

Study Guide: Regulating Big Business

Short-Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 complete sentences based on the information provided in the source material.

1. What action was taken against the railroad trust created by J.P. Morgan?
2. How did the administration establish its national reputation for "trust-busting"?
3. What was the catalyst for the investigation into the meat packing industry?
4. Describe at least two specific examples of dangerous substances being added to consumer products.
5. According to the notes, what were some of the unsanitary materials that ended up in meat products?
6. Name the two groundbreaking consumer protection laws that were passed in response to these health concerns.
7. What was Roosevelt's guiding principle regarding environmental conservation?
8. Who were the key naturalists Roosevelt consulted to develop a conservation plan?
9. What role did the Supreme Court play in the administration's efforts against monopolies?
10. What was the primary motivation for filing hundreds of lawsuits against monopolies?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The administration, with the help of the Supreme Court, successfully broke up the railroad trust created by J.P. Morgan. This action was a central part of its trust-busting campaign.
2. The administration gained a national reputation as a "trust buster" by filing hundreds of lawsuits against monopolies. These legal actions were undertaken to combat business practices that were against the best interest of the people.
3. The investigation was prompted by the publication of Upton Sinclair's book, *The Jungle*. The book raised serious concerns about the regulation of products being consumed by the American people.
4. Poultry sellers added formaldehyde to old eggs to hide their spoiled flavor. Additionally, some baby teething syrups contained heroin, and many pain killers were full of opium.
5. Meat packing companies added spices to tainted meat to hide its condition. Furthermore, rats and rat feces, parts of workers, bugs, dirt, and sawdust would at times end up in the meat.
6. The two groundbreaking consumer protection laws passed were the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act.
7. Roosevelt believed he had a duty to protect and conserve natural resources for future generations. This belief drove his environmental conservation policies.
8. Roosevelt met with many naturalists to come up with a plan for conservation. The two individuals specifically named are John Muir and Gifford Pinchot.
9. The Supreme Court helped the administration in its effort to break up the railroad trust created by J.P. Morgan. This judicial support was crucial to the success of the trust-busting action.

10. The lawsuits were filed against monopolies because they were operating in ways that were considered to be against the best interest of the people. The goal was to regulate big business for the public good.

Essay Questions

Instructions: The following questions are designed to be answered in a standard essay format. Use information from the source material to construct a comprehensive argument for each prompt.

1. Analyze the three primary areas of reform detailed in the notes: trust-busting, consumer protection, and environmental conservation. How do these initiatives collectively represent a comprehensive strategy for regulating big business and protecting public interests?
2. Trace the sequence of events from a work of literature to the passage of major federal legislation. Explain the role of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* in exposing industry problems and prompting the creation of the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act.
3. Discuss the administration's multi-faceted approach to "trust-busting." What were its specific actions, who were its targets, and which governmental institutions were involved in achieving its objectives?
4. Based on the specific examples provided, describe the state of consumer safety prior to the new regulations. Why were the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act considered "groundbreaking" consumer protection laws?
5. Explain Roosevelt's philosophy on environmental conservation. Who were his key collaborators, and how does this commitment to preserving natural resources fit within the broader theme of using federal power for the benefit of future generations?

Glossary of Key Terms

Term / Name, Definition

Trust-busting, "The act of breaking up business trusts or monopolies, such as the effort against J.P. Morgan's railroad trust."

J.P. Morgan, The creator of a railroad trust that was broken up by the administration with the help of the Supreme Court.

Monopolies, Business entities that were targeted with hundreds of lawsuits for operating against the best interest of the people.

Upton Sinclair, "The author of the book *The Jungle*, which prompted an investigation into the meat packing industry."

The Jungle, "A book that exposed unsanitary and dangerous practices in the meat packing industry, leading to consumer protection reforms."

Formaldehyde, A chemical substance added by poultry sellers to old eggs to conceal their spoiled flavor.

Heroin, A substance found in some baby teething syrups sold to consumers.

Opium, An ingredient that was contained in many pain killers available to the public.

Meat Inspection Act, One of two groundbreaking consumer protection laws passed in response to the issues in the meat packing industry.

Pure Food and Drug Act, The second of two groundbreaking laws enacted to protect consumers from harmful and adulterated products.

Roosevelt, A key figure who believed in a duty to protect and conserve natural resources for the benefit of future generations.

John Muir, A naturalist who met with Roosevelt to help develop a plan for environmental conservation.

Gifford Pinchot, "A naturalist, along with John Muir, who collaborated with Roosevelt on a conservation plan."