

6.10 Development of the Middle Class
Theme: Social Structures

Learning Objective 6.H: Explain the socioeconomic continuities and changes associated with the growth of industrial capitalism from 1865 to 1898.

Growth of Middle Class

KC-6.2.I.E Corporations' need for managers and for male and female clerical workers, as well as increased access to educational institutions, fostered the growth of a distinctive middle class...

- Growth of _____ work, more factories needed more _____
- Women begin to fill jobs previously filled by men
 - _____ fields often lost status and wages ex. Teaching, nursing
- Education expanded - public high schools, state schools, women's colleges, _____
- Middle classes began to migrate to the suburbs
 - Cleaner, more space, lower cost, commuting options

Growth of Leisure Time

KC-6.2.I.E ...A growing amount of leisure time also helped expand consumer culture.

- Growth of newspaper and periodicals - _____ and _____ newspapers
 - People exposed to the same information, ads drive cost down
- Amusements
 - Traveling circuses (_____), Variety Shows (_____ and _____)
 - Music - Scott Joplin and _____, _____ and Jazz, blues
 - Sports
 - Professional _____, black players → _____
 - College football

Gospel of Wealth

KC-6.3.I.B Some business leaders argued that the wealthy had a moral obligation to help the less fortunate and improve society, as articulated in the idea known as the Gospel of Wealth, and they made philanthropic contributions that enhanced educational opportunities and urban environments.

- _____ Proposed by Andrew Carnegie
 - Hoped _____ would help others succeed in capitalist system

- Gave away _____ to libraries, universities, concert halls

Recap

- The middle class did expand despite the growing gap between the rich and poor in the Gilded Age
- It was due to the evolving economy, increased educational opportunities

Part II

Short Answer Questions

Answer the following in AT LEAST three sentences.

1. Explain the socioeconomic continuities and changes associated with the growth of industrial capitalism from 1865 to 1898.

Thesis and Context Writing Practice

Provide context for the following prompt in three sentences.

1. Evaluate the extent to which class distinction and class awareness became more prominent in the Gilded Age than in the preceding periods.

Provide a thesis statement with a line of reasoning that answers the following prompt.

2. Evaluate the extent to which class distinction and class awareness became more prominent in the Gilded Age than in the preceding periods.

Andrew Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth" 1889

Retrieved from: <http://www.americanvawp.com/reader/16-capital-and-labor/andrew-carnegies-gospel-of-wealth-june-1889/>

The price which society pays for the law of competition, like the price it pays for cheap comforts and luxuries, is also great; but the advantages of this law are also greater still, for it is to this law that we owe our wonderful material development, which brings improved conditions in its train. But, whether the law be benign or not, we must say of it, as we say of the change in the conditions of men to which we have referred: It is here; we cannot evade it; no substitutes for it have been found; and while the law may be sometimes hard for the individual, it is best for the race, because it insures the survival of the fittest in every department. We accept and welcome, therefore, as conditions to which we must accommodate ourselves, great inequality of environment, the concentration of business, industrial and commercial, in the hands of a few, and the law of competition between these, as being not only beneficial, but essential for the future progress of the race. ...

...

This, then, is held to be the duty of the man of Wealth: ... becoming the mere agent and trustee for his poorer brethren, bringing to their service his superior wisdom, experience, and ability to administer, doing for them better than they would or could do for themselves.

...

The laws of accumulation should be left free; the laws of distribution free. Individualism will continue. But the millionaire will be but a trustee for the poor; entrusted for a season with a part of the increased wealth of the community, but administering it for the community far better than it did, or would have done, of itself. The best in minds will thus have reached a stage in the development of the race in which it is clearly seen that there is no mode of disposing of surplus wealth creditable to thoughtful and earnest men into whose hands it flows save by using it year-by-year for the general good. This day already dawns.

1. Provide an Attribution for the document:
2. Use the document to support the thesis: " Class distinction and awareness was visibly more prominent in the Gilded Age than in preceding periods of United States History."
3. Choose one of the analysis topics from HAPP and provide a 2 sentence analysis of the document.
4. Give an A-C-E response on a piece of outside evidence that is relevant to the document and topic of the thesis