“To this sterile and remote region, infested by savage beasts and still more savage men, the women of the New England states, and the women of the cultured East, came with husbands, sons, and brothers to help them build a home...We endured hardships, and dangers: hours of loneliness, fear and sorrow...We toiled in the field; we helped our loved ones to make the prairie blossom...Yet, after all our years of toil and deprivation, dingers and hardships, our homes are being taken from us by an infamous system of mortgage foreclosure....How did it happen? The government, siding with Wall Street, broke its contract with the people...we shall not have a government of the people by capitalists, but a government of the people, by the people.”

Mary Elizabeth Lease speech to Women’s Christian Temperance Union in 1890

“The merchant at the corner store is as much a businessman as the merchant of New York. The farmer who goes forth in the morning and toils all day...is as much a businessman as the man who [works on Wall Street}...We come to speak for this broader class of businessmen...WE are fighting in the defense of our homes and our families. We have petitioned and our petitions have been scorned. We have entreated, and our entreaties have been disregarded. We have begged, and they have mocked us. We beg no longer; we entreat no more; we petition no more. We defy them! You come to tell us that the great cities are in favor of the gold standard. I tell you that the great cities rest upon these broad and fertile prairies.

William Jennings Bryan speech at the 1896 Democratic National Convention

1.) The authors of these speeches would most likely be part of what movement?

a. Populism

b. Socialism

c. Anarchism

d. Temperance

2.) Both authors see which of the following as the heart and soul of America?

a. Cities

b. Labor Unions

c. Farmers

d. Immigrants

**Documents: Political Machines**

We are responsible, not our leaders, since we follow them. We let them divert our loyalty from the United States tosome “party”; we let them boss the party and turn our democracies into autocracies. We cheat our government and we let our leaders loot it, and we let them bribe our sovereignty form us. We are content to let them pass bad laws, giving away public property in exchange from money.

Lincoln Steffens book The Shame of the Cities 1904

I’ve been readin’ a book by Lincoln Steffens on The Shame of the Cities. Steffens means well, but like all reformers, he don’t know how to make distinctions. He can’t see no difference between honest graft and dishonest graft, and, consequently, he gets things all mixed up...For instance, I ain’t no looter. The looter hogs it. I never hogged. I made my money in politics, but at the same time I served the organization and got more big improvements for New York City than any other livin’ man.

The Irish was born to rule, and they’re the honestest people in the world. Show me the Irishman who would steal a roof off an orphanage! He don’t exist. Of course, if an Irishman had the political pull and the roof was in bad shape, he might get the city authorities to put on a new one and get the contract for himself, and buy the old roof at a bargain-but that’s honest graft.

Talk by George Plunkitt, NYC political boss in 1905

1.) Which of the following is the best definition of graft?

a. Corruption

b. Exploitation

c. Cheating

d. Manipulation

2.) Which of the following BEST describes Lincoln Steffens

a. Suffragist c. Populist

b. Hawk d. Muckraker

3.) According to Plunkitt, what positive role do political bosses play?

a. Keep big businessmen from dominating politics

b. Protect jobs from immigrant workers

c. Ensure voting rights are protected

d. Provide services for the community

**Documents: Eugene V Debs**

The campaign this year will be unusually spectacular. The Republican Party "points with pride" to the

"prosperity" of the country, the beneficent results of the "gold standard" and the "war record" of the

administration. The Democratic Party declares that "imperialism" is the "paramount" issue... Both these

capitalist parties are fiercely opposed to trusts, though what they propose to do with them is not of

sufficient importance to require even a hint in their platforms. Needless is it for me to say to the thinking

workingman that he has no choice between these two capitalist parties, that they are both pledged to the

same system and that whether the one or the other succeeds, he will still remain the wage-working slave

he is today. What but meaningless phrases are "imperialism," "expansion," "free silver," "gold

standard," etc., to the wage worker? The large capitalists represented by Mr. McKinley and the small

capitalists represented by Mr. Bryan are interested in these "issues," but they do not concern the

working class. What the workingmen of the country are profoundly interested in is the private ownership

of the means of production and distribution, the enslaving and degrading wage system in which they toil

for a pittance at the pleasure of their masters and are bludgeoned, jailed or shot when they protest-this is

the central, controlling, vital issue of the hour, and neither of the old party platforms has a word or even

a hint about it.

Eugene V Debs, article in academic journal 1900

What ideology does Debs support?

a.) Socialism b.) Capitalism c.) Communism d.) Nativism

Why are the phrases “imperialism” (empire building), “free silver” etc meaningless to the wage worker

according to Debs?

a.) They are focused on foreign policy instead of issues at home in America

b.) Those topics do not address the real needs of people in poverty

c.) They only deal with monetary issues and not workplace safety

d.) They ignore issues for African Americans in the south

What are the main concerns for the working class according to Debs?

a.) the right to challenge the wealthy capitalists and success in making pay and safety improvements for workers

b.) making sure America pursues expansion to increase markets and material resources

c.) Rights of African Americans to equality and franchise

d.) the protection of American wages against foreign competition and foreign immigrants

What solution does Debs claim workers demand to solve the problems they perceive in America?

a.) end of all private property and organizing into communes

b.) government ownership of many large companies, services, and resources

c.) laissez-faire capitalism to promote growth in the economy

d.) engagement in war to stimulate the economy

**Documents: The Jungle**

"Bubbly Creek" is an arm of the Chicago River, and forms the southern boundary of the yards: all the

drainage of the square mile of packing houses empties into it, so that it is really a great open sewer a

hundred or two feet wide. One long arm of it is blind, and the filth stays there forever and a day. The

grease and chemicals that are poured into it undergo all sorts of strange transformations...Here and there

the grease and filth have caked solid, and the creek looks like a bed of lava; chickens walk about on it,

feeding, and many times an unwary stranger has started to stroll across, and vanished temporarily. The

packers used to leave the creek that way, till every now and then the surface would catch on fire and

burn furiously, and the fire department would have to come and put it out. Once, however, an ingenious

stranger came and started to gather this filth in scows, to make lard out of; then the packers took the cue,

and got out an injunction to stop him, and afterward gathered it themselves. The banks of "Bubbly

Creek" are plastered thick with hairs, and this also the packers gather and clean.

Upton Sinclair novel, The Jungle

1. Upton Sinclair, and other expose writers or investigative journalists, were labelled by Theodore Roosevelts and known by turn of the century Americans as

a.) Yellow Journalists

b.) Dime Novelists

c.) Muckrakers

d.) Whistleblowers

2. This passage from The Jungle exposes what modern problem?

a.) Pollution & Environmental Damage

b.) Workers Rights & Safety

c.) Consumer Protection

d.) Financial Corruption

3. The most famous/infamous modern problem The Jungle is

a.) Pollution & Environmental Damage

b.) Workers Rights & Safety

c.) Consumer Protection

d.) Financial Corruption

4. Why would “packers” from the company come out and “gather it themselves”?

a.) make sure the river was not as dirty

b.) make sure the government didn’t catch them violating laws

c.) to keep from making the people who tried to gather it themselves from getting sick

d.) make a profit

**Documents: Panama Canal**

July 2, 1915

To talk of Columbia as a responsible power to be dealt with as we would deal with Holland or Belgium or

Switzerland or Denmark is a mere absurdity. The analogy is with a group of Sicilian or Calabrian bandits...You could no more make an agreement with the Columbian rulers than you could nail currant jelly to a wall...I did my best to get them to act straight. Then I determined that I would do what ought to be done without regard to them. The people of Panama were a unit in desiring the canal and wishing to overthrow the rule of Columbia. If they had not revolted, I should have recommended to Congress to take possession of the Isthmus by force of arms; and, as you will see, I had actually written the first draft of my message to this effect. When they [Columbians living in Panama] revolted, I promptly used the Navy to prevent bandits [Columbians], who had tried to hold us up, from spending months of futile bloodshed in conquering or endeavoring to conquer the isthmus, to the lasting damage of the Isthmus, of us, and of the world. I did not consult [Secretary of State] Hay or [Secretary of War] Root, or anyone else as to what I did, because a council of war does not fight; and I intended to do the job once and for all.

Private letter from President Roosevelt to his former Secretary of State, John Hay

1.) In the opening lines of the quote, the tone of Roosevelt toward the Latin American nation of Columbia is

consistent with which ideas of ethnic, racial, and national hierarchies in the world?

a. Popular Sovereignty & Rule of Law

b. Nativism & Socialism

c. Social Darwinism & White Man’s Burden

d. Social Gospel & Gospel of Wealth

2.) “Then I determined that I would do what ought to be done without regard to them” is an example of

Roosevelt’s foreign policy of

a. Dollar Diplomacy

b. Big Stick Diplomacy

c. Isolationism

d. Moral Diplomacy

3.) “I did not consult Hay or Root, or anyone else...” This statement by Roosevelt is an example of what

characteristic of his presidency?

a. Roosevelt’s celebrity status

b. Roosevelt’s strengthening of the powers of the presidency

c. Roosevelt’s focus on Progressive reforms

d. Roosevelt’s reputation as an adventurer

4.) According to Roosevelt, how was the US involved in the conflict between Panamanian rebels and

Columbia?

a. The US had no involvement in the conflict even though they benefited from it

b. The US established a naval blockade for the Columbian government

c. The US Navy aided the rebels

d. The US sent troops to support the Panamanian rebels

**Documents: Spanish American War**

"History will vindicate the position taken by the United States in the war with Spain....If, however, a contest

undertaken for the sake of humanity degenerates into a war of conquest, we...have added hypocrisy to

greed...Shall we contemplate a scheme for the colonization of the Orient merely because our ships won a

remarkable victory in the harbor of Manila?...Our guns destroyed a Spanish fleet, but can they destroy that self-evident truth, that governments derive their just powers not from superior force, but from the consent of the

Governed?"

Wm. Jennings Bryan, Presidential Candidate of the Democratic Party, 1896 and 1900, June 14, 1898

"Our disclaiming all idea of conquest is sincere... Congress denied any project of conquest in Cuba [and] it

meant every word it said....But here comes in the psychologic factor: once the excitement of action gets loose,

the taxes levied, the victories achieved, the old human instincts will get into play....We shall never take Cuba;...but Puerto Rico, and even the Philippines, are not so sure. We had supposed ourselves (with all our

crudity and barbarity in certain ways) a better nation morally than the rest, safe at home and without the old

savage ambition....Dreams! Human Nature is everywhere the same; and at the least temptation all the old

military passions rise..."

Wm. James, philosopher and psychologist, June 15, 1898

1.) According to Bryan, the US role in the Spanish American War will be remembered as good and just as

long as what does not happen?

a. A war that was started to gain territory for the United States, ends up becoming a war for Cuban Independence

b. The Spanish do not simply move on the take over other parts of Latin America

c. A war that was started to aid Cuban independence from a brutal dictatorship, ends up becoming a war for US territorial gain

d. That it becomes a pattern that the United States intervenes for humanitarian purposes

2.) The disclaimer by Congress that James refers to is

a. Teller Amendment b. Platt Amendment

c. Monroe Doctrine d. Roosevelt Corollary

3.) What human instinct is James referring to when he says “the old human instincts will get into play”

a. Love b. Self preservation

c. Greed d. Fear

4.) Which of the following could be best used to support James’ claim “...Human Nature is everywhere the

same; and at the least temptation all the old military passions rise..."?

a. US Open Door Policy in China

b. US building of the Panama Canal

c. US control of Puerto Rico & the Philippines

d. US colonization of Cuba

5.) Both of these speakers is dealing with which key issue of American Imperialism?

a. How can America expand economically and territorially and still maintain her values of

democracy and equality?

b. How to most effectively spread “civilization” to the people within the colonies?

c. How to make sure the US secures a place as a world not just regional power?

d. What is the balance between persuasion and force in diplomacy?

**Documents: Critics of WWI**

Comrades, friends and fellow-workers...three of our most loyal comrades are paying the penalty for their devotion to the cause of the working class. They have come to realize, as many of us have, that it is extremely dangerous to exercise the constitutional right of free speech in a country fighting to make democracy safe in the world…

Eugene V Debs speech 1918

The Socialist Party says that any officers of the law entrusted with the administration of conscription...violate the provisions of the United States Constitution when they refuse to recognize your right to assert your opposition to the draft...To draw this country into the horrors of the present war in Europe, to force the youth of our land into the...bloody trenches of war-crazy nations, would be a crime of the magnitude which defies description...No specious (misleading) or plausible ...pleas about a “war for democracy” can cloud the issue. Democracy cannot be shot into a nation. It must come spontaneously and purely from within...You are responsible. You must do your share to maintain, support, and uphold the rights of the people of this country. In this world crisis where do you stand? Are you with the forces of liberty and light or war and darkness?

Charles Schenck in 1918 pamphlet “Assert Your Rights”

1.) What legal argument does both Debs and Schenck use to justify their speaking against the government and war?

a. Right to Due Process

b. Constitution

c. Habeas Corpus

d. Declaration of Independence

2.) What argument for the war do both Debs and Schenck believe to be disingenuous, hypocritical, or manipulative?

a. American defense

b. Freedom of the Seas

c. Protect innocent people, like the Belgians & refugees

d. Make the world safe for democracy

3.) Why were Socialist leaders in the anti-war movement? Socialists were

a. Were ideologically opposed to capitalists and imperialists, which is who they thought started and benefitted from the war

b. Usually pacifists too

c. Focused on equality for all races, and thus against choosing sides in a conflict

d. Afraid US involvement in the war would hurt political support for their party