

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.**
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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.

political → republican rule, large business control, laissez faire

social → \$, unions, business

economic → agriculture to industrial, specie, trusts

✓ -1 ✓ 6
f 2 ✓ 7 ✓ 1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3
-3 ✓ 8
✓ 4 ✓ 9
f 5 ✓ 10

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.

agree - more change now

Document 1 economic/social

"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."

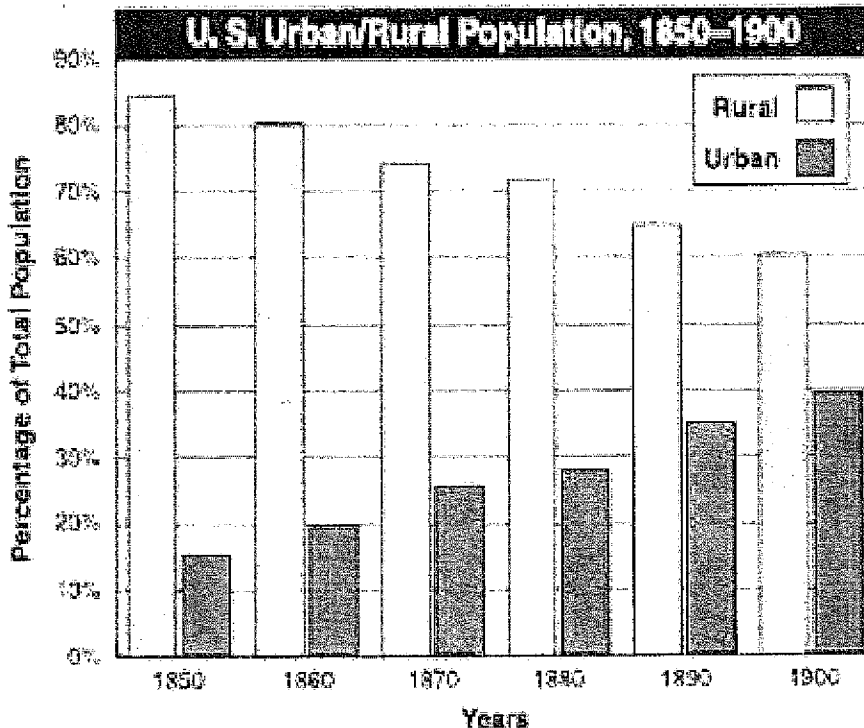
Henry Wallace, *Progress and Poverty*, 1879

Summary:

Poverty has always been a problem, however, in modern times there is a bigger gap between the wealthy and the poor.

agree - change in location

Document 2 social



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

Summary:

Shows how the U.S. ^{slowly} changed from largely agricultural towards the industrial urban cities for more opportunities

agree - change in power

Document 3 economic

"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

values in 1899

Summary: before the gilded age, small local businesses were more dominant, but now large industrial companies have more power. B/c of that the larger companies have a greater hold on the economy

agree - major change in depth of diff.

Document 4 social/economic

THE RICH AND THE POOR IN 1890

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)

upper middle

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

Summary: This shows how the wealthier families are smaller in numbers while the lower class is much larger. Also displays how the gilded age created a larger middle class. Rich have all the money while the poor don't have as much.

agree - effect of industry

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.

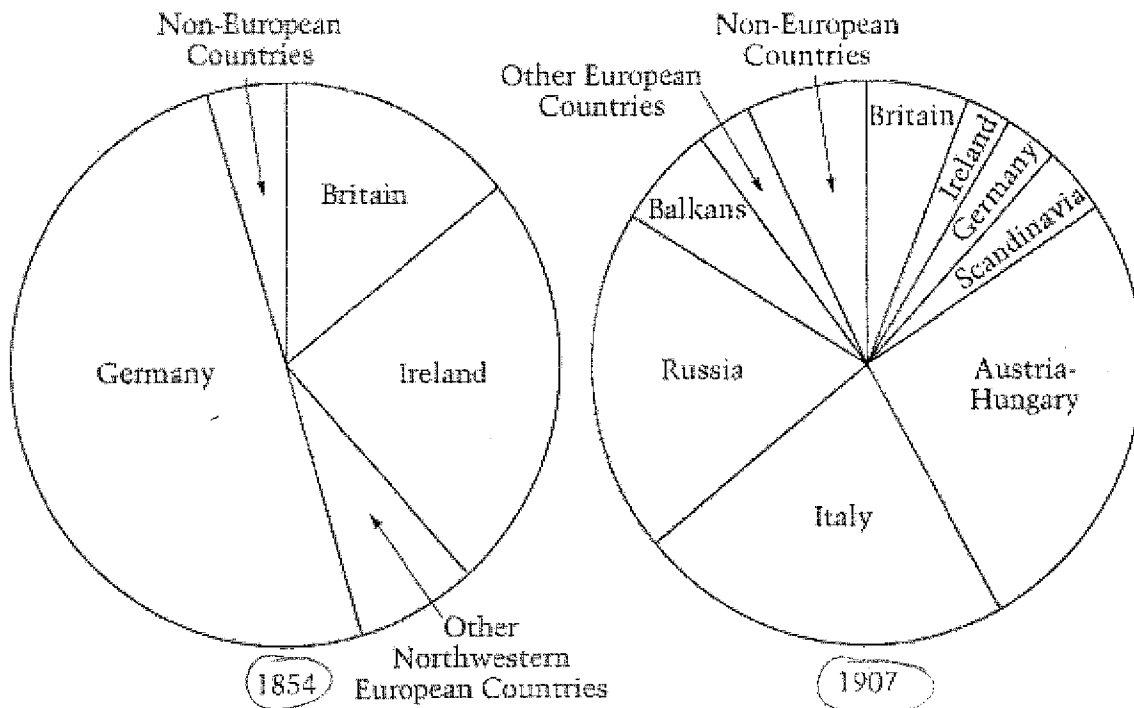
Dr. Page Smith, "How the Other Side Lived" *New England Journal of American History*, 2010

Summary: Displays how America's change from agriculture to industrial drastically effects the lives of the poor, more specifically, and their wages. Also displays how they were increasingly ignored due to their massive amount of ppl.

agree - change in immigrants
↳ still doing the same hard work

Document 6 social

IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1854 AND IN 1907



Summary:

In the past the U.S. attracted northern Europeans while in 1907 forward there was an attraction from southern European countries. However, all immigrants moved to the U.S. for job opportunities in which immigrants find and easily formed labor unions.

agree - present parties

are different than past

Document 7

political

"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:

The American political parties have been created due to different causes, more specifically the Dem. + Rep. change from stressing anti-slavery + economics to a more business concerned government. Statworks and hater breeds have been created, such as their small dominions.

agree - change from self-interest to all inclusive

Document 8

political / economic?

"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:

U.S. is not primarily about individual businesses anymore; more industrial. B/c of this, businesses have also gained more control in our economy at the time (things like patents):

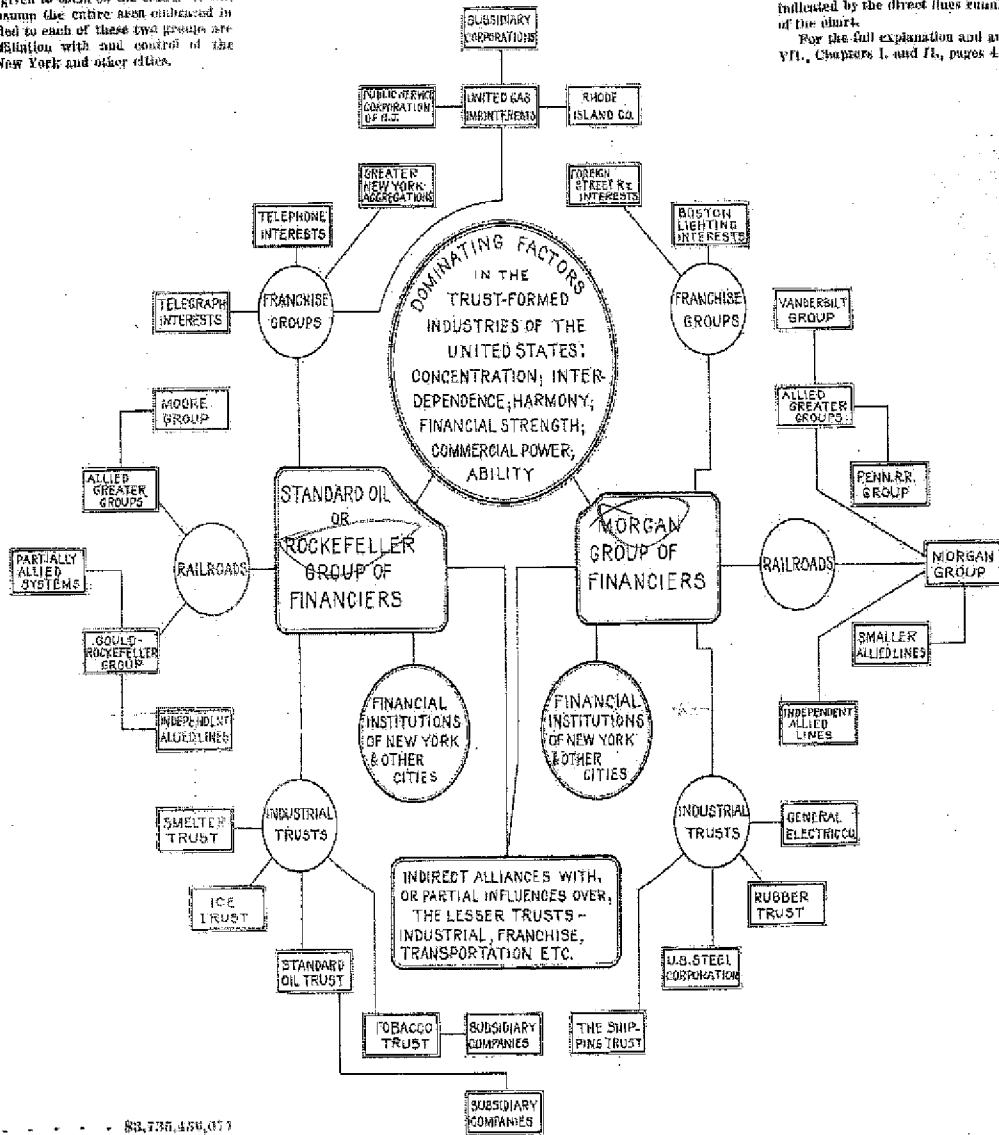
THE ROCKEFELLER-MORGAN "FAMILY TREE."

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 centre 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 direct lines emanating to the square in the lower part of the chart.

For the full explanation and analysis of these alliances, see Part VII, Chapters I. and II., pages 485 to 493.



Capitalization of the Trusts:

Franchise Trusts	\$3,735,454,071
Railroads, combines or "alliances"	6,807,046,897
Industrial Trusts	7,246,842,523
Total of Trust-formed Industries	\$17,789,343,491

See pages 463 to 477.

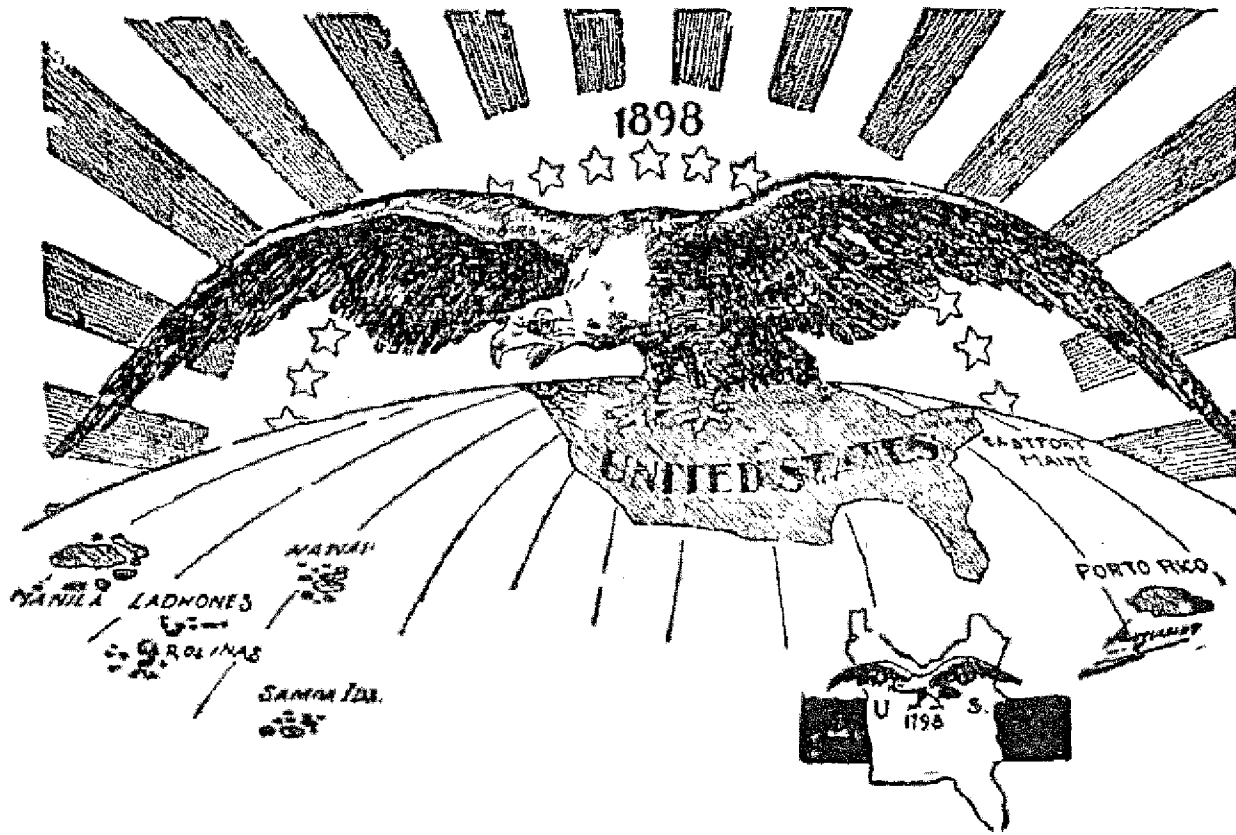
NOTE.—For chart analyzing in detail the Great Railroad Groups and also the Franchise Corporations of Greater New York, see between pages 424 and 430.

Summary:

Displays how large businesses dominate. Also shows how they control essentially everything and do so through their own.

agric - expansion

Document 10 political economic



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

imperialism

Summary:

The U.S. continues to expand to help other liberty to countries but also to take their raw goods etc.

QUESTION 1

Before the civil war the U.S. was a agricultural, small business, and strongly Democratic state. However after the civil war and during the gilded age the U.S. completely changed. Due to the need to expand west because of manifest destiny the U.S. grew their state by acquiring more islands and eventually changed to an industrial economy to become a larger world power. Some historians may argue that the Gilded age did not involve drastic changes or a revolutionary state of mind. However, the Gilded Age represented a huge revolution in that the Republicans now dominated politics, the economy was booming off of big businesses, and the gap between the upper and lower class was only growing. Therefore the Gilded Age represented a major revolution for the American society due to the change in dominant political parties, the large role that large businesses have now with the economy and money supply, and the widening gap between the rich and the poor through labor unions.

One example of how the Gilded age provided a drastic change was through the increasing power of the Republican party and how large businesses largely affected political decisions. Before the war the Democrats and Republicans constantly battled for positions

QUESTION 1

of the white house; however, after the war the two parties did not mend together they, in contrast, merged into one power of the republicans (Doc. 7). Through this power to the republicans, the party split into the old rich stalwarts and the somewhat moderate blue-breeds. This shows a major change in the republican party after the war and how the power that they gained caused them to split. Moreover, the impact of large businesses affecting government choice was displayed through America's imperialistic tendencies to expand to islands near the US. (Doc. 10). Because the US. businesses were all about making money, the US. government's choices to annex or help foreign states inevitably led to profit for large monopoly companies and overall the US. government. In fact the only way the government raised money was through tariffs revenue from the countries that the US. attacked or helped. All that the US. politics drastically changed to their political power and in how large businesses directly drove their motives.

Another example of the gilded age presenting a major revolution is the change of the US. economy through the widening income gap and dominance of

QUESTION 1

large companies of ~~it~~ in the economy. Even though the gap between the rich and the poor has always been a problem, during the Gilded Age it was drastically worse (Doc 1.). Because of the shift from agriculture to industry was major to the U.S., the wealthy owners of the upper class decreased in number but got more money while the lower working class grew in numbers but got paid less (Doc 4.). The Gilded Age strongly prompted the widening gap between the rich and the poor because the rich owned all of the large industrial businesses that were taking out the previously small businesses; with no more small businesses, laborers were forced to work for less pay. The impact of large businesses such as the Standard Oil Company demolished the smaller and more local businesses through the use of trusts (Doc 5). This shows how the economy was no longer based upon smaller ~~businesses~~ agricultural businesses like it was before the war and now the U.S. economy of this time ran on the money of the large industrial businesses. Again, while ~~the~~ ^{the U.S.} no longer focused on agricultural aspects, they now focused (after the war) on how industry now ran the show of the economy.

QUESTION 1

of people's lives (Doc B.). America no longer invested in personal companies because that was not profitable, which shows the shift of the American economy from agriculture based to industrial based economy. Because of this shift to industry, the wealthy upper class desired to run the economy on a gold standard so their money would not fluctuate with inflation of the greenbacks. This drastically changed America's economy because now there was only a restricted money supply where as before the US. could print off more as needed.

Lastly, the social change of the increasing numbers of in the lower class, dominance of the upper class, and the shift from urban to rural displays ~~the major~~ the Gilded Age represents a major revolution. Due to the growing industry in the US., less people were getting rich and a drastic amount of people were getting poor; however, the Gilded Age also provided a tremendous growth in the middle class (Doc H.). Because industry promotes consumerism, the middle class was created for the people who were working, but were still able to consume the produced goods where as the lower class would not be able to. Due to industry becoming increasingly prominent in the US., more people were moving into the urban cities and out of

QUESTION 1

The rural and agricultural area (POL. 2). This shift from rural to increasing urban populations displays how the industry of the Gilded Age provided more work opportunities for the poor and provided them with a ^{steady} ~~more~~ ^{solid} income. Another reason why the urban populations were increasing was because of the influx of immigrants to the U.S. During this time period many of the immigrants were from southern European countries and not northern European countries displaying the shift/change in the articulation of people from industrial Gilded Age provided (POL. 2). These immigrants changed the social realm by creating different cultures and providing more work for their industries. However, immigrant or not, laborers often got the down fall of industry with the low wages and poor working conditions and hours (POL. 2). Industry often gave more jobs but decreased the pay, hence the major change on how laborers were treated even more poorly than before the Gilded Age. In fact, conditions were so poor that labor unions were created to try and help alleviate some of the poor working conditions. But ultimately they failed and received a poor reputation with their multiple strikes. And lastly, one major change

QUESTION 1

during the Gilded Age was how the wealthy and the
select few, such as Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan,
administered society with devices such as trusts (Doc 9). With
the growing dominance of industry ~~to~~ during the Gilded Age,
the upper class continually got smaller and that it shined
~~down~~ through their purchases of trusts that embedded them
through every stem of society; Overall, disempowering many in
the few members of the upper class got an increasing
amount of money and profit through trusts and
the poor/lower class got increasingly less money as a result of
it.