

## **GLOSSARY AND CREDITS**

Unit two covers the latter half of the nineteenth century, as America came of age. It was a period of ups and downs, successes and failures, greatness and mediocrity. The era began with well-intentioned plans for Reconstruction ending in failure. At the same time, an industrial revolution was beginning to pick up steam; this transformed America from an agrarian society to an industrial giant. Reconstruction and the Industrial Revolution set off a wave of profound cultural, religious, social, and political changes. The United States was ready for its entrance onto the world stage.

### **Chapter 1 - Reconstruction**

The first section covers the years of Reconstruction and the effect it had on American society. Everyone saw the need for helping the South overcome the ravages of civil war, but they could not come up with a plan all could agree on. Consequently, while some good did materialize, Reconstruction failed to address the issue of racism in America. This failure fostered a policy of "separate but equal" that was to dominate the race issue for another century.

### **Chapter 2 - Social Growing Pains Emerge**

Chapter two highlights enormous social, economic, political, and religious changes that took place in America from 1877 to 1890. Although each was a separate issue, they were intrinsically intertwined by the fundamental belief that America was destined for greatness.

Issues of race, women's rights, immigration, and conflict with indigenous peoples dominated social policies. The Industrial Revolution brought into focus the need for changes in labor and immigration laws. Religious revivals and new ideas about the role of religion in causes saw an increase in social activism.

### **Chapter 3 - Economic and Political Change**

The change from being an agricultural society to an industrial giant created many opportunities and new headaches. Immigrants poured into the country seeking jobs. The discovery of oil and innovations in manufacturing made some people millionaires. The American middle class was born and, in the process, became a political force in its

own right. Labor unions surfaced en masse across the country demanding better hours, pay, and safety. American-made products were being shipped overseas in record amounts. It also became apparent that Federal regulation was needed, as some companies came to monopolize various industries. At the same time, a series of close presidential elections and the rise of political machines sparked a resurgence of interest in politics.

## VOCABULARY

abate	to lessen or decrease in size
adept	to be an expert or proficient in something
advocate	to strongly support a person or cause
allegiance	to claim loyalty toward a person or nation
amendment	a change in a legal document, such as the Constitution
auspices	under the direction or teaching of another
autonomy	the state of being independent or practicing self-rule
burgeoning	quickly and methodically growing or expanding
carpetbagger	a Northerner who moved to the South during Reconstruction
clambering	scrambling or climbing quickly toward something
compulsory	required of all people in a particular group
conjunction	a state of being combined or included with something else
consternation	fear, alarm, or anxiety about a situation
cumbersome	awkward, bulky, or difficult to deal with
debacle	a major mess, problem, or disaster
disenfranchise	to prevent a person from enjoying a privilege, such as voting
eclectic	describes something that uses information from a variety of sources

encroach	the act of trespassing or intruding on another person's land
exacerbate	to make something worse than it already is
facilitate	to make something easier to accomplish; to help
fluctuate	to change back and forth, such as prices going up and down
fruition	a state of being where something has reached its conclusion or outcome
inception	the beginning; the start
monopolize	to control all of a product or another person's time
nativism	favoritism toward the native-born citizens of a country
politicking	the process and actions of campaigning or running for office
posturing	a type of exaggerated behavior for the purpose of impressing others
racism	a belief that one race is superior to other races
ratify	to officially endorse or approve something, usually a document
receivership	the act of turning over a business to an independent entity while going through bankruptcy
rote	a method of learning by repeating something over and over again
scalawag	a Southern white who joined the Republican Party during Reconstruction
sedition	the act of inciting rebellion against a government
servitude	the state of being ruled by another as a punishment

trust	a system of commerce in which several companies work together to control prices and limit competition
unfettered	not limited by restrictions or regulations
unscrupulous	dishonest or untrustworthy, especially in dealings with others