Key Historical Points

1. With the completion of the transcontinental railroad and supporting rail lines after the Civil War, the nation was linked together in ways that transformed the economy and culture.
2. The building of railroads and the government support making them possible often resulted in corruption.
3. The rapid industrialization taking place in the late 19th century brought a host of problems and challenges to the nation. Among these were horrible living and working conditions in growing cities, corrupt political machines, and the growth of giant trusts that threatened to dominate the economy and stifle free competition.
4. Americans from all walks of life worked to address societal ills in numerous reform movements.
5. During the same era in which the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York harbor, massive numbers of immigrants arrived on both coasts. These immigrants were critical to the growing economy and enriched the culture, yet at the time, some Americans called for efforts to slow or halt their arrival.
6. Farmers faced unique challenges during the era, most notably low prices for their crops and high prices for the goods they purchased. They organized politically in a movement that would culminate in the Populist Party.
7. Congress passed the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, but its language enabled courts to later use the measure against unions on strike.
8. Contentious economic issues of the day were the tariff and monetary policy (whether to support the gold standard or instead the expansion of currency through "greenbacks" or "free silver").
9. By 1890 the census bureau said the frontier was closed, but Americans continued to move west. Conflict with Native Americans led to tragic violence during the period, and the American government sought the best course of helping the first Americans cope with their new future.
10. In the midst of a major depression in the 1890s, unions rose to help workers cope with horrible working conditions. Hundreds of strikes resulted in battles with corporations that at times turned violent. Yet mainstream unions in the United States did not turn to socialism, as did many unions in Europe.
11. The 1896 election saw Democrat William Jennings Bryan’s first of three campaigns for president. He traveled the nation seeking the votes of farmers and workers, yet he lost to Republican William McKinley who campaigned from his home in Ohio and benefited from large campaign contributions from corporations.

Timeline of Key Events

1877 Republican Rutherford B. Hayes inaugurated President
1879 Hayes vetoes Chinese Exclusion Act; Rockefeller organizes Standard Oil
1881 Republican James A. Garfield inaugurated President; Garfield assassinated; Chester A. Arthur succeeds Garfield
1883 Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act; John and Washington Roebling complete Brooklyn Bridge
1885 Democrat Grover Cleveland inaugurated President
1887 Dawes Act
1889 Jane Addams opens Hull House; Republican Benjamin Harrison inaugurated President
1890 Battle of Wounded Knee; Sherman Anti-Trust Act; McKinley Tariff enacted
1892 Homestead Strike crushed
1893 Grover Cleveland inaugurated to second (non-consecutive) term; Panic of 1893 leads to severe depression
1894 Pullman Strike
1896 William Jennings Bryan delivers "Cross of Gold" speech
1897 William McKinley inaugurated President
Historical Questions
1. In this chapter, William Bennett argues that this era was "more golden than gilded." Explain what the author means, what evidence he uses to make his case, and your evaluation of whether he is correct in his conclusion.
2. Detail problems facing farmers during this period and explain the steps they took to address these problems. What were their demands and how successful were they in changing national policy to meet their needs?
3. What economic and political challenges faced labor during this period? How successful were workers in organizing to improve their conditions?

Key People
Alexander Graham Bell
Andrew Carnegie
Benjamin Harrison
"Buffalo Bill" Cody
Chester Arthur
Chief Joseph
Emma Lazarus
Eugene V. Debs
Geronimo
Grover Cleveland
Helen Hunt Jackson
Ida B. Wells
J.P. Morgan
James A. Blaine
James A. Garfield
Jane Addams
John Deere
Joseph Pulitzer
Mark Twain
Phil Sheridan
Rutherford B. Hayes
Samuel Gompers
Sitting Bull
Theodore Roosevelt
Thomas A. Edison
William H. Vanderbilt
William Jennings Bryan
William McKinley

Key Events
Assassination of Garfield
Creation of the Grange
Grant finishes memoirs
Statue of Liberty
Mass European immigration
Gold rush in Black Hills
Wounded Knee
Populist Party Movement
Labor Movement
Homestead Strike
Panic of 1893
Pullman Strike

Historical Terms and Places
 robber barons
A.F. of L.
agitators
captains of industry
conservationists
cooperatives
Credit Mobiler Scandal
depressions
Exodusters
gold standard
GOP "Grand Old Party"
Half-Breeds
Hull House
immigration
inflation
injunctions
Knights of Labor
lynchings
melting pot
Molly Maguires
Mugwumps
Pinkertons
polygamists
Populist Movement
protectionism
right to "organize"
Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion
social gospel
sound money
Stalwarts
sweatshops
Tammany Hall
tariffs
Temperance Movement
Tweed Ring
United Mine Workers
Yiddish

New Technology
Telephone
Electric light
Phonograph
Sewing machines
Typewriters
Automobiles
Deere’s "self-scouring" plow
reaper
motion picture projector

Laws and Legislation
Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act (1883) meant to address the problem of the "spoils system," whereby governmental jobs were awarded to party loyalists, and not on merit
Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) placed a ten-year moratorium on the entry of Chinese nationals to the United States
Dawes Act (1887) authorized the President to order the survey of Native American lands for the purpose of dividing those lands into individual allotments; ultimate goal was to assimilate Indians into mainstream American culture as farmers
Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890) first attempt of Congress to curtail the power of trusts that many citizens believed were coming to dominate the economy and were stifling free and fair economic competition
Sherman Silver Purchase Act this bill increased the amount of silver that would be purchased by the federal government and used to back federal notes, thus increasing the money supply
McKinley Tariff (1890) record increase in the tariff rates as a way to help protect farmers, manufacturers, and workers from foreign competition; led to higher prices for all Americans and led to a Democratic landslide in 1892.

Five Themes of Geography

Location Homestead (Pennsylvania), Chicago, New York City

Human/Environment Interaction Settlement and farming of arid West, gold mining in the Dakotas, slaughter of buffalo, growth of cities and industry in the Northeast

Movement Immigration from Asia and Europe, Chief Joseph

Region Great Plains, Indian reservations, 1892 Electoral Map

Key Economic Points

1. New innovations and technologies continue to drive booming economy and standard of living
2. Life becomes easier as “convenience” products such as the electric light finds its way into homes
3. The roots of the entertainment industry begins with the creation of the motion picture projector and phonograph
4. Entire new industries such as oil and automobile begin and will grow to become backbone of the American economy
5. Anti-trust legislation begins to appear in order to ensure competition in the free market and eliminate monopolistic attempts by some corporations to dominate certain markets
6. As mass production increases, prices continue to fall for many new products
7. Agricultural innovation (John Deere) means mass increase in food production, falling food prices consumers, but lower profits for farmers: many move to new cities
8. High tariffs in 1890 leads to higher prices for consumers; contributes to slow down of economy in 1892 and helps prolong the 1892-97 depression (this mistake will be repeated with the Smoot-Hawley Tariff of 1930)
9. As the economy booms, demands to increase the money supply follow; the Sherman Silver Purchase Act is the first such action to accomplish this
10. American labor faces competition from immigrant labor (especially from China) who work for lower wages than Americans; this leads to anti-immigration legislation such as the Chinese Exclusion Act
11. Long hours and dangerous conditions led to the formation of labor unions and many clashes with management, most of which management won, often with the help of government, leaving only about one-tenth of workers (most of them skilled) belonging to unions in 1900