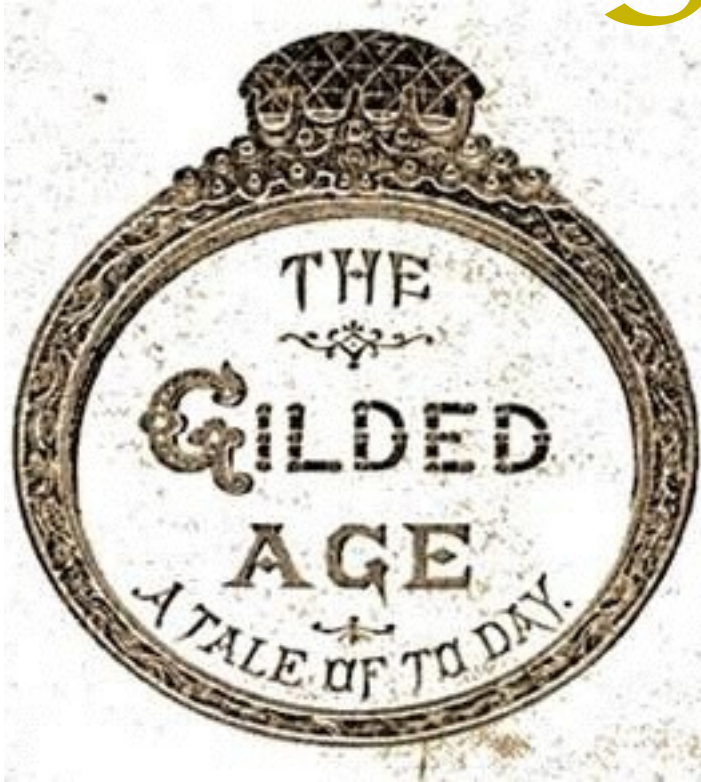


# The Gilded Age



*The Individualization of the United States led to new art and literature and new ideas about government's role in society. Social Darwinists believed society developed through "survival of the fittest." Other Americans thought steps needed to be taken to help*

## Main Ideas

- Individualism and social Darwinism shaped Americans' attitude towards society.
- Artists and writers began portraying life in America more realistically, and cities offered new forms of entertainment.
- Two major parties were closely competitive in the late 1800s; tariff rates and big business regulation were hotly debated political issues.
- Reformers developed new methods and philosophies for helping the Urban poor.



## 1.) What were the defining characteristics of the Gilded Age?

- The defining characteristics of the Gilded Age were being in it for yourself and self-reliance. So that an individual, someone probably rich can get ahead in life and then brag about it. Then on the other side were the People that were trying to help everyone including the poor. So they could make a society where everyone works together to get ahead.

## 3. Why was the Sherman Antitrust Act ineffective?

The Sherman Antitrust Act was ineffective because it was poorly worded and poorly enforced.



This cartoon, "Bosses of the Senate" by Joseph Keppler, 1889, suggests that the Senate was "owned" by Business



#### 4. How did the changes in art and literature reflect the issues and characteristics of the late 1800s?

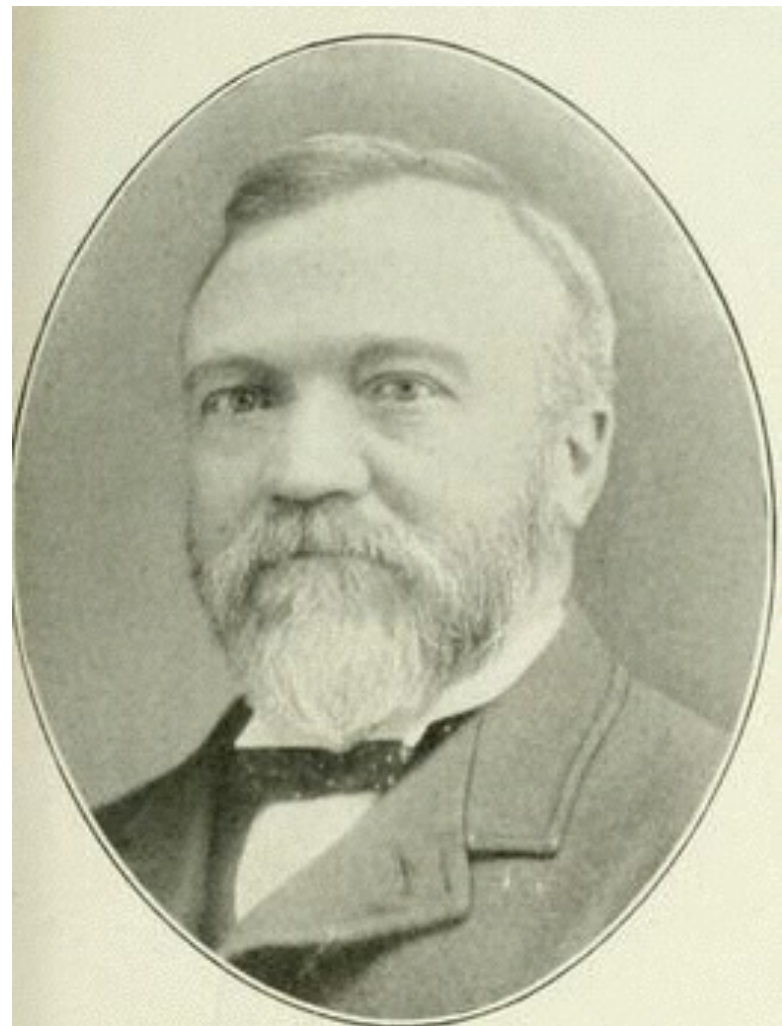
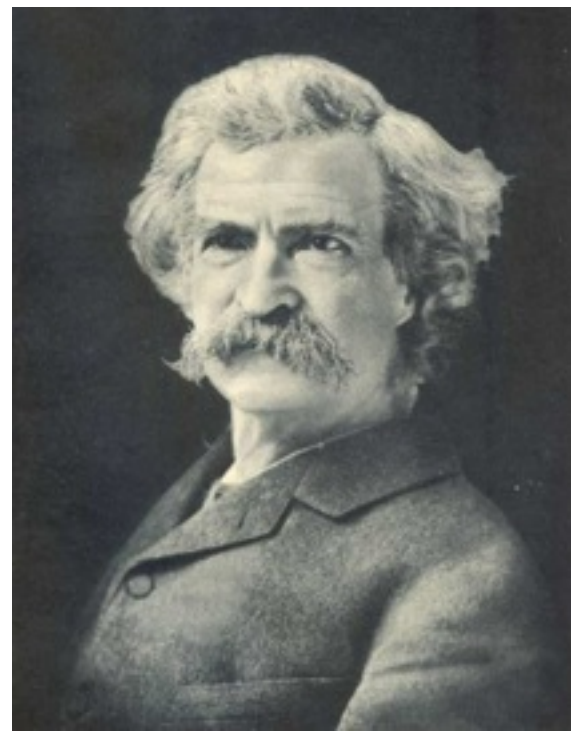
Changes in art and literature motivated Americans and they started making new inventions, expanding cities and made the world modern.

#### Primary Source

#### The Gospel of Wealth

*“In bestowing charity, the main consideration should be to help those who would help themselves; to provide part of the means by which those who desire to rise the aids by which they may rise; to assist, but rarely or never do all.*

— Andrew Carnegie, quoted in the *North American Review*,  
June 1889



#### 5. Do you think the Idea of the Gospel of Wealth is still alive today?

The Gospel of Wealth is still alive because even though rich people may seem like they're helping others, they're still getting something out of it. Most likely making a profit.

#### Vocabulary

**Gilded Age:** Might appear to sparkle, but critics pointed to corruption, poverty, crime, and great disparities in wealth between the rich and the poor.

**Individualism:** Americans firmly believed that no matter how humble their origins, they could rise in society and go as far as their talents and commitment would take them.

**Social Darwinism:** Loosely derived from Darwin's theories, strongly reinforced the idea of individualism.

**Gospel of Wealth:** Andrew Carnegie advocated a gentler version of Social Darwinism

**Philanthropy:** Providing money to support humanitarian or social goals.

**Mark Twain:** An incomparable American genius.

**Social Gospel:** Movement worked to better conditions in cities according to the biblical ideals of charity and justice.

**Settlement House:** An institution located in a small neighborhood that provided numerous community services such as medical care, child care, libraries, and classes in English.

**Jane Adams:** Opened the famous Hull House in Chicago in 1889.

**Americanization:** Teaching immigrants English and American history & culture.