World History Notes

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* Corporations were joining together in various combinations—pools, mergers, trusts, cartels—to gain control of markets.
* Corporations were deliberately manipulating the economy to maximize their profit and crush competition.
* The U.S. Congress gradually took steps to restore some fairness and competition through laws and regulations.
* **A Worldwide Trend**
* Until the 1900s, industrialization was limited to a handful of Western countries, as well as Russia and Japan.
* But the desire for profits led to a widespread push for industry across the globe.
* Nations that industrialized often used their newfound wealth to strengthen their military.
* In the late 1800s, some of those nations exercised their power by establishing colonies in foreign lands.
* On that basis, they formed or expanded empires. This shift to industrialization had major impact around the world.
* **Environmental Impact of Industrialization**
* The Industrial Revolution created a greater need for natural resources than ever before. This led to a search for resources that spread across the world.
* The extraction of the natural resources needed for the newly industrialized world was damaging to the nations that undertook it.
* Disruption of the environment, particularly natural habitats such as forests and mountains, compromised and destroyed ecosystems.
* Coal, and later the petroleum and natural gas that replaced it, had and continues to have a widespread impact on the environment.
* Mining coal is incredibly dangerous and can destroy the natural environments around the mining site.
* The burning of coal pollutes the air with tiny particles of ash and soot, which causes respiratory and even neurological diseases in humans and other animals.
* It also produces gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxides that are directly related to climate change.
* Water pollutants, such as oil spills, can spread easily across the ocean with currents and winds, as well as wildlife that it comes into contact with.
* These environmental impacts can last for years, and many are irreversible.
* **Industrialization Creates a New Global Dynamic**
* As industry grew, the populations in industrialized nations grew as well.
* This put a strain on the resources available. The result was a depletion of natural resources, such as wood in Britain.
* The high demand for natural resources led industrialized nations to look for necessary goods beyond their borders.
* Countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America became essential locations for acquiring natural resources.
* This led to a new age of imperialism, where industrialized nations formally and informally colonized countries with access to needed natural resources.
* This imperialistic dynamic lasted long after the end of the revolution.