

Modified DBQ 3: The Changing Role of Government, 1890–1912

Directions: Question 3 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You will have 45 minutes to complete your response.

Analyze the national government’s changing philosophy and response to the nation’s economic challenges from 1890–1912.

*(POL-3; Continuity/Change, Historical Causation,
& Analyzing Historical Evidence)*

Document 1

Selective Categories of Employed Workers: 1880–1920

Year	Total Workers	Agriculture	Manu- facturing	Domestic Personal Service	Government
1880	17,390,000	8,610,000	4,000,000	1,440,000	335,000
1890	23,740,000	9,990,000	6,190,000	2,160,000	360,000
1900	29,070,000	10,710,000	8,000,000	2,710,000	670,000
1910	36,730,000	11,340,000	10,530,000	3,670,000	1,140,000
1920	41,610,000	11,120,000	13,050,000	3,330,000	1,300,000

Document 2

Source: Sherman Act, 1890

Section 1. Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States or with foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal...

Section 2. Every person who shall monopolize, or attempt to monopolize, or combine or conspire with any other person or persons, to monopolize any part of the trade or commerce among the several States, or with any foreign nations, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor...

Document 3

Source: Jacob Coxey's proposal to Congress, June 12, 1894

1. The Good Roads Bill—53rd Congress, 2d Session H.R. 7438, June 12, 1894.

A Bill to provide for the improvement of public roads and for other purposes.

Be enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives ... That the Secretary of Treasury of the United States is hereby authorized and instructed to have ... printed, immediately after the passage of this bill, five hundred million dollars of Treasury notes ... and to be placed in a fund to be known as the "general country-road fund system of the United States," and to be expended solely for said purpose.

Section 2 That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to take charge of the construction of said general country-road system of the United States, and said construction to commence as soon as the Secretary of Treasury shall inform the Secretary of War that the said fund is available ... it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to inaugurate work and expend the sum of twenty millions of dollars per month pro rata with the number of miles of road in each State and Territory in the United States.

Document 4

Source: *Lochner v. New York*, 1905

The statute necessarily interferes with the right of contract between the employer and employees, concerning the number of hours in which the latter may labor in the bakery of the employer. The general right to make a contract in relation to his business is part of the liberty of the individual protected by the Fourteenth Amendment of the Federal Constitution...

... The act ... is an illegal interference with the rights of individuals, both employers and employees, to make contracts regarding labor upon such terms as they may think best, or which they may agree upon with the other parties to such contracts. Statutes of the nature of that under review, limiting the hours in which grown and intelligent men may labor to earn their living, are mere meddlesome interferences with the rights of the individual...

Document 5

Source: Theodore Roosevelt, "The New Nationalism," 1910

I stand for the square deal. But when I say I am for the square deal, I mean not merely that I stand for fair play under the present rules of the game, but that I stand for having those rules changed so as to work for a more substantial equality of opportunity and of reward for equally good service . . . But I think we may go still further. The right to regulate the use of wealth in the public interest is universally admitted. Let us admit also the right to regulate the terms and conditions of labor, which is the chief element of wealth, directly in the interest of the common good. The fundamental thing to do for every man is to give him a chance to reach a place in which he will make the greatest possible contribution to the public welfare.

This New Nationalism regards the executive power [of the federal government] as the steward of the public welfare. It demands of the judiciary that it shall be interested primarily in human welfare rather than in property, just as it demands that the representative body [Congress] shall represent all the people rather than any one class or section of the people.