



AP[®] United States History 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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Q4 01
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Farmers and Industrial workers took to the Gilded Age in ~~a variety of ways~~ a variety of ways. It could depend on your social class, area of location, or trade you were specialized in. It effected people in good and bad ways. For someone out in Casa Grande, New Mexico, it did not make much of a difference. For somebody living in the North Eastern part of the US, it did.

Farmers had a relatively good take to it in the beginning. More people in the rural areas moved into the city for a vast opening of new job opportunities. That meant that there would be less farmers, which meant less competition, which would make prices go up because there would be less of a supply. Since mass production ~~was~~ ~~was~~ underdevelopment, farm equipment would have breakthroughs and become more affordable. People would not have to do as much manual labor and be able to cultivate and use more land if they had better farming equipment. There was one major draw back though which was the cost of freights on trains for transportation. The bigger farmer would get a deal and pay almost nothing for transporting their crops while the small farmer would.

Industrial workers were, you could say off a mixed bunch. At first, people thought it was great just like the farmers. There were people that thought

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it was a great opportunity because many unskilled workers could find a job. Immigrants who could not even speak english could find a job at a factory. Their wages would not be that great but it was guaranteed wherever they were coming from, it was better then there. Then people started to realize the negative aspects of Industrialization. The skilled professions would be taken over by cheap labor and machines. ~~The wages~~ The wages of factory workers would go down because ~~they~~ many people would work for almost nothing a day.

All in All I think The Industrialization of America helped to quickly modernize the world. It was the last shove that pushed the world out of the ~~farming~~ farming age and into the age of technology. It was a good step that was taken.

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After the reconstruction, industrialization ~~and~~ began to take place and the Gilded age emerged. While the country industrialized, farmers and industrial workers found they needed to protect their rights. ~~Both~~ Both groups formed movement in order to protect themselves from the changing society around them.

In the late 1960's the farmers formed the populist movement. For most farmers, industrialization proved ~~to be~~ bad. The monopoly of the Railroads allowed them to request any price for shipping crops east to the markets. They often requested high prices of the farmers. The banks also gave the farmers a ~~hard~~ hard time. They would loan them money but because of the high cost in seed, fertilizers, and machinery they often could not pay their debts. Farming was also changing. Subsistence farming was dying out and ~~some~~ commercial farming was needed to ~~make~~ make money. Farmers without enough land had to borrow money to buy more increasing their debts. The lack of currency back by gold was stable but with the population increasing there was less and less for each person causing deflation. For the farmers to get good prices they needed inflation. This all resulted in the populist movement and their political party. They asked for

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bimetallism, both gold and silver backing the currency, to increase the money supply and cause inflation. The advocated ^{government} regulation of railroads and a change in the banking system. While they met with marginal success, they were not able to achieve all they wanted.

The industrial workers also ~~tried~~ to change their situation during the Gilded Age. In 1865-1900 the first labor unions began to appear. They formed to protect the laborer from his employers. They fought against low wages, bad conditions, and long hours. However there were some factors that contributed to their lack of success. ~~Among~~ The unions were often seen as anarchists and socialists. The bad public opinion decreased their support and power.

They also were split. Some unions only had skilled workers, while others had unskilled laborers. Many would not let women, black, or other ethnic groups enter their union. This internal division and inability to work ~~together~~ with one another damaged their ability to gain political ^{and public} support. ~~The~~ Before the progressive movement the government supported

big businesses rather than the unions. ^{* which strike were used} ~~Because~~ companies

Just brought in strike breakers to take ~~the~~ their place. Because of ~~all~~ all of this the unions were unable to meet with much success during the Gilded Age.

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The farmers and industrial workers responded to the industrialization of America by creating movements in order to protect themselves. While these were mostly unsuccessful, the ~~set~~ started ~~movement~~ movements that would eventually return ~~as~~ more successfully. ~~There~~ Their lack of success was a reflection of internal differences and lack of ~~political~~ political power.

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~~Populism~~
 Farmers
 the Grange
 Populist movement
 Patron of Husbandry
 Free Silver
 William Jennings Bryan
 Granger laws
 Interstate Commerce Act
 Wabash ???
 How the Other Half Lives
 Poverty and Progress
 Jacob Riis
 Lowered tariffs
 Farmers Alliance
 Fundamentalism
 Moody's Old-time religion

~~Industrial workers~~
 Union: AFL
 Knights of Labor
 Eugene Debs
 Samuel Gompers
 Haymarket Incident
 in response to Puller
 Barons
 Molly Maguire's
 settlement house
 Against monopolies
 The Jungle
~~...~~
 muckrakers

The farmers and the industrial workers responded to industrialization by uniting ^{and} trying to conquer their foes through legislation. While ultimately, their efforts failed, their attempts were valiant and represented their role as the oppressed. Their efforts led to the later progressive era in which the farmers and industrial workers finally gained the support they needed for change to occur.

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~~The economic~~ The farmers plight was exacerbated in the Gilded Age. The power of the railroads dominated as "robber barons" charged exorbitant rates for the transport of the farmer's goods. ~~work~~ ~~over~~ The farmers, ~~who~~ had been full of hope ~~at~~ during the Market Revolution and the inventions of products such as the McCormick reaper, John Deere's steel plow and Joseph Glidden's barbed wire. However, with the unstable farming economy and the railroad's exhortion of the farmer, the farmers fell in a ~~constant~~ continual cycle of debt. With the solid position of the dollar, backed by the gold standard, the farmers had little hope of changing that cycle. However, in 1867, the Grange movement began. Beginning in the Patrons of Husbandry, developed by Oliver, the Grange united farmers for social activities. As farmers began to unite, the realization of their shared plight grew. They began to push for legislation to curb the railroad's manipulation of the farmers in a series of Granger laws. However, as they were unaware of Article I, Section 8, saying that Congress controlled interstate commerce, they ultimately failed, and in 1876, died out. The Farmer's Alliance in the South grew shortly afterwards. With similar goals, it ultimately failed because of the disunity between the biracial farmers.

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However, later the Populist movement took off, ~~at the~~
~~Omaha Platform~~ they stated their desire for combining
~~free~~ the farmers of the West and the South. In the
Omaha Platform, the Populists stated their goals for
free silver, thus decreasing the farmer's debt, a lowered
tariff and government control of the railroads.
William Jennings Bryan, a Democrat, took up their
cause in his speech "Cross of Gold". He compared the
gold standard to a cross and stated that true freedom
could be found in placing silver as the standard.
However, the Populists split on the issue, and he
lost the presidential election. The Populists goals,
then, ~~did not~~ were not ultimately accomplished.
Until the coming of the Progressive Era.

The Industrial workers also faced an extreme
plight. Their initial attempts at unionization had
failed, and the government supported big
business over unions. "Robber barons" such as
Jay Gould, Andrew Carnegie and Rockefeller
controlled mass sums of money and would increase
their profits, even if it meant by hurting their
workers. Conditions were poor in factories, as
written about in Upton Sinclair's The Jungle.
Jacob Riis also described the poor conditions of the
Industrial workers in How the Other Half Lives.
The main form of protest by the industrial

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Workers was shown in the development of unions. The Knights of Labor was the first attempt at joining together to protect their interests and allow for decent pay. While moderately successful initially, the Knights of Labor failed after their participation in the Haymarket Riots. The American Federation of Labor, formed by Samuel Gompers, ~~was~~ later formed. It was successful, especially because of its non-radical stance and concentration of skilled workers. Molly Maguires formed in Pennsylvania to combat their oppressors, also defined as their superintendents and owners, who commonly oppressed them through indecent wages and working standards. Later the industrial workers would bring cases to court to protect their rights. However, they too did not accomplish ~~their~~ their goals because of their weakness and the American government's ~~indifference~~ indifference.

Thus, farmers and industrial workers did many things in response to the Gilded Age, yet were not very effective. It was not until Progressivism that their goals were fully accomplished.