

chapter 14 section 3 big business labor answer key

Chapter 14 Section 3 Big Business Labor Answer Key is a crucial topic for understanding the dynamics between labor movements and the rise of big businesses in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This section delves into the complex relationships and tensions between labor unions and large corporations, highlighting key events, figures, and legislative acts that shaped the labor landscape. Understanding this chapter is essential for grasping how labor organizations fought for workers' rights and how big businesses responded to these movements.

Understanding Big Business and Labor Relations

The rise of big business in America fundamentally altered the labor landscape. As industrialization took hold, large corporations began to dominate the economy, leading to significant changes in labor relations.

The Emergence of Big Business

1. **Industrialization:** The late 1800s saw a rapid increase in industrial activity, leading to the formation of large corporations. Industries such as steel, oil, and railroads grew exponentially.
2. **Key Figures:** Important industrialists like John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and J.P. Morgan played pivotal roles in shaping the business environment. Their strategies often involved aggressive tactics to eliminate competition and maximize profits.
3. **Monopolies and Trusts:** Big businesses often formed monopolies or trusts, consolidating power and limiting competition. This led to calls for regulation and reform, as the unchecked power of these corporations posed a threat to the economy and society.

The Rise of Labor Unions

As big businesses flourished, workers began to organize in response to poor working conditions, low wages, and long hours.

1. **Formation of Unions:**
 - The Knights of Labor (founded in 1869) aimed to unite all workers, regardless of skill level, race, or gender.
 - The American Federation of Labor (AFL), established in 1886, focused on skilled workers and sought to negotiate better wages and working conditions.

2. Labor Strikes: Strikes became a common tactic for unions:

- The Great Railroad Strike of 1877, which began in West Virginia, spread across the nation.
- The Haymarket Affair in 1886, which started as a peaceful rally in support of workers striking for an eight-hour workday, ended in violence and legal repercussions for labor leaders.

3. Legislative Support: The federal government often sided with businesses during labor disputes, using troops to break strikes and enforce court injunctions against union activities.

Key Events in Labor History

Several significant events marked the labor movement's struggle against big business, demonstrating the contentious relationship between the two.

The Pullman Strike (1894)

- Background: The Pullman Company, which manufactured railroad cars, cut wages while maintaining high rents in company-owned housing.
- Strike and Federal Intervention: The American Railway Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, supported the strike. The federal government intervened, citing disruption of mail delivery, and sent troops to break the strike, leading to violence.
- Impact: The strike highlighted the lengths to which the government would go to protect business interests over workers' rights.