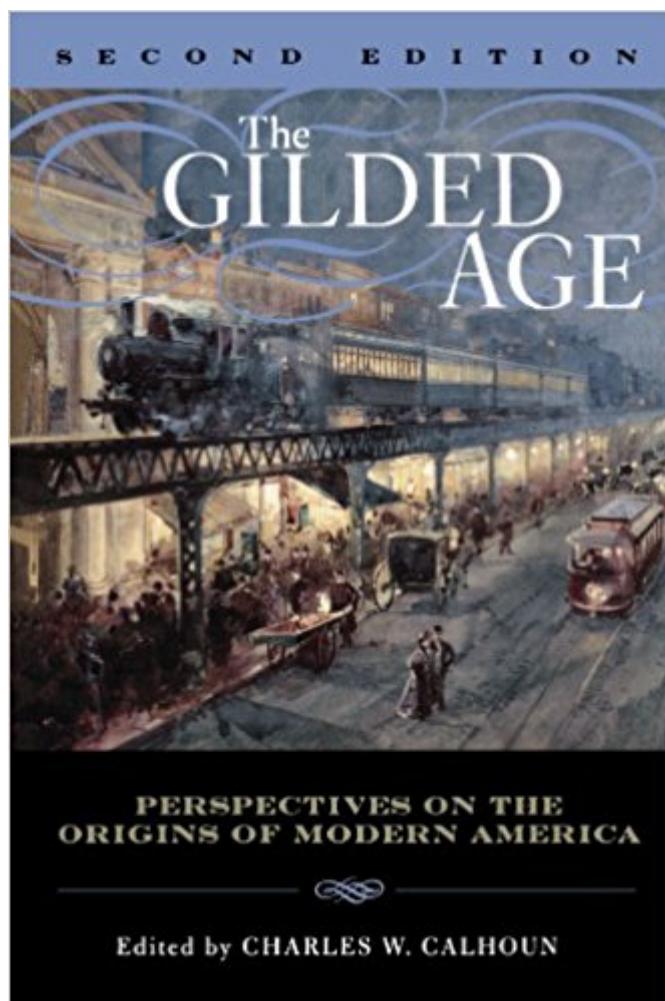


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# The Gilded Age: Perspectives On The Origins Of Modern America



## **Synopsis**

The United States that entered the twentieth century was vastly different from the nation that emerged from the Civil War. Industrialization, mass immigration, the growing presence of women in the work force, and the rapid advance of the cities had transformed American society. Broad in scope, *The Gilded Age* brings together sixteen original essays that offer lively syntheses of modern scholarship while making their own interpretive arguments. These engaging pieces allow students to consider the various societal, cultural and political factors that make studying the Gilded Age crucial to our understanding of America today. Charles W. Calhoun connects all of these essays with a comprehensive introduction that places each article in an understandable historical context. For the second edition of this successful book, each essay was revised and three new pieces have been added that explore technology, consumerism, intellectual life, and race in late nineteenth century America.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is an essential resourceâ "the only collection of essays on the post-Civil War decades currently in print. The first edition provided excellent coverage of politics, the economy, science and technology, and the experiences of such key social groups as women, Native Americans, and African-Americans. The new second edition enhances this with superb new essays on the era's cultural and intellectual history. From the steel industry to the Chicago World's Fair, from the Supreme Court to the Social Gospel, these essays introduce readers to one of the most formative and exciting periods in American history. (Rebecca Edwards, author of *New Spirits*:

Americans in the World, 1865-1905) This second edition, building on the many strengths of the first, offers a comprehensive introduction to the transformation of America in these years. (Technology and Culture) Charles Calhoun has improved upon an already valuable teaching text. . . . Calhoun's synthesis remains a great tool for teaching. Not only does it allow a glimpse of specialized topics and groups within the Gilded Age, essays are also read with relative ease. . . . Educators and students alike can gain a better perspective on the origins of modern America. (Mary Ellen Pethel, The Harpeth Hall School Teaching History: A Journal of Methods) The straightforward essays in The Gilded Age cut through stereotypes and introduce readers to the ways that the top historians analyze and discuss late-nineteenth-century America. The first edition was especially strong on economic, social, and political developments. The addition of chapters on cultural trends enhances the book's value as a course reader for undergraduates and as a reference tool for graduate students and professionals. (Alan Lessoff, Illinois State University)

Charles W. Calhoun received his doctorate in history from Columbia University. He is professor of history at East Carolina University, and author of *Conceiving a New Republic: The Republican Party and the Southern Question, 1869-1900*, *Benjamin Harrison, and Gilded Age Cato: The Life of Walter Q. Gresham*.

Very thoughtful and well organized. Themes repeated from one author to the next and that allowed me to develop perspective on the issues. Interestingly the issues are very similar to those we face today- income inequality, racism, government regulation of business, and populism as a response.

An interesting thing about this book is that each chapter is written by a different person and each one blends in well with the others.

Easy read and really gives the right amount of information you would need to understand the gilded age! I learned a lot and if your a teacher looking for a good book for your students, I'm a student and a teacher used this and it was a smart and safe choice.

Good read, I have read it twice

Excellent book

Great book! Lots of good perspective and analysis.

This book on the Gilded Age is an excellent one volume overview of an era that is often neglected in high school and collegiate studies. There are topical essays written by several outstanding scholars. Almost every conceivable topic is covered in great detail. There are essays on economics, urbanization, the agrarian sector, and political movements like the Populist Party. The essays are scholarly and based on the best primary and secondary sources. The authors did a fantastic job of communicating clearly. The ideological biases are kept to a minimum. I enjoyed the book immensely and learned a lot about this important era of American history.

"The Gilded Age" consists of a series of essays on various topics - industry, politics, urban development, etc. - all of which are interesting. None of the essays seems particularly exceptional, and a few betray an unusually large amount of authorial political bias for a work of this type, But they work well together.

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