*"We are born in a Pullman house. We are fed from a Pullman shop, taught in a Pullman school, catechized in the Pullman church and when we die we shall be buried in a Pullman cemetery and go to a Pullman hell."*

- Pullman employee on life in Pullman town, 1883

*"This, then, is held to be the duty of the man of wealth: first, to set an example of modest, unostentatious living, shunning display or extravagance; to provide moderately for the legitimate wants of those dependent upon him; and after doing so to consider all surplus revenues which come to him simply as trust funds which he is called upon to administer, and strictly bound as a matter of duty to administer in the manner which, in his judgment, is best calculated to produce the most beneficial results for the community—the man of wealth thus becoming the mere agent and trustee for his poorer brethren, bringing to their service his superior wisdom, experience, and ability to administer, doing for them better than they would or could do for themselves."*

- Andrew Carnegie, 1899

*"I should welcome almost any war, for I think this country needs one"*

- Theodore Roosevelt, 1897

*"Today, production is left to anarchy, and only tyranny, the twin sister of anarchy, is organized."*

- Socialist Leader Daniel De Leon on the need for government management of the economy, 1896

*“It is a time when one’s spirit is subdued and sad, one knows not why; when the past seems a storm-swept desolation, life a vanity and a burden, and the future but a way to death. It is a time when one is filled with vague longings; when one dreams of flight to peaceful islands in the remote solitudes of the sea, or folds his hands and says, What is the use of struggling, and toiling and worrying any more? let us give it all up.”*

― [Mark Twain](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1244.Mark_Twain), [*The Gilded Age*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3314995)

*“Beautiful credit! The foundation of modern society. Who shall say that this is not the golden age of mutual trust, of unlimited reliance upon human promises? That is a peculiar condition of society which enables a whole nation to instantly recognize point and meaning in the familiar newspaper anecdote, which puts into the mouth of a distinguished speculator in lands and mines this remark: 'I wasn't worth a cent two years ago, and now I owe two millions of dollars.”*

― [Mark Twain](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1244.Mark_Twain), [*The Gilded Age*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3314995)

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teaming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."*

   These are the moving and often memorized words inscribed on  the base of the Statue of Liberty.  They are from a poem, "The New Colossus," written by Emma Lazarus in 1883 to help raise money to construct a base for the statue.  (The statue itself was a gift of the people of France to America.)  While immigrants at the time often found harsh living conditions and sometimes resentment from the native-born, these words express the powerful message of hope America held (and still holds) for most immigrants.

*"So long as all the increased wealth which modern progress brings goes but to build up great fortunes, to increase luxury and make sharper the contrast between the House of Have and the House of Want, progress is not real and cannot be permanent."*

   This is a passage from one of the most widely read American books in the 1880s, titled "Progress and Poverty."  The author, Henry George, was highlighting the great puzzle of the era:  Why did such great poverty exist at a time of such great progress and wealth?  The question has been at the center of much of America's political life ever since.

*“I can hire one-half of the working class to kill the other half.”*

– Jay Gould

*“The spread of civilization may be likened to a fire; First, a feeble spark, next a flickering flame, then a mighty blaze, ever increasing in speed and power.”*

– Nikola Tesla

Farming's share of the Gross Domestic Product in the 1870s: 38%
Farming's share of the Gross Domestic Product in the 1890s: 24%

Total national wealth in 1860: $16 billion
Total national wealth in 1900: $88 billion

National wealth per capita in 1860: $500
National wealth per capita in 1900: $1100

Percentage of Americans living in cities in 1860: 20
Percentage of Americans living in cities in 1900: 40

Miles of railroad track in America in 1865: 35,000
Miles of railroad track in America in 1900: 242,000

Average work week for an industrial worker during the 1890s: 60 hours
Average rate of pay for an unskilled industrial worker during the 1890s: 10 cents per hour

Average percentage of eligible voters who actually voted in the presidential elections between 1876 and 1896: 78.5
Margin of victory in the three presidential elections of the 1880s: < 1%