

HIST212
Assessment Unit 2: American Industrialization

Answer each of the following questions in a paragraph (150–250 words):

1. Historians refer to the period from the end of the Civil War in 1865 to the year 1900 as the “Gilded Age.” A “gilded” object is a something that has been overlaid with a thin layer of gold. A gilded object can also refer to something that has been given an attractive but deceptive appearance. Why do historians use this adjective to describe this period in American history? Is the use of this term a fair assessment of the historical developments of this era?

2. In 1903, the poem *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus (1883) was inscribed on a bronze plaque and mounted on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in New York City Harbor. In the poem, Lady Liberty proclaims, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to be free.” To what extent did the United States offer the poor and disadvantaged of the world a place of freedom, refuge, and opportunity in the second half of the nineteenth century?

