged Individualism? subsidize the railways, millions

of dollars of loans and public lands,

3. military ventures against Mexico,Indians

4. Huge wealth, not for those who built it, but for

Rockefeller, Morgan, Mellon

C. What are the broad social changes brought about by

technology -- centralization of markets and economy

1. Centralization of the economy, huge monopolies

2. unifications of market, into one market, elimination

of small, self-subsisting local markets

3. Monopolies -- vertical and horizontal integration, production, distribution,

Sherman Anti-trust Act

D. Labor and Jobs

1. Pre-civil war 6 in 10 agricultural

2) manufacturing jobs increased 4x, 1.5m to 6 m

66% of workforce manu

3) Wage labor, dependent on market forces, decisions

made by capitalists

4) Blacks mainly in south, 90%, are forced out of jobs

due to automation and begin a migration to the newly

industrialized North

E. large urban areas emerged, the modern citiese.g. Chicago 1860 -100,000 1890 - 1,000,000, NY, Phil, 1.5 m and 1.0m

1) by 1890 one third of Ameicans in urban areas, rural

to urban

2) the need sewers, water, power, mass transportation

3) late nineteenth and early twentieth century worst

conditions in urban slums

F. Investments in machines demands high return, must not only, mass produce, but mass produce consumer items

1) most in poverty, but newly emerging middle class

2) telephones did catch on, Royal Baking powder, Ivory,

readymade clothing, chain stores, A&P, Woolworth,

Sears and Roebuck catalogue

F. Demand for cheap labor Immigration - largest worldwide population movement 1860-1890 10 m

1. Depressions and land consolidation created

this immigrant population

2. Advertising the wonders of American, at one point

7 in 10 moved back

3. depression gripped the US in half the years between 1873 and the end of the century severe 1893 to 1898

moderate 1882 to 1885

- the contradictions:

women in the domestic sphere, July 4th

ceremonies disrupted by Elizabeth Cady

Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Women's

Declaration of Independence

no African American women in the Women's

Pavilion, no black workers on construction

crews, only visible blacks, janitors or in

the Southern restaraunt, described by

guidebook: : "a band of od-time 'darkies' . . . sing their quaint melodies and strum the banjo."

Native Americans were represented by 'life'size mannequins, during the exhibit

justic is served on Custer, one response to

the exhibit

"The red man, as he appears in effigy and in photograph in this collection, is hideou demon, whose malign taits can hardly inspire any emotion softer than abhorrence." William Dean Howells.

If the NA exhibit was a counterpoint to

the new modern Industiral Age, in the

Main Hall, the largest building in the world

are exhibits from other countries. The opening

days are marred by attacks on Japanes and

Chinese

4) The biggest contradiction about the newly emerging

industrial age was represented by "Centennial City"

- it was a "shantytown" just outside the gates,

where thousands of poor workers who had

been effected by the depression of that time

were forced to live

G. Division of Labor -- withing this new wage labor society

their were several divisions of labor

1. Skilled AFL and unskilled

2. Gendered division of labor, men into the world to

make a living, women at home -- the domesticate sphere

3. But becaues of high level of poverty many women

and children worked, the worst jobs, textile mills, clothing, piece work. women workers death rate

200% higher than non-working

3a. 1 in 6 chilrent between 10-15 worked in cotton

mills, tobacco processing plants, 12 hour shifts

3b. 11,000 people in 600 sweatshops in Chicago in

1892

4. Increasing size of factories, hughe, three steel mills

of 8,000, textile mills of thousands,

5. Further immiserate the workers, scrip, company stores

profit-taking,

6. 1881, 30,000 railroad workers died on the

job when "safety technology was available"

SAFETY TECHNOLOGY AND THE TECHNOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE

H. Techniques for increased profit

1. control of markets = elimination of competition, horizontal integration ( monopolies) and vertical integration, all aspects of production an distribution

2.control of production = scientific management, Taylorism -- efficiency, predictablity and control

3.Time is money"- first clocks 1886

4.Technology as disempowering and deskilling the worker

5. representation in politics -- the importance of the

federal govt in controlling the economy for business, support both parties, establish regulatory

agencies that don't regulate, or overregulate to

eliminate the small guy

6.the powever of the judicial

"the most importan and reliable bulwark of business pwoeer in federal circls, however, was the judiciary" The Sherman Anti-trust law and the Fourteenth Amendment

I. class wars in the US seldom acknowledged,

The Great Uprising 1877

Haymarket

Homestead

Pullman

Coeur D'Alene

Lawrence

Patterson

Ludlow

J. Radical ideas animated many of these conflicts, Populism,

feminism, anarchism, socialism, these ideas were in response to

the inequities of the system

3) 1892 11,000 people worked in 600 sweatshops in

Chicago

C.The early part of the twentieth century is calle d the

Progressive era, and it was mainly for big business, which

usurped much of the power of the political system at

all levels

4) The progressive era from the point of view of the

worker was not a dream, but a nightmare, deaths and

accidents in the workplace, disease, squalor, horrible

working conditions, At one point 74 out of 100

Italian immigrants who came to NY wer leaving

5) The supreme court ruled against workmans comp

citing it was a illegal taking of employer property, it

also ruled against shorter days, and ruled over 250

times against states that were trying to regulare

corporations

6) strike, boycotts, and protests were common in

mining, garment manufacture, and was usually met

with state authorized violence far exceeding the

violence of the workers, during a 30 year period

there were constant strikes and protests for a

40 hour week

B. The Roaring Twenties, The Jazz Age

1) The Roaring Twenties - 30% middle class

2) consumerism and consumption developed positive

connotations-- consuming a socially significant, valued

act

3) advertising "selling desires" and directed at women

4) Americans first importance to country is as a

consumer not a citizen

5) But the American dream had yet to become a reality,

6) by the Mid 20s even before the stock market crash

it was estimated in one survey that 60% of American

families could not by enough food

C. The Great Depression

1. 1928 Herber Hoover said upon receiving his nomination:

"We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land. We shall soon . . . be in sight of the day when poverty will be banished from this nation."

2. As he was sworn in on March of 1929, American

prosperity is permanent

3. OOOps! Oct 24, 1929, Black Thursday, the stock market

crashed, in one month total value declined $87 billion

to $56 billion down 33% by 1933 $18 billion down 80%

4. Most people, like today, don't own stock, top 10%

of wealth own 85% of stocks

5. Most effected by other things

unemployment in 2 mos 500,000 to 4 million

by 1933 15 million unemployed 33%

many more employed part time -- apple sellers

joblessness led to foreclosures on homes and

evictions

bread lines, soup kitchens, Hoovervilles, millions

of hoboes

devasted the industrial sector, in some areas production was down 75%

devasted agricultural sector, farm income down

2/3rds, hundreds of thousands of foreclosures, which led to banks and rural areas going under

The Dust Bowl, one storm, 8,000 feet high, with

thunder and lightning, destroyed wheat fields

in KAnsas 1/2 and Nebraska all/ The Grapes of

Wrath -- man-made ecological disaster

6. Response of wealth -- blaming the victim

Henry Ford: there is plenty of work for those willing to work, next week he laid off 75,000 people

Andrew Mellon: "not altogether a bad thing . . . People will work harder, live a more moral life. Values will be adjusted, and enterprising people will pic up the wrecks from less competent people." social darwinism

D. Was it a natural or social disaster?

1. overinvestment, overproduction,debt, and

saturation of the marketplace

2. global crisis - tariffs, Treaty of Versailles

3. concentration of wealth and income