



American Society in the Gilded Age



1865-1900



Learning Objectives- I

Explain the causes of increased economic opportunity and its effects on society.

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.

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.

Learning Objective- II

Explain how different reform movements responded to the rise of industrial capitalism in the Gilded Age.

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.

Many women sought greater equality with men, often joining voluntary organizations, going to college, and promoting social and political reform.



Video Clip- Andrew Carnegie: Gilded Age Philanthropist



Jane Addams- Neighboring with the Poor

Assignment

- Evaluate to the extent that American women were in the forefront of movements for socioeconomic change during the period from 1865-1900.
- Create a thinking map which showcases the major changes in American life that are ushered in by American women during this period.

- Consider– What aspects of Gilded Age society are best reflected in the America of today?