

# DOWNLOAD PDF THE GREAT STRIKES OF 1877 (WORKING CLASS IN AMERICAN HISTORY)

## Chapter 1 : The Great Strikes of - Google Books

*A spectacular example of collective violence, the Great Strikes of 1877 was the first national strike and the first major strikes against the railroad industry.*

James Encyclopedia of Labor History Worldwide: Initiated as a more or less spontaneous railway workers strike, it became generalized into a nationwide crescendo of street protests and pitched battles. Millions of dollars of property was destroyed, more than a hundred lives were lost, with many more injuries. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was at the explosive center of this historic upsurge, but similar confrontations and struggles wracked cities throughout the eastern and midwestern portions of the country. The uprising was systematically repressed but helped to generate future labor struggles. In its Dred Scott decision, the U. Supreme Court rules that a slave is not a citizen. During the latter battle, 17 September is the bloodiest day in American history, with nearly 5, dead, and more than 20, wounded. Establishment of the Dominion of Canada. Beginning of Franco-Prussian War. In the face of uncertain results from the popular vote in the presidential election of , the U. Electoral Commission awards the presidency to Rutherford B. Hayes despite a slight popular majority for his opponent, Samuel J. The election of will remain the most controversial in American history for the next years, until overshadowed by the race between George W. Bush and Al Gore in In part as a quid pro quo demanded by southern legislators in return for their support of the Republican Hayes over the Democrat Tilden, the new president agrees to end the period of martial law in the South known as Reconstruction. Surrender of Nez Perce leader Chief Joseph to federal troops. Thomas Edison invents the incandescent electric light. Heinrich Hertz proves the existence of electromagnetic waves, which are propagated at the speed of light. Event and Its Context In the era of dramatic industrialization following the Civil War , the most powerful of the big business corporations were the railroad companies. During the economic depression that had begun in , the companies reduced the pay of railroad workers by 10 percent. Workforce reductions meant unemployment for some and intensified labor for those remaining. This generated fierce resentment among rail workers and their families, and also within the laboring population generally. Information provided by company spies resulted in the firing of many union members, and the strike was cancelled, but the anger and discontent deepened. On 16 July a spontaneous strike erupted in Martinsburg, West Virginia , and quickly spread to cities including St. Pittsburgh Massacre Despite rising passions, the Pittsburgh strikers sought to maintain a peaceful but effective work stoppage that halted all rail traffic. Rallies and meetings explained their goals to a largely approving public. Railroad officials and state authorities, however, soon pushed events onto a different track. State militia units from Philadelphia were ordered to Pittsburgh. Militia units from Pittsburgh were deemed unreliable because they sympathized with the strikers. On 21 July troops arrived from Philadelphia. Led by Superintendent Robert Pitcairn of the Pennsylvania Railroad and a posse of constables with arrest warrants for the strike leaders, they found themselves confronted by crowds of men, women, and children. The militiamen responded with a bayonet charge that resulted in injuries and provoked a hail of rocks from some sections of those assembled. The troops opened fire on the unarmed crowd, scattering them and leaving at least 20 dead including one woman and three small children and 29 wounded. As word of the massacre spread, thousands of workers rushed to the scene, many of them armed. The militia retreated into the roundhouse and considered using Gatling guns against the now violent crowds, but decided at the last minute that such a move would be unwise. As it was, the enraged crowds broke every window in the roundhouse and some went on to set fire to the rail yards. The fire destroyed 39 buildings of the Pennsylvania Railroad, engines, 46 passenger cars, and over 1, freight cars. Union leader Robert Ammonâ€”who had worked as a brakemanâ€”coordinated protection of remaining company property and even oversaw the conduct of passenger traffic on the Pennsylvania Railroad for a few days. In the same period, other workers in the Pittsburgh area, including thousands of iron and steel workers and coal miners, were inspired to go out on strike. Workers from other cities and towns in Pennsylvania joined in the strikes or in rallies and meetings

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supporting the strike. On 26 July, however, regular troops of the U. Army joined with state militia units to take control of the city and reopen all railroad operations in Pittsburgh and Allegheny City. This was the first time in U. In western Pennsylvania a military force of 10, was deployed to secure the reopening of rail service from the Pittsburgh area to Harrisburg. A National Working-Class Uprising Dozens of cities throughout the Northeast and Midwest experienced some version of these confrontations and conflicts. Many newspapers and magazines interpreted the upsurge along the lines articulated by Allan Pinkerton , head of the Pinkerton Detective Agency, an "expert" who made a career of working with employers and the government to undermine and destroy labor organizations. Pinkerton saw it all as a case of "ignorant workingmen being gulled and deceived" into rebellion by "communistic scoundrels who in stealth and secret continue their conspiracies against civilization. Believing that the time was ripe not for revolution but for such things as trade unions, increased wages, socialist election campaigns, and struggles for an eight-hour workday, Parsons and his comrades eloquently shared this message with the 15, workers who attended a WPUS rally on 21 July. Two days later, the socialists of Chicago found that they could exercise little control over the masses of workers and enraged crowds that were engaged in pitched battles with the police. Urging moderation, they proved irrelevant to the violence swirling past them. Louis during the events of July. Such WPUS leaders as Albert Currlin and Laurence Gronlund formed and served on a strike executive committee that helped to channel the upsurge into a nonviolent and powerfully effective general strike. The mingling of African American and white workers was disconcerting for some, however, and because of racist anxieties the mass demonstrations were discontinued. Nor did the strike leaders have a clear program for victory. Violent assaults by police and troops, followed by mass arrests, brought an end to what had been dubbed the "St. Jeers and stones from the crowds were matched by bullets from the troops. Insurgent crowds that included women, children, and adolescent boys surged through many cities but only a substantial minority of railroad workers participated in the rioting. Among the participants were skilled and unskilled workers, white-collar employees, professionals, and small proprietors; there was also significant ethnic and racial diversity. The crowds in these cities were responding in part to the damage done to them by unbridled industrialization and economic hard times, and many were also mobilizing against the destructive impact that the railroad companies were having on their lives. The railroad companies were the most powerful of the big business corporations that were coming to dominate the rapidly industrializing economy. They were in the forefront of a process that was degrading not only the lives of railroad workers, but also the communities and the environments of working-class America. Streets lined with retail stores, schools, churches, saloons, and homes were impacted by the filth and noise and sometimes danger that came with frequent train traffic. The angry crowds were, in part, engaging in community uprisings in defense of their streets and neighborhoods. In all of this, some gains were made butâ€”in the opinion of Friedrich Sorge, the old warhorse of the First International with extensive labor contactsâ€”two severe limitations turned potential victories into defeat. First was the "cowardice" of railway workers in New York City and New England , "whose participation would have made the strike undefeatable. The backlash of the employers, who could count on powerful support by the state and national governments, was consequently triumphant. Legacy The strikes certainly had global impact. Marx further noted that President Rutherford B. Yet this fusion of rebellious forces did not take place: In fact, the utter defeat of the workers through the use of U. This becomes clear when it is seen in the larger context of the period. Troops had just been withdrawn from the South as part of the dismantling of Reconstruction, which involved an understanding that the reestablishment of white power regimes in that region at the expense of African American rights would harmonize with a continuation of industrial development policies that had been advanced by the Republican Party through the s and early s. Troops were deployed to the West to subdue various Native American peoples who were resisting the invasion and conquest of their homeland by railroads and white settlers. The troops were also deployed, of course, in the cities that had been rocked by working-class uprisings. The events highlighted the inability of local and state militia units to guarantee the law and order required for a healthy business climate in the United States. The need to create a more effective

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basis for the operation of troops in such circumstances resulted in the construction of a substantial number of strong armories in larger U. In addition, the courts and state legislatures in much of the country increasingly equated labor organizing with criminal conspiracy, which initiated a wave of rulings and laws directed against labor. Key Players Ammon, Robert A. College-educated son of a well-to-do insurance man, Ammon traveled around the country including serving a stint in the U. Cavalry before the age of During the strike he sought to protect company property and maintain order but was arrested and jailed when the strike was broken. In he moved to New York City, went into business and law, and became a prosperous figure on Wall Street. Under the name of Peter Lofgreen, Danish-born Gronlund who worked at various times as a teacher, a clerk, and a journalist was a leader of the St. He was later author of the first substantial popularization of Marxist ideas in the U. After drifting out of the SLP, he became a leading activist in the Nationalist Clubs initiated by Edward Bellamy , author of the best-selling utopian novel Looking Backward. Parsons was a Confederate war veteran in Texas who fell in love with and married a woman of color Lucy Gonzales, at least partly African American, perhaps also Indian and Mexican. Parsons subsequently became a radical Republican; with the collapse of Reconstruction in Texas, he fled with his wife to Chicago, where they both become active in radical labor activities. Active in the Typographical Workers Union, he was blacklisted after when he became a full-time labor and socialist activist. Editor of the revolutionary paper The Alarm in the s, and a leader of the radical wing of the eight-hour movement, he was victimized as one of the Haymarket martyrs and executed in

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### Chapter 2 : The Great Strikes of : David O. Stowell :

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PR yet do you think? Give me until tonight to complete tweaking it. I made a few more edits to the labor section as I realized that a few things could be worded better. Thanks for adding the Haymarket link -- I meant to do that and then I got side-tracked pun? I feel it should be a piped link, but hesitate to do so until the target article is improved. I could note the reference to Long Depression itself not the article without piping it, or, if the article is tagged, I could pipe it. You could always fixityourself. But, I have a long weekend coming up, so why not. BTW, since I had neglected this part, I need an extension. The article has been changed to reflect this. Also, is a socialist website an unbiased place to gain wage information? Is there not a better unbiased historical source? Why is July 14 linked in the opening paragraph, but no one has included in that article that the Great Strike began on that day? Also Reading ; cf. Gowen but nothing there, either. In addition to Shamokin, PA events, Harrisburg should get at least a mention. Also Scranton cannot be left out -- big goings-on there, including shooting deaths, lawsuit actions against the locally organized militia who did the shooting, and state militia encampment from August into October well beyond the 45 days indicated in current article. Gowen is substantial now, including regarding the Great Strike. Nice to see the Shamokin material added, but lack of content on Scranton is still a big hole -- federal troops were stationed there to prevent recurrence of uprising until almost November , later than elsewhere. Maybe someone could update them, or find the original links on the Internet Archive? It makes the workers sound like unorganized mobs, and with questionable motives. The "Laying Blame" section puts the onus on the workers! This whole article is a joke. I think this link may be misleading. Richard Myers talk There was a Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers that participated in the strike: There was also, apparently, a Brotherhood of Engineers, Conductors and Firemen [3]. This reference to the railroad brotherhoods definitely needs fact checking. Sweet kate talk Html clearly began in Baltimore, not in Martinsburg. Since Cincinnati has railroads, and a history of unrest relating to its large German population many of them Catholic and vigorously defended by this same bishop before the Civil War , I wondered exactly what the link between the financial events could be. Please take a moment to review my edit. I made the following changes: As of February , "External links modified" talk page sections are no longer generated or monitored by InternetArchiveBot. No special action is required regarding these talk page notices, other than regular verification using the archive tool instructions below. Editors have permission to delete the "External links modified" sections if they want, but see the RfC before doing mass systematic removals. If you have discovered URLs which were erroneously considered dead by the bot, you can report them with this tool. If you found an error with any archives or the URLs themselves, you can fix them with this tool.

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### Chapter 3 : The History of the U.S. Working Class: Twiggs: The Great Strike of

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VZ workers have walked off the job after their contract expired and management and union failed to reach a deal. While 45, sounds impressive, it doesn't come close to some of the biggest strikes in American history. Tensions between labor and management often cause work stoppages known as strikes. Management has always wanted more work for as little pay as possible. Labor has always wanted what it considers fair compensation. The current Verizon strike takes place a few years after the company reached its apex in terms of market penetration and as its landline business began to slow. But labor strife has always been greatest just as industries have reached their peaks, enjoying great financial strength and employing large numbers of workers. The earliest large strikes, although perhaps not the largest, were at textile companies that handled the finishing of cotton and other raw goods from the South. Most of these companies were based in the labor-heavy Northeast and Midwest. From there, the labor movement migrated to railroads and mining and steel companies. Until Andrew Carnegie, steel had not been a huge industry. The use of steel expanded with the needs and growth of the shipping industry, as well as automobiles and other manufactured consumer and commercial goods. Eventually, steel strikes became some of the more violent ones. The States With the Strongest and Weakest Unions Advertisement The rise of the automobile caused the next great labor disputes as workers fought for better conditions in the huge factories of the Midwest. As transportation moved from ground to air, airlines became among the largest employers in the country, and the industry's most variable cost. The history of the American strike helped to eventually create the nation's great middle class. The ten biggest strikes in American history in chronological order: Hundreds of thousands of workers across five states refused to work, citing unsafe conditions and unfair hours and pay. The strike suffered from a lack of commitment from other railroad unions, the successful hiring of nonunion workers by Gould and from violence and scare tactics. Eventually, the strike failed and the Knights of Labor disbanded soon afterwards. Chicago, Illinois Facing hour work days and wage cuts resulting from the depressed economy, factory workers at the Pullman Palace Car Company walked out in protest. The workers were soon joined by members of the American Railway Union ARU, who refused to work on or run any trains, including Pullman-owned cars. Soon enough, industry workers joined in the strike, effectively shutting down train traffic to the west of Chicago. However, widespread sympathy for the workers cause promoted prounion sentiment across many areas of the country. Seeking better wages and conditions, the union went on strike in eastern Pennsylvania, an area that contained the majority of the nation's supply of anthracite coal. As the winter of approached President Theodore Roosevelt became concerned that a heating crisis could develop and attempted to intervene unsuccessfully. Industrialist and financier J. Morgan believed the strike could threaten his businesses and made a deal with the union. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Following World War I, United States Steel Corporation workers represented by the American Federation of Labor AFL organized a strike against poor working conditions, long hours, low wages and corporate harassment regarding union involvement. The number of strikers quickly grew to ,, shutting down nearly half of the steel industry. Company owners, however, invoked public concerns over communism and immigration as a way of turning public sentiment against the unions. This resulted in the strike's failure and ensured an absence of union organization in the steel industry for the next 15 years. In early July of that year, rail shop laborers from a conglomeration of unions went on strike. The great American railroads responded, immediately employing nonunion workers to replace three-quarters of the empty positions. After the strike had lasted for some time, U. Attorney General Harry Daugherty persuaded a federal judge to ban all strike-related activities. The unions knew the ban put an end to their efforts and settled in October for a 5 cent pay cut and went back to work. The United Textile Workers UTW organized, to walk out for just over 20 days, but a lack of outside support and an excess of textile materials, especially in the Southern states, forced the strike to end without any of the original demands being

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met. Union spirit reached new lows in the following years and many workers were blacklisted as a result. The strike came at a time when the national economy was recovering from the second World War , and president Truman saw the UMWAs actions as counterproductive to national industrial recovery. Truman approached the union with a settlement. Noticing this, the nations steelworkers, represented by the United Steelworkers of America, demanded higher wages. At the same time, management was working against the union to lose a contract clause that protected worker jobs and hours. This conflict resulted in a ,worker strike, the effects of which were felt throughout the industry. In the end, the union received wage increases and preserved the contract clause. Increased dissatisfaction with wages, working conditions, benefits and management led the postal workers in New York City to strike. Encouraged by New Yorks example, postal workers nationwide followed suit. With mail and parcel delivery at a standstill, Nixon ordered the National Guard to replace the striking workers a measure that proved ineffective. The strike was so effective that within two weeks negotiations took place. The unions demands for higher wages and improved conditions were largely met, and they were granted the right to negotiate. They were looking for the creation of full-time jobs rather than part-time, increased wages and the retention of their multiemployer pension plan. These workers gained major support from the public and eventually had all of their demands met. What do you think?

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### Chapter 4 : UI Press | Edited by David O. Stowell | The Great Strikes of

*The Great Strikes of New perspectives on a pivotal moment in U.S. history. A spectacular example of collective protest, the Great Strike of actually a sequence of related strikes--was the first national strike and the first major strike against the railroad industry.*

The History of the U. Throughout the semester we will post original student research on topics in U. Monday, May 20, Dimotsis: The United States needed railroads to function properly in this period and the strike threatened this system. It threatened the system by bringing about much violence and disaster to not only the railroad tracks thus hurting the companies but to the cities that the tracks passed through as well. This strike also negatively affected many lives. Even though the Great Railroad Strike lasted only a couple of weeks, the violence that tore through the nation had effects that lasted much longer. There is not one single reason why this strike occurred but many reasons that all came together to bring about this catastrophic event. One reason is that there was a reduction in wages. Garrett, said in a letter to his railroad employees, that the pay of every company employee who received more than one dollar a day would be reduced by ten percent on and after July 16, . In addition, many people were still affected by the Panic of so lowering the already low wages outraged many railroad workers that needed the money to survive. Without an increase in the size of the crew, these workers would be working much harder for the same wages. The workers at the Pennsylvania Railroad responded by taking control of the switches at the rail yard, which then blocked the movement of the trains. They definitely did not deserve their wages being cut or the workload increasing at the same time. For them the solution was simple: On July 13, , right after the Baltimore and Ohio Company cut wages by ten percent again forty workers walked out of the job. This starts the Great Railroad Strike of . By the end of July 13, workers successfully blocked freight trains around the Baltimore area and in West Virginia. These workers only allowed passenger traffic flow to go by. Soon this strike escalated into violence. Louis and Kansas City. Some governors called in the state militias to help get the violence under control. The militia in many places responded with more violence; they fired their bayonets at the strikers and innocent people were caught up in the fighting. When the mobs fought back against the militias with fierce violence governors in some states, like Maryland, asked President Rutherford Hayes if he could send in the troops because of how bad the violence was. Some saw the strike as reasonable and empathized with the railroad workers. This occurred in Pittsburgh. The National Guard came in, and like militias in other cities, they used intense violence to push back the strikers. The National Guard fired into a group; they not only hurt strikers but innocents as well. Twenty civilians were killed which included at least three young children. The Lexington of the Labor Conflict at Hand. The Slaughter of Innocents. Also on July 25, , violence broke out in Chicago when five thousand vigilantes came in to try to restore order but their presence ended up only increasing the bloodshed. The day later was even worse, as more violence broke out which resulted in the death of eighteen people. Pittsburgh was hit hard with the violence. First, the National Guards shot into crowds, hitting innocents. Secondly, fires went through the city, burning over thirty buildings almost fifty passenger cars on trains as well as over a thousand freight cars. There were millions in damages. By the end of the strike, about forty people were killed in just Pittsburgh alone. Over the entire country, there were more than a hundred deaths. At the full strike, fourteen thousand rioters took to the street to wreak mayhem. It seems like chaos was the norm for this strike. The main activity of the strikers was to shut down the freight traffic on the railroads. On July 21st , strikers in the east of St. Louis shut down the freight traffic there and not long after the 24th, mobs that were in Chicago closed railroads in Baltimore, Maryland as well as railroads in Illinois and Ohio. Strikers in other cities later that day also shut down their railroads as well. There were certain groups who were blamed for the Great Railroad Strike of . Many people believed that foreigners were to blame. Some people blamed the violence on Bohemians and Germans; while others say the event was a lot like how Paris was during the reign of the Commune that happened in not long before the strike. Another possible theory is that the strike came

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out of Marxist ideas that in some states made anti-union sentiment grow. A prominent person, Governor Cullom of Illinois, believed that it was simply the unemployed and idle people that sparked the strike. In Chicago, the police arrested Mr. Clinch, a man who was a prominent activist of the present lawless movement. He was present during the attacks on the police and he liked to facilitate violence. It is a revolt of working men against low prices of labor, which have not been accomplished with corresponding low prices of food, clothing and house rent. One thing that this strike did do is set a precedent for strikes to come. Strikes continued throughout the 19th century as labor strikes related to the railroads occurred again from to and from the years to and finally again in The strike also misused the railroad network that was needed for national unity, without this network, chaos was wreaked throughout major cities. As much as we would wish to forget, this is a part of our history. The bloodshed is important to remember because it shows how labors can only take so much abuse before they snap, turn to violence, and scream: Louis Action Research Project. Posted by Gregory R.

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### Chapter 5 : The great strikes of - ECU Libraries Catalog

*A spectacular example of collective violence, the Great Strikes of 1877 was the first national strike and the first major strikes against the railroad industry. In some places, notably St. Louis, non-railroad workers also abandoned city businesses, creating one of the nation's first general strikes.*

Louis and the west. Many middle-class Americans saw these events as cataclysmic and deeply disturbing. A major depression settled on the nation in the 1870s beginning with a panic on Wall Street in 1873, its origins located squarely in the railroad network and economy. The violence of the Civil War was fresh, and the testing of national unity it represented equally recent. Garrett, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, issued a 10 percent pay cut in early July 1877, and B and O employees up and down the line were exasperated. Wages had been cut several times in the depression and when Garrett and his superintendent changed the operating rules for engineers to run longer trains with fewer crew members, the men went out on strike. On July 20, crowds gathered to protest the wage reduction and at 6: The conflict began that with a wage reduction on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad quickly escalated as the Governor of Maryland and the President of the B and O called not only for local militia but also federal troops to suppress the strike and reopen the railroads. The strike moved west on the B and O. Crowds of strikers and angry workers assembled in downtown Baltimore, destroyed rail property, interrupted service, and endangered citizens. And while local authorities were tentative in the face of this threat, some of them rather sympathetic to the strikers, the modern nation-state responded with federal power and force on a scale learned in the Civil War and its aftermath. Some of the greatest violence occurred in Pittsburgh where the crowd trapped the militia and torched the Pennsylvania Railroad roundhouse. Historians have treated the strike in different ways. Allen Trachtenberg, in *The Incorporation of America: Year of Violence* Bobbs-Merrill Co. The dilemma for middle-class Americans was how far to extend sympathy for the workers and where to draw the line between legitimate social protests and anarchic violence. Riot and anarchy are mere barbarism. In the local press as well, some editors adopted the language of Victorian order, but others avoided these rhetorical devices preferring to categorize the events in different terms. After the violence of the Civil War and Reconstruction, the strike appeared to middle-class Americans to be an especially ominous development. Editors focused key aspects of the strike: Concepts of anarchy and civilization, of the mob, the law, and social order were especially important in the Republican Party press accounts. Both parties focused on property and the city as the location of these events. Some of the widest differences in views came from city and town press accounts. The different scale of the event in local settings affected how participants and observers understood the strike.

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### Chapter 6 : Talk:Great Railroad Strike of - Wikipedia

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Pittsburgh railroad strike of Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania became the site of the worst violence of related strikes. Thomas Alexander Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad , described as one of the first robber barons , suggested that the strikers should be given "a rifle diet for a few days and see how they like that kind of bread. Several state militia units were ordered into service by Governor John Hartranft , including the 3rd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment under the command of Colonel George R. Strikers set fires that razed 39 buildings and destroyed rolling stock: On July 22, the militia mounted an assault on the strikers, shooting their way out of the roundhouse and killing 20 more people on their way out of the city. After more than a month of rioting and bloodshed in Pittsburgh, President Rutherford B. Hayes sent in federal troops as in West Virginia and Maryland to end the strikes and strife. Philadelphia[ edit ] Three hundred miles to the east, Philadelphia strikers battled local militia and set fire to much of Center City before Pennsylvania Governor John Hartranft gained assistance and federal troops from President Hayes to put down the uprising. This city was home of the engine works and shops of the Reading Railroad , against which engineers had struck since April State militia shot 16 citizens. Preludes to the massacre included: Workers burned down the only railroad bridge offering connections to the west, in order to prevent local militia from being mustered to actions in the state capital of Harrisburg or Pittsburgh. Authorities used state militia, local police and the Pennsylvania Pinkerton National Detective Agency in an attempt to break the strike. This militia was not mobilized by local public officials. The mayor, who owned coal mines, organized a city militia. It committed 14 civilian shooting casualties, resulting in the deaths of two persons. The posse killed or fatally wounded four and wounded an undetermined number of others, estimated at 20 to 50, according to different sources. Later the posse leader and about 20 of his men were charged with assault and murder. They were all acquitted. Under the effects of the shootings and military occupation, the miners ended their strike without gaining any of their demands. Chicago railroad strike of On July 24, rail traffic in Chicago was paralyzed when angry mobs of unemployed citizens wreaked havoc in the rail yards, shutting down both the Baltimore and Ohio and the Illinois Central railroads. Soon, other railroads throughout the state were brought to a standstill, with demonstrators shutting down railroad traffic in Bloomington , Aurora , Peoria , Decatur , Urbana and other rail centers throughout Illinois. In sympathy, coal miners in the pits at Braidwood, LaSalle , Springfield, and Carbondale went on strike as well. Judge Thomas Drummond of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit , who was overseeing numerous railroads that had declared bankruptcy in the wake of the earlier financial Panic of , ruled that "A strike or other unlawful interference with the trains will be a violation of the United States law, and the court will be bound to take notice of it and enforce the penalty. Marshals to protect the railroads, and asked for federal troops to enforce his decision: They were partially successful, and shortly thereafter were reinforced by the arrival of the Illinois National Guard and U. Army troops, mobilized by the governor. On July 25, violence between police and the mob erupted, with events reaching a peak the following day. These blood-soaked confrontations between police and enraged mobs are known as the Battle of the Viaduct as they took place near the Halsted Street viaduct, although confrontations also took place at nearby 16th Street, on 12th, and on Canal Street. An estimated 20 men and boys died, none of whom were law enforcement or troops; scores more were wounded; and the loss of property was valued in the millions of dollars. Louis general strike On July 21, disgruntled workers in the industrial rail hub of East St. Louis , Illinois, halted all freight traffic, with the city remaining in the control of the strikers for almost a week. It was a catalyst for labor unrest spreading, with thousands of workers in several industries striking for the eight-hour day and a ban on child labor. This was the first such general strike in the United States. These armed forces killed at least eighteen people in skirmishes around the city. Strike over[ edit ] The Great Railroad Strike of began to lose momentum when

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President Hayes sent federal troops from city to city. These troops suppressed strike after strike, until at last, approximately 45 days after it had started, the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 was over. Many states enacted conspiracy statutes. States formed new militia units and constructed National Guard armories in numerous industrial cities. For workers and employers alike, the strikes had shown the power of workers in combination to challenge the status quo. A state militiaman in Pittsburgh, ordered to break the strike, pointed out that the workers were driven by "one spirit and one purpose among them" that they were justified in resorting to any means to break down the power of the corporations. The Knights of Labor grew to be a national organization of predominately Catholic workers, numbering 1,000,000 by the early 1880s. In the 1880s nearly 10,000 strike actions and lockouts took place. In 1887, 100,000 workers went on strike. Business leaders strengthened their opposition to the unions, often firing men who tried to organize or join them. Nonetheless, the labor movement continued to grow. One result of the strike was increased public awareness of the grievances of railroad workers. In response, as earlier riots in the mid 1800s had prompted the modernization of police forces, the violence of 1877 provided the impetus for the formation of the modern National Guard, "to aid the civil officers, to suppress or prevent riot or insurrections. It spread across the nation halting rail traffic and closing factories in reaction to widespread worker discontent over wage cuts and conditions during a national depression. Broken by Federal troops in early August, the strike energized the labor movement and was precursor to labor unrest in the 1890s and 1900s.

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### Chapter 7 : The Great Strikes of by David O. Stowell

*The Great Railroad Strike Of Moves On To The Pennsylvania Railroad This was the last notable incident along the B&O, although strikes soon flared up elsewhere. The Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) of , like the Baltimore & Ohio, was generally despised due to its poor working conditions and even poorer pay.*

Personal use only; commercial use is strictly prohibited for details see Privacy Policy and Legal Notice. Once focused closely on institutional dynamics in the workplace and electoral politics, labor history has expanded and refined its approach to include questions about the families, communities, identities, and cultures workers have developed over time. Particularly important are the ways that workers both defined and were defined by differences of race, gender, ethnicity, class, and place. Individual workers and organized groups of working Americans both transformed and were transformed by the main struggles of the industrial era, including conflicts over the place of former slaves and their descendants in the United States, mass immigration and migrations, technological change, new management and business models, the development of a consumer economy, the rise of a more active federal government, and the evolution of popular culture. The period between and saw a crucial transition in the labor and working-class history of the United States. At its outset, Americans were working many more hours a day than the eight for which they had fought hard in the late 19th century. On average, Americans labored fifty-four to sixty-three hours per week in dangerous working conditions approximately 35, workers died in accidents annually at the turn of the century. By , half of all Americans lived in growing urban neighborhoods, and for many of them chronic unemployment, poverty, and deep social divides had become a regular part of life. Workers had little power in either the Democratic or Republican party. The ranks of organized labor were shrinking in the years before the economy began to recover in . Dreams of a more democratic alternative to wage labor and corporate-dominated capitalism had been all but destroyed. Workers struggled to find their place in an emerging consumer-oriented culture that assumed everyone ought to strive for the often unattainable, and not necessarily desirable, marks of middle-class respectability. Yet American labor emerged from World War II with the main sectors of the industrial economy organized, with greater earning potential than any previous generation of American workers, and with unprecedented power as an organized interest group that could appeal to the federal government to promote its welfare. The labor and working-class history of the United States between and , then, is the story of how working-class individuals, families, and communitiesâ€”members of an extremely diverse American working classâ€”managed to carve out positions of political, economic, and cultural influence, even as they remained divided among themselves, dependent upon corporate power, and increasingly invested in a individualistic, competitive, acquisitive culture. In the eyes of the law, Americans generallyâ€”with the exception of married white womenâ€”had a responsibility to work, but their sole right at work was the right to quit. Great changes were taking place, yet Americans generally believed that even more change was needed if the republic were to survive and thrive in the industrial era. In the workplace as much as in surrounding communities, Americans feared the implications of this new era of global economic expansion. Political and ideological violence may have been rare, but when violence broke out, it both stigmatized and divided labor groups, even as it brought swift reactions from local police, private detective firms, and state and federal officials. The labor violence and economic upheavals of the late 19th century had been horrific enough to convince many powerful Americans that reform was necessary. In , Republican president William McKinley, who would be assassinated in by the anarchist Leon Czolgosz, appointed the United States Industrial Commission to study the causes of labor violence. At the same time, a broad group of largely middle-class and elite Americans, soon to be known as Progressives, set out to document and then ameliorate the worst forms of corruption in the economy and politics, and to soften the edges of the new industrial system by making workplaces, consumer products, and neighborhoods safer and healthier. There was no single Progressive Era social movement; rather, reformers sought everything from antitrust legislation, shorter

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working hours, and safer workplaces to bans on child labor, protective legislation for female workers, and reforms that would clean up manufacturing and the political process. These top-down reform effortsâ€”efforts that emphasized the need for greater efficiency and order in the economy and at the workplaceâ€”would be deeply ambiguous for workers. But they reflected an important move away from the commitments to Social Darwinism and laissez-faire principles that had defined the Gilded Age. Progressive reform itself could become a form of social control. For most workers, the greatest fears derived from the accelerating changes at the workplace that were well underway by the turn of the century. There were benefits as production skyrocketed across the economy. Whereas the pick miner in a coal shaft produced 2. Simultaneously, the kinds of occupations Americans held and their experiences at work changed dramatically, not always for the worse. Gangs of day laborers were transformed into legions of semiskilled workers running transportation and equipment handling machines. Skilled, independent workers in iron and steel production became semiskilled machinists and repair technicians. These mechanized factories also required the development of a whole new set of tool-and-die makers. Overall, there was an upward leveling effect of mechanization. Between and , the proportion of unskilled workers in industrial work fell from 36 to Black men, when they were not stuck in sharecropping or tenant farming, were generally relegated to the hot, heavy, hard jobs, and most black women were forced to accept the long hours and lack of independence in domestic service. As early as , two-thirds of American workers were wage laborers, with little hope of opening their own shops or owning their own farms. By , no more than one-fifth of the population of the United States were self-employed. Nativism was on the rise, and workers were divided by skill, craft, race, gender, and region. On the other hand, business leaders and their allies in politics and the press played workers of different backgrounds against one another in order to undercut the possibility of shared militancy. It would be difficult, even for the most privileged workers, to fight for a place in the system. Fighting for a Place in the System With a significant economic recovery underway in , American labor leaders began a new organizing push, primarily through the American Federation of Labor AFL , railroad brotherhoods, and various unaffiliated unions. These organizations largely excluded racial minorities and women, and this model of organizing sought to come to terms with, rather than to transform, corporate dominance of the industrial economy. It is true, however, that the AFL assumed that trade unionists would speak for all American workers in the political sphere. The railroad brotherhoods exerted significant, if informal, political influence through allies like Theodore Roosevelt in the Republican Party. Many, though hardly all, employers had initially accepted the rise of the AFL, even going as far as voluntarily recognizing unions and forming the National Civic Federation, a coalition of labor and business leaders seeking cooperation in the economy. Employers divided workers by national origin and regularly employed strikebreaking replacement workers. As a result of such attacks on organized labor, membership in unions actually dropped in and remained stagnant for the next five years. These were important gains for workers, but they remained limited in no small part by the failure of the AFL to imagine an alliance with the vast majority of unorganized workers. Radical Alternatives in the Progressive Era Workers frustrated with the exclusionary practices and political moderation of the AFL could turn to an embattled world of labor radicalism which was going through something of a renaissance after the defeats of the s and s. American radicalsâ€”led by the socialist Eugene V. Within a decade the SP had built more than three thousand local branches and forty-two state organizations. Dozens of candidates affiliated with the new party won municipal and county elections on town squares stretching from Texas through Illinois to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Debs, won , votes in his run for the presidency in and more than a million votes for president in , while he was in prison after being convicted of sedition during World War I. Although workers suffered oppressive conditions in sweatshops, they were isolated from the rest of the workforce, and they could not take action directly against the manufacturers. But as manufacturers moved production to larger factories in order to produce standardized clothing and to distance themselves from the increasingly negative reputation of sweatshopsâ€”spread by Progressive reformersâ€”the larger shops also brought unskilled workers out of their relative isolation. Working conditions did not necessarily improve in larger shops, but opportunities to build

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worker solidarity presented themselves. After years of suffering, garment workers organizing came in quick surges: In one of the most dramatic moments in U. Speaking in Yiddish, she called her fellow garment workers to action. Within two days, approximately 20, workers from factories were on strike. These events also revealed the politicization of immigrant women in the industry and showed that immigrant workers could be organized, contrary to much AFL commentary. Along with the United Mineworkers, the garment workers forged a new model of unionism, demonstrating that a pragmatic industrial unionism could succeed as well as the more hidebound craft unionism of the AFL. In this, the new unions were important exceptions to the rule of non-socialist craft organizing of the era. Roosevelt Library Photographs, "Franklin D. Founded in Chicago in , the IWW took inspiration from a group from the Western Federation of Miners who had been radicalized during a series of violent strikes in Idaho, Montana, and Colorado. IWW membership peaked at , in , riding a wave of important victories and broader socialist sentiment. The IWW sustained a thread of American radicalism that otherwise might have been lost. In the electoral arena, the SP never managed to reach the status of a viable third national party. Moreover, to the extent that Socialist politicians, such as Victor Berger and his allies in Milwaukee, made gains toward practical reform, they also distanced themselves from the more radical class politics of much of the American left. Similarly, when socialist trade unionists rose to the leadership ranks in AFL unions, their pragmatism emerged. The IWW "in part because the Wobblies had some success, and in part because they sustained an unflagging rhetorical radicalism" also became the target of government and vigilante repression. During World War I, 1, miners suspected of being aligned with the IWW in Bisbee, Arizona, were rounded up, forced onto a freight train at gunpoint, and abandoned in the desert without food or water for a day and half before a nearby military commander arranged for their extradition to New Mexico. At the same time, the federal government raided IWW offices across the country and convicted hundreds of Wobblies for antiwar speech. In the end, the IWW became one of the driving forces behind the rise of the American Civil Liberties Union and the push for protections of free speech during and after World War I, but the Wobblies could not save themselves from this repression. By the end of the war, with many of its leaders imprisoned, deported, or having fled the country, the IWW was unable to sustain itself as an institution. Still more obstacles stood in the way of mass labor organizing in the first decades of the 20th century. Chief among them were the racial and ethnic divisions that ran through the shop floors of American industry. Historians have examined in great detail the intraclass racism that blocked white workers from acting in ways that would have been truly class-conscious. Between the late 19th century and World War I, tens of thousands of black workers gained access to unions, some all-black but some biracial in organization. Yet unions often acted as agents of division; some included racial exclusion clauses in their constitutions, while others gave lip service to solidarity while declaring that, in practice, black workers would undercut the wages and opportunities of white workers. Black workers, they feared, could outwork white workers, and black workers would do it on the cheap. Caucasian civilization will serve notice that its uplifting process is not to be interfered with in any such way. The black political leader Ida B. Workers and labor reformers also struggled to organize during one the most conservative eras in United States judicial history. In its decision in *Lochner v. New York* U. Also in , the Court found that labor boycotts of employers had been banned by the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. Even when the Court did support the constitutionality of reform measures, as in the *Muller v. The Railway Labor Act* required railway industry employers to engage in collective bargaining and banned discrimination against unions in the railway industry this was expanded to airlines in By , then, in the face of much judicial resistance, legislators had responded to growing public alarm by initiating a revolution in labor law that would come to fruition when the Supreme Court upheld the National Labor Relations Act. The federal government spurred a national mobilization of the workforce and economic resources, while coordinating industrial planning. Although the government went so far as to take over the railroads, the federal intervention in the economy hardly represented wartime socialism. In essence, the federal government forged a larger role in managing the economy with the primary goal of efficient war-related production. This managed economy also facilitated the private accumulation of capital for

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employers and benefited masses of workers. Why was this a boon for unions and workers? In the first place, the wartime economy required labor peace. Therefore, the federal government facilitated the formation and growth of unions. At the same time, the wartime economic boom required many new workers. With the end of European immigration and the draft of white men into the military, women and African Americans found new opportunities.

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### Chapter 8 : The History of the U.S. Working Class: Dimotsis: Great Railroad Strike of

*The Great Railroad Strike of , sometimes referred to as the Great Upheaval, began on July 14 in Martinsburg, West Virginia, United States after the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) cut wages for the third time in a year.*

Unfortunately, in a time when blue collar employees enjoyed virtually no job protections, these measures made it virtually impossible for workers to fight back. It also had a secondary effect of bringing about federal oversight and laws to protect employees on the job. To make matters worse the financial Panic of crippled the nation and put many Americans out of work. Stowell, there were around 30 national and international trade unions operating within the United States just prior to the panic. At the time, the country was enjoying a great economic boom in the peacetime that followed the Civil War. By contrast, only 6, miles were added in the four years after the economic downturn That year, the Northern Pacific Railway, attempting to complete the first transcontinental railroad into the Pacific Northwest, was having considerable difficulty earning enough revenue to garner further interest in the continued sale of its bonds. With no federal support, railroads were quick to implement wage cuts in response to declining revenue, despite the fact dividends continued to be paid. However, a series of events a few years prior could be argued as its starting point; between November, and July, workers struck along eighteen different railroads in a response to a series of initial wage cuts. For railroads, the usual tactic to quell such unrest was simply firing and blacklisting any worker s involved. What followed was a series of related events that never gained any effective traction in breaking the draconian rule large corporations held over their workers. Empathy was sometimes expressed in local media outlets but no national change ever came about since big business controlled the political arena. As a result, it was very difficult for organized labor to gain any significant headway in its drive for better pay, consistent hours, and federal job protections. Only the latter, with some 10, members strong, held any significance but its powers were minor due to a lack of federal and state support. He also refused to stand with workers outside the union in a unified effort to bring about change. Nevertheless, many, whether part of organized labor or not, felt their condition bleak by Not only had many railroads implemented deep cuts but also provided employees with virtually no expensive coverages. For instance, they were often required to stay in opulent, railroad-owned hotels when away from home, pay for their own return tickets, and, of course, cover all other expenses such as meals while away. In response, the fireman of locomotive 32, leading a train about to depart Camden Junction, Maryland Baltimore , walked off the job that day. His move triggered several fellow firemen to do the same. Latrope, to mobilize the police. This act of force worked and would be used time again to stop such uprisings along other railroads. The latter did so for the same reason as the railroaders, wage reductions in their respective field. Instead, they focused only on holding freight movements, the primary profit component of any railroad From this point tensions escalated quickly. The railroaders were simply after better pay, enough to feed and provide housing for their families, but unfortunately were painted as rioters, vagrants, and disrupters of the peace. In some newspapers they were even pegged as shadow communists, a ridiculous claim which held no merit. But with the political cards in their favor, the railroads enjoyed all the power. Mathews, to call up the local militia to break the strike. Under guard, a scab engineer i. Determined to stop this, striker William P. Vandergriff wound up in a skirmish with militiamen. After an exchange of gunfire he was hit three times and later died. Despite his death, the skirmish spooked the scab who abandon his train. By this time the strike was garnering national attention as more and more papers picked up the story, particularly following the Vandergriff incident. On the morning of July 19th Army regulars arrived in Martinsburg but were surprised to almost nothing out of place. There was no property destruction significance disturbance ongoing. Most notable was back in Baltimore where the strikes had continued but had remained largely quiet and uneventful affairs. The railroad was backed by militia later reduced to 59 when the others lost interest ; with this show of force an effort was made to get the trains moving. Perhaps not expecting such strong local support, the remaining soldiers were pelted with stones and shouts. They responded by opening fire on the crowd. What was later

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dubbed the "Second Battle Of Bunker Hill," resulted in 11 people losing their lives with 40 others wounded. The rioters and townfolk attempted to burn down the structure but were ultimately unsuccessful. Over the following weekend the incident subsided, aided by 1, federal troops to restore peace. It further stipulated that fewer crewmen would be utilized during this time, all the while refusing to implement safety devices like the knuckle coupler and automatic air brake. By and large the PRR had received nothing more than complaints when carrying out similar actions elsewhere across its system. With the workers recognizing the ordeal in Martinsburg, and already upset over their own wage cuts, two brakemen and one flagman of an eastbound freight train departing Pittsburgh on July 19th at 8: With support of the local populace they attempted arbitration, which proved unsuccessful. Latta Governor John F. Early on the morning of July 21st, men departed for the Steel City, acquiring two Gatling Guns and ammunition along the way in Harrisburg. That afternoon the militia arrived and were greeted with a growing crowd of on-lookers, the curious, passers-by, strikers, and sympathizers many of whom were employed in other trades. As the crowd became incensed, the troops were ordered to charge with fixed bayonets. Several civilians were stabbed, which only escalated the violence. The crowd then pelted the soldiers with stones whereupon the order was given to open fire. When it was over, 20 people were dead including one woman and three children and another 29 injured. The enraged crowd then began burning railroad property and took great prejudice in destroying everything the PRR owned from the roundhouse to 23rd Street. The militiamen holed up in the roundhouse managed to save the structure, and their lives, by using a water hose. The following morning they finally exited the building, as peace returned to the city. While more soldiers were brought in they were not needed as the citizenry essentially policed themselves. For the PRR, however, its issues were not over; in nearby Allegheny City, the railroad found itself with another mess. Workers there had also requested arbitration and, after being denied, stopped all traffic. He proved quite effective, wielding a great deal of support from not only fellow his workers but also the general public. However, after he attempted to operations to the company on July 24th he was overruled and resigned his position. The workers may not have been completely aware of what they had started as the strike had now fully engaged the nation. Throughout Pennsylvania, both railroaders and general laborers had struck in an act of unity for better pay and working conditions. In some cases violence broke out and people were shot although most often the protests were peaceful. Headed by Franklin B. It moved substantial anthracite coal from mines in northeastern Pennsylvania and controlled several area railroads. When troops arrived, a few men pelted them with stones and bricks. The soldiers immediately opened fire and once it was over, some 10 bystanders were killed and other 40 wounded. Before of their refusal to work coal miners were also forced off the job and by July 29th some 35, regional workers were idle! In a last resort effort to end the stoppage, Scranton Mayor Robert H. Afterwards, the state sought, and received, federal support with troops arriving on July 27th. Following 12 days of interruptions, the PRR and Reading returned to normal operations on July 31st while service to Scranton resumed August 2nd interestingly, the miners continued to strike until forced back to work by the presence of federal troops in mid-October. This town was the junction of its three primary main lines and included the Buffalo Division, Susquehanna Division, and Allegheny Division. At first, the workers did nothing. It began a chain reaction which spread to other major Erie division points. While violence often followed such decisions it did not always the case. This was the case in Hornellsville where the militia did little to stop the strikes. Interestingly, things were not quite over in nearby Buffalo. In an interesting turn of events, president William H. Vanderbilt handled the event quite differently. He largely chose to ignore it and stopped all service, despite Governor Robinson calling out National Guardsmen once more. Louis, Columbus, Newark Ohio , and Indianapolis. All told, more than people lost their lives during the bloodshed, many of who were not striking at all. Despite being painted as villains by the every railroad virtually all of the walkouts had been peaceful. While the Great Strike would be deemed a failure from a technical standpoint its long-term prospects were much more encouraging. The working public quickly realized they had more power than previously realized. Not all were enacted but the Great Railroad Strike of was nevertheless a catalyst which eventually saw many come to pass. The afterbirth indicates the serious

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nature of a nativity. Capitalists may stuff cotton in their ears, the subsidized press may write with apparent indifference, as boys whistle when passing a graveyard, but those who understand the forces at work in society know already that America will never be the same again. For decades, yes centuries to come, our nation will feel the effects of the tidal wave that swept over it for two weeks in July. In addition, safety became a much more prominent issue; on March 2, , Congress passed the Safety Appliance Act which went into effect in  
Once put into widespread practice, accidents on the jobs dramatically decreased.

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### Chapter 9 : Railroad Strike of | [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com)

*Railroad Strike of United States Synopsis. In an explosion of working-class protest rocked the United States, the railroad strike of 1877, which began as a more or less spontaneous railway workers strike, it became generalized into a nationwide crescendo of street protests and pitched battles.*

People are getting ticked off. Capitalists Samuel Gompers - Side of strikers. Railroads had been built, the union was preserved, other technology like the telephone and engines were being created and things looked prosperous. There was a huge economic depression happening that left millions unemployed. Strikes and unions had happened before, where the workers tried to seam the gap between them and their employer in terms of wage and rights. However, nothing as large scale as this happened before: Sheriffs, militia, and then federal troops all tried to stop the strike but the strikers were joined by miners and canal workers, and some of the militias sent were sympathetic, so they were unsuccessful. The incidents began in Martinsburg and were repeated across the country - not all strikes were well organized though, and were usually were handled. The railroad was using "doubleheaders" - trains that had two engines and pulled twice the amount of cars, which were more dangerous, required more work, and required less people more layoffs - so a strike ensued. State militia called in, but then the soldiers laid down their guns in sympathy. Then Philadelphia troops were called in, women and children threw rocks and then the militia opened fire and killed The strikers then burned the roundhouse, tore up tracks, and destroyed 2, cars and engines. This spread across the country and gripped more and more parts of the industry America depended on. The state militias got better at handling the issues and was able to return the workers to their jobs, rarely with concessions from their employer. Around people were killed from the strikes. The documents About how individuals responded and about the strikes themselves. But now, power has been fixed to one set of hands so badly that the conditions are like Sweden; the rich sit on the poor and make a broken feudal system. We made the country flourish and the rich turned it against us to end out on top. This is like places in Europe, which also experience war and discontent and rebellion. We do not want to make threats or cause issues, we want to resolve this correctly. When you invest, you need to treat the laborers higher than yourself - you needed labor to make the project, labor should yield the first fruits of profit. Who should suffer more - the capitalist in his pocket or the laborer in his stomach? And we should be given wages to live, just like the government regulates health and light and water. These are rapidly spreading all over the country. This is a stain on peace and tranquility with riots and bloodshed. These riots are out of control and clearly not fit to actually genuinely be asking for fairer rights like a normal person would ask for them. Other dissatisfactions caused people to cause damage to property and undo work on trains and carts and engines. The government uses our tracks for mail and other services. Perhaps the federal government should be protecting our railways. These riots have successfully bypassed state laws and the barbarism could be detrimental to the country. This could inspire other people to turn to mischief, especially the unemployed. Pinkerton was a private detective - during the civil war, he provided the government often incorrect information about confederate troops. Afterwards he started using his services in the private sector. He assumed the Great Strike of was a conspiracy to destroy the country from Europe. Nobody benefited from the strikes either, it just caused trauma and gave bad reputations and caused damage. The riot is a construct from Europe, imported to America. Workingmen were discontented because demand for labor and wages decreased, and once the discontentment caught on, it spread like fire. So, demonstrations took place, with the police helping us and not opposing us. We tried to be constructive and find options for unemployed people and badly treated workers. The Mayor ignored us - but revolt brought us a whisper of hope. Weakness of movements made it a struggle, but different groups of people working in different fields joined the strikes. Organizer for these strikes and the movement. The sheriffs were lawless and reckless and they caused a lot of damage. There was a law to make sure strikes were safer. One night, there was a riot where someone got oil, soaked box cars, lit it, and the roundhouse caught fire. The strikers were charged, but the criminals were

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hoodlums backed by the business owners. The actual strikers cared about not causing damage. The laborers just had to take the blame, and they must suffer for others. The government should take care of the citizens paternally? A source of oppression! Government needs to be "hands-off", the government should only protect some rights so we can get on our own ways. Anything else is against natural law - the great should be great and the little should be little. Likewise, anyone can work whenever they please, wherever they please, to the rules of the free market.