Work, Exchange, & Technology

US History Overview
Period 2

Isaiah Njoku, Adili Rikondja, Bella Rivera, Erick Perez, Sadushi De Silva
Warm-up
Overarching Question:

How have changes in markets, transportation, and technology affected American society from colonial times to the present day?
Explain how patterns of exchange commodities, peoples, diseases, and ideas around the Atlantic World developed after European contact and shaped North American colonial-era societies

- “Columbian” Exchange: Triangle Trade, African Slave trade
  - Spread of diseases - smallpox
  - Agricultural exchange - new crops and livestock, corn (maize)
  - European missionaries, spread of Catholicism through Mission System
- Resistance among natives
  - Bacon’s Rebellion 1676 - largest and most powerful insurrection against established authorities during colonial times
  - Pueblo Revolt 1680: revolt against catholic missions that were banning sacred Pueblo rituals
- Effect of 7 Years War on colonies
  - Britain’s massive debt = increased imperial control over American markets
  - Coureurs de bois, French-Indian fur trade
Analyze how innovations in markets, transportation, and technology affected the economy and the different regions of North America from the colonial period through the end of the Civil War.

Transportation

- Robert Fulton’s *Claremont* (1807): first commercially successful steamboat, capable of long distance travel, transported passengers along the Hudson River
- Development of the *Erie Canal* by 1825
- By 1830’s, development of railroads led to increased migration to western cities

Markets

- Market Revolution: expansion of the marketplace and economic transformation that took place in early nineteenth century America

Effects:

1. Larger gap between rich and poor
2. Increase in slavery and demand due to expanding cotton market
3. Led to specialization
4. Family dynamics begin to change
5. Economic growth due to expansion of railroad system
Technology

- **Cotton Gin** (1793): created by Eli Whitney made cotton production work more quickly, led to increased demand throughout the nation and in Great Britain, rise of cotton as a main cash crop
- Development of Samuel Morse’s **Telegraph Machine** (1844) improved long distance communication
Explain how changes in transportation, technology, and the integration of the U.S. economy into world markets have influenced U.S. society since the Gilded Age.

- **Transcontinental Railroad** completed in 1869: allowed for products and passengers to travel farther and faster
- Technology (telephone, transatlantic telegraph, lightbulb, camera, department stores, mail order catalogs, refrigerated railcar): more advanced and innovative society, marked a shift towards consumerism
- U.S. economy: *laissez faire* ideology caused little regulation of economic affairs; “Captains of Industry” built monopolies, revolutionizing American business practices; increase of industrial cities and agricultural productivity led to expanded markets and businesses; influx of **immigrants** led to cheap and accessible labor, increasing the rate of production for many industries
Explain how and why different labor systems have developed, persisted, and changed since 1800 and how events such as the Civil War and industrialization shaped the U.S. society and workers’ lives.

**Slave Labor**
- “Unlimited” and cheap labor
- Became stronger but eventually abolished due to the emancipation proclamation and abolishment of slavery- 13th Amendment

**Reconstruction** (Post Civil War)
- South- Rise of Sharecropping (Tenant Farming)-employs many freed slaves
- Attempt to industrialize the South-mostly fails w/ exception of steel industry and textiles, decline in value of cotton due to surplus-results in Southern poverty

**Industrialization/ Mechanization**
**Causes:**
1) Raw Material (Iron, Coal, etc)
c) Expanding Markets

d) Technological Advancements
   - including expansion of RR, invention of telephone, and advent of department stores

e) Pro-Business Govt (esp. during Gilded Age)
   - notion of “hands off” government, rise of Laissez Faire Capitalism

- Effects include: maldistribution of wealth, expanding middle class, women in the work force, labor unrest - leads to rise of organized labor (AFL, Knight of Labor, etc) and eventually labor strikes
Overarching Question:

Why have different labor systems developed in British North America and the United States, and how have they affected US society?
Explain the development of labor systems such as slavery and indentured servitude from the colonial period through the end of the 18th century.

- Slave Trade/Labor
  - Brought from West Africa to America, Caribbean islands, Brazil and Spanish America
  - Crops: Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar cane
  - Became prominent after Bacon’s Rebellion
  - Haitian Revolution & Stono Rebellion

- Indentured Labor
  - Developed by the Virginia Company as a result of Headright System
  - Mainly for the poor or unemployed
Overarching Question:

How have debates over economic values and the role of government in the US economy affected politics, society, the economy, and the environment?
Explain how arguments about market capitalism, the growth of corporate power, and government policies influenced economic policies from the late 18th century to the 20th century.

- **Regional Economics**
  - Southern cotton production fuels industry in the Northeast and catalyzes the need for slavery in the South.
  - Despite efforts to establish a unified economy, market conditions brought the Northeast and the Midwest closer while distancing each from relations with the South.

- **Large Scale production in the Gilded Age**
  - Gilded Age politics focused mostly on economic policies regarding tariffs, laissez-faire economics, currency and corporate expansion.
  - 1870’s -1900 : time for big business. Large companies consolidate into trusts and the first powerful millionaires like Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan effect economic policy.
  - Rise of corporate power leads to the formation of the Populist Party and the “Bull Moose” Progressive Party
  - “Good Trusts and Bad Trusts”
  - Roosevelt’s 79% tax bracket only applies to John D. Rockefeller
Compare the beliefs and strategies of movements advocating changes to the US economic system since industrialization, particularly the organized labor, Populists, and Progressive movements.

**Organized Labor:** strategies include boycotting, picketing, strikes - goal to increase collective bargaining

- Key Groups:
  - National Labor Union (1866)- first labor union, attempts to organize all workers--fails
  - Knights of Labor (1869)- some goals include: elimination of child labor and anti- trust busting, - blamed for Haymarket Riot (1886)
  - American Federation of Labor (1896)- largest union (1 million), focused on improving working conditions and increasing wages

**Populists:** attempted to achieve reform by trying to enter political spectrum, critical of capitalism (ex. William Jennings Bryan)

- Farmers’ Alliance (1880s)
- Goals- Free Silver (Bimetallism), government ownerships of forms transportation, sub treasuries, nationalization of various forms of transportation and communication (ex. RRs and Telegraph), 8 hour work day
Progressives: sought change through reform in policy

- **Women and Child Labor:**
  - Florence Kelley- est. National Consumers’ Committee- advocates against child labor and promotes better working conditions and shorter hours for women on state level
  - National Child Labor Committee- regulates child labor and mandates child education

- **Teddy Roosevelt- Square Deal:** mediates 1902 Coal Strikes- est 10% wage increase + 9 hour work day
  - Trust Busting- “Good Trusts and Bad Trust”

- **Railroad Regulation:**
  - Elkins Act of 1903 and Hepburn Act of 1906

- **Taft:** Dollar Diplomacy- focus on expanding American business abroad
  - Trust Busting- 90 antitrust cases

- **Wilson’s New Freedom:** condemns “triple wall of privilege” (trusts, tariffs, and banks)
  - Underwood Tariff 1913- significant lowering of tariffs
  - Federal Trade Commission- regulate fair trade within all industries except banks and transportation
  - Federal Reserve Act and Clayton Antitrust Act

- **Rise of Socialism:** IWW (Industrial Workers of the World)- radical labor union
Explain how and why the role of the federal government in regulating economic life and the environment has changed since the end of the 19th century

Late 1800s (Gilded Age) - Laissez Faire Capitalism dominates
   - “Hands off” approach by the federal government, plus belief in Social Darwinism
   - Big industries dominate (US Steel, Standard Oil, etc)
   - Backlash: Interstate Commerce Act (1886) & Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)

Progressive Era (1890-1920) - Economic Reforms
   - Progressive Era is dominated by who sought reform of all type through the federal government
   - Refer back to WXT 7 for specific examples

1920s - Pro Business government policies (tax cuts, low Federal Reserve rates, less bank regulation)

1930s-1940s - Great Depression strikes, prompting increased federal govt intervention
   - FDR’s New Deal - nation in desperate need of Relief, Recovery, and Reform
     examples: Glass Steagall Act, “Bank Holiday” and FDRs 2nd New Deal - Social Security, WPA
LBJ’s Great Society- liberal outlook, focused on reform
- Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and Job Corps
- Water Quality and Clean Air Acts prompted by Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* (1962)

Nixon Presidency- Expansive Environmental Policies
- Inspired by Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* and Dr. Paul Ehrlich’s *The Population Bomb*
  plus growing number of industrial issues (Santa Barbara oil spill, Cuyahoga River incident, LA smog)
- First Earth Day - April 22nd, 1970, Clean Air Act (1972), Endangered Species Act (1973)

Carter Administration- More Environmental Efforts
- National Energy Act- taxed those that consumed
  large quantities of fuel, uses revenue for energy research

Reagan Years- promises to cut taxes and increased defense spending-
attributed to rise of 80s conservatism
- “Supply Side” Economics, trickle down theory
- plus Anti-Union (PATCO Air Traffic Controllers)
Multiple Choice
1. With which of the following would the author of this cartoon most likely agree?

a. tariffs should be cut down to allow for easier trade
b. organizations such as NAFTA and WTO benefit the country by stabilizing the economy
c. trade agreements are creating more problems than benefits
d. the government should support labor unions
2. All of the following were effects of the creation of NAFTA EXCEPT:

a. expansion of the World Bank
b. immediate elimination of all U.S.-Mexico tariffs
c. “outsourcing” of businesses and jobs
d. increase in internet technology
3. The ideas presented in this cartoon are most closely related to which other time period?

a. the rise of labor unions during the progressive era
b. “robber barons” of the Gilded Age
c. backlash of the beat generation in the 1950s
d. civil rights movement in the 60s