HISTORY 111: Categories

In order to better understand the “workings” of history you need to know with what “type” (or category) of information you are dealing. Generally historical facts or data fall into five categories: (G) Geographic/ecologic, (E) Economic, (S) Social, (P) Political, and (C) Cultural i.e. religious, ideological, etc. Sometimes, of course, a statement may contain aspects of more than one category or type. Mark each of the following sentences with a G, E, S, P, or C to indicate what type of fact or statement it contains.

1. During Reconstruction, many southern states passed stringent “black codes” designed to restrict the freedom of the freedman to keep them as close to slave status as possible.

2. Under sharecropping agreements, individual families received one-third of the year’s crop from the plot they farmed if the owner furnished implements, seed, and draft animals or one-half if they provided their own supplies.

3. Three major groups comprised the “Black Radical Republican” state governments during Reconstruction in the South: the freedman, “carpetbaggers”, and “scalawags”.

4. From 1870 to 1872 a resurgent Ku Klux Klan conducted an ongoing terrorist campaign against Reconstruction governments and local leaders.

5. Because of its soil and climate, the southern states were ideally suited to the raising of cotton, tobacco and other agricultural crops requiring heat and moisture.

6. The spread of the crop lien system as the South’s main form of agricultural credit forced more and more farmers, both white and black, into growing cotton.

7. Railroad corporations became America’s first big business.

8. Increased tensions, sometimes leading to violence between workers and factory owners, reinforced the feeling of many middle class Americans that the nation was no longer immune from European-style class conflicts.

9. The end of Reconstruction left the way open for the return of white domination in the South.

10. Under the terms of the Curtis Act of 1898, the five tribes of the Oklahoma territory were directed to dismantle their governments, abandon their land holdings, and join the ranks of other homesteaders.

11. General Sherman reflected the view of many when he stated in 1860 that “…the more I see of these Indians the more I am convinced that all have to be killed or maintained as a species of pauper.
12. Many short-lived boomtowns were known as “Helldorados” in which men outnumbered women by as much as ten to one and very few lived with families or stayed very long.

13. The slaughter of the buffalo made way for the cattle industry, one of the most profitable businesses in the West.

14. The vision of a huge fertile garden extending from the Appalachians to the Pacific Ocean had inspired Americans since the early days of the republic.

15. Many immigrants found life on the Great Plains difficult but endurable in spite of drought, tornadoes, dust storms, grasshoppers, and floods.

16. Landscape painters, particularly the group that became known as the Rocky Mountain School, piqued the public’s interest in western scenery.

17. The Dawes Severalty Act of 1887 incorporated many reform measures of the Women’s National Indian Association (WNIA) and established federal Indian policy for decades to come.

18. Many white settlers and federal officials feared the Ghost Dancers even though belief in a sudden divine judgment was common among Christians and Jews.

19. The Navajos experienced an extraordinary renewal and increasingly turned to wool crafts of rugs and blankets and eventually to silver jewelry much in demand in the East.

20. Many young men and women fled the family farm for the promise of a paying job in industry, but the largest proportion of workers came from Europe and Asia.

21. Most African American men found themselves excluded from many fields of industry, but the impact of discriminatory or exclusionary practices fell hardest on workers who had been recruited from China in earlier decades.

22. By the end of the century the AFL had achieved a degree of respectability that the Knights of Labor had commanded only briefly and local politicians began to court the AFL member’s votes.

23. By 1900 architects played a key role in efforts to beautify American cities; a development sometimes called the American Renaissance or City Beautiful movement.

24. In the 1870’s northern investors secured huge concessions from southern state legislatures including land, forest, and mineral rights, as well as large tax exemptions.

25. The Mississippi River served both as a major artery of commerce and as a source of water for irrigation.
26. In Atlanta in 1897, 1,400 white female mill workers went on strike when the company proposed to hire two black spinners, so only at rare moments did southern workers unite across racial lines.

27. During the final third of the century real wages climbed, although unevenly and erratically, and led to improvements in nutrition, clothing, and housing.

28. A new middle class formed during the last half of the century consisting of the major professions of the older middle class, but now also including a growing number of salaried employees.

29. The existence of vast quantities of iron ore led to the development of many industries producing steel around the Great Lakes region.

30. Most middle-class American families valued their home, not simply as a sign of their social station but as a haven from the tumultuous society outside.

31. Between 1865 and 1898 the Republican Party continued to hold onto its long-time constituencies while Democrats gathered support from southern white voters and newly naturalized immigrants in the North.

32. In Los Angeles and San Antonio Mexicans lived in distinctive barrios while in most cities African American families were compelled to live in the dingiest, most crime-ridden and dangerous sections of town.

33. The railroad corporations were unprepared for the Great Uprising of 1877, the first nationwide strike, which was to haunt business and government officials for decades.

34. The steep mountains of the West made railroad construction very expensive and dangerous and involved the labor of thousands of Chinese immigrants.

35. By the late 1880’s labor parties won seats on many city councils and state legislatures.

36. Many women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton believed that “government based on caste and class privilege cannot stand.”

37. The Depression of 1893 brought untold hardships and in many cities unemployment rates reached 20 to 25 per cent.

38. Following its establishment in 1892 the People’s Party (Populist Party) quickly became a major factor in American politics.

39. Like Edward Bellamy a growing number of Protestant and Catholic clergy and lay theologians called for a new more equitable economic and social system, and envisioned a new cooperative order based on the principles of Christ’s gospels.
40. Along with new party leadership under Mark Hanna and an electable candidate, William McKinley, the Republican Party developed an efficient and well-financed national political machine.

41. Toward the end of the century, Jim Crow legislation, depriving African Americans of equal rights and protection under the law, encouraged states outside the South to pass similar measures.

42. In 1899 Secretary of State John Hay proclaimed the Open Door Policy, which advised the six major powers that the US enjoyed the right to advance its commercial interests in the world on equal terms with them.

43. The heavy seasonal rains in Panama created serious problems in the building of the Canal, but also provided the means for the operation of the Canal when it was completed.

44. Social gospeler Josiah Strong linked economic and spiritual expansion by advocating an “imperialism of righteousness” based on Americans’ “pure spiritual Christianity” and “genius for colonizing” “to Christianize and civilize the non-white peoples of the world.”

45. The push for overseas expansion coincided with a major wave of religious evangelism and foreign missions during the end of the nineteenth century.

46. One of the motives behind the rising tide of imperialism in 1898 was the belief of many Americans in the theory of white racial superiority as expounded by the social Darwinist Herbert Spencer.

47. The Cuban colony of the Philippines was attractive to many leaders who viewed it as a natural way station to the markets of mainland Asia.

48. The Filipino rebels, like the Cubans, at first welcomed American troops and fought with them against Spain, but later they fought a long, bloody guerilla war against the Americans after they refused to grant them independence.

49. One of the arguments against American expansion was based on the right of national self-determination and the consent of the governed.

50. Some Americans opposed the annexation of Santo Domingo on the grounds that dark skinned and “ignorant” Santo Domingans were unworthy of American citizenship.