

DBQ 11: THE INDUSTRIAL BOOM

Historical Context

In 1860, the United States was mainly a land of farms and small towns. Fewer than one in five Americans lived in urban areas. (Today the figure is four in five.) While England was rapidly industrializing, the pace of industrial growth was much slower in the United States.

A number of factors seem to have delayed industrialism in the United States. With land plentiful and cheap, and labor relatively scarce and costly, Americans generally found it more profitable to make their livings on farms rather than in factories. And with the western prairies filling up with settlers, it looked in 1860 as if Americans would remain largely a nation of farmers, while England and other European nations became industrial giants.

But only forty years later, the United States had become the greatest industrial nation in the world. Between 1860 and 1900, the U.S. production of coal increased from 10,000 short tons to 210,000 short tons, an increase of 2,000 percent! Production of steel ingots rose over 5,000 percent. By 1900, U.S. workers produced over twice as much steel each year as Germany did, and five times as much as England. The urban population in the United States during these years rose from 6 million to over 30 million. American workers, in huge numbers, were leaving the farms for the factories.

- **Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1–7). As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of each document and the author’s point of view. Be sure to
1. Carefully read the document-based question. Consider what you already know about this topic. How would you answer the question if you had no documents to examine?
 2. Now, read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the document-based question. You may also wish to use the margin to make brief notes. Answer the questions that follow each document.
 3. Based on your own knowledge and on the information found in the documents, formulate a thesis that directly answers the question.
 4. Organize supportive and relevant information into a brief outline.
 5. Write a well-organized essay proving your thesis. The essay should be logically presented and should include information both from the documents and from your own knowledge outside of the documents.

Question: What factors helped to promote America’s huge industrial growth during the period from 1860 to 1900?

DBQ 11: THE INDUSTRIAL BOOM, *CONTINUED*

PART A

The following documents will help you understand the factors that encouraged the development of industry in the last four decades of the nineteenth century. Examine each document carefully, and answer the question or questions that follow.

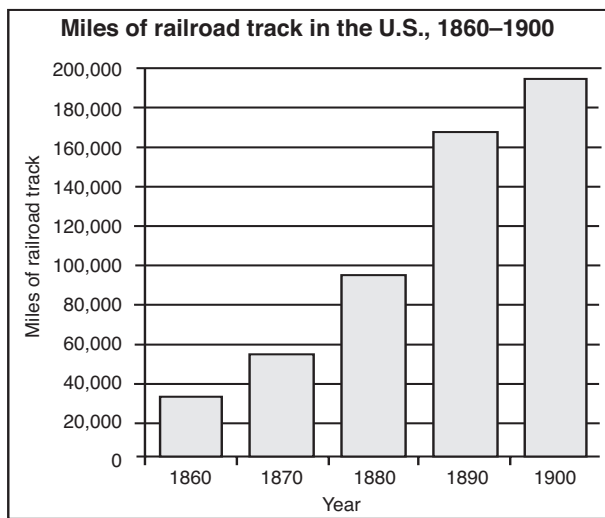
Document 1

In the 1850s, the English government sent a committee of businessmen to the United States to study how American industrialists operated their factories. Here is a brief excerpt from the report written in 1854.

. . . everything that could be done to reduce labour in the movement of materials from one point to another was adopted. This includes mechanical arrangements for lifting material, etc. from one floor to another, carriages for conveying material on the same floor, and such like.

How would the system described above help to cut labor costs and make factory production more efficient? _____

Document 2



Summarize this information in one short sentence. _____

Explain how the growth of the railroad promoted industrialization. _____

(continued)

DBQ 11: THE INDUSTRIAL BOOM, *CONTINUED*

Document 3

The following are excerpts from the 1860 Republican Party platform.

... sound policy requires ... an adjustment of ... imposts [tariffs] ... to encourage the development of the industrial interests of the whole country. ...

... we commend that policy of national exchanges which secures to the ... nation commercial prosperity and independence. ...

... the Republican party is opposed to any change in our naturalization laws, or any state legislation by which the rights of ... immigrants from foreign lands shall be abridged [reduced] or impaired [harmed].

... appropriations by Congress for river and harbor improvements ... required for the accommodation and security of our ... commerce, are ... justified by the obligations of government. ...

... a railroad to the Pacific Ocean is imperatively demanded by the interests of the whole country ... the Federal government ought to render immediate and efficient aid in its construction.

How did these planks (parts) of the Republican platform promote the industrial and commercial growth of the country? _____

Document 4

Political party control of the presidency, 1860-1900

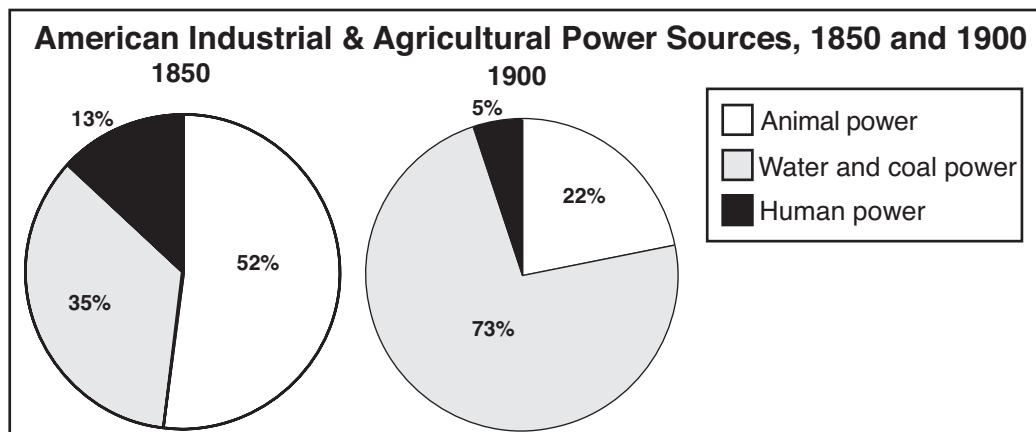


How do Documents 3 and 4 help explain why industry boomed in the late nineteenth century? _____

(continued)

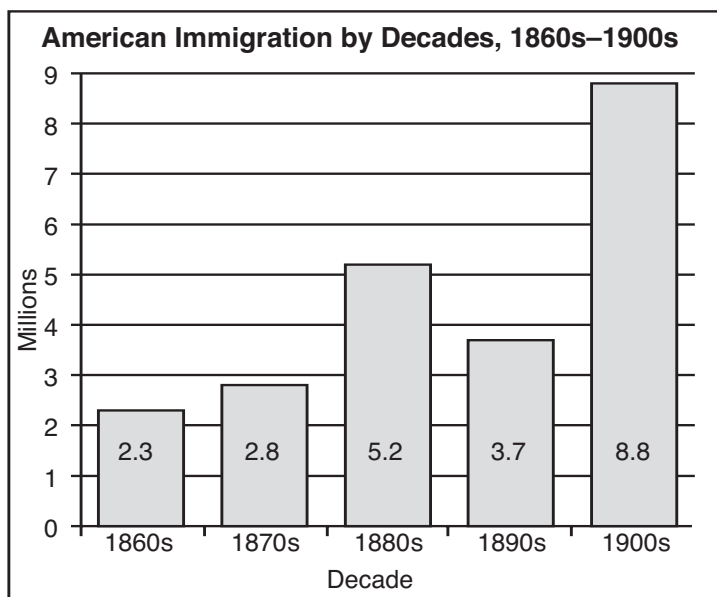
DBQ 11: THE INDUSTRIAL BOOM, *CONTINUED*

Document 5



How do these charts help to answer the question on page 48? _____

Document 6



Look back to the historical context paragraphs that discuss those factors that slowed the development of industrialism. Document 6 illustrates how one of those factors was overcome. Explain.

(continued)

DBQ 11: THE INDUSTRIAL BOOM, *CONTINUED*

Document 7

Andrew Carnegie, one of America's greatest industrialists, was a poor thirteen-year-old Scottish immigrant when he arrived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1848. By the 1860s, Carnegie was a wealthy and successful businessman. During the years after the Civil War, he built Carnegie Steel Company into the largest and most successful steel company in the world. The following document explains, in part, why Carnegie was so successful. (From E. S. Meade, "The Genesis of the United States Steel Corporation," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, August 1901.)

In 1882 the Carnegie Steel Company . . . inaugurated a policy whose object was to control all the factors which contributed to the production of steel, from the ore and coal in the ground to the steel billet and the steel rail.

What process was being described here? _____

Which other big industries of the late nineteenth century went through this same process? _____

**PART
B**

What factors helped to promote America's huge industrial growth during the period from 1860 to 1900?