

Were the Big Businessmen of the Late 19th Century Robber Barons or Captains of Industry?

INTRODUCTION - During the second half of the nineteenth century, big business began to dominate the American economy. Those who owned and led these companies often acquired vast amounts of wealth, becoming among the richest men the world has ever seen. Many people saw these individuals as “Captains of Industry” - hard-working and innovative entrepreneurs who should be greatly admired for their accomplishments and their contributions to American society. Others saw many of these titans of business as “Robber Barons” – unethical and greedy men who exploited workers, ripped off customers, and used unfair practices to drive their competitors out of business.

TASK - Select TWO of the Businessmen listed below, and follow the link to their respective biographies. Fill in the chart below for two of the individuals and write an epitaph (what one would find on a gravestone remarking on what the person ought to be remembered for) for one of the two.

John D. Rockefeller - <http://www.history.com/topics/john-d-rockefeller>

Andrew Carnegie - <http://www.history.com/topics/andrew-carnegie>

J.P. Morgan - <http://www.history.com/topics/john-pierpont-morgan>

Philip Armour - http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/chicago/peopleevents/p_armour.html

Big Businessman _____ Business _____

Early Life?

How was he able to build his business? Did he pioneer any new practices or techniques? Explain.

He was a Robber Baron because . . .	He was a Captain of Industry because . . .

Write an epitaph for the Big Businessman.

HERE LIES