

Name:_____.

Entrepreneurs and Bankers: The Evolution of Corporate Empires

Answer the questions below as you read the given essay.

1. Why was the Southern Pacific Railroad known as “the Octopus”? What characteristics were associated with “the Octopus”?
2. Why were advances in transportation & communication helpful to the creation of “corporate empires”?
3. What was the significance of the reorganization of investment banking into large networks, in how *12 large railroad systems controlled more than half of all the country’s railroads*?
4. How did Andrew Carnegie & John D. Rockefeller alter the way business was done? What changed with these two “corporate empire” builders?

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5. Explain the sentence below after having read the full paragraph that follows. What does this sentence mean?

As these new corporate empires emerged and came to public attention, some Americans began to become apprehensive about the degree of power they had.

6. In the second to last paragraph of this reading, what relationship between corporation/businessmen, the state and the federal government is depicted?
7. Explain the comparison the author makes about how these tycoons are like robber barons - in what ways?
8. Overall, how do these robber barons fit into our theme of democracy and authority? Have the robber barons demonstrated any impact on democracy? On authority?