Gilded Age Test Review

1. What were some characteristics of the Gilded Age?

   -Large disparity between rich and poor, Industrialization (farms to factories), Urbanization (rural to urban), Growth of big business

2. Explain the relationship between political bosses and Immigrants. (how did immigrants benefit and what was the cost?)

   -Political bosses used immigrants votes in local elections to control local political machines. Immigrants benefited due to housing and jobs, but also the political boss would fix problems in the cities such as roads of giving away food or coal (in an effort to gain public favor).

3.

Push	Pull
War	Jobs
Famine	Freedom
Disease	Education
Persecution	Medicine

4. What effects did Immigration have on the cities?

   -overcrowding, Tenements, Cleaning Crew (guys in white), political corruption, competition for jobs, rise in nativism (Chinese Exclusion Act), Crime increased, hard for cities to provide basic services

5. What is a monopoly and what was their relationship to other businesses?

   -Monopolies control all or nearly all of an industry. They eliminate competition which causes prices to go up and product quality to go down.

6. What was the industrial/societal effect of the patenting of the light bulb?

   -This meant that work was no longer limited by the sunlight, it gave way to longer working hours, more efficient factories, and shift work.

7. Why was the Interstate Commerce Act original formed to regulate?

   -The ICA was originally formed to combat rising railroad rates that were harming struggling farmers out west who depended on the RR for access to distant markets.

8. Why were labor unions formed?

-Labor unions were formed in response to dangerous working conditions, low pay and longer working hours. Laborers decided that there was strength in numbers and began to fight for workers rights collectively.

9. Explain the effect the railroad had on cattle ranching and farming in the west?

-Because of the growing cities and a shortage in food back east, there was great demand for meat and food.

10. Explain the differences between the AFL and the Knights of Labor and what goals did they share?
-AFL is skill labor only, smaller, but wields for leverage (much more successful)
-Knight of Labor allowed skilled and unskilled, Larger in number but strikes easily broken and ends up falling apart.

11. What was the Homestead Act?

-Free 160 acres of land if you move west, live on it five year, build a house on it, and make improvements (farm). Encouraged westward expansion.

12. What was the goal of the Dawes Act?

-The goal of the Dawes Act was to assimilate Native Americans into American culture.

13. Explain political machines and how they acquired power and how they avoided public scrutiny.

-They controlled many votes, which they leveraged to controlling local politics and made sure they got bloated government contracts. They avoided public scrutiny by remaining mostly in the shadows, and providing support to poor areas infrastructure.

14. How did Carnegie and Rockefeller contribute philanthropically to society?

-Both of them gave to charities, schools, hospitals, churches. Carnegie gave away 350 million of his fortune towards the end of his life.

15. How did the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad effect settlement in the west?

-It allowed for the rapid settlement of the west, increased farms, ranches and towns along the RR.

16. What was the Sherman Anti-trust act used for?

-This is the legislation that was used to break up monopolies and trusts, such as Rockefellers "Standard Oil". Because of the wording, it was also used to target unions that were deemed harmful to the country.

17. What is nativism and explain their contentious relationship with immigrants.

Nativism is a preference for native born, usually in reference to jobs. It manifests as very anti-immigrant. Because of the growing number of immigrant coming in to the country at the time and the scarcity of jobs, competition was high and nativist felt they had a right to the jobs first.

18. What is the Chinese Exclusion Act and what concept does it embody?

-This banned Chinese Immigration for 10 years. It was passed in response to a lack of jobs and increased competition for jobs in California. It is a clear and stark example of nativism.

Identify:

Interstate Commerce Act- allowed the federal government to regulate commerce (RR) between states.

Laissez-fair- Hands off approach from the government to the economy.

Pendleton Act - required civil service applicants to pass a test to determine if they are competent to hold a public job (merit based system). Combated the patronage system.

Assimilation- Attempting to convert Native Americans into Americans. (boarding schools)

Nativism – preference for native born, in reference to jobs, manifests as anti-immigrant.

Chinese Exclusion Act- Banned Chinese immigration for 10 years (example of nativism)

Homestead Act- 160 acres free (live on it 5 yrs., build house, farm it)

Urban Infrastructure- structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society