Georgia Studies Study Guide — SS8H7: The New South Era

Standard: Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia during the New South Era.

Section A: Shaping the New South

The “New South” Vision: After Reconstruction, leaders wanted to rebuild Georgia’s economy through industry and modernization while maintaining white political control.

1. The Bourbon Triumvirate

Joseph E. Brown, Alfred H. Colquitt, and John B. Gordon promoted business and industry, white supremacy, and low taxes. They were criticized for ignoring poor farmers and education.

In your own words: What was the Bourbon Triumvirate’s main goal for Georgia’s future?

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2. Henry Grady

Newspaper editor known as the “Spokesman of the New South.” Promoted industrial growth, Northern investment, and racial cooperation (with segregation).

Why did Henry Grady want to promote the “New South”? _____

3. International Cotton Expositions

Large fairs in Atlanta (1881, 1887, 1895) that showcased Southern progress and attracted investors, but benefited few poor citizens directly.

Name one goal of the Cotton Expositions: _____

4. Tom Watson and the Populist Party

Tom Watson first fought for poor farmers and helped form the Populist Party, which supported fair loans, mail delivery, and government control of railroads. Later, he became racist and anti-Semitic.

Why did farmers support the Populist Party? _____

Section B: Denial of Rights for African Americans

After Reconstruction, Georgia passed laws and allowed violence to deny rights to African Americans.

1. Jim Crow Laws

Enforced segregation in public places (“separate but equal”). Created unequal facilities for Black citizens.

2. Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

Supreme Court case that legalized segregation under “separate but equal.” Encouraged more Jim Crow laws in the South.

What did Plessy v. Ferguson make legal? _____

3. Disenfranchisement (Losing the Right to Vote)

Used poll taxes, literacy tests, grandfather clauses, and white primaries to prevent African Americans from voting.

How did disenfranchisement affect African Americans politically?

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4. Racial Violence and the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre

False newspaper stories about Black men attacking white women led to white mobs attacking Black neighborhoods. Dozens were killed, and segregation worsened.

What event showed how racial tensions were growing in Georgia?

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Section C: African American Leaders in the New South

1. Booker T. Washington

Founded Tuskegee Institute. Believed in achieving equality through hard work and education. Gave the Atlanta Compromise speech (1895).

What did Booker T. Washington believe African Americans should focus on first?

_____

2. W.E.B. DuBois

First African American with a Ph.D. from Harvard. Wanted immediate equality. Co-founded the NAACP and promoted the “Talented Tenth.”

How did DuBois’ approach differ from Washington’s? _____

3. Alonzo Herndon

Born enslaved; became a successful businessman and founder of Atlanta Life Insurance Company. Provided jobs for African Americans.

Why is Alonzo Herndon an important figure in Georgia history?

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Section D: Antisemitism and the Leo Frank Case

Leo Frank, a Jewish factory manager, was wrongly convicted of murdering Mary Phagan in 1913. A mob lynched him in 1915 after his sentence was reduced. The case showed antisemitism and led to the rebirth of the KKK and the creation of the Anti-Defamation League.

What does the Leo Frank case reveal about Georgia society at the time?

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What was the purpose of the “New South” movement?

How did the Bourbon Triumvirate influence Georgia politics?

Why were the International Cotton Expositions important?

How did Jim Crow laws impact African Americans?

What was decided in *Plessy v. Ferguson*?

What caused the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre?

How did Washington and DuBois disagree about how to achieve equality?

What made Alonzo Herndon a symbol of success in the New South?

How did the Leo Frank case show intolerance beyond race?