

# THE GILDED AGE

“[The Gilded Age] 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.”

Authors Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner, *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*, 1873

2. Using the excerpt above and your knowledge of United States history, answer (a), (b), and (c).
- Briefly explain how ONE of the following developments fits the authors’ application of “gilded” to describe the United States during the last third of the nineteenth century.
    - labor practices
    - national politics
    - urban growth
  - Provide ONE specific historical development or episode to support your explanation in (a) above.
  - Cite ONE noteworthy political or societal action between the period 1870 to 1900 that **either** prolonged **or** reduced the effects of the example you provided in (b) above.

Write your response to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2 on this page within the box. Use BLUE or BLACK pen only.

Q2

End of response area for Q2.