

A blue-tinted photograph of a vast ocean under a cloudy sky. The text "A Nation in Turmoil" is centered in white.

A Nation in Turmoil

A Nation in Turmoil

What incident occurred in Martinsburg, WV?

Answer: Railroad workers rioted and vowed to shut down the railroad until their wages were restored. President Hayes responded by sending in troops to squelch the uprising. The result was a national walkout crippling many parts of the country.

What was the above cited incident called?

Answer: The Great Railroad Strike

What is a strike?

Answer: It's when workers refuse to work because of mistreatment or improved conditions.

What was unique about the Great Railroad Strike?

Answer: It was the first time there was a national strike and the first time troops were sent in response to a labor dispute.

The Remaking of the American Working Class

How was the country's workforce different before 1865?

Answer: Prior to 1865, most Americans were in agricultural. After that time they were in industry.

How was industrialization beneficial to the country?

Answer: It created a strong middle class and worker force.

What were some of the negatives of industrialization?

Answer: The gap between rich and poor was growing. It created rich Anglo-Saxon elitists. Women and children had to join the workforce because the single income was not enough to survive.

What disadvantages did women have in the workplace?

Answer: They worked long hours at a fraction of the pay men received.

The Remaking of the American Working Class and The Hazards of the Job

What proportion of children under the age of sixteen had to work in the factories?

Answer: 1 in 5

What were risks of work during the industrialization?

Answer: There were no safety regulations.

What were some of the specific instances?

Answer: Women's hair getting caught in machines, men would often get their hands disfigured, 3 miners died every two days (from collapses and poison gases)

The World of Capital and The Knights of Labor

What was the myth created by the rich industrialists?

Answer: That anyone could rise from poverty to wealth, when in fact very few ever rose to wealth that weren't already wealthy to begin with.

Who were the Knights of Labor?

Answer: A large union formed in the 1869 by a group of tailors from Philadelphia.

What did the Knights advocate?

Answer: Less hours for women and children, better safety conditions, and to recognize women's suffrage.

The Great Upheaval

How did the rich business owners respond to the massive strikes throughout the nation?

Answer: They hired guards to get rid of union sympathizers, during strikes the pickets were kept away from walls so they could bring in non-union workers, and use their political power to have the militia called in.

Who were the scabs?

Answer: Non-union workers who would come in and work during strikes.

What event occurred in May of 1886 in Chicago?

Answer: There was a strike at the Haymarket factories where forty thousand people refused to work. Anarchists instigated a two standoff and riot resulting in policemen and strikers being killed.

What is an anarchist?

Answer: A person who opposes all government and will causes violent dissension to destroy it.

The Great Upheaval

What was the result of the violent riots?

Answer: Anti-laborer and anti-immigrant sentiment

What labor union arose after the fall of the Knights of Labor?

Answer: The American Federation of Labor

Who did Samuel Gompers, head of the American Federation of Labor, exclude from joining his organization?

Answer: Political radicals, African Americans, and women.

The Homestead Strike and The Farmer's Revolt and The People's Party

What was significant about the strike at Andrew Carnegie's Homestead plant?

Answer: Carnegie refused to negotiate with unions only individuals. When workers tried to storm the plant private police kept them out. Eventually workers had to give up.

What condition affected the farmers of the Midwest?

Answer: In the 1880's, prices dropped and weather conditions forcing farmers to leave behind farming.

What were granges?

Answer: Organizations formed by farmers to fight against unfair discrimination. They sold their products through cooperatives.

What were cooperatives?

Answer: A conglomeration of farmers that sold their goods together in order to get better prices.

The People's Party

What was the Populist Party?

Answer: The political party formed from the influence of the farmers. It advocated for the "working people."

What did the populist party use as its platform?

Answer: 1) Make an 8 hour work day. 2) Work to control monopolies. 3) Limit the use of injunctions to stop strikes. 4) Establish an income tax.

What is a monopoly?

Answer: It is when a large company own all of one product or service, controlling it, and not allowing any competition.

What is an injunction?

Answer: A court order that was used to stop strikes and often set up the use of military to stop the strikes.

From the Crash of 1893 to the Pullman Strike

What is depression?

Answer: A time of economic disparity characterized by massive unemployment, poverty, businesses failing, banks failing,

What was Coxey's Army?

Answer: A group of people lead by Jacob Coxey who marched across the country in protest of poor wages and unemployment, and who petitioned Washington to government relief. .

What happened at the Pullman automotive plant?

Answer: Pullman fired his workers after they complained because their wages were dropped. The workers petitioned the railroad unions for help. This conflict lead to troops intervening, which lead to thirteen people being killed.

The Election of 1896

Who ran for election during the Election of 1896?

Answer: William Jennings Bryant (democrat) and William McKinley (Republican)

What did the Republicans do to win the presidency?

Answer: McKinley won more votes from Catholic and ethnic because he pushed for unity, focusing less on religious rhetoric.