

#1 Compare and contrast the attitudes of 3 of the following towards the wealth that was created in the United States during the late 19th century

Andrew Carnegie

Eugene V. Debs

Horatio Alger

Booker T. Washington

Ida M. Tarbell

Thesis

- **The late 19th century was a time of rapid industrialization in the United States during which many people developed many different views towards wealth and the wealthy class. Three specific viewers were who had similar, but contrasting views were Andrew Carnegie, Eugene V. Debs, and Booker T. Washington. These men believed that wealth could either enable people to rise in society or that it should be distributed.**



ANDREW CARNEGIE

Andrew Carnegie

- **Andrew Carnegie was not only a hugely successful businessman, but a great philanthropist. With the wealth that he acquired from the Carnegie Steel Company, Carnegie promoted education and world peace.**
- **Carnegie was perhaps one of the first people to publicly state that the wealthy had a moral obligation to give away their fortunes.**
- **In 1889, he wrote The Gospel of Wealth. In it, Carnegie argues that all personal wealth that is not used to provide necessities for one's family should be treated as a trust fund for the betterment of the community.**

More on Andrew Carnegie

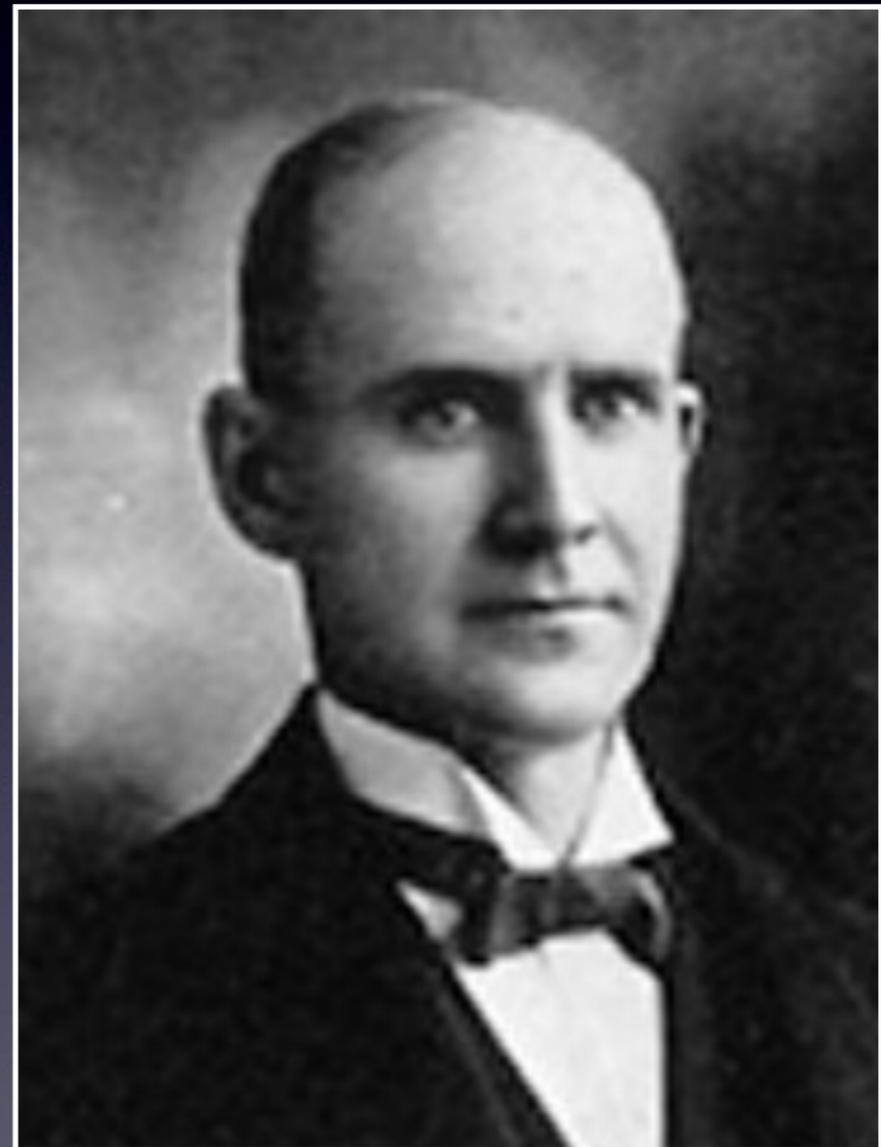
- **Carnegie also built free public libraries, in an effort to encourage self-education.**
- **Finally, Carnegie set up a number of trusts, to continue his mission even after his death.**

Booker T. Washington

- **Booker T. Washington's stance on the wealth created was that it enabled people to rise in society. He integrated this view into his plan for racial equality. He encouraged black Americans to create a strong economic base. Washington believed that his vision for black Americans would eventually lead to equal political and civil rights. In the meantime, he advised blacks to put aside immediate demands for voting and ending racial segregation. The Bootstrap Theory stated that with a black economic base, rights would follow and racism would fade. Washington founded the Tuskegee Institute where black Americans could learn skills needed for jobs. He cautioned them that if they did not find their place in the economic scheme of things, there were sure to be more immigrants coming to the shores of America who would eagerly fill the void. Black Americans clearly understood the connection between the ownership of businesses and property and the ability to have greater control over what happened in their lives. However, other black leaders criticized him for tolerating racial segregation at a time of increasing anti-black violence and discrimination. Washington did publicly speak out against the evils of segregation, lynching, and discrimination in voting but his solution was to become economically independent and prove that they deserved equal rights instead of directly fighting against it.**

Eugene V. Debs

- **In contrast to the views of Andrew Carnegie and Booker T. Williams, Eugene Debs's view on the growth of wealth during industrialization was a more pessimistic view of capitalism and he was more eager to change. In the 19th and 20th century, he was the leader of the American Railway Union and the Socialist Party. He believed in the rights of the worker and the rights of the common man. Debs argued that wealth in the nation should be shared, which is similar to the view of Andrew Carnegie. Debs saw that most of the rich remained rich and the poor remained poor. Throughout his life, Debs worked on trying to change this condition. This action is seen when he led the Pullman Palace Car strike in order to obtain better working conditions for the workers of the Chicago railroad company since their wages were split in 1/3.**



Conclusion

- **In Conclusion, the people of the 19th and early 20th century possessed many different views on the wealth of America. The views of Andrew Carnegie and Eugene V. Debs were somewhat similar in their reflection on the distribution of wealth. On the other side, Booker T. Williams possessed the view of helping the Black Americans achieve wealth throughout the racial segregation going on.**