

Module 05: Industrialization and Its Discontents: The Great Strike of 1877

Assignments

Module Quiz

Take the [interactive quiz](#) to check your comprehension of key themes and details from the module. The quiz will assist you in your preparation for class discussion, exams, and writing assignments. You can choose to email the results to your instructor.

Module Evaluation

Please assist the project team for the Digital History Reader by completing the short survey below. Your responses will be very helpful in the further development of the Reader.

[Module Evaluation: US 05: Industrialism and Its Discontents](#)

Suggested Writing Assignments and Classroom Discussion

1. Imagine it's the summer of 1877 and you're a mechanic for the B & O Railroad. One of your fellow workers approaches and asks you to join a strike to protest the latest round of wage cuts about to go in effect. You were barely earning enough to support your family before the most recent wage cut; now you're not sure if you can make ends meet. Would you go out on strike? Why or why not? Include specific references to evidence in the documents to support your position.
2. Analyze and contextualize the image reproduced below. The engraving was originally published in Allan Pinkerton's critical account of the Great Strike of 1877 called *Strikers, Communists, Tramps and Detectives*, published a year after the uprising. The caption reads: "Drunken orgies and pillaging at Pittsburgh." What does the illustration portray? What message does it convey? How might a striking worker respond to it? What about a railroad owner?



Drunken orgies and pillaging at Pittsburgh.

3. Imagine it's the first week of the Great Strike of 1877. Divide the class into three groups: strikers, railroad owners, and government officials. Have each group meet among themselves to discuss their goals, grievances, and concerns. Next, stage a class debate to negotiate each group's claims and to settle the dispute.