**Chapter 17**

Industrial Supremacy

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Seventeen should enable the student to understand:**

1. The reasons for the rapid industrial development of the United States in the late nineteenth century.
2. The specific impact of technological innovations in promoting industrial expansion.
3. The role of the individual entrepreneur in the development of particular industries.
4. The changes that were taking place in the organization and management of American business.
5. The ways in which classical economics and certain ideas of Darwin were used to justify and defend the new industrial capitalism.
6. The critics of the new industrial capitalism, and the solutions they proposed.
7. The conditions of immigrants, women, and children in the work force.
8. The several efforts of organized labor to form national associations.
9. The reasons that organized labor generally failed in its efforts to achieve its objectives.

**Chapter 17**

**Pertinent Questions**

**Sources of Industrial Growth**

1. What technological innovations of the late nineteenth century transformed communications and business operation?

2. What new methods were developed for the large-scale production of durable steel? Where were the principal American centers of steel production and ore extraction?

3. What was the relationship between steel industry and the railroads?

4. Describe the early oil industry in the U.S., indicating what the main uses of petroleum were at first. What technological development profoundly changed the oil industry?

5. Although the age of the automobile would not fully arrive until the 1920s, what developments of the 1890s and the early 1900s laid the basis for the later boom?

6. Although the Wright Brothers developed the first practical airplane in the United States, what nation led in early

development? What led to further development in America?

7. Describe the emergence of organized corporate research and its impact on American economic development. What role did universities play in this process?

8. Explain the concepts of “scientific management” and “mass production.” Who were the leading pioneers of these new approaches to industry?

9. How did the railroad transform America economically and ecologically?

10. What was the main legal principle that made buying stock in the modern corporation attractive to investors?

11. Explain the new approach to management and business organization that accompanied the rise of large corporations. What industries led in these developments?

12. Compare and contrast the vertical and horizontal integration strategies of business combination. Which approaches did Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller use initially? How did they evolve toward using both strategies?

13. Explain how financiers and industrialists used pools, trusts, and holding companies to expand their control. What was the result of this trend toward corporate combination?

**Capitalism and its critics**

14. How did popular culture keep alive the “rags-to-riches” and “self-made man” hopes of the American masses? How realistic were such dreams?

15. Explain how the theories of Social Darwinism and classical economics complemented each other. Who formulated these theories? How did the great industrialists embody such concepts?

16. Describe the “alternative visions” to the business-dominated view of society. How influential were such radical voices?”

17. What were the visible symptoms that many Americans blamed on the trend toward “monopoly?”

**Industrial Workers in the New Economy**

18. What were the two sources of the massive migration into the industrial cities of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?

19. Contrast the earlier immigrants to the United States with those who dominated after the 1880s? What attracted these migrants? What tensions ensued?

20. What happened to the standard of living of the average worker in the late nineteenth century? What physical hardships and psychological adjustments did may worker face?

21. Why did industry increasingly employ women and children? How were they treated? What attitudes toward working women were exhibited by many adult male workers and their unions?

22. What was the significance of the railroad strike of 1877?

23. Compare and contrast the organization, leadership, membership (especially the role of women) and programs of the Knights of Labor and the American Federation of Labor. Why did the AFL succeed, while the Knights disappeared?

24. Compare and contrast the Haymarket affair, Homestead Strike, and Pullman Strike. ON balance, what was their effect on the organized labor movement?

25. What several factors combined to help explain why organized labor remained relatively weak before World War I?

**The American Environment: The Locomotive’s Magic Wand**

26. Describe how the railroad created a truly national market and explain the ecological changes that accompanied this transformation. Where the advantages worth the costs?

**Patterns of Popular Culture: The Novels of Horatio Alger**

27. What parts of Horatio Alger’s message often got lost in the public’s mind at the time he wrote and later? Why?