



# Labor in the Gilded Age

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1865-1900



# Learning Objectives

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

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.

Labor and management battled over wages and working conditions, with workers organizing local and national unions and/or directly confronting business leaders.

The industrial workforce expanded and child labor increased.

# WHY DO WE CELEBRATE LABOR DAY?



Why do Americans and Canadians celebrate Labor Day?

# Class Activity

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- Take the point of view of each of the following persons and answer the question below from each of their perspectives.
    - a worker in a steel mill
    - an entrepreneur who owns a large-scale company
    - a policeman who has to disperse union workers who are participating in a strike
    - a person who has to travel for business from one city to another
    - a young boy who has to work in a coal mine
    - a politician who needs the support of both workers and business owners to win re-election
- \*\* How would each of the persons listed above regard the growth of organized labor during the Gilded Age in America?