**Part I**  
  
Andrew Carnegie was a steel magnate who was also poor immigrant from Scotland. He immigrated to the United States and worked his way up from a factory worker to becoming a leading steel magnate. He paid his workers fairly, in the beginning, however as the industry became more automated, Carnegie slashed worker pay in order to cut his expenses, while also opposing labor unions. In one particular example, the Homestead Strike, Carnegie locked out the workers that tried to unionize. Skirmishes broke out and many workers died. Andrew Carnegie’s philosophy of the Gospel of Wealth emphasized the responsibility of the wealthy to give back to society. His contributions funded numerous libraries, schools, and universities, all of which positively impacted American society.

Flappers were the young women in the 1920s who aimed to change gender norms for women. Flappers were known for doing things that were not traditionally feminine such as smoking, listening to jazz, and being generally rebellious. They came about as part of a cultural shift after World War I, representing a new type of womanhood centered around freedom and defiance of traditional norms. This term is historically significant because flappers were at the forefront of an early feminist movement. They defied Victorian values and personified the changing social and sexual norms of the 1920s.

The Scopes Trial was a landmark legal case in Tennessee, where a public high school teacher called John Scopes was prosecuted for teaching evolution which was banned by a Tennessee law called the Butler Act. This trial was one of the most prominent trials in the 20th century, and it highlighted a growing divide in American society between fundamentalist Christians and modernist thought. This term is historically significant because even though Scopes was convicted, the trial was the beginning of evolution being allowed to be taught in schools as well as a shift in broader American viewpoints about evolution.

**Part II**Between 1877 and 1940, the United States government went through a significant transformation. It moved from a stance of minimal interference in business, known as laissez-faire capitalism, towards a greater involvement in economic regulation. Additionally, the government took more responsibility for protecting civil rights and social welfare. In this time, the government both expanded its role and at times, limited people's rights. These changes were responses to the challenges of rapid industrial growth, social inequality, and changing cultural norms. Taking a closer look at this historical period reveals substantial changes in the government's role, an expansion of its responsibilities, and the laws it implemented, along with their relative effectiveness.

Immediately after the Civil War during the Gilded Age, the American government generally took a laissez-faire approach, allowing businesses to grow with minimal interference. This era, however, was notorious for an increasing concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few companies and magnates like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller. The fast industrial growth and the socioeconomic inequalities that followed as a result led to a public outcry for government intervention. This led to the Progressive Era, characterized by significant governmental reforms to address the adverse effects of unregulated industrial capitalism. The government started to take more responsibility as it acknowledged and started to safeguard labor rights. Before the 1900s, American workers often had to endure harsh working conditions, long work hours, and little job security. In response to this, the government started setting minimum wage standards, overtime pay, and rules on child labor. These laws represented a big step forward in changing how employers and employees interacted, showcasing the government's dedication to upholding workers' rights.

The topic of civil rights is a complicated part of the government's role in this era. The government made moves to safeguard the rights of disadvantaged communities. The 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, banned voting discrimination based on race or previous servitude, and this was a critical move towards protecting the rights of African American men. The 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, was another milestone, as it prohibited voting discrimination based on sex, marking a huge win for women's rights. However, the situation was more complex in reality. In the South, discriminatory practices like poll taxes and literacy tests often hindered African American voting rights. And even though women gained the right to vote, they still faced many legal and societal obstacles. At the same time, the government implemented policies that violated the rights of some groups. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which essentially stopped Chinese immigration, was a clear example of growing nativism and xenophobia. The government also had policies for Native Americans during this time that involved forced assimilation and land confiscation, clearly infringing on their rights.

The Great Depression was an unprecedented crisis for America, prompting the U.S. government to take a larger role in economic stabilization and social welfare. Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, the government's involvement in the economy significantly expanded. The Emergency Banking Act of 1933 was one such initiative, aimed at restoring public confidence in the banking system by providing for federal inspections of banks. This was followed by the Glass-Steagall Act, which separated commercial and investment banking, preventing excessive risk-taking by banks, which was partly the cause of the great depression. Furthermore, the government established the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation under the Banking Act of 1933. The FDIC insured bank deposits, further increasing public confidence and stabilizing the banking industry by reducing the likelihood of bank runs. Another critical aspect of Roosevelt's economic reforms was moving America off of the gold standard, which allowed for greater monetary flexibility and eased the depression. Alongside these financial reforms, the Social Security Act of 1935 was introduced, establishing a system of benefits for the elderly and marking a significant step towards a welfare state model.

In conclusion, the period between 1877 and 1940 was characterized by a significant change in the role of the US government, both expanding and infringing upon rights as it grappled with societal changes. The federal government moved from a mostly laissez-faire approach to increased intervention in economic affairs, aimed to protect civil and labor rights, though inconsistently, and took on a larger responsibility for social welfare. This period of American history laid the groundwork for the modern role of the US government, reflecting the balance between state intervention and individual rights, a theme that continues to be present in American society today.