



## AP United States History 2000 Student Samples

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The Second Industrial Revolution, which occurred ~~just~~ after the Civil War, saw more people, especially immigrants who were willing to take low-paying jobs — work in factories. Many of these immigrants, particularly the "new" ones from South and Eastern Europe, had been exposed to more radical ideas in their homelands, and ~~br~~<sup>introduced</sup> them into American organized labor. To a certain extent, organized labor was successful in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, although there were several major obstacles.

One of the major factors was American public opinion concerning labor. Although the New York Times cites the people as being sympathetic to <sup>the</sup> strikers ~~against~~ ~~the~~ Baltimore and Ohio Railroad ~~and~~ during the panic of 1877, most people during this time ~~and~~ were, at best, suspicious of organized labor. Thomas Nast's cartoon portrays the negative popular opinion that strikers were communists attempting to undermine capitalism. Also, the "gospel of wealth" theory was widespread; ~~it was~~ ~~the~~ ~~theory~~ ~~was~~ ~~spread~~ ~~by~~ ~~people~~ ~~as~~ ~~Thomas~~ ~~well~~ ~~and~~ ~~his~~ ~~"Acres~~ ~~of~~ ~~Diamonds"~~ ~~speech~~, which said that wealth was accessible to anyone willing to work for it, the theory ~~viewed~~ ~~the~~ ~~poor~~ ~~as~~ ~~kazy~~ ~~and~~ ~~unwilling~~ ~~to~~ ~~wait~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~proverbial~~ ~~"golden~~ ~~egg."~~ Also, the "Too Many

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Cocks "spall the Birth" cartoon depicts how labor was <sup>unskilled</sup> associated with machinery and socialism, which ~~caused~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~caused~~ <sup>labor</sup> fear ~~in~~ <sup>of</sup> employers. The ~~actions~~ <sup>actions</sup> of ~~the~~ employers also affected ~~on~~ <sup>of</sup> labor. The Second Industrial Revolution saw a rise in unskilled labor, as shown by the testimony of a machinist. Employers that needed less people to do the same task, which, when combined with wage cuts and panics, led to ~~increased~~ <sup>increased</sup> striking ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~resistance~~ <sup>resistance</sup> from employers ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~split~~ <sup>split</sup>. The increase in unskilled labor led to a rift between skilled and unskilled labor, which was a cause for the Knights of Labor's failure and to the exclusion of unskilled labor by the American Federation of Labor, which succeeded the defunct Knights of Labor. Since skilled labor was much more valuable and less replaceable than unskilled, the ~~former~~ <sup>former</sup> had much more leverage against employers ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> was a reason for the split.

Employers also <sup>tried to</sup> inhibit labor's success. Through yellow-dog contracts, such as the West Union Telegraph ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup>, they tried to prevent employees from joining unions. Strikebreakers were often hired and many employers ~~tried to~~ <sup>tried to</sup> use the "lockout" against strikers to attempt

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to serve them into submission. Also, employers circulated among themselves black lists of union members and of other troublesome employees. ~~They had~~ <sup>from the newspapers</sup> ~~they~~ had ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> ~~against~~ <sup>been</sup> the unions. ~~They~~

~~At Haymarket Square, Chicago, <sup>many</sup> ~~the~~ ~~gathered~~ to protest~~

The government attacked organized labor as well. At Haymarket Square, Chicago, the Knights of Labor were protesting police brutality when an <sup>anonymous</sup> ~~an~~ anarchist exploded. As the ~~both~~ <sup>brother</sup> cartoon shows, the two were associated with each other, which led to the Knights' demise. Although Governor John ~~Al~~ <sup>A</sup>ngelo, in a rare display of government sympathy, pardoned the accused anarchists, this was a major setback for labor. ~~But~~ ~~most~~ <sup>Most</sup> of the time however, the government was hostile to labor. For example when strikers at the Homestead steel plant tried to kill the head of the plant, Pinker detectives from the government were called to restore order, but not before violence ensued, as the cartoon's list shows. Another disaster for labor was the Pullman strike of 1893, led by socialist Eugene Debs. It occurred during the depression of 1893 and after two wage cuts. Since the strikers were blocking

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railroad traffic, a ~~Federal~~ <sup>the Federal</sup> Court, backed by President Cleveland, issued an injunction against the strikers, ~~as shown in the~~ In re heels, the case in which the Supreme Court upheld the injunction. At the time, the courts used the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, supposedly intended to regulate business to curb the "labor trust" through the courts' loophole.

However, the persistence of the labor day pay some dividends as the Historical Statistics department shows wages steadily climbed during this period, and the workday length, on average, decreased. In the 1890s, laborers were an important one of their major goals for federal employees. In 1894, Congress recognized the Labor Day as a national holiday.

Thus, to a certain extent, labor day achieved some success although it would have a part for some goals.

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The rise of Big Business and Big Government during the last <sup>fourth</sup> ~~case~~ of the 19<sup>th</sup> century produced both advantages for and abuses of different groups in the United States. Protests against these abuses produced some change and a desire for even more. Laborers from 1875-1900 were very persistent in their struggles to ~~improving~~ <sup>improve</sup> their position. They had some successes, but were often ignored, or even fought against, by management. Therefore, ~~these laborers~~ organized labor in the period from 1875-1900 was ~~only~~ somewhat successful in ~~these~~ improving the position of workers, but not completely.

The plight of workers ~~was~~ in large cities resulted from several different factors. For example, the mechanization of the farms during this time decreased the need for human labor, so many farm workers moved to the cities in search of jobs. In addition, the high immigration rate (mostly of Europeans) greatly increased the unskilled labor pool in the cities, making it more difficult to find jobs offering decent wages. The immigrants were usually willing to work for less than the Americans, so industries could almost always find people willing to work for very low wages. Because of the rise of Big Business & Big Government, there was a great disparity of wealth in the cities: the industrial giants were very wealthy, while the working class was very poor.

The harsh labor conditions to which the workers were subjected included long hours, low pay, & unsanitary ~~environments~~ and dangerous work environments. It was not unusual to see ~~the~~ ~~the~~ reports of the deaths of industrial workers on account of the machinery they used. (Document 6).

But despite the odds against them, laborers began to

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work hard to improve their conditions. They started forming labor unions, such as the American Federation of Labor (the AF of L), the Knights of Labor, and the IWW (a farmer's union). The purpose of these unions was to protect and assert the rights of the ~~workers~~ workers and to make sure that they were not the "doormats" of management (Document I). These unions were greatly needed, because industrial management tended to treat its workers badly, despite the fact that the workers were the means by which they could acquire the wealth and profit they sought. (As Document C puts it, management was "always killing the goose that lays the golden egg). However, ~~these strikes were not always~~ <sup>strikes</sup>

However, the strikes led by these unions were not always successful. Companies could retaliate by organizing "shut-outs" (not allowing workers to come to work). In addition, "scabs" (those people willing to work in place of strikers) were <sup>usually</sup> available to take workers' places and undermine the purpose of the strike. These strikes often turned violent, sometimes resulting in deaths (Document G). In addition, some companies made their employees sign an agreement promising not to <sup>join</sup> unions (Document E), thus ensuring that the company would have more control over its workers.

~~However, the efforts of <sup>unions</sup> ~~workers~~ were not without their successes. Business leaders thought that strikers and unionists were ignorant and spiteful (Document B) and~~ →

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Even the federal government seemed to back the industrial management on labor issues. For example, it broke up the Pullman strike against railroad companies because it impeded the delivery of mail. (Document H)

However, the efforts of organized labor did have some success. Several organizations, such as settlement houses, supported labor unions by hosting union meetings and ~~attempt~~ protesting against harsh labor conditions. <sup>In fact,</sup> Some of ~~the~~ the goals of the settlement houses included shortening the workday, increasing wages, and ending child ~~labor~~ labor. Protests from workers and from organizations like the settlement houses helped to establish a shorter workday and to increase workers' wages during this period (Document A).

Eventually, Congress was convinced to legalize labor unions; this development greatly benefitted workers because it allowed them to protest legally in order to make themselves heard. This persistence (Document I) allowed organized labor to ~~be~~ enjoy some success.

In conclusion, organized labor faced many difficulties in trying to improve working conditions; these difficulties included ~~the~~ lack of cooperation from management, <sup>and</sup> initial lack of ~~governmental~~ governmental support, ~~and~~ However, despite these difficulties, organized labor did make progress toward the establishment of a better working environment. Although ~~these~~ many improvements did not come until later (in the 20th century), these earlier workers <sup>paved</sup> ~~made~~ the way for the great deal of reform necessary to improve the position of workers in



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later American history

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During the late 1800's, America was experiencing a period known as the industrial revolution. However in this great advancement of mass production there was little concern for the workers. People, including children were working an average of 9.9 hours a day in 1875, and were receiving little pay or respect for their services. There was a need for an organized labor union. This would protect workers from the ~~harsh~~ <sup>harsh</sup> working conditions. Unfortunately, organized labor was not very successful during the period from 1875 to 1900.

In 1875 the ~~working~~ average daily hours of a worker was 9.9. By 1881, it had decreased to 9.4. After almost twenty years at the Index of average daily wages had only changed from 169.2 to 172.5. Thus the workers were working long hours for little pay. They also faced the dangers at their work places, many people had died from a random accident, or a simple mishap. During this time there were no standards or codes that a factory had to ~~follow~~ follow.

Labor unions were also very weak to make any demands. They were just starting, and there were too many unions. This led to competition between unions and they would fall easily under a corporations power. The Knights of Labor was one of the first unions. However, it was also a failure. The Labor Union was the first successful union. However, they had to increase their membership to become powerful. Thus it took them a while to actually build up their power.

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Companies did not like labor unions. Therefore they would hire people that did not have a ~~union~~ membership to a union. Western Union Telegraph Company, for example, had their employees ~~to~~ sign contracts that stated that the employee was not part of a union, or that they would abandon their union. It also stated that they would agree to never join a union while under the employment of Western Union Telegraph Company.

~~Labor unions in the late 1900's were unsuccessful.~~

Labor unions in the late 1900's were unsuccessful in their attempt to better their working conditions. They took too long to build up power against companies, and the first attempts to create a union were disorganized and far from worldwide.