Period 6: 1865-1898

BAGPIPE Themes

**Belief Systems: Culture and Society**

* Ideas
* *Social commentators advocated theories later described as Social Darwinism to justify the success of those at the top of the socioeconomic structure as both appropriate and inevitable.*
* *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.*
* Religion and Literature
* Art and Literature
* *A number of artists and critics, including agrarians, utopians, socialists, and advocates of the Social Gospel, championed alternative visions for the economy and U.S. society.*
* Cultural Values
* Science
* Morality and Moral Values

**America in the World: Global Context**

* Competition for Resources
* *As migrant populations increased in number and the American bison population was decimated, competition for land and resources in the West among white settlers, American Indians, and Mexican Americans led to an increase in violent conflict.*
* Foreign Policy and Diplomacy
* Expansionism and imperialism
* Global Conflicts (World Wars)
* Military and Economic

**Geography & Environment: Physical and Human**

* Climate, Environment, and Geography
* Natural Resources
* Exchanges: plants, disease, animals

**Peopling: Migration and Settlement**

* Movement to, from, within the U.S.
* *As cities became areas of economic growth featuring new factories and businesses, they attracted immigrants from Asia and from southern and eastern Europe, as well as African American migrants within and out of the South. Many migrants moved to escape poverty, religious persecution, and limited opportunities for social mobility in their home countries or regions.*
* *In hopes of achieving ideals of self-sufficiency and independence, migrants moved to both rural and boomtown areas of the West for opportunities, such as the building of the railroads, mining, farming, and ranching.*
* Nativism
* Immigrant groups impact on Society
* *In an urban atmosphere where the access to power was unequally distributed, political machines thrived, in part by providing immigrants and the poor with social services.*

**Identity: Gender, Class, Racial, Ethnic Identities**

* Gender
* *Many women sought greater equality with men, often joining voluntary organizations, going to college, promoting social and political reform, and, like Jane Addams, working in settlement houses to help immigrants adapt to U.S. immigrants adapt to U.S. language and customs.*
* Class
* *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. A growing amount of leisure time also helped expand consumer culture.*
* Racial and Ethnic Identities
* *Urban neighborhoods based on particular ethnicities, races, and classes provided new cultural opportunities for city dwellers.*
* National and Regional Identities
* Nationalism and Patriotism
* Assimilation
* *Increasing public debates over assimilation and Americanization accompanied the growth of international migration. Many immigrants negotiated compromises between the cultures they brought and the culture they found in the United States.*
* *Many American Indians preserved their cultures and tribal identities despite government policies promoting assimilation, and they attempted to develop self-sustaining economic practices.*

**Politics and Power**

* Role of State in Society
* Political Process
* Role of Political Parties
* *Economic instability inspired agrarian activists to create the People's (Populist) Party, which called or a stronger governmental role in regulating the American economic system.*
* *The major political parties appealed to lingering divisions from the Civil War and contended over tariffs and currency issues, even as reformers argued that economic greed and self-interest had corrupted all levels of government.*

* Struggles over / for Freedom
* *The Supreme Court decision in Plessy v. Ferguson that upheld racial segregation helped to mark the end of most of the political gains African Americans made during Reconstruction. Facing increased violence, discrimination, and scientific theories of race, African American reformers continued to fight for political and social equality.*
* Federalism
* Liberty and Rights
* *The U.S. government violated treaties with American Indians and responded to resistance with military force, eventually confining American Indians to reservations and denying tribal sovereignty.*
* Citizenship
* Authority and Power

**Economy: Work, Exchange, Trade, Technology**

* Agriculture and Manufacturing
* *Despite the industrialization of some segments of the Southern economy--a change promoted by Southern leaders who called for a "New South"--agriculture based on sharecropping and tenant farming continued to be the primary economic activity in the South.*
* *Improvements in mechanization helped agricultural production increase substantially and contributed to declines in food prices.*
* *Many farmers responded to the increasing consolidation in agricultural markets and their dependence on the evolving railroad system by creating local and regional cooperative organizations.*
* Commerce and Trade
* *Following the Civil War, government subsidies for transportation and communication systems helped open new markets in North America.*
* *As the price of many goods decreased, workers' real wages increased, providing new access to a variety of goods and services; many Americans' standards of living improved, while the gap between rich and poor grew.*
* *Many business leaders sought increased profits by consolidating corporations into large trusts and holding companies, which further concentrated wealth.*
* *Businesses and foreign policymakers increasingly looked outside U.S. borders in an effort to gain greater influence and control over markets and natural resources in the Pacific Rim, Asia, and Latin America.*
* *Some argued that laissez-faire policies and competition promoted economic growth in the long run, and they opposed government intervention during economic downturns.*
* Technology and Innovations
* *Businesses made use of technological innovations, greater access to natural resources, redesigned financial and management structures, advances in marketing, and a growing labor force to dramatically increase the production of goods.*
* Labor Systems
* *The industrial workforce expanded and became more diverse through internal and international migration; child labor also increased.*
* *Labor and management battled over wages and working conditions, with workers organizing local and national unions and/or directly confronting business leaders.*
* Transportation
* *The building of transcontinental railroads, the discovery of mineral resources, and government policies promoted economic growth and created new communities and centers of commercial activity.*
* Land Distribution