

CHAPTER 3 SECTION 1 Section Summary THE TRIUMPH OF INDUSTRY

Near the end of the nineteenth century, coal and steel production grew rapidly. Railroads were expanding. Inventions, like the light bulb developed by **Thomas Alva Edison**, helped the economy. There were many reasons for the growth. The nation had lots of coal and oil. Millions of immigrants came from Europe and Asia to fill the labor market. Government policies helped businesses grow. This growth gave many people better living conditions. Cities grew larger. Transportation and communication improved.

At this time, large corporations dominated American business. These corporations and their owners built huge fortunes. **John D. Rockefeller** gained control of the oil industry. **Andrew Carnegie** grew rich from the sale of his steel business. Industrialists established **trusts**, combinations of corporations. Small businesses complained about **monopolies**. Monopolies occur when one corporation controls an entire industry.

Carnegie and others created explanations to defend their business methods and their wealth. **Social Darwinism** stated that life was a struggle in which only the fittest survived. Carnegie developed a doctrine called the **Gospel of Wealth**. He wanted those who had wealth to share their riches to improve society.

In contrast to rich owners, factory workers worked long hours for very low pay. They had no health benefits and no vacation time. To improve their conditions, workers formed unions. The **Knights of Labor** wanted broad social reforms. The **American Federation of Labor (AFL)** focused on improving wages, working hours, and working conditions.

Workers and big business often engaged in violent clashes. The Haymarket Riot in Chicago and a nationwide strike against the railroad companies required government intervention to control the violence.

Review Questions

- 1. List three reasons that the United States grew as an industrial nation.

- 2. Describe the problems that industrial workers had during this time.

READING CHECK

Who developed the Gospel of Wealth?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *doctrine* in the underlined sentence. Look for context clues in the surrounding words, phrases, and sentences. Circle the word below that is a synonym for *doctrine*.

- principle
- exchange

READING SKILL

Identify Causes and Effects

Identify one cause and one effect of industrialization.
