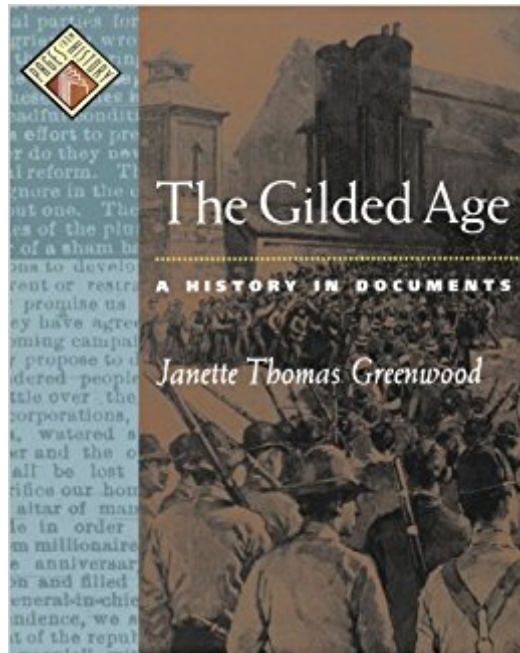




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The Gilded Age: A History In Documents (Pages From History)



Synopsis

When many Americans think of the Gilded Age, they picture the mansions at Newport, Rhode Island, or the tenements of New York City. Indeed, the late 19th century was a period of extreme poverty thinly veiled by fabulous wealth. However, we should not remember the era only for the strides made by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie or social reformer Jane Addams. All Americans had to adjust to the dynamic social and economic changes of the Gilded Age--the booming industries, growing cities, increased ethnic and cultural diversity. African American W. E. B. Du Bois, Native American Sitting Bull, and Chinese American Saum Song Bo spoke out against racial injustice. European immigrants Mary Antin and Robert Ferrari suffered the pitfalls and praised the opportunities found in their new country. Pioneer Phoebe Judson lamented the loneliness of making a life out West. And workers at Homestead Steel lost their lives in an attempt to improve labor conditions. Drawing from the letters, memoirs, newspaper articles, journals, and speeches of Gilded Age Americans, author Janette Greenwood arranges all of these voices to tell a story more vibrant and textured than the simple tale of robber baron versus starving poor. In addition to these voices, visuals--such as advertisements, maps, political cartoons, and a picture essay on Jacob Riis urban photographs--create a kaleidoscopic view of the quarter century when diverse Americans struggled for the same goal: a better way of life, with more justice and democracy for each and all. Textbooks may interpret history, but the books in the Pages from History series are history. Each title, compiled and edited by a prominent historian, is a collection of primary sources relating to a particular topic of historical significance. Documentary evidence including news articles, government documents, memoirs, letters, diaries, fiction, photographs, and facsimiles allows history to speak for itself and turns every reader into a historian. Headnotes, extended captions, sidebars, and introductory essays provide the essential context that frames the documents. All the books are amply illustrated and each includes a documentary picture essay, chronology, further reading, source notes, and index.

Book Information

Series: Pages from History

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (May 29, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195166388

ISBN-13: 978-0195166385

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 0.4 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #639,244 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > United States > 19th Century](#) #5149 in [Books > Textbooks](#)

[> Humanities > History > United States](#) #28171 in [Books > History > Americas > United States](#)

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up-This series entry brings to life an exciting time in U.S. history. During the last 25 years of the 19th century, immense wealth coexisted with extreme poverty, new inventions appeared, and industrialization and immigration were transforming the country's social fabric. Greenwood discusses the period objectively in a concise, lively commentary that frames scores of primary sources and black-and-white reproductions and photos that effectively capture most aspects of post-Civil War America. Among the written documents are a labor-movement recruitment song, interviews with black "Exodusters" in Kansas, the reminiscences of Andrew Carnegie, essays for and against the Spanish-American War and territorial expansion, and a Scribner's magazine editorial defining the proper place of middle-class women. Coverage of women and minorities is noteworthy. A fine source for both school assignments and browsing pleasure. Starr E. Smith, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 6-12. In a satirical novel that gave the Gilded Age its name, Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner depicted the post-Civil War years as rampantly prosperous, materialistic, and corrupt. But, as Greenwood shows in this multidimensional text, the period was actually as diverse as any time in U.S. history. Including a broad range of documents, which she defines as everything from diaries and editorial cartoons to mail-order catalogs and family photographs, she gives her book broad appeal. There's plenty to absorb and much to capture the imagination. Two-thirds of each spread is devoted to text that blends extensive author-driven information with excerpts from various documents. The remainder of the spread comprises quotations, photos, drawings, and brief articles that add dimension to the main narrative. Covering topics from immigration, farming, and labor to the West, women, and leisure, Greenwood presents the history as a seamless tapestry sewn by the people who lived it. Roger Leslie Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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