

THE GILDED AGE

BORDERS & BOUNDARIES: AMERICA AT HOME

AND ABROAD, 1865 - 1924

KEY QUESTION

how did the U.S. evolve from a war-torn nation to a global superpower between the Civil War and the 1920's?

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

- these furthered the conquest of the American West and thus the extraction of raw materials that fueled industrialization

MODERN CORPORATIONS

- emerged for the first time in the Gilded Age and led to mass economic disparities

EXPANSION INTO LATIN AMERICA & THE PACIFIC

- stemmed from economic motivations related to the points above

RAILROADS

what was the significance?

- transported goods and people
 - provided a lot of jobs
- } dramatic economic growth

- the feds financed widespread construction of railroads:

1. stoke economic activity between the west & east
2. heal sectional divisions after CW

due to:

- legacies of Mex-American War
- the Plains Wars (1850s - 70s) to remove and exterminate indigenous ppl

resulted in:

- greater industrialization, urbanization, migration
- the rise of modern corporations & the first millionaires
- environmental degradation



LEARNER'S NOTE:

- the Gilded Age migration took place in the context of American industrialization & urbanization
- Immigration is the result of global "push and pull factors"
 - ↳ - pushed out due to: war, persecution, economic deprivation, natural disaster
 - pulled in due to: safety and stability, economic opportunity, social networks

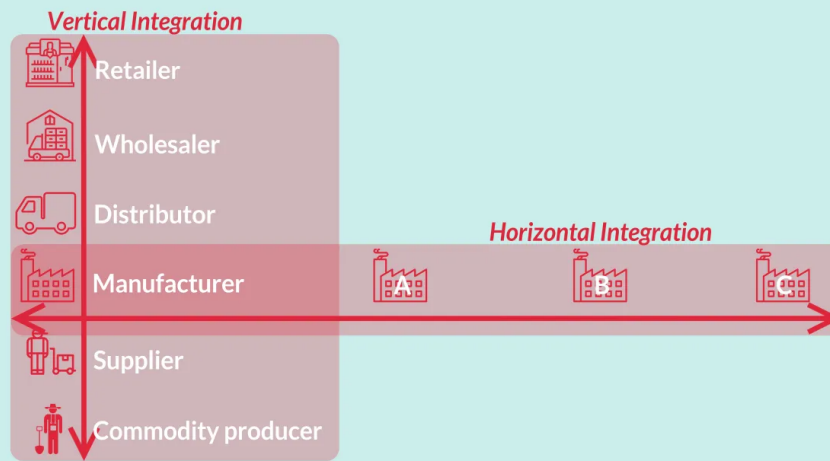
ROBBER BARONS OR CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY ?

- competition = basis of "free economics"; most titans attempted to circumvent competition at every step → creating the first modern trust/monopolies

"A type of monopoly, a trust is a form of corporate consolidation in which a number of businesses or industries ally under one board of trustees, which manages the entire conglomerate. The primary goal of a trust is to incorporate any real or potential competitors within the conglomerate so that the trust can control the entire industry or market."

Horizontal Integration In A Nutshell

Horizontal integration refers to the process of increasing market shares or expanding by integrating at the same level of the supply chain, and within the same industry. Perhaps, a manufacturer who buys or merges with another manufacturer, in the same industry, is an example of horizontal integration.



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WHY WAS THE GAZE SHIFTED TO *latin america* LATIN AMERICA?

- hemispheric proximity
- the precedent for U.S. dominance established by the Monroe Doctrine of 1823

UFC CONTEXT

not necessarily technology in the traditional sense, but it is a sense of art / special & cultural meaning

Don Pacifica had designed - now strung from balconies and lampposts in Alajuela's tiny streets and town square in the breeze of an immaculately clear Costa Rican day - showed the nation's problem: at the banner's centre was a broad horizontal stripe in red, for the sun that warmed the mesa on which nearly all Costa Ricans lived. The white bands around it were for the mid-afternoon clouds that brought the rain to irrigate its rich volcanic soil. The blue stripes at the outer edges represented Costa Rica's Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

a business

The Pacific was fine: it had a port. From there, Costa Rica's coffee went out to the world. The trouble was that both the coffee and any wealthy Costa Ricans bound for the east coast of the United States and Europe had to sail around the perilous Cape Horn. The journey, if completed, took months. The only alternative was the railroad across Panama, built by the US for the gold rush in the 1850s and its ramshackle carriages still full of the roughnecks that followed in its path.

In 1502, on his fourth voyage, Columbus had landed on the Atlantic coast and called it 'Costa Rica', the 'rich coast'. It was an act of wishful thinking. He had to report back to his patrons at home, to whom he had oversold the goods on offer; 'lands of vanity and delusion' they were calling them. Columbus left Costa Rica for the most miserable stage of his voyages yet, his fleet tramping the coast in northerly storms looking for what he imagined might be a sea passage through to China. He turned for home racked with arthritis and with his ships being eaten by seaworms.

Costa Rica's large Atlantic province of Limón remained mostly uninhabited but that, as Castro assured his audience, would soon change. Twelve thousand people had packed into

railroads were the connectors for business in the way that they proved efficient for trans-
portation both for people and goods

connection to the theme of the Gilded Age: a big business get bigger and more powerful, other business or place or business get swept into the

ROOTS OF EMPIRE

Alajuela, one in twelve of the nation's population, and they listened as he mapped out the future. Fifty years on from independence from Spain, the swamp and desolation of Limón would succumb to the force of progress. — by the age

The task had been assigned to the finest in the business. This was Henry 'Don Enrique' Meiggs, the great American railway builder, presently resident in Peru. The contracts had been signed and the pledges made: the railway would be finished in three years. At which point, and by the grace of God and General Guardia, Costa Ricans would be led down from their mountain to the sea.

After the cheers, the archbishop gave the Te Deum. Guardia descended from the podium to turn the project's first clod of earth with a silver shovel, specially cast. It started to rain, a little earlier than normal. After siesta the crowds took to the streets again with itinerant bands of acrobats and musicians. The parties, and a ball for the VIPs, went on until five the following morning.

Those placed in charge of the works had not yet arrived. Henry Keith, thirty-two, and his younger brother by nine years, Minor, were still at sea. They had taken a steamer south from New York and at Panama would cross the Central American isthmus on the railway built for the gold rush. On the Pacific side they took a ship north to Costa Rica and arrived on the mesa three weeks after the official opening of the works on the railway, 'at the trot of their horses'.

Through them, 'Don Enrique' Meiggs, their uncle, conveyed his regrets. He wouldn't have time to construct Costa Rica's railway since he was otherwise engaged. He was building Peru's line from Lima up into the Andes, a bigger and far trickier project. His nephews, however, came with all the necessary

the railway proved advancement at a young technological advancement of engineering & technological etc science

observe a trend of domestic tension
LA US (race vs race, N vs S, g vs. boy)

is what was mentioned in the primary source analysis of specifically the Haymarket Strike

bananas
store: clothing, basic provisions and machetes for hand-to-hand combat with the jungle. He had some banana cuttings that he had picked up on his way to Costa Rica while passing through Panama. He planted them. The fruit would grow quite quickly and he could sell it to the men.

Some Jamaicans had already been hired to clear the jungle and swamp but Minor wanted hardened US labour. He took the project's steamboat to New Orleans to recruit from its waterfront bars and flophouses. At a dollar a day and food, many occupants of the city's jail were also keen to offer their services. As they lined up on the dockside ready to embark, the police chief couldn't believe his luck in getting rid of them.

Keith's recruits included a good number of US Civil War veterans. Some even had tropical experience of a kind. The latter had been William Walker's men. Walker was another Scots emigré and had come to the US in the 1840s. He had also set off to chance his luck in Central America. His methods of extending the US frontier were more Old World than New and in the 1850s he had declared himself King of Nicaragua. The US government in Washington, enamoured of this regal idea, gave him its support.

His mistake was to make an enemy of Cornelius Vanderbilt, the US railway and shipping magnate who had established a presence in the area with the intention of building the trans-isthmian canal. When Walker fired on Vanderbilt's boats on the San Juan River between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Vanderbilt hired Central American mercenaries to retaliate. Walker fled for the US aboard an American gunboat. He later returned to pronounce himself king again, though he only made it as far as Nicaragua's northern neighbour, Honduras. Here in 1860 he was put against a wall and shot.

no credit was benefits from these billion \$ companies

this kinda shows how our different units are writing and being able to present in different yet distinct historical events

Many of Keith's new employees jumped ship in Havana, the first port of call made to take on sugar. When the boat ran aground on the Chinchorro Bank in a night storm off Yucatán, Keith and a few loyalists had to hold off the rest at gunpoint from rushing the lifeboats. Only when the storm eased next day were the malcontents persuaded to help jettison cargo and re-float the boat.

All but a few of this shipment and others that followed died working in Limón. No proper records were kept but the first twenty-five miles of the Costa Rican railway were estimated to have cost four thousand lives. Malaria and yellow fever were the main causes, though no one at the time knew of the part played by the Atlantic coast's especially virulent mosquitoes. Word went around among New Orleans' dwindling supply of labour that Keith was an employer to avoid. He was obliged to turn almost exclusively to recruiting Jamaicans.

The railway advanced only four miles in the first year. No proper survey had been done. The money ran out thanks to mishandled bond issues in London. With the Civil War only just behind it, the US was no good for credit. The Franco-Prussian war had put Europe's continental bankers out of commission and the bankers in London saw the Keiths and the Costa Ricans coming. Most of the loans raised went in interest payments.

In 1873 the markets crashed. Henry Keith went home claiming Costa Rica owed him money and calling for US intervention. Still engaged in its period of post-Civil War reconstruction, Washington confined its action to a letter of polite enquiry. Henry returned to Costa Rica only to join the multitude struck down by disease. He died leaving both the railway and his younger brother Minor stranded.

connection: Carnegie mentioned this as a trend in American history in regards to economic history

this made for a characteristic during this age loads of money as well as loads of spending

BANANAS

connection: this could connect back to our Unit 1 pre-assessment and an #7 question of how & why is the U.S. an empire

this age adds significant context

Pride of official place in 1876 at the Great Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia went to George H. Corliss's magnificent contraption. The Rhode Island engineer's steam engine rose like the nation itself: 'not a superfluous ounce of metal on it', wrote William Dean Howells, the novelist and editor of Boston's *Atlantic Monthly* magazine. Its 56-ton flywheel whirred 'with a hoarded power that makes all tremble'. In fact it did not hoard its power but supplied it free to other exhibitors, if not on every day. The exhibition closed on Sundays, when Corliss would not allow his machine to be used.

Ten years after the end of the Civil War, the exhibition's principal intention was to announce the US's arrival among the industrial elite of nations. Its sixty-seven buildings spread across a square kilometre, the expanse of two hundred American football fields. Staged from May to November, it attracted eight million people in a country of forty-six million: 'sleek, confident and well-fed'. Most worked ten hours a day, six days a week, and with no paid time off. Many took unpaid leave to visit. → huge characteristic

Entry cost was fifty cents, the average worker's daily wage a dollar twenty-one. The gates took five million dollars, one thousand and one of them counterfeit. Of the five hundred and four children lost, all but five were returned to their families the same day; the rest the next. Four people died, none from foul play. There were six hundred and seventy-five arrests, fourteen of which were for pick-pocketing. One person was also arrested for fornication, though with no indication as to with whom.

'The American invents as the Greeks sculpted and the Italians painted,' wrote *The Times* of London, worried about Britain's loss of technological supremacy. Scotsman Alexander Graham Bell, lately of Boston, displayed his newly invented telephone.

this adds context and helps the reader to think further on the part on an statement

* I remember Aliah Ferguson saying that America & its empire was a product of the British empire

ROOTS OF EMPIRE

Thomas Edison presented his telegraph. The typewriter was seen for the first time, as was the Otis brothers' steam elevator machine. George Eastman, twenty-two, wrote home to his mother in Rochester, New York, that he intended to 'traverse every aisle'. No mean feat; this amounted to eleven miles in the main exhibition hall alone. Eastman was five years from perfecting his easy-to-carry camera with flexible rolled film.

The Line-Wolf ammonia compressor represented an important advance in the technology of man-made ice. Also on show was a new refrigerated type of railroad car for perishable freight. James Tufts, a Massachusetts entrepreneur, exhibited his soda fountain, which in a dozen years or so would be usefully employed by Coca-Cola. → milk - mull on \$

Exhibits from overseas were held to be of poor calibre, save that from France, a sister republic and close historical friend. France sent the first completed part of the Statue of Liberty, the right arm and torch. Fifty feet high, it put other foreign offerings in the shade. Turkey sent a scarf dancer. Germany sent a few machines courtesy of Krupp, the German ambassador complaining they did nothing to brighten the dull image of Prussia. Japan, noted William Dean Howells, sent an exhibit of arts and crafts manned by a 'small lady-handed carpenter' who 'now and then darted a disgusted look through his narrow eye-slits at the observer'.

The Centennial organisers had planned an ethnology section to feature Native Americans. The Department of the Interior objected. The organisers offered to use only the 'cleanest and finest looking', who would be English-speaking and accompanied by a child, dog and pony. Their idea was rejected and they had to use life-sized plaster models. Even this was too much for Howells. In the 'extermination of the red savage',

View of "corrupt corporate America" (contemporary ~~blasts~~ we know America was built on corruption & immorality)

he wrote, 'one could hardly regret the loss of any number of Apaches and Comanches'. And he wrote this before word filtered through at the end of June of the massacre of Colonel George Custer and two hundred cavalrymen at Little Big Horn River.

The news from the South Dakota Territory almost ruined the republic's one-hundredth birthday party on July 4. The fact was, however, that the frontier was all but tamed. The US's transcontinental railway had been completed in 1869. Barbed wire, invented in 1873, contained the vast expanses between east and west. Out in the western mountains, Colorado became the thirty-eighth state of the Union during the exhibition.

The Centennial Exhibition's message was of a thrusting, forward-looking nation. Some popular events played to the idea of the US as pre-industrial idyll: the Strawberry Display, the Trial of Reaping Machines, the Exhibit of Sheep, Swine and Goats. But the flat stoneless plains of the Midwest had long since been transformed into the nation's grain basket. It was forty-five years since Cyrus McCormick had invented his revolutionary reaper. Or had he stolen the idea from the Virginian slave who helped him construct it? The reaper had featured over the years in several grim courtroom battles. For one of them McCormick had engaged Abraham Lincoln, a young Illinois lawyer.

* By the time of the Centennial Exhibition the question was being asked whether the US's age of invention wasn't also one of rampant manipulation. Market crashes ran at a rate of one a decade. The 'small man' always ended up ruined. The crash of 1873 had seen President Ulysses S. Grant, the Civil War leader and hero accused of accepting gifts from businessmen. The robber barons were blamed, characters like Vanderbilt, Jay Gould, Daniel Drew and James Fisk. Their preferred title was

huge and COMMON characteristics of the Gilded Age → makes you think: Could this age have jumpstarted the modern



ROOTS OF EMPIRE

'captains of industry'. Gould and Fisk had attempted to buy all the gold in New York City and almost got away with it. The press called Gould the most hated man in America. Drew chimed in that the US had become too democratic.

A hothouse of activity, where was the US to expel its spare energy? For most of the past hundred years, it had turned its back on the Old World, got on with inward development and expanded to its west. But the US had also sketched out a broader frontier. The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 had thrown a boundary rope around the Americas, a 'Keep Out' sign to foreigners. Outside influences remained - colonial vestiges like Spain in Cuba and Britain in Jamaica and other Caribbean islands - but their power had diminished.

Lately there had been a demand for the US's services within the region. In 1869 the government of the Dominican Republic had called for help and, in a parlous financial state, offered to sell itself to the US. President Grant had drawn up a treaty of annexation. The notion was dropped, however, after complaints within the US that it was wrong for a Caribbean republic with a large black population to turn its independence over to the US, especially so soon after the Civil War.

The Centennial Exhibition's most beautiful building was the horticultural hall. In glass and steel, it was of twelfth-century Moresque style with surrounding pools and flowerbeds, a 'reflection of the Victorian passion for nature'. Leslie's, the popular magazine, remarked that it was the displays of exotic - even weird - natural phenomena that visitors considered the best part of the exhibition. The horticultural hall also had the advantage of being a compact and manageable area. Walking it amounted to little more than a kilometre. Visitors flocked to view its orchids, orange trees, date palms, fig trees and pineapples, but one item

continued today

hence why we have many tourist attractions now

new way to make money

would set the stage for the U.S to become the dominant force in Costa Rica

BANANAS

Some went on a protest march to San José. Many absconded into the jungle; about sixty drowned in the mangroves. Keith's later chroniclers reached for some trusty explanations: the Isthmians had brought their 'secret societies' and 'feuding between family and villages' with them. But how Keith imagined a workforce from the foot of the Alps would toil productively in the hot lowlands of Limón was difficult to fathom.

He was saved by the quick bankruptcy of de Lesseps' Panama canal project. It left hundreds of Jamaicans to fend for themselves in the hills. Keith sent boats down to pick up his errant charges.

Costa Rica's railway pushed to completion sixteen years late in 1890, by which time Keith's status had risen from struggling storekeeper to living legend. Blond, blue-eyed, of medium height and slim, he strode about urging his men on. Stories had them so enamoured of their leader that when the money ran short they went without pay to see the project through. In the work camps he drank copious quantities of cheap whisky with them, the only 'medicines' thought effective against the rigours of the swamp. While the railroad claimed thousands of lives, Keith endured fevers but 'never took a day off sick'. He had plunged headlong into the tide of the Reventazón, Costa Rica's tempestuous principal river, in a sadly vain effort to save a monk on horseback; he barely survived when a bridge he was on collapsed into the torrent. At the end, the driver of the first train to cross the bridge over the Reventazón's last unconquered canyon refused the task, till Keith went ahead. He rode the cowcatcher, the Stars and Stripes cradled in his arms - according, at least, to a painting of the occasion.

Bananas were arriving at such a rate in the US as to prompt a sharp change in their own status. Once bourgeois, the banana

MONOPOLY

was now positively proletarian. Accordingly, magazines advanced the nutritious case for bananas and not just in relation to other fruits. They urged the hard-pressed mother struggling to feed her family to regard the banana as a meat substitute.

The crash of 1893 saw four million thrown out of their jobs. President Grover Cleveland was in the White House, a man with a solid reputation for work. He even answered his own phone. Some of those who got through to him, however, left much to be desired. He arranged to bolster the nation's dwindling reserves through a loan from J. P. Morgan, the bankers. Cleveland's critics denounced him for 'betraying the nation' to the big money men of the east.

The debate had moved on a little since the recent times when the robber barons had been defined as the problem. It was now a little less personal, more institutional, and dangerously so. Once, Messrs Morgan, Rockefeller, Gould and others were imagined to rise each morning determined to do mankind down. Some of their number may well have done so. But lately there was a sense that something thrown up by 'the system' was at fault: the large banks and companies. They were known as 'trusts' from a term the economics profession used to denote large industrial and financial monopolies.

Their very name showed how devious they, or indeed economics, could be. The feeling was that they could be 'trusted' above all to feather their own corporate nests. Consequently, Washington introduced the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890 and more legislation soon followed. Initially the laws were to prohibit conspiracies between companies; the setting up of cartels and the like, that led to price fixing and other monopolistic practices.

big competition:
as seen & explained
in our lecture notes