

Quiz 5 (Chapters 11 and 12) Answers

Multiple-Choice Answers

1. (D)
Muckrakers got their name from Theodore Roosevelt, who compared the sensationalistic exposés of high-level corruption to “raking muck.” Their stories tended to focus on the very worst behaviors of industrial leaders and politicians. The stories were designed to arouse the public and play to their “baser instincts.” They explored all of the flaws in American society and provided a method of airing the nation’s “dirty laundry.” While political and industrial leaders were horrified by the tone and focus of the stories, the general public couldn’t get enough. The stories confirmed in many people’s minds what they had long suspected: rather than protecting the public interest, many public and private leaders were using their positions to further their own self-interest at the expense of everyone else. The stories led to an outcry for reform and provided Progressivists with just the ammunition and public support they needed to insure passage of legal reforms.
2. (A)
W. E. B. Du Bois founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He was a leader of the Niagara Movement (C) and an outspoken critic of the Atlanta Compromise (B), which was the work of Booker T. Washington (E) whose teaching was that Blacks should temporarily accommodate themselves to Whites (D).
3. (B)
Charles Darwin published his theories of natural selection, or evolution, at about the time many American industrialists were beginning to make their fortunes. A British utilitarian writer, Herbert Spencer, wrote several articles championing a social application of Darwin’s theories called “Social Darwinism.” According to this principle, just as only the fittest animals survive in nature, only the fittest people survive and succeed in human society. Thus, Social Darwinists believed wealthy people obtained their wealth because they were biologically superior to those around them. Likewise, they said, poor people were poor because they were somehow inferior and therefore didn’t deserve any success. This ruthless perversion of Darwin’s ideas provoked heated debate among social scientists of the day. But it was very well received among the wealthy industrialists of America, as well as the political leaders of the major European powers, who used it to excuse their treatment of the peoples they had subjugated in building their huge colonial empires.
4. (B)
In 1917, with the war going badly, Germany resumed its campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare against all ships entering British coastal waters. Since many of these ships were American and the United States had previously denounced unrestricted submarine warfare, the Germans anticipated that the policy would bring the United States into the war. Their main hope of victory was in disrupting British shipping so badly that the British could be driven out of the war before the Americans could effectively mobilize.

The Germans were aware that relations between the United States and Mexico were very tense at this time. Someone in the German government decided to take advantage of this in a manner that would hopefully delay meaningful U.S. intervention in the war. German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann sent a letter to the German ambassador to Mexico outlining a proposal. In return for a military alliance with Germany in which Mexico would attack the United States (if the United States entered World War I), the Mexicans would recover all the land they had previously lost to the Americans after the Mexican-American War once the U.S. was defeated.

The ploy backfired when the British intercepted the telegram in which the plan was outlined and released it to the United States. It was the combination of the release of this telegram with the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare by the Germans that led to the U.S. entry into World War I.

5. (E)

The Midwestern Great Plains saw the largest percentage of population growth during this period. Immigrants from Europe and migrants from the East Coast and eastern Midwest were drawn to rich farmlands of the Great Plains by measures such as the Homestead Act, which granted them 160 acres of land in return for promises to stay and farm the land. Railroad developers gave settlers tracts of land in return for developing the land adjacent to railroad rights of way. Finally, state and territorial governments, hungry for more residents to help develop local economies and help broaden and stabilize the economic structure of the state or territory, set up land grants and programs to encourage settlement. While virtually every area of the country experienced some population growth during this period, it was the Great Plains region with its vast tracts of undeveloped farmlands that experienced the greatest percentage of growth.

6. (D)

While Wilson's rhetoric was more idealistic than Roosevelt's, at bottom their actual policies were quite similar. Both men pushed for expanded federal government regulatory power in controlling the activities of business trusts. Neither man wanted total government control of business, but both wanted to curb business abuses and felt that strong, decisive leadership from Washington was the only way this could be accomplished. Both men felt that business monopolies had concentrated so much power that true competition was nonexistent. They believed that government regulation was the only way to curb this power and restore any hope of free competition. Both Roosevelt's "New Nationalism" policy and Wilson's less sweeping "New Freedom" policy emphasized this need for more effective government regulation of business abuses.

7. (A)

The completion of the U.S. rail network was a feat of monumental proportions. It led to dramatic changes in the lives of most Americans. Goods could now be shipped from the most distant corners of the land to virtually anywhere else in the country within just a few days. This allowed farmers access to markets which would otherwise have been denied

them. It allowed for more efficient distribution of goods throughout the country. It also made the country smaller in that one could now travel from coast to coast in just six to ten days, whereas the trip could take weeks or months by stagecoach or horse and wagon.

Before the railroads, time was kept by individual communities according to the position of the sun overhead in that community. This led to a confusing mix of varying times as a traveler went from one community to the next. It made it almost impossible for the railroads to draw up workable timetables for running their trains. In response, the railroads drew up plans for a national system of “time zones” in which every community within a specific zone would share the same local time. Eventually, this system was universally adapted and evolved into the four time zones with which we are familiar today.

Finally, railroad construction and development led to some important technical improvements in things like boiler construction, air brakes, automatic coupling devices, steel construction techniques, and bridge building. Choice (A), the industrialization of the Old South, is the only listed effect that was not a direct result of the railroad building in the last half of the nineteenth century. First, most railroad construction linked factories and consumers in the Northeast with Midwest farmers and Far West miners and farmers. Railroad construction lagged in the South by comparison. Secondly, the South continued to remain primarily a rural agricultural region well into the twentieth century. Industrialization would not flourish in the South until the rail industry had passed its peak and was beginning its mid-twentieth century decline.

8. (A)
Throughout the nineteenth century, most American artists celebrated the American frontier, pastoral landscapes, or the wild natural landscapes of the as yet unconquered American frontier. Very few works commemorated city life. But as American cities revolutionized in both their size and nature by the end of the nineteenth century, American artists began to take notice. This new “realistic school” of American art dramatically portrayed the hustle-bustle, the dynamism, and often the urban squalor of American cities. The construction of skyscrapers, elevated railways, trolley cars, and the advent of electric lighting gave artists a whole new range of subjects to portray. Often the contrast between the glamorous new technological advances of the city with the pallor of the adjacent city ghettos made for poignant artistic themes and statements. While many criticized this movement as “ash can” art, it had a dramatic impact on the American art world of its time and left us with some remarkable images of turn-of-the-century city life.
9. (A)
The settlement-house workers were often young, affluent, college-educated women such as Jane Addams. Poor immigrants (B), disabled veterans (C), and illiterate workers (E) would have had less opportunity for such things. Idealistic young men (D) were apparently drawn to such enterprises in smaller numbers.

10. (E)
Early in his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt faced the Venezuelan debt crisis. Venezuela owed sizable debts to European and American creditors. Germany and Great Britain attempted to collect their debts in December 1902 by force. Roosevelt joined the Venezuelan president in urging arbitration, and the British and Germans agreed. In this crisis, Roosevelt made it clear that he would not permit European powers to intervene in Western Hemisphere affairs in any way that might endanger American interests.

After the settlement of the crisis, Roosevelt continued to be concerned about the intervention of European powers in Latin America. He believed that such intervention could be prevented only if the U.S. assumed responsibility for maintaining political and economic stability in the region. Therefore, in his annual message to Congress in May 1904, Roosevelt asserted that not only did the United States have the right to oppose European intervention in the Western Hemisphere, but it also had the right to intervene in the domestic affairs of the Western Hemisphere states to maintain order and to prevent intervention of others.

11. (D)
Helen Hunt Jackson's book *A Century of Dishonor* (1880) recounted the long record of broken treaties and gross injustices against the Native Americans. She sent a copy to all the members of Congress.

12. (E)
Scalawags were Southerners who supported or participated in the Reconstruction regimes. Northerners who came south to take up positions with the Reconstruction governments (B) were called carpetbaggers. Blacks in high positions in the Reconstruction governments (A) were simply referred to by the common vulgar racial expression. There is no record of what Southerners called the Reconstruction military governors (C) or the Radical Republicans (D), but there was probably a variety of expressions.

13. (E)
The convention adopted a "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions" modeled after the Declaration of Independence in form and language. The ninth resolution of this document demanded that women be given the right to vote, but many delegates believed this demand was too controversial. When the delegates voted on the resolutions, only the ninth resolution was not adopted unanimously.

14. (C)
Calvin Coolidge made this statement. Reagan took a similar attitude in his handling of the 1981 air traffic controllers' strike (E). Hayes and Cleveland also took uncompromising stands toward such labor disturbances as the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 (A) and the Pullman Strike (B). Senator Robert A. Taft was co-sponsor of the Taft-Hartley Act (D), aimed at restraining the excesses of labor unions.

15. (C)

Open-range ranching was a technique in which a rancher would purchase a relatively small plot of land, usually located near a stream. This land also bordered on public domain land which was open to public use. The ranchers along this land would then let their cattle graze in the vast open ranges of public domain land bordering their property. Since no one else was using the land, this was at first a very cost-effective method of raising cattle. However, as development of the Western states continued, more and more people crowded into the territories and competed to use this open range land. Sheepherders, “sodbusters” or crop farmers, and others all took their share of the land at the expense of the cattle ranchers. This process did not always occur peacefully. Several “range wars” broke out between cattle ranchers and farmers, leading to many injuries and deaths. Farmers started fencing in their lands to deny access to the cattle. Cattle ranchers, in turn, began fencing in large tracts of public-domain land to protect land they needed for their herd to graze. Eventually, the pressures of overgrazing and competition eliminated or greatly curtailed the practice of open-range ranching. Ranching became more industrialized and large cattle companies dominated the cattle industry. By the mid-1890s, the age of open-range ranching was over.

The other choices are incorrect. Low beef prices did not affect open-range ranching (A), as it was one of the most cost-effective ways to raise cattle, if the open range was available for grazing. While cattle did occasionally wander off (E), use of branding limited ranchers’ losses and the losses rarely reached unacceptable levels. The government never enacted laws giving sheepherders priority use of the land (B). Finally, cattle ranchers never, on a wide scale, adopted sharecropping techniques (D), which would have been inappropriate for most cattle-raising operations.