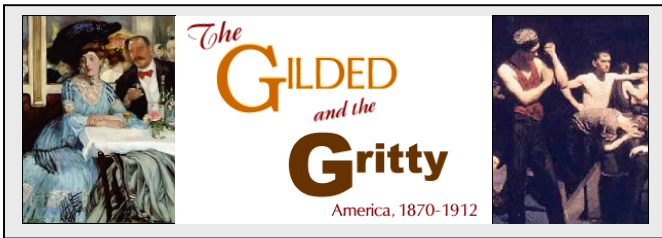


TIMELINE: 1865-1913

accompanying the Seminar Toolbox

“The Gilded & the Gritty: America, 1870-1912”



Homer, *The Veteran in a New Field*, 1865

1865 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. Abraham Lincoln and VP Andrew Johnson (Ntl. Union Party [Rep.]).

CIVIL WAR ENDS. Of approximately 3.7 million troops, 365,000 Union and 258,000 Confederate soldiers are dead (app. one third in battle; estimates vary). Surviving veterans return home.

LINCOLN IS ASSASSINATED in Washington, D.C. Vice-President Andrew Johnson becomes President.

13th AMENDMENT bans slavery in the U.S. Four million enslaved African Americans are freed.

1866 First successful transatlantic cable is completed (England to the United States).

First refrigerated railroad car in America, with ice “bunkers” at each end, is constructed in Detroit.

Andrew Carnegie and his partners form businesses in the iron industry, including the Pittsburgh Locomotive Works in 1866 and the Union Iron Mills in 1867.

1867 Horatio Alger, Jr., publishes *Ragged Dick; or Street Life in New York*, the first in his rags-to-riches series.

U.S. purchases Alaska from Russia for \$72 million.

37th State — Nebraska enters the Union.

1868 14th AMENDMENT grants citizenship to African Americans and guarantees “equal protection of the laws” to all U.S. citizens.

Attempt to impeach President Johnson fails by one vote.

1869 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. Ulysses S. Grant and VP Schuyler Colfax (Republican).

FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD. Union Pacific and Central Pacific RR’s link in Utah.

First “Black Friday”: stock market panic results from financiers’ attempts to corner the market on gold.

Wyoming Territory grants suffrage to women; Utah Territory in 1870.

In this period, Albert Bierstadt and others create visions of the American West in dramatic landscapes.

1870 NINTH CENSUS. U.S. population totals 39.8 million, including 4.9 million African Americans and 2.3 million immigrants who had arrived in the previous decade.

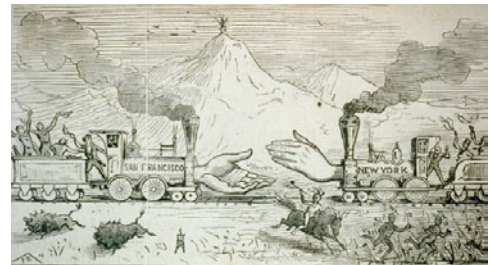
15th AMENDMENT grants suffrage to African American men.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF OHIO is formed by John D. Rockefeller from several smaller companies, soon controlling 10% of the oil refining industry in the U.S.

1871 INDIAN APPROPRIATIONS ACT. U.S. ends the policy of recognizing Indian tribes as sovereign nations and negotiating through treaties, announcing it will make Indian policy through law and executive decision. Native Americans legally become wards of the nation.

1872 Credit Mobilier scandal is exposed by the *New York Sun*, which catalogues bribery and corruption in the construction of the transcontinental railroad.

Montgomery Ward & Co., the first mail-order business, opens in Chicago. (Sears opens in 1895.)



Does not such a meeting make amends?, 1869



Bierstadt, *The Oregon Trail*, 1869

LINCOLN
ANDREW JOHNSON
ULYSSES S. GRANT

- 1873** **PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.** Ulysses S. Grant and VP Henry Wilson (Republican).
FINANCIAL PANIC OF 1873 begins a five-year economic depression after the failure of Jay Cooke's investment bank.

Congress makes gold the national standard and eliminates all silver currency.

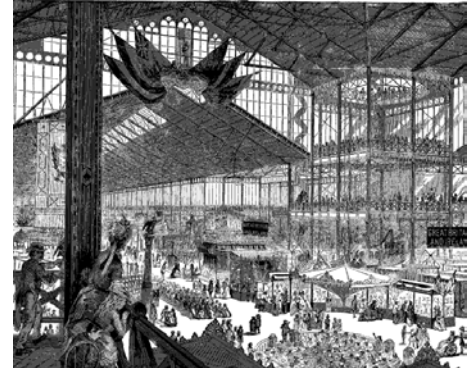
Bethlehem Steel Company in Pittsburgh begins producing steel rails with the Bessemer process.

Period of recurring epidemics beginning in 1865 comes to an end. From Boston to New Orleans, epidemics of smallpox, cholera, typhus, typhoid, scarlet fever, and yellow fever had killed thousands.

The first electric streetcar begins operation in New York City.

Free mail delivery begins in all cities above 20,000 population.

Mark Twain and C. D. Warner publish the novel *The Gilded Age*.



1876 Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia

- 1874** "The Virginian," Owen Wister's protagonist in his novel *The Virginian* (1902), arrives in Wyoming Territory.
 Massachusetts limits women's working hours to ten hours a day.

- 1875** Edward King publishes *The Great South* on his travels throughout the former Confederacy.

- 1876** **CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION** opens in Philadelphia, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

LITTLE BIG HORN (Montana): Sioux and Cheyenne Indians attack and kill General George Custer and 274 cavalymen.

38th State — Colorado enters the Union.

Alexander Graham Bell demonstrates and patents the telephone.

- 1877** **RECONSTRUCTION ENDS** as part of a compromise to settle the 1876 presidential election. U.S. troops leave the South, ending the occupation of the former Confederacy and the protection afforded the freed slaves.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. Rutherford Hayes & VP Wm. Wheeler (Rep.)

GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE OF 1877. After West Virginia railroad workers strike to protest wage reductions, sympathy strikes and violence spread across the Midwest. Federal troops break the strikes.

Rockefeller's Standard Oil controls almost 90% of the U.S. oil refining industry.

Governmental regulation of business to protect the public interest is ruled constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court (*Munn v. Illinois*).

Nez Percé Indians, led by Chief Joseph, surrender after a 1600-mile trek retreating from U.S. troops through the U.S. northwest. They are sent to a reservation in Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

Thomas Edison patents the phonograph.



Thomas Edison

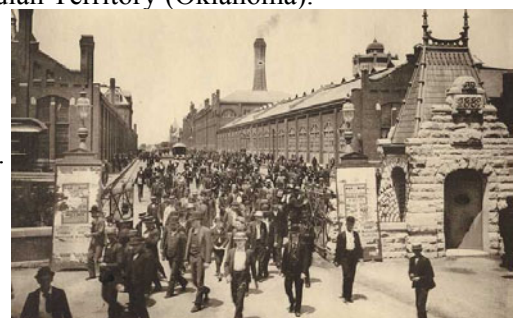
- 1878** Thomas Edison patents the photograph.

- 1879** Edison invents the first practical light bulb (incandescent lamp).
 Frank Woolworth opens the first five-and-ten-cent store (Pa.)
 Carlisle School (Pa.) is opened "Americanize" Indian children.

- 1880** **TENTH CENSUS.** U.S. population totals 50.1 million, including 6.6 million African Americans.

George Pullman builds a model town for employees of his Pullman Palace Car factory outside Chicago.

Land disputes between farmers and the railroads in California lead to the Mussel Slough shoot-out, fictionalized by Frank Norris in his 1901 novel *The Octopus*.



Pullman Palace Car Co., main gate

- 1881 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.** James Garfield and VP Chester Arthur (Republican). Later in the year Garfield is assassinated and Vice President Arthur becomes president.
- 1882 CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT** bars entrance of Chinese for ten years (extended in 1892 for ten years). **STANDARD OIL TRUST**, the first trust, is formed by John D. Rockefeller.

- 1883 BROOKLYN BRIDGE**, the world's largest suspension bridge at the time, opens in New York City connecting Brooklyn and lower Manhattan.

Four standard time zones, made necessary by transcontinental railroad travel, are adopted by the U.S. and Canada.

William Cody opens his first "Buffalo Bill's Wild West."

William Graham Sumner promotes the Social Darwinist position in *What the Social Classes Owe to Each Other*.

Ladies' Home Journal is founded, followed by *Good Housekeeping* in 1885.



Lithograph celebrating the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge

- 1884** Telephone wires are strung between New York and Boston.
- 1885 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.** Grover Cleveland and VP Thomas Hendricks (Democratic).
- 1886 HAYMARKET SQUARE RIOT** erupts in Chicago after a bomb explodes during a police break-up of an anarchist meeting protesting the treatment of strikers at the McCormick Harvesting Machine Co. Seven deaths and many injuries result.
- Indian wars in the Southwest end when Apache Chief Geronimo surrenders.
- American Federation of Labor is founded in Columbus, Ohio.
- The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, is dedicated in New York harbor.



Geronimo, 1898

- 1887** Two new trusts are formed — the "Whiskey Trust" by alcohol distillers and the "Sugar Trust" by sugar refiners. (The "Tobacco Trust" is created in 1890.)
- 1888** George Eastman develops the Kodak box camera, the first camera using roll film.
- 1889 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.** Benjamin Harrison and VP Levi Morton (Republican).
- Jane Addams opens Hull House — the first settlement house in the U.S. — in Chicago.
- 39th -42nd States — North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington enter the Union.

- 1890 ELEVENTH CENSUS.** U.S. population totals 63 million, including 7.5 million African Americans. The Bureau of the Census announces the closing of the American frontier.

The ten largest cities in the U.S. are New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, Baltimore, San Francisco, Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Pittsburgh.

SHERMAN ANTI-TRUST ACT is passed to control monopolies' power.

WOUNDED KNEE (S.D.). U.S. cavalry massacres over 200 Sioux Indians.

Jacob Riis publishes *How the Other Half Lives* on life in the New York slums.

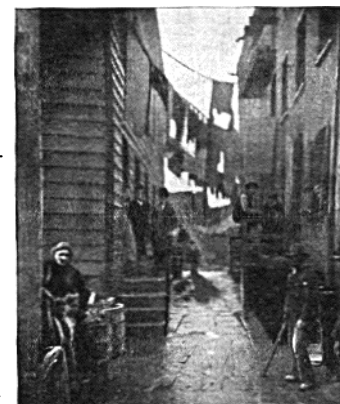
43rd and 44th States — Idaho and Wyoming enter the Union.

- 1891** Edison demonstrates the kinetoscope, a prototype motion picture camera.

- 1892 POPULIST PARTY** (People's Party) is formed in Omaha, Nebraska.

HOMESTEAD STRIKE, one of many labor-management conflicts in this period, occurs at Andrew Carnegie's steel plants in Homestead, Pennsylvania.

LYNCHINGS and mob violence against blacks increase in the South. At least 161 African Americans are lynched in this year alone.



"Bandit's Roost,"
in *How the Other Half Lives*

1893 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. Grover Cleveland and VP Adlai Stevenson (Democratic).

PANIC OF 1893 spurs a ten-year economic depression, with the unemployment rate exceeding ten percent at times. Business collapses and violent labor unrest occur throughout the decade.

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION opens in Chicago, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Columbus's arrival in the New World (opening delayed a year due to the poor economic conditions).

Frederick Jackson Turner delivers the address "The Significance of the Frontier in American History."

Colorado grants women's suffrage, the first state to do so.

U.S. troops occupy Hawaii in response to pressure from U.S. sugar businessmen.



Columbian Exposition

1894 PULLMAN STRIKE. Workers' strike in protest of reduced wages at the Pullman Palace Car Co. near Chicago is broken by court injunction and federal troops, with 34 deaths.

"Coxey's Army" of unemployed men marches on Washington.

The fifth transcontinental railroad is completed.

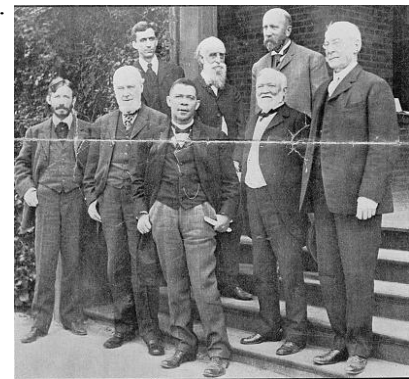
1895 Booker T. Washington delivers the "Atlanta Compromise" address.

1896 "SEPARATE BUT EQUAL" LAWS UPHELD. U.S. Supreme Court upholds constitutionality of racial segregation (*Plessy v. Ferguson*).

"The Biography of a Chinaman," one in a series of immigrant memoirs, is published in *Independent*.

Abraham Cahan publishes *Yekl: A Story of the New York Ghetto*.

45th State — Utah enters the Union.



Booker T. Washington and guests, 1906

1897 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. William McKinley and VP Garret Hobart (Republican).

Simon Pokagon publishes "The Future of the Red Man" in *Forum* magazine.

1898 SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (Feb.-Sept.).

The U.S. acquires Puerto Rico and a portion of Cuba (Guantanamo) in the Caribbean, and the Philippines and Guam in the Pacific. Cuba becomes independent.

In the controversy over U.S. imperialist policy, many speeches, editorials and essays are written, including pieces by Albert Beveridge, William Jennings Bryan, Ben Tillman, Emilio Aguinaldo, and Mark Twain.



Our Victorious Fleet in Cuban Waters

The Chicago *Inter Ocean* publishes a drawing

depicting two Civil War veterans — one Union, one Confederate — standing on a pedestal labeled "Loyalty" and draped in a U.S. flag. The drawing is entitled *Memorial Day, 1898: One decoration will do for both this year*.

Theodore Roosevelt delivers the address "The Strenuous Life."

Mary Church Terrell delivers the address "The Progress of Colored Women."

1899 PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR begins, ending in 1901 when Emilio Aguinaldo surrenders, and concluded by treaty in 1902. The U.S. holds the Philippines as a territory until 1946.

1900 TWELFTH CENSUS. U.S. population totals 76 million, including 8.8 million African Americans and 3.6 million immigrants who had entered since 1890. 60% of Americans live in rural areas.

Zitkala Sa publishes "The School Days of an Indian Girl."

The U.S. acquires Samoa by treaty with Germany and Great Britain.

1901 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. William McKinley and VP Theodore Roosevelt (Rep.). In September McKinley is assassinated and Roosevelt becomes president. Roosevelt invites Booker T. Washington to the White House for dinner, enraging many southern Americans.



Theodore Roosevelt

1902 Philippine-American War ends in treaty, with 4,200 U.S. soldiers, 20,000 Filipino soldiers, and 200,000 Filipino civilians dead. Ida Tarbell begins publishing “The History of the Standard Oil Company” in *McClure’s Magazine*.

Lincoln Steffens exposes municipal corruption in muckraking articles in *McClure’s* (published as *The Shame of the Cities* in 1904).

1903 The Wright Brothers’ gas-powered plane *Flyer I* covers 852 feet in a 59-second flight on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Frederic Thompson’s Luna Park opens in Coney Island, New York.



Luna Park at night

1904 The U.S. acquires the Panama Canal Zone after supporting Panama’s revolt from Colombia.

1905 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. Theodore Roosevelt and VP Charles Fairbanks (Republican).

The Niagara Movement, led by W. E. B. Du Bois and others, announces its Declaration of Principles.

1906 Upton Sinclair publishes *The Jungle*, exposing the meat-packing industry and immigrant life of Chicago. The San Francisco earthquake and fire kill up to 3,000 people and destroy two thirds of the city.

1907 46th State — Oklahoma enters the Union.

1908 The “Ashcan School” artists open their first group exhibition of urban realist painting in New York City.

1909 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. William Taft and VP James Sherman (Republican).

1910 THIRTEENTH CENSUS: U.S. population totals 93.4 million, including 9.8 million African Americans and 8.8 million immigrants who entered in the previous decade from Italy, Russia, and central Europe. 14.7% of the population is foreign born.

The ten largest cities in the U.S. are New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, Cleveland, Baltimore, Detroit, Cincinnati, and Los Angeles. (underlined cities in 1890 top-ten list)

Frederick W. Taylor publishes *The Principles of Scientific Management*.

Theodore Roosevelt delivers the address “The New Nationalism.”



Bellows, New York, 1910

1911 STANDARD OIL COMPANY DISSOLVED. U.S. Supreme Court rules that the company’s business practices violated the Sherman Antitrust Act.

The Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire in New York City kills 146 women workers.

Natl. Assn. Opposed to Women Suffrage is founded during a meeting of state anti-suffrage associations.

1912 Walter Rauschenbusch publishes *Christianizing the Social Order* to promote the Social Gospel policy. 47th and 48th States — Arizona and New Mexico enter the Union.

1913 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. Woodrow Wilson and VP Thomas Marshall (Democratic).

Christine Frederick publishes *The New Housekeeping*.

Jane Addams publishes “If Men Were Seeking the Franchise” in *Ladies’ Home Journal*.