

UNITED STATES HISTORY
SECTION II

Question 1: Document Based Question
Suggested Reading and Writing Time: 1 hour

It is suggested that you spend 15 minutes reading the documents and 45 minutes your response.
NOTE: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

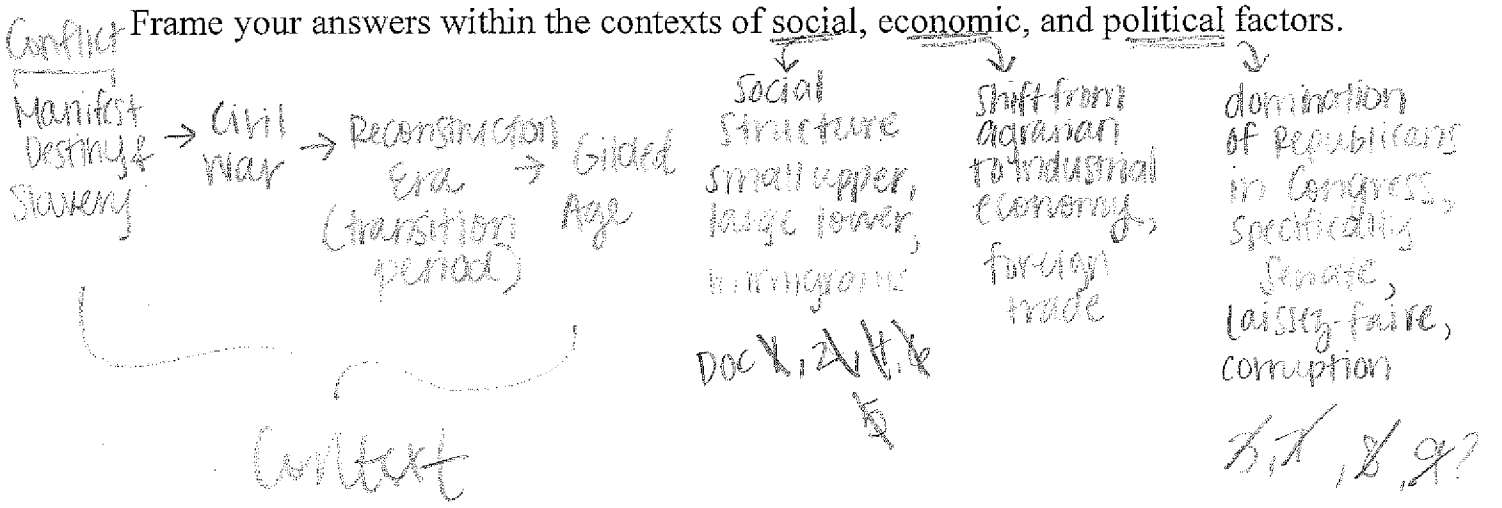
Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. High scores will be earned only by essays that both cite key pieces of evidence from the documents and draw on outside knowledge of the period.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible **thesis** or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a broader historical **context** relevant to the prompt.
- **Support an argument** in response to the prompt using the **seven documents**
- Use at least **one additional piece of specific historical evidence** (beyond that found in the documents) **relevant to your argument** about the prompt.
- For at least three documents, explain **how or why** the document's **point of view, purpose, context, and/or audience is relevant to your argument.**

Prompt:

To what extent did the Gilded Age (1866-1893) represent a revolution in American society? Frame your answers within the contexts of social, economic, and political factors.



1. To what extent did the Gilded Age represent a revolution in American society? Be sure to Frame your answer within the context of social, political, and economic factors. *caused great change!*

Social & economic

Document 1

Agree

mystery

“The association of poverty with progress is the great enigma of our time . . . as long as all the accumulated wealth which modern progress brings goes but to build great fortunes, to increase luxury, and the make sharper the contrast between the House of Have and the House of Want, progress is not real and cannot be maintained.”

Henry Wallace, *Progress and Poverty*, 1879

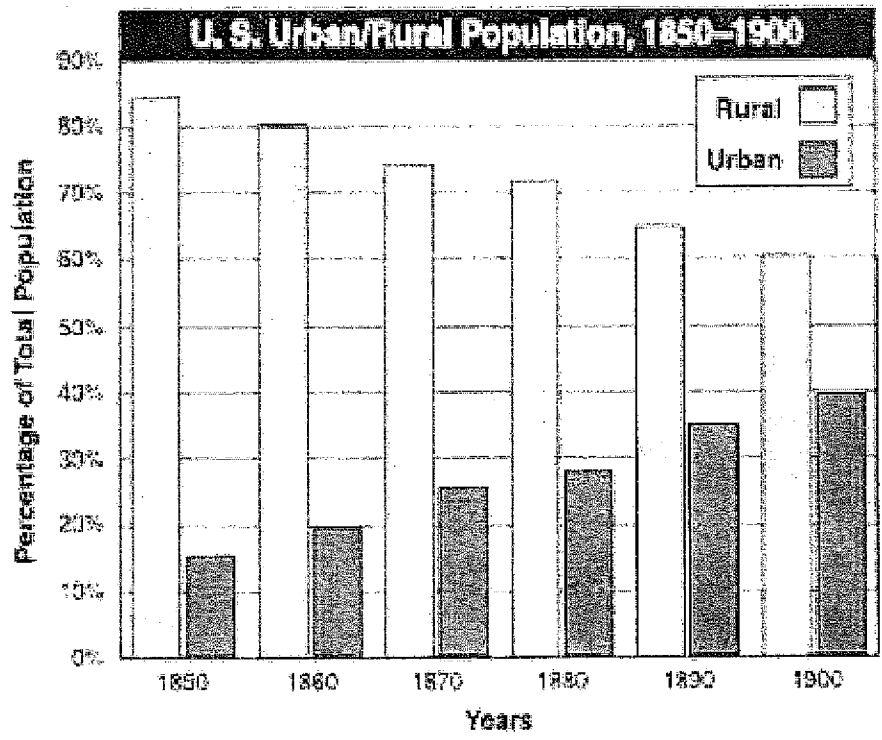
Summary: *poverty was associated with progress, and as long as the wealth kept going to single people and making them richer and richer, widening the social gap between upper and lower class, progress could not be continued.*

** this is where middle class will come into play*

Document 2

✓

Agree



Social

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census (adapted)

Summary: *(farms) (cities)*
Shift from agriculture to industry throughout the late 19th century

✓ *economic could talk about in political* *Document 3* *Section of Anti-Trust Act*

Agree

"My refinery has been shut down during the past three years, owing to the powerful and all-prevailing machinations of the Standard Oil Trust, in criminal collusion and conspiracy with the railroads to destroy my business unlawful freight rate discrimination. I have been driven from one railway line to another in the vain endeavor to get equal and just freight rates with the Standard Oil trust, so as to be able to run my refinery at anything remotely approaching a profit."

Oil refiner George Rice, testimony before US Industrial Trade Commission, 1899

Summary: *Monopolies and corruption, such as the formation of the Standard Oil Trust destroyed competition and forced smaller corporations out of business, or at least cut them off from their profits party.*

Document 4

✓

THE RICH AND THE POOR IN 1890

Agree

This table gives an indication of the distribution of wealth and income in 1890, with 1989 values in parentheses.

Estates by annual income	Number of families	Aggregate wealth	Average wealth per family
Wealthy classes \$50,000 and over (\$692,000 and over)	125,000	\$33,000,000,000 (\$456,720,000,000)	\$264,000 (\$3,653,760)
Well-to-do classes \$5,000 to \$50,000 (\$69,200-\$692,000)	1,375,000	\$23,000,000,000 (\$318,320,000,000)	\$16,000 (\$221,440)
Middle classes \$500 to \$5,000 (\$6,920-\$69,200)	5,500,000	\$8,200,000,000 (\$113,488,000,000)	\$1,500 (\$20,760)
Poorer classes under \$500 (\$6,920)	5,500,000	\$800,000,000 (\$11,072,000,000)	\$150 (\$2,076)

Social & Economic

upper & lower middle class

Basic source: Charles B. Spahr, *An Essay on the Present Distribution of Wealth in the United States* (1896), p. 69.

Summary: *The growing middle class helped balance out the gap between the upper and lower classes.*

Agree

Document 5

Social & Economic

"In every industry the story was endlessly the same: paupers' wages; the constant fear of dismissal; wretched and unsanitary working conditions; ten-twelve and even fourteen-hour days (sixteen for bakers); six- and sometimes seven-day weeks; erratic pay; little or no compensation or injuries or fatalities; a constant increase in the number of women and children employed under such conditions . . . As for hours, of 65,627 mill and factory hands in New York, 76 percent worked 60 hours a week or more. Moreover, 12 percent of the men, 22 percent of the women, and 34 percent of the children worked more than 10 hours daily.



Dr. Page Smith, "How the Other Side Lived" *New England Journal of American History*, 2010

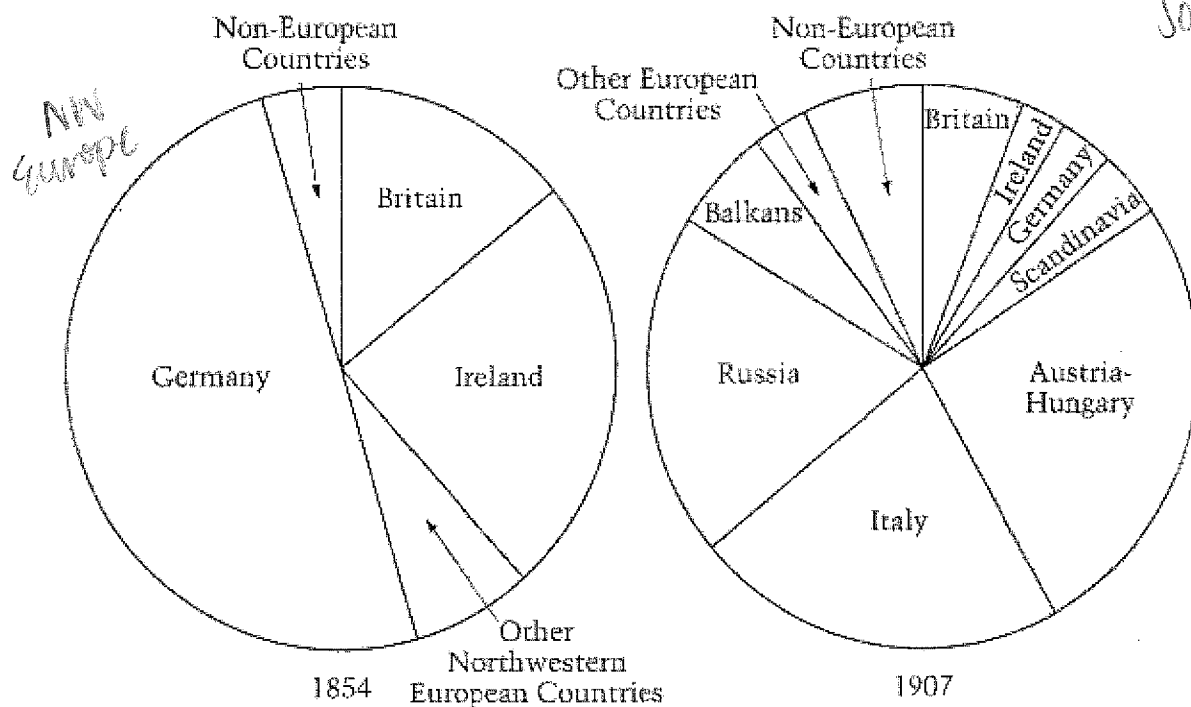
Summary:

In all industries the working conditions were terrible. Workers had poor wages, terrible work environments, extremely long shifts, and the threat of dismissal at any time.

Document 6

Agree

IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1854 AND IN 1907



Social

Summary:

From 1854 to 1907 a shift in the demographic of immigrants occurred, from predominantly Northwestern European to Southern & Eastern European countries, and non-European countries (China).



political ✓

Document 7

Agree

"A century after the founding of the republic observers could detect a pattern in American politics. Americans originally organized into parties based on causes, but as the causes lost their power to motivate, still the parties remained. The struggle over the Constitution had produced America's first party system, the Federalists and Jeffersonian Republicans; the struggle for democracy had spawned the second, the Jacksonian Democrats and Whigs; the sectional crisis had generated the third, the Democrats and Republicans . . . While the pre-Civil War Republicans stressed reform issues such as anti-slavery, they also emphasized economics, particularly federal aid to business. After the war, however, these two factions did not weld into a singular political entity; they each abandoned all pretense of unity, treating each other as more dangerous than the Democrats."

Dr. H. W. Brands, *American Colossus: The Triumph of Capitalism 1865-1900*, 2010

Summary:

Throughout American history there have always been political parties based on causes. The Republicans during the civil war stood fairly united on ideals of ^{before} abolition and economics, however after the war, the party split, creating tension within the party.
↳ Staircase & Half-words

political, social, economic

Document 8

Agree?

✓

"The people of the United States concluded to assume the conduct of their own business, just as 100 years before they had assumed the conduct of their own government, organizing now for industrial purposes on precisely the same grounds as they had organized for political purposes . . . no business is as much the public's business as the industry and commerce upon which the people's livelihood depends; to entrust it to private persons for private profit is a folly similar in kind to that of surrendering the functions of political government to kings and nobles to be conducted for their personal glorification."

Edward Bellamy *Looking Backward*, 1888
Socialist

Summary:

Allowing individuals to make obscene amounts of profit without government regulation was seen as dangerous to many, and because capitalism encouraged, many poor people turned to socialism as it resonated with them.

economic, political, and
Agree

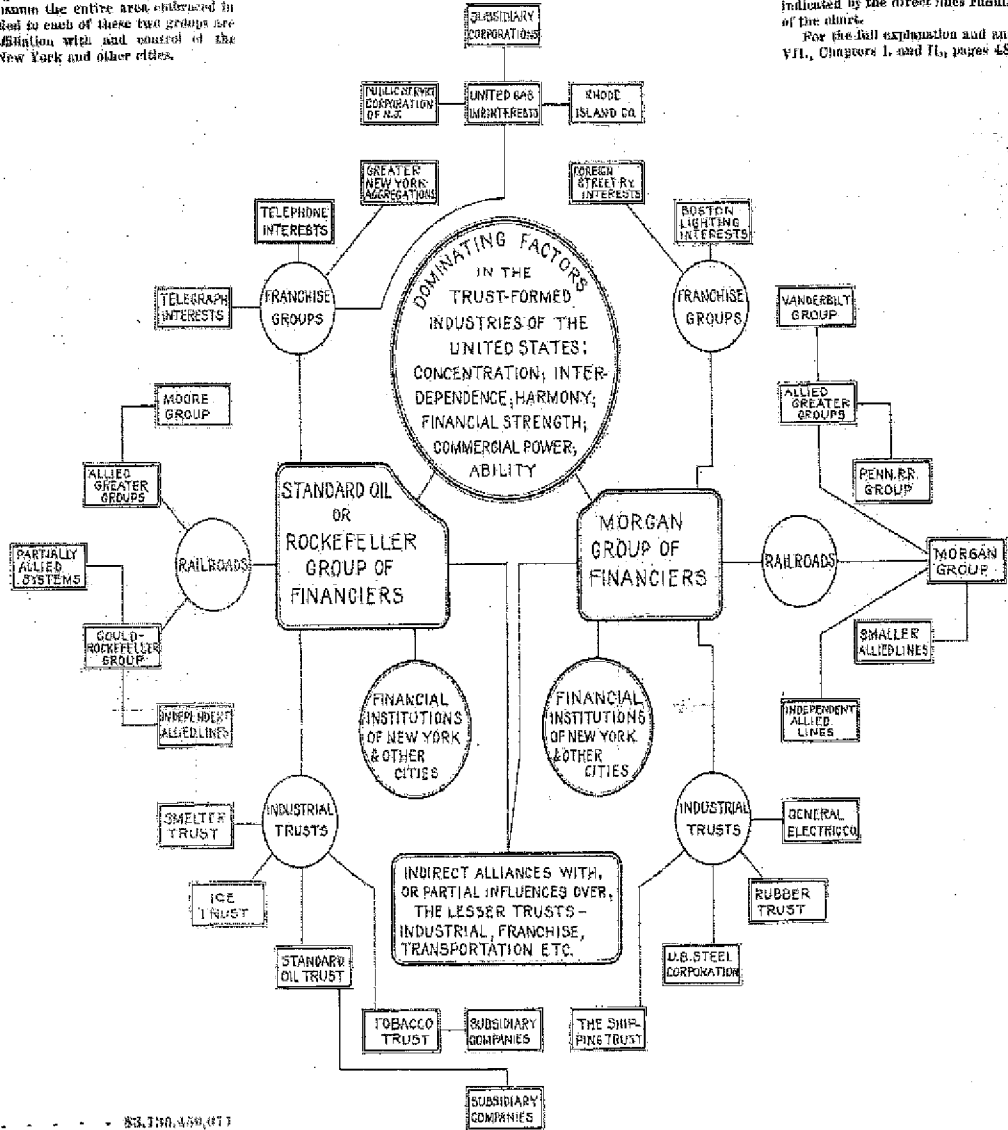
THE ROCKEFELLER-MORGAN "FAMILY TREE"

Chart Showing the Concentration, Alliance and Interdependence of the Great Financial, Commercial and Industrial Interests of the United States.

EXPLANATION-The large circle in the center of the chart indicates the dominant position of the Trust-formed Industries of the Nation; directly linked to and representing this dominant force we find two groups of capitalists, the "Standard Oil," or Rockefeller, and the Morgan groups. The approximate influence of these two groups is indicated by the area of space given to them on the chart. It will be noted that together they consume the entire area embraced in the large circle. Directly appended to each of these two groups are circles indicating their close affiliation with and control of the leading financial institutions of New York and other cities.

Let us now follow the lines leading out of these two great groups. Both, it will be seen, have direct alliances with various Franchise groups, Steam Railroad groups and Industrial Trusts, and these in turn are allied to the various smaller Trusts and Interests in the many lines of industry which go to make up the activities of the Nation. Furthermore, both of the greater groups have indirect alliances or partial influences over various lesser enterprises, as indicated by the dotted lines emanating to the square in the lower part of the chart.

For the full explanation and analysis of these alliances, see Page VII, Chapters I. and II., pages 486 to 493.



Capitalization of the Trusts:

Franchise Trusts	\$3,740,459,071
Railroads, combines or "alliances"	9,807,000,000
Industrial Trusts	7,240,042,000
Total of Trust-formed Industries	\$20,787,501,071

See pages 469 to 477.

NOTE-For chart analyzing in detail the Great Railroad Groups and also the Franchise Corporations of Greater New York, see between pages 424 and 425.

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A trust! → Sherman Anti-Trust Act?

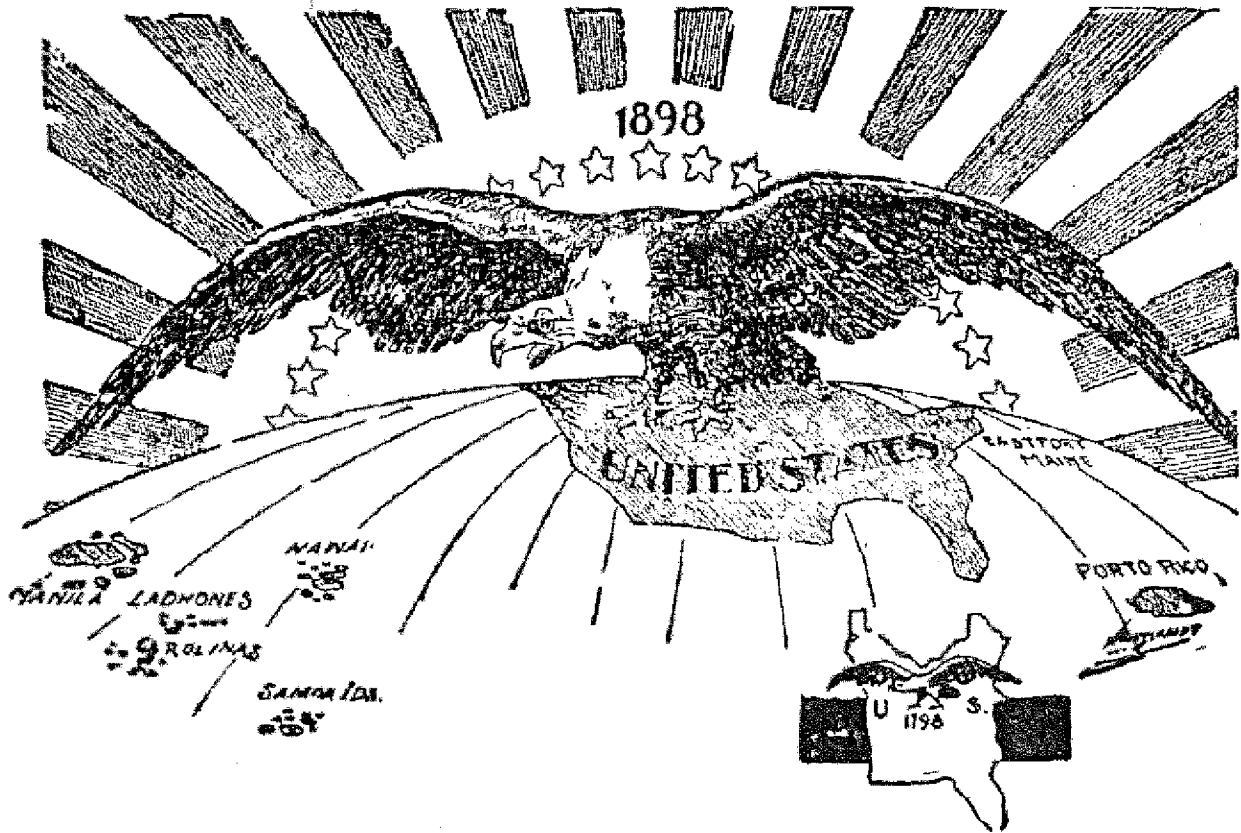
Summary:

Individuals such as Rockefeller and Morgan used trusts to monopolize their businesses and gain more profit.

economic
political

Document 10

Agree



Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.

Summary: The ideas of Manifest Destiny and "frontier Thesis" fueled the search to expansion into foreign lands of South America and the Pacific Islands.

QUESTION 1

During the early 19th century, America was in much internal turmoil, as controversial conflicts such as slavery and expansion within the U.S. dominated. These things, along with other factors, precipitated and eventually caused the Civil War. In the period thereafter, known as the Reconstruction Era, America slowly re-united, transitioning from a country in pieces to one strong and on the verge of becoming a global power in a period known as the Gilded Age.

Some may argue that the Gilded Age represented little change in the country. However, because of a changing demographic and class in social structure ^{as well as} a shift from an agrarian to industrial and international economy, ~~and~~ a split in a major political party, the Gilded Age showed major change, resembling a revolution.

In the Gilded Age, the social structure changed immensely. With more and more progress came large amounts of poverty. Individuals that stimulated this progress grew rich, and as the wealth kept going to them, the poor remained in poverty. (One) widening in the social gap was seen, corresponding with an uneven distribution of wealth, with a small upper class dominating over a large lower class. As the country moved further in industrialization, people

QUESTION 1

from all over the country, and from other countries, were drawn towards urban cities. There was a tremendous increase in urban populations from 1850 to 1900, with about 40% of the entire American population living in high density, high population cities (Doc 2). Immigrants were drawn to these urban areas as well, enticed by the ^{plentiful} amount of jobs. However, the demographic from the early 19th century had changed. Whereas before most immigrants had come from northwestern Europe, in the early 1900s, predominantly Southern and Eastern Europeans, as well as people from other countries like China, made up the majority (Doc 3). ^{Sadly,} Although many came over in hopes of bettering their lives, the harsh reality was that all industries had terrible working conditions with poor wages, long shifts, and the threat of dismissal at any time (Doc 4). Meanwhile, men like Carnegie and Rockefeller just grew wealthier. However, with this gap in the social class came a change: the ^{growing} middle class. The middle class helped balance but the gap, and was continuing to grow (Doc 4).

Another change occurring in the Gilded Age was the domination of the Republican party in Congress,

QUESTION 1

specifically the senate, and the conflict within the party from the three opposing factions. While before and during the Civil War the Republicans had had fairly united an ideal of anti-slavery and economic policies, after the war the party split into factions, the stalwarts and Half-Breeds and Mugwumps (Doc 7). The stalwarts, the dominating although smallest faction, focused on the Hamiltonian-Clay system ideal, advocating for big business and laissez-faire policies. Many wealthy individuals continued to make their wealth by way of stalwart policies. For example, Rockefeller and Morgan had trusts that allowed them to monopolize their business and gain more profit (Doc 9). Although the Sherman Anti-Trust Act was put in place to prevent such trusts from occurring, it failed due to lack of enforcement. This was unfortunate because it allowed monopolies such as the Standard Oil Trust to prosper, destroying competition and forcing smaller corporations away from profit and out of business (Doc 3). Many people acknowledged this corruption in government, and saw that laissez-faire policies, i.e. allowing individuals the right

QUESTION 1

to private profit as dangerous (Doc 8). Because of this, many, especially in the lower classes, encouraged ideas of a socialist government.

Lastly the Gilded Age showed a shift from an agrarian and fairly isolationist economy to one of industry and foreign trade. Sparked by earlier ideas of Manifest Destiny and Frederick Jackson Turner's "The Frontier Thesis," Americans began looking to expand and make profit through trade, specifically in South America and the Pacific Islands (Doc 10). American business owners saw expansion as an opportunity to grow their businesses. After settling in Hawaii, some American business owners began growing sugar on plantations, employing the natives as workers. These raw goods could then be transported back to America for free, as Hawaii and America had a free-trade agreement (until the McKinley tariff). Foreign trade like this allowed America to prosper, and slowly grow to become a global power.