




Big Business and Labor Unions

- ## Vocabulary
- **Monopoly** – complete control of a product or service by one company
 - **Trust** – a group of separate companies that are placed under the control of a single managing board
 - **Robber Baron** – business leaders who made their fortune from “stealing” from the public
 - **Captain of Industry** – business leaders who served their nation in a positive way
 - **Social Darwinism**
 - **Gospel of Wealth** – duty of wealthy to share their wealth w/ people who are working hard to better themselves

Big Business

| Pros | Cons |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National <u>economic growth</u> • Abundance of goods • <u>Improved standard of living</u> • <u>Employed skilled and unskilled workers</u> • <u>Development of philanthropic endeavors</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Eliminated competition</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Monopolies and trust • Many held <u>unfair influence over government</u> • <u>Increased gap between rich and poor</u> |

- ## Other Robber Barons/Captains of Industry
- Cornelius Vanderbilt
 - Controlled the railroads
 - Net worth - \$105 Million
 - Not known for his philanthropy, but gave \$ 1 million to Vanderbilt University
 - John D. Rockefeller
 - Controlled the oil industry
 - Used horizontal consolidation
 - Net worth - \$340 Billion
 - John P. Morgan
 - Banker, who refinanced the railroads and loaned the United States government \$65 million in gold in 1895
 - Net worth \$41.5 Billion

Mass Production

- **Consumer goods**
 - More diverse goods
 - Increased production




- ## Dangerous Working Conditions
- Extremely low wages – about \$1 a day
 - Everyone had to work; seven days a week
 - Many children under 15 worked full time.
 - Up to 12 or more hours a day.
 - Work was repetitive and dangerous
 - Hazardous working conditions
 - No helmets or safety goggles
 - Toxic gases and dust – lung disease was common
 - Sharp blades with no protection
 - No vacation time, sick leave or money for injuries on the job.
 - Injuries were very common.
 - In 1882, 675 people on average were killed in work related accidents EACH WEEK!

Labor Unions

- Developed out of unsafe working conditions and low wages
 - Contributed to poor living and social conditions
- Unions provided strength in numbers by threatening to strike
- Protect workers interest



Labor Unions Cont.

- Some only included skilled workers
- Others allowed more diversity in skill and political ideals
- Not widely accepted by the government or the general public

Labor Unions 1870-1900s



Chinese Exclusion Act

- **Barred Chinese immigration** for 10 years
- Prevent Chinese already in the US from becoming citizens
- Caused by:
 - Fear of cheap labor
 - Nativist sentiments
 - European Immigrants were more willing to assimilate into the American Culture



The Mortar of Assimilation - And the One Element that Won't Mix

Activity

- Look at the chart labeled 4. Big Business and Government. Use the information in the chart to create a line graph on the blank graph titled 4. Big Business and Government
- Look at the chart labeled 5. The Gilded Age. Use the information in the chart to create a bar graph on the blank graph titled 5. The Gilded Age