

## TOPIC 6.6: LABOR IN THE GILDED AGE

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### Learning Obj. 1

- Explain the socioeconomic continuities and changes associated with the growth of industrial capitalism.

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- A. Expansion of the industrial workforce, child labor, and horrible working conditions led to conflict between management and labor.

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### Conditions That Led to Unrest

- Stagnating wages
  - 1890 – 11 million families made less than \$380.00 per year
- Loss of skilled labor
- Working "on the clock"
- Dangerous work



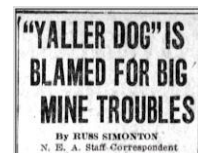
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- B. Labor and management used various tactics in order to address labor problems.

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### Management Tactics

- Lockouts
- Blacklists
- Yellow dog contracts
- Private guards
- Publicizing fear



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## Labor Tactics

- Slowdowns, walkouts
- Strikes, picketing, boycotts
- Collective bargaining



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- C. Labor and management battled over wages and working conditions, with workers organizing local and national unions and directly confronting business leaders.

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## Labor Organizations

- National Labor Union (1866)
  - Skilled and unskilled, industrial and agricultural
  - 8 hr workday, equal rights for women and African Americans



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- Knights of Labor (1869)
  - Terrance Powderly
  - Open to all workers
  - Worker cooperatives, no child labor
  - Abolish monopolies
  - Arbitration



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- American Federation of Labor (1886)
  - Samuel Gompers
  - Skilled workers only
  - Higher wages, better conditions



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## Major Strikes and Events

- Great Railroad Strike (1877)
  - 11 states, shut down 2/3 of railroads
  - Federal troops, 100 killed



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- Haymarket Bombing (1886)
- Chicago, McCormick Harvester Plant
- Anarchist involvement
- Americans turn on unions
  - End of Knights of Labor



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- Homestead Strike (1892)
- Carnegie Steel
- Henry Clay Frick – cuts wages 20%
- Pinkertons, violence, 16 killed



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- Pullman Strike (1894)
- Pullman Palace Car Co.
- Eugene Debs, support of American Railroad Union
- Railroad owners tie Pullman cars to mail cars, workers try to stop
- Federal court issues injunction that forbids interfering with mail



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