

Chapter 25 EQs

1. What new opportunities did the cities create for Americans?
2. What new social problems did urbanization create? How did Americans respond to these problems?
3. How did the “New Immigration” differ from the “Old Immigration,” and how did Americans respond to it?
4. How did the urban transformation, the New Immigration, and cultural and intellectual changes affect American religion?
5. Why was Darwinian evolution such a controversial challenge for American religious thinkers? Why were religious “liberals” able to dominate Americans’ cultural response to evolution? How did a minority resistance to evolution lay the basis for the later rise of fundamentalism?
6. How did American social criticism, imaginative writing, and art all relate to the urban industrial changes of the late nineteenth century?
7. How and why did women assume a larger place in American society at this time? (Compare their status in this period with that of the pre-Civil War period described in Chapter 16.) How were changes in their condition related to changes in both the family and the larger social order?
8. What was the greatest single cultural transformation of the Gilded Age?
9. Why did American culture and writing actually flourish amidst the troubling and conflict-ridden politics and economics of the period? Can it be argued that American intellectuals and writers of the period actually “benefited” from economic upheaval and social disruption?