

captains of industry definition us history

captains of industry definition us history is a key phrase that unlocks an essential chapter in the story of American economic growth and transformation. This article explores the meaning of "captains of industry," tracing its origins, significance, and impact within U.S. history. Readers will discover how these influential figures shaped the country's industrial landscape during the Gilded Age, learn about their business practices, and examine the ongoing debate between labeling them as "captains of industry" or "robber barons." By delving into the lives and legacies of prominent industrialists, the article provides a comprehensive understanding of their contributions, controversies, and the broader implications for American society. Those interested in U.S. economic history, industrialization, and the legacy of powerful business leaders will find this resource both informative and engaging.

- Understanding the Captains of Industry: Definition and Origins
- Key Characteristics of Captains of Industry in U.S. History
- Notable Captains of Industry and Their Achievements
- Captains of Industry vs. Robber Barons: The Ongoing Debate
- Impact of Captains of Industry on American Society and Economy
- Lasting Legacy of Captains of Industry in U.S. History

Understanding the Captains of Industry: Definition and Origins

The term "captains of industry" refers to influential business leaders who played a pivotal role in the expansion and modernization of the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In U.S. history, captains of industry are individuals whose innovation, vision, and entrepreneurship transformed small businesses into large corporations, fueling the nation's industrial revolution. These individuals are often credited with building America's infrastructure, advancing technology, and creating jobs, which contributed significantly to economic progress. The phrase emerged during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, periods marked by rapid industrialization and major shifts in economic power.

Originally, "captains of industry" was used to praise those who harnessed the forces of capitalism for the greater good, distinguishing them from "robber barons," a term reserved for business leaders accused of unethical practices. Understanding this definition in U.S. history is fundamental to grasping the profound changes that shaped modern America. The captains of industry definition in U.S. history encapsulates both admiration for their achievements and scrutiny of their methods.

Key Characteristics of Captains of Industry in U.S. History

Visionary Leadership and Innovation

Captains of industry were known for their visionary leadership, anticipating market trends and technological advancements before others. Their ability to innovate and take calculated risks set them apart from their contemporaries, positioning them as pioneers in sectors such as steel, oil, railroads, and finance.

Massive Wealth Accumulation and Economic Influence

One defining trait was their accumulation of vast fortunes. These leaders used their financial resources to expand operations, acquire competitors, and influence both local and national economies. Their decisions often affected entire industries and shaped the direction of the U.S. economy.

Philanthropy and Social Responsibility

Many captains of industry engaged in philanthropy, donating large portions of their wealth to educational institutions, public works, and charitable causes. This aspect distinguished them from those solely focused on personal gain, reinforcing the positive connotations associated with the term.

- Innovative vision and risk-taking
- Accumulation and management of great wealth
- Expansion of American industry and infrastructure
- Philanthropic efforts and public works
- Influence on labor practices and economic policy

Notable Captains of Industry and Their Achievements

Andrew Carnegie: Steel Magnate

Andrew Carnegie epitomized the captain of industry definition in U.S. history. His leadership in the steel industry revolutionized construction and transportation. Carnegie's adoption of the Bessemer process enabled mass production of steel, lowering costs and enabling projects like bridges, skyscrapers, and railroads. Later, he became a major philanthropist, funding libraries, universities, and cultural institutions.

John D. Rockefeller: Oil Tycoon

John D. Rockefeller founded Standard Oil, establishing a near-monopoly in the oil industry. His innovative business practices, including horizontal integration and economies of scale, set new standards for corporate management. Rockefeller's philanthropic contributions established major foundations and supported medical, educational, and scientific research.

Cornelius Vanderbilt: Railroad and Shipping Mogul

Cornelius Vanderbilt built his fortune in shipping before investing heavily in railroads. His investments connected major cities, facilitated commerce, and reduced transportation costs. Vanderbilt's leadership contributed to the creation of a national transportation network, critical to America's industrial expansion.

J.P. Morgan: Banking and Finance Leader

J.P. Morgan transformed American banking and finance, orchestrating major mergers and stabilizing markets during times of crisis. By consolidating industries and supporting infrastructure projects, Morgan played a central role in shaping corporate America. His philanthropic legacy includes support for the arts and public institutions.

Captains of Industry vs. Robber Barons: The Ongoing Debate

Positive Contributions and Criticisms

The captains of industry definition in U.S. history is closely tied to an ongoing debate about their legacy. Admirers credit these individuals with fostering economic growth, modernizing industry, and improving living standards. Their contributions to infrastructure, technology, and philanthropy are often highlighted as evidence of their positive impact.

Controversial Business Practices

Critics, however, argue that many captains of industry used ruthless tactics to eliminate competition, exploit workers, and amass excessive wealth. Practices such as monopolization, price-fixing, and union suppression led to accusations of greed and corruption. The term "robber baron" reflects this negative viewpoint, emphasizing the ethical and social costs of their actions.

Reform Movements and Public Perception

Public outcry against perceived abuses led to progressive reforms, including antitrust laws, labor protections, and corporate regulations. The dual images of captains of industry and robber barons remain central to discussions about wealth, power, and responsibility in American society.

1. Advancement of industry and infrastructure
2. Accumulation of great personal wealth
3. Controversial labor and business practices
4. Philanthropic initiatives
5. Influence on government and policy

Impact of Captains of Industry on American Society and Economy

Transformation of the U.S. Economy

Captains of industry played a central role in transitioning the United States from an agrarian economy to an industrial powerhouse. Their investments in factories, railroads, and new technologies spurred urbanization, increased productivity, and created millions of jobs. They helped establish the foundations of modern capitalism and corporate structure.

Influence on Labor and Social Structures

The rise of large corporations led to significant changes in labor relations and class dynamics. While captains of industry provided employment opportunities, their pursuit of profit sometimes resulted in harsh working conditions and labor unrest. These issues contributed to the growth of labor unions and demands for social reform.

Promotion of Philanthropy and Education

Many captains of industry used their wealth to support universities, libraries, museums, and hospitals. Their philanthropic efforts left a lasting mark on American education and culture, fostering institutions that continue to benefit society today.

Lasting Legacy of Captains of Industry in U.S. History

Enduring Influence on Business and Society

The captains of industry definition in U.S. history continues to shape discussions about leadership, ethics, and progress. Their entrepreneurial spirit and willingness to challenge the status quo remain a model for future generations of business leaders. The tension between innovation and responsibility is an enduring theme in American capitalism.

Shaping Modern Corporate Practices

Many business strategies pioneered by captains of industry—such as vertical and horizontal integration, economies of scale, and corporate philanthropy—are now standard in the corporate world. Their stories offer valuable lessons about the opportunities and challenges of economic leadership.

Ongoing Relevance in Historical Analysis

Scholars and the public continue to analyze the captains of industry, debating their virtues and faults. Their legacy is woven into the fabric of U.S. history, providing insight into the complexities of economic development, social responsibility, and the American dream.

Q: What does the term "captains of industry" mean in U.S. history?

A: In U.S. history, "captains of industry" refers to influential business leaders during the late 19th and early 20th centuries who drove economic growth, innovation, and industrial expansion, often through visionary leadership and significant contributions to society.

Q: How did captains of industry differ from robber barons?

A: While both terms describe powerful industrialists, "captains of industry" highlights their positive impact, such as philanthropy and nation-building, whereas "robber barons" emphasizes their use of unethical practices to eliminate competition and amass wealth.

Q: Who were some notable captains of industry in U.S. history?

A: Notable captains of industry include Andrew Carnegie (steel), John D. Rockefeller (oil), Cornelius Vanderbilt (railroads), and J.P. Morgan (finance), all of whom transformed their respective industries and contributed to national economic growth.

Q: What were the main achievements of captains of industry?

A: Their achievements include building large-scale industries, modernizing transportation and infrastructure, fostering technological advancements, creating jobs, and making substantial philanthropic donations to education and public institutions.

Q: Why are captains of industry important to American history?

A: Captains of industry are important because they played a crucial role in America's industrial revolution, helped develop the nation's infrastructure, and set precedents for modern business practices and philanthropy.

Q: What criticisms did captains of industry face?

A: They faced criticism for monopolistic practices, exploitation of workers, harsh labor conditions, and accumulating immense wealth, which led to public outcry and the implementation of regulatory reforms.

Q: How did captains of industry impact labor relations?

A: Their large-scale operations often resulted in labor disputes, strikes, and the rise of labor unions, as workers sought better wages, hours, and conditions in response to demanding corporate practices.

Q: What is the legacy of captains of industry today?

A: Their legacy includes the foundation of major corporations, ongoing philanthropic institutions, and continued debate over the ethics and responsibilities of business leadership in society.

Q: What role did philanthropy play in the reputation of captains of industry?

A: Philanthropy helped improve their public image by demonstrating social responsibility, funding education, libraries, and cultural projects, and showing a commitment to giving back to society.

Q: How did captains of industry shape modern capitalism?

A: Through innovative business strategies, vertical and horizontal integration, and large-scale production, captains of industry laid the groundwork for contemporary corporate structures and capitalist economies.

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Captains of Industry Definition: US History's Titans of Enterprise

The Gilded Age. A time of unprecedented industrial growth, sprawling fortunes, and towering figures who shaped the American landscape – for better or worse. These individuals, often lauded as "captains of industry," remain a fascinating, and often controversial, subject in US history. This post delves deep into the definition of "captains of industry," exploring their impact, the criticisms leveled against them, and their enduring legacy. We'll dissect the era, examining the key players and the lasting consequences of their actions, providing a comprehensive understanding of this pivotal period in American history.

What Does "Captains of Industry" Mean?

The term "captains of industry" refers to the powerful business leaders who dominated the American economy during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These individuals, often self-made, built vast industrial empires through innovation, aggressive business practices, and sometimes ruthless competition. They amassed enormous wealth and wielded significant political and social influence. Their impact was profound, shaping everything from the nation's infrastructure to its social fabric. However, the label is far from neutral; it reflects a specific perspective, often overlooking the exploitative practices that fueled their rise.

Key Characteristics of Captains of Industry

Several common characteristics defined these prominent figures. They displayed:

Visionary Leadership: They possessed the foresight to identify emerging markets and technological advancements, leading to the creation of large-scale enterprises. Think of Andrew Carnegie's steel empire or John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil.

Ruthless Efficiency: Competition was fierce, and these industrialists often employed aggressive tactics to eliminate rivals and maximize profits. This sometimes included the formation of monopolies and trusts, stifling competition and controlling prices.

Technological Innovation: Many captains of industry fueled innovation, constantly seeking ways to improve production, efficiency, and distribution. This drive for technological advancement propelled the industrial revolution forward.

Philanthropy (Often Contested): Many, in later years, engaged in extensive philanthropic activities, donating vast sums to charities, libraries, and universities. However, the motivations behind this philanthropy are often debated, with some arguing it was a means of improving their public image and mitigating the negative effects of their business practices.

The Dark Side: Robber Barons and the Critique

The positive image of "captains of industry" is often countered by the term "robber barons." This label highlights the negative aspects of their actions:

Monopoly Power: The formation of monopolies and trusts allowed them to control entire industries, suppressing competition and exploiting workers and consumers.

Exploitation of Labor: Workers often faced harsh conditions, long hours, low wages, and dangerous working environments. The pursuit of profit often came at the expense of worker safety and well-being.

Political Influence: Their vast wealth gave them considerable political influence, allowing them to shape legislation in their favor and evade regulations designed to protect workers and consumers.

Examples of Prominent Captains of Industry:

Andrew Carnegie (Steel): His vertical integration of the steel industry revolutionized production and brought steel prices down. However, his labor practices were harshly criticized.

John D. Rockefeller (Oil): His Standard Oil Company dominated the oil industry through shrewd business tactics and monopolistic practices. He's both praised for efficiency and condemned for ruthless tactics.

Cornelius Vanderbilt (Railroads): His control over railroads profoundly impacted transportation and the national economy. His aggressive business dealings were a source of both admiration and resentment.

J.P. Morgan (Finance): A powerful financier, Morgan played a pivotal role in consolidating industries and rescuing failing companies. His influence extended deeply into the political and economic spheres.

The Enduring Legacy of Captains of Industry

The legacy of these figures is complex and multifaceted. They undeniably spurred economic growth

and technological advancement, shaping the modern American landscape. The railroads, steel industry, and oil industry, all heavily influenced by these individuals, formed the backbone of the nation's industrial might. However, their methods often came at a steep human cost, raising important questions about the ethical implications of unchecked capitalism and the responsibilities of those who wield immense power. The debate over whether they were "captains of industry" or "robber barons" continues to this day, reflecting the enduring complexities of their impact on American history.

Conclusion:

Understanding the definition of "captains of industry" requires acknowledging both the positive and negative aspects of their contributions. Their achievements in building vast industrial empires cannot be ignored, but neither can the exploitative practices that often accompanied their success. Their story serves as a crucial case study in the history of American capitalism, prompting continuous discussion about the balance between economic growth and social responsibility.

FAQs:

1. Were all wealthy industrialists of the Gilded Age considered "captains of industry"? Not all wealthy industrialists were labeled as "captains of industry." The term is applied selectively, often depending on the historian's interpretation of their actions and motivations.
2. How did the "captains of industry" influence government policy? They wielded significant political influence through lobbying, campaign contributions, and personal relationships with politicians, shaping legislation in their favor.
3. What were the long-term consequences of the monopolies created by captains of industry? Monopolies often led to higher prices for consumers, limited choices, and suppressed innovation in the long term. Antitrust legislation was eventually enacted to address these issues.
4. What role did philanthropy play in shaping the public perception of captains of industry? Philanthropy played a significant role in shaping public perception, helping to mitigate the negative image associated with their business practices, though the altruistic nature of their giving remains debated.
5. How did the rise of labor unions challenge the power of captains of industry? The rise of labor unions provided a counterbalance to the power of industrialists, advocating for better working conditions, wages, and worker rights, leading to significant social and political change.

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captains of industry definition us history: Andrew Carnegie Speaks to the 1% Andrew Carnegie, 2016-04-14 Before the 99% occupied Wall Street... Before the concept of social justice had impinged on the social conscience... Before the social safety net had even been conceived... By the turn of the 20th Century, the era of the robber barons, Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) had already accumulated a staggeringly large fortune; he was one of the wealthiest people on the globe. He guaranteed his position as one of the wealthiest men ever when he sold his steel business to create the United States Steel Corporation. Following that sale, he spent his last 18 years, he gave away nearly 90% of his fortune to charities, foundations, and universities. His charitable efforts actually started far earlier. At the age of 33, he wrote a memo to himself, noting ...The amassing of wealth is one of the worse species of idolatry. No idol more debasing than the worship of money. In 1881, he gave a library to his hometown of Dunfermline, Scotland. In 1889, he spelled out his belief that the rich should use their wealth to help enrich society, in an article called The Gospel of Wealth this book. Carnegie writes that the best way of dealing with wealth inequality is for the wealthy to redistribute their surplus means in a responsible and thoughtful manner, arguing that surplus wealth produces the greatest net benefit to society when it is administered carefully by the wealthy. He also argues against extravagance, irresponsible spending, or self-indulgence, instead promoting the administration of capital during one's lifetime toward the cause of reducing the stratification between the rich and poor. Though written more than a century ago, Carnegie's words still ring true today, urging a better, more equitable world through greater social consciousness.

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captains of industry definition us history: The Science of Effective Mentorship in STEMM National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Policy and Global Affairs, Board on Higher Education and Workforce, Committee on Effective Mentoring in STEMM, 2020-01-24 Mentorship is a catalyst capable of unleashing one's potential for discovery, curiosity, and participation in STEMM and subsequently improving the training environment in which that STEMM potential is fostered. Mentoring relationships provide developmental spaces in which students' STEMM skills are honed and pathways into STEMM fields can be discovered. Because mentorship can be so influential in shaping the future STEMM workforce, its occurrence should not be left to chance or idiosyncratic implementation. There is a gap between what we know about effective mentoring and how it is practiced in higher education. The Science of Effective Mentorship

in STEMM studies mentoring programs and practices at the undergraduate and graduate levels. It explores the importance of mentorship, the science of mentoring relationships, mentorship of underrepresented students in STEMM, mentorship structures and behaviors, and institutional cultures that support mentorship. This report and its complementary interactive guide present insights on effective programs and practices that can be adopted and adapted by institutions, departments, and individual faculty members.

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captains of industry definition us history: *Woke, Inc.* Vivek Ramaswamy, 2021-08-17 AN INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! A young entrepreneur makes the case that politics has no place in business, and sets out a new vision for the future of American capitalism. There's a new invisible force at work in our economic and cultural lives. It affects every advertisement we see and every product we buy, from our morning coffee to a new pair of shoes. "Stakeholder capitalism" makes rosy promises of a better, more diverse, environmentally-friendly world, but in reality this

ideology championed by America's business and political leaders robs us of our money, our voice, and our identity. Vivek Ramaswamy is a traitor to his class. He's founded multibillion-dollar enterprises, led a biotech company as CEO, he became a hedge fund partner in his 20s, trained as a scientist at Harvard and a lawyer at Yale, and grew up the child of immigrants in a small town in Ohio. Now he takes us behind the scenes into corporate boardrooms and five-star conferences, into Ivy League classrooms and secretive nonprofits, to reveal the defining scam of our century. The modern woke-industrial complex divides us as a people. By mixing morality with consumerism, America's elites prey on our innermost insecurities about who we really are. They sell us cheap social causes and skin-deep identities to satisfy our hunger for a cause and our search for meaning, at a moment when we as Americans lack both. This book not only rips back the curtain on the new corporatist agenda, it offers a better way forward. America's elites may want to sort us into demographic boxes, but we don't have to stay there. Woke, Inc. begins as a critique of stakeholder capitalism and ends with an exploration of what it means to be an American in 2021—a journey that begins with cynicism and ends with hope.

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captains of industry definition us history: Command Of The Air General Giulio Douhet, 2014-08-15 In the pantheon of air power spokesmen, Giulio Douhet holds center stage. His writings, more often cited than perhaps actually read, appear as excerpts and aphorisms in the writings of numerous other air power spokesmen, advocates-and critics. Though a highly controversial figure, the very controversy that surrounds him offers to us a testimonial of the value and depth of his work, and the need for airmen today to become familiar with his thought. The progressive development of air power to the point where, today, it is more correct to refer to aerospace power has not outdated the notions of Douhet in the slightest In fact, in many ways, the kinds of technological capabilities that we enjoy as a global air power provider attest to the breadth of his vision. Douhet, together with Hugh "Boom" Trenchard of Great Britain and William "Billy" Mitchell of the United States, is justly recognized as one of the three great spokesmen of the early air power era. This reprint is offered in

the spirit of continuing the dialogue that Douhet himself so perceptively began with the first edition of this book, published in 1921. Readers may well find much that they disagree with in this book, but also much that is of enduring value. The vital necessity of Douhet's central vision—that command of the air is all important in modern warfare—has been proven throughout the history of wars in this century, from the fighting over the Somme to the air war over Kuwait and Iraq.

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became established as both a crossroads and as a vital part of Middle America. Indiana's stories illuminate the history of American agriculture, wars, industrialization, ethnic conflicts, technological improvements, political battles, transportation networks, economic shifts, social welfare initiatives, and more. In so doing, they elucidate large national issues so that students can relate personally to the ideas and events that comprise American history. At the same time, the stories shed light on what it means to be a Hoosier, today and in the past.

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plugging into the IoT and making and sharing their own information, entertainment, green energy, and 3D-printed products at near zero marginal cost. Students are enrolling in free massive open online courses (MOOCs) that operate at near zero marginal cost. Social entrepreneurs are even bypassing the banking establishment and using crowdfunding to finance startup businesses as well as creating alternative currencies in the fledgling sharing economy. In this new world, social capital is as important as financial capital, access trumps ownership, sustainability supersedes consumerism, cooperation ousts competition, and "exchange value" in the capitalist marketplace is increasingly replaced by "sharable value" on the Collaborative Commons. Rifkin concludes that capitalism will remain with us, albeit in an increasingly streamlined role, primarily as an aggregator of network services and solutions, allowing it to flourish as a powerful niche player in the coming era. We are, however, says Rifkin, entering a world beyond markets where we are learning how to live together in an increasingly interdependent global Collaborative Commons.

captains of industry definition us history: The Financial Crisis Inquiry Report Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, 2011-05-01 The Financial Crisis Inquiry Report, published by the U.S. Government and the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission in early 2011, is the official government report on the United States financial collapse and the review of major financial institutions that bankrupted and failed, or would have without help from the government. The commission and the report were implemented after Congress passed an act in 2009 to review and prevent fraudulent activity. The report details, among other things, the periods before, during, and after the crisis, what led up to it, and analyses of subprime mortgage lending, credit expansion and banking policies, the collapse of companies like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and the federal bailouts of Lehman and AIG. It also discusses the aftermath of the fallout and our current state. This report should be of interest to anyone concerned about the financial situation in the U.S. and around the world. THE FINANCIAL CRISIS INQUIRY COMMISSION is an independent, bi-partisan, government-appointed panel of 10 people that was created to examine the causes, domestic and global, of the current financial and economic crisis in the United States. It was established as part of the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009. The commission consisted of private citizens with expertise in economics and finance, banking, housing, market regulation, and consumer protection. They examined and reported on the collapse of major financial institutions that failed or would have failed if not for exceptional assistance from the government. News Dissector DANNY SCHECHTER is a journalist, blogger and filmmaker. He has been reporting on economic crises since the 1980's when he was with ABC News. His film In Debt We Trust warned of the economic meltdown in 2006. He has since written three books on the subject including Plunder: Investigating Our Economic Calamity (Cosimo Books, 2008), and The Crime Of Our Time: Why Wall Street Is Not Too Big to Jail (Disinfo Books, 2011), a companion to his latest film Plunder The Crime Of Our Time. He can be reached online at www.newsdissector.com.

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captains of industry definition us history: The History of the Standard Oil Company Ida Minerva Tarbell, 2020-09-28 One of the busiest corners of the globe at the opening of the year 1872 was a strip of Northwestern Pennsylvania, not over fifty miles long, known the world over as the Oil Regions. Twelve years before this strip of land had been but little better than a wilderness; its chief inhabitants the lumbermen, who every season cut great swaths of primeval pine and hemlock from its hills, and in the spring floated them down the Allegheny River to Pittsburg. The great tides of Western emigration had shunned the spot for years as too rugged and unfriendly for settlement, and yet in twelve years this region avoided by men had been transformed into a bustling trade centre, where towns elbowed each other for place, into which three great trunk railroads had built branches, and every foot of whose soil was fought for by capitalists. It was the discovery and

development of a new raw product, petroleum, which had made this change from wilderness to market-place. This product in twelve years had not only peopled a waste place of the earth, it had revolutionised the world's methods of illumination and added millions upon millions of dollars to the wealth of the United States. Petroleum as a curiosity, and indeed in a small way as an article of commerce, was no new thing when its discovery in quantities called the attention of the world to this corner of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The journals of many an early explorer of the valleys of the Allegheny and its tributaries tell of springs and streams the surfaces of which were found covered with a thick oily substance which burned fiercely when ignited and which the Indians believed to have curative properties. As the country was opened, more and more was heard of these oil springs. Certain streams came to be named from the quantities of the substance found on the surface of the water, as "Oil Creek" in Northwestern Pennsylvania, "Old Greasy" or Kanawha in West Virginia. The belief in the substance as a cure-all increased as time went on and in various parts of the country it was regularly skimmed from the surface of the water as cream from a pan, or soaked up by woollen blankets, bottled, and peddled as a medicine for man and beast. Up to the beginning of the 19th century no oil seems to have been obtained except from the surfaces of springs and streams. That it was to be found far below the surface of the earth was discovered independently at various points in Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania by persons drilling for salt-water to be used in manufacturing salt. Not infrequently the water they found was mixed with a dark-green, evil-smelling substance which was recognised as identical with the well-known "rock-oil." It was necessary to rid the water of this before it could be used for salt, and in many places cisterns were devised in which the brine was allowed to stand until the oil had risen to the surface. It was then run into the streams or on the ground. This practice was soon discovered to be dangerous, so easily did the oil ignite. In several places, particularly in Kentucky, so much oil was obtained with the salt-water that the wells had to be abandoned. Certain of these deserted salt wells were opened years after, when it was found that the troublesome substance which had made them useless was far more valuable than the brine the original drillers sought.

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captains of industry definition us history: *A Patriot's History of the United States* Larry Schweikart, Michael Patrick Allen, 2004-12-29 For the past three decades, many history professors have allowed their biases to distort the way America's past is taught. These intellectuals have searched for instances of racism, sexism, and bigotry in our history while downplaying the greatness of America's patriots and the achievements of "dead white men." As a result, more emphasis is placed on Harriet Tubman than on George Washington; more about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II than about D-Day or Iwo Jima; more on the dangers we faced from Joseph McCarthy than those we faced from Josef Stalin. *A Patriot's History of the United States* corrects those doctrinaire biases. In this groundbreaking book, America's discovery, founding, and development are reexamined with an appreciation for the elements of public virtue, personal liberty, and private property that make this nation uniquely successful. This book offers a long-overdue acknowledgment of America's true and proud history.

captains of industry definition us history: **Born Losers** Scott A. Sandage, 2006-04-30 What makes somebody a Loser, a person doomed to unfulfilled dreams and humiliation? Nobody is born to

lose, and yet failure embodies our worst fears. The Loser is our national bogeyman, and his history over the past two hundred years reveals the dark side of success, how economic striving reshaped the self and soul of America. From colonial days to the Columbine tragedy, Scott Sandage explores how failure evolved from a business loss into a personality deficit, from a career setback to a gauge of our self-worth. From hundreds of private diaries, family letters, business records, and even early credit reports, Sandage reconstructs the dramas of real-life Willy Lomans. He unearths their confessions and denials, foolish hopes and lost faith, sticking places and changing times. Dreamers, suckers, and nobodies come to life in the major scenes of American history, like the Civil War and the approach of big business, showing how the national quest for success remade the individual ordeal of failure. *Born Losers* is a pioneering work of American cultural history, which connects everyday attitudes and anxieties about failure to lofty ideals of individualism and salesmanship of self. Sandage's storytelling will resonate with all of us as it brings to life forgotten men and women who wrestled with The Loser--the label and the experience--in the days when American capitalism was building a nation of winners.

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2016-04-01 Finalist for the 2017 Washington State Book Award in General Nonfiction / History The plaque said this was the winter fishing hut of Thurídur Einarsdóttir, one of Iceland's greatest fishing captains, and that she lived from 1777 to 1863. Wait, anthropologist and former seamstress Margaret Willson said. She?? So began a quest. Were there more Icelandic seamstresses? Most Icelanders said no, and, after all, in most parts of the world fishing is considered a male profession. What could she expect in Iceland? She found a surprise. This book is a glimpse into the lives of vibrant women who have braved the sea for centuries. Their accounts include the excitement, accidents, trials, and tribulations of fishing in Iceland from the historic times of small open rowboats to today's high-tech fisheries. Based on extensive historical and field research, *Seamstresses of Iceland* allows the seamstresses's voices to speak directly with strength, intelligence, and - above all - a knowledge of how to survive. This engaging ethnographic narrative will intrigue both general and academic readers interested in maritime culture, the anthropology of work, Nordic life, and gender studies.

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