**As you read the following chapters, take notes using each theme and give specific examples that you can use if writing about any of these themes.**

**Chapter 23 - Political Paralysis in the Gilded Age**

The over-arching theme of chapter 23 is that the Republicans and Democrats fell into an era of do-little politics. Each was concerned only with getting their party reelected.

1. President Ulysses S. Grant’s administration was riddled with corruption. Grant himself was clean, but many others were not and Grant was unwilling to fire them.
2. The political parties fell into the trap of serving themselves more than the people. Their top priority was to get their party reelected. As a result, little actually got done in the government.
3. Tensions rose over race and ethnicity. When the U.S. Army pulled out of the South as part of the Compromise of 1877, Reconstruction was over and southern blacks were left to fend for themselves. Also, anti-Chinese sentiment ran high and the Chinese were actually banned from immigration.
4. The government did reach the billion dollar level for the first time. This was largely due to military pension plans. The plans were very popular and revealed the goal of the legislators—pass something that will get me reelected.
5. Populism started. This was a farmer and worker movement that sought to clean up the government, bring it back to the people, and help the working man out.

**Chapter 24 - Industry Comes of Age**

The over-arching theme of chapter 24 is that America’s economy turns from agricultural and handiwork to industrial and machine work.

1. Before the Civil War, railroads had become important. After the war, railroads boomed and were critical to the nation. Railroads, along with steel, were to be the skeleton on which the nation’s economy would be built.
2. A class of millionaires emerged for the first time ever. Tycoons like Carnegie and Rockefeller made fortunes. This type of wealth was championed by “Social Darwinism” where the strong win in business.
3. Unfortunately, many of the mega-industries, like railroads, grew at the expense of the “little man’s” interest. As businesses, they were out to make money, and they did. But the working man cried foul.
4. To right these wrongs, the beginnings of anti-trusts began (to bust the monopolies) and organized labor got a jumpstart (although they were still rather ineffective).

**Chapter 25 - America Moves to the City**

The over-arching theme of chapter 25 is that in the late 1800s, the Industrial Revolution forced the American city to gain dominance over rural America.

1. Cities grew because factories grew. The Industrial Revolution kicked into gear in America in the late 1800s and factories needed workers, so people flocked to the cities.
2. Problems arose as cities boomed. The problems included: exploitation of immigrant laborers, poor/unhealthy work conditions, over-crowdedness and sanitation problems, corruption, and “nativism” (anti-immigrant feelings).
3. Booker T. Washington & W.E.B. DuBois were the top black leaders. They disagreed on how to help blacks—Washington encouraged blacks to obtain a practical skill at a trade school, DuBois encouraged blacks to study anything they wished, even academic subjects.
4. The roles of women began to change, if only slightly. More women worked, though most were still at home. The “new woman” was idealized by the athletic, outgoing “Gibson Girl.”

**Chapter 26 - The Great West and the Agricultural Revolution**

The over-arching theme of chapter 26 is the West was opened up for settlement. This meant the Native Americans were forced out for farmers, miners, and ranchers.

1. Native Americans out West faced two options: agree to settle on a reservation or fight the U.S. Army as “hostiles.” Some chose reservations, others to fight, but all were cleared out.
2. Miners looking for silver and/or gold fled to Colorado and Nevada seeking quick fortune. A few found it, the vast majority didn’t.
3. Cattle became king in Texas as cowboys drove herds north to the Kansas railroads and reaped quick money.
4. Farmers struggled out west due to several problems: weather, insects, high mortgage rates, high railroad shipping rates, and low prices for their crops.
5. The farmers’ struggles led to the People’s (or Populist) Party. This party sought “cheap money” (or silver money) in order to create inflation and thus make it easier to pay off debts

**Chapter 27 - Empire and Expansion**

The over-arching theme of chapter 27 is that America took over new lands, mostly in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

1. The Spanish-American War saw the U.S. gain Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, the Philippines, and other smaller islands.
2. The Philippines proved to be hard to handle since the Filipino people didn’t want the U.S. there. They waged a guerilla war and resented American control until it was turned back over to the Philippines after WWII.
3. The U.S. managed to get an “Open Door Policy” with China. This opened the Asian giant to international trade.
4. Teddy Roosevelt became a vigorous president who obtained and built the Panama Canal. His “Big Stick Policy” toward Latin America increased America’s influence, but also increased animosity toward the U.S.