

FAR AND AWAY

◆ “THE GILDED AGE” ◆

The period following the Civil War through the turn of the century is arguably the most dynamic 35-year stretch in American history. During this time span, the United States experienced a massive transition on several fronts. Commercial magnates steamrolled America from a rural, agricultural country into an urban, industrial colossus. Manifest destiniers swept westward, completing an ocean-to-ocean majesty while virtually erasing America's continental frontier in the process. A government once determined to isolate itself from the rest of the world now reached abroad to become an international colonial power. Through it all, the United States fought no major war; no President of greatness emerged to provide extraordinary leadership; no single event stands alone as particularly representative of the era. Mark Twain called it the Gilded Age. On the surface, it glittered; beneath all the luster, however, problems were festering.

The changes impacted Americans everywhere. In the commercial Northeast, big business boomed. America's abundant natural resources, numerous technological advances, and generous pool of immigrant labor allowed industry to flourish. In fact, industry grew so out of hand that government regulation became necessary. Big business moguls like Andrew Carnegie, John Davison Rockefeller, and Cornelius Vanderbilt accumulated tremendous fortunes in various industries such as steel, petroleum, and railroads. Extreme wealth allowed the industrial aristocracy to exert increasing influence in politics and society. Many businessmen became substantial patrons to colleges, libraries, and museums, but ironically, much of the wealth being passed out in the name of philanthropy was acquired through unethical and ruthless means!

Laborers responded to the growing power of business by joining together in unions to fight for better pay, fewer hours, and safer working conditions. In Baltimore in 1877, in Chicago in 1886 and 1894, and in Pittsburgh in 1892, beleaguered employees staged huge strikes to force management's hand. But even then, the workers had a difficult time effecting any changes on their behalf because the ever-increasing flow of immigrants provided companies with an ample supply of ready labor for factories and mills. In addition, the Supreme Court, working overtime to interpret many complicated cases regarding disagreements between business and labor, tended to rule in management's favor.

The cities immediately transformed the everyday lives of many Americans. Newcomers especially, but dwellers too, were awed by the office skyscrapers, electric streetcars, suspension bridges, department stores, and beautiful parks. New forms of recreation such as vaudeville, amusement parks, bicycle riding, boxing, and baseball attracted considerable attention. In time, the facilities and services provided by many municipalities simply could not keep up with the rapid population growth. Crime and filth abounded, the latter propagating outbreaks of serious epidemic illnesses. Some large cities, New York and San Francisco among them, suffered yet another problem—notoriously corrupt political bosses.

Changes during the late 1800s were not confined to the commercial Northeast. The wild and woolly West, as well, was kicking up its heels. More and more Indian land was being overtaken by homesteads, gold strikes, railroads, and cattle drives. Disputes over land led to bloody conflicts between Indians of the Great Plains and white settlers and soldiers. Sadly, the unchecked white encroachment eventually compromised much of the traditional culture of the Indians. Thanks to characters like Jesse James, Wild Bill Hickok, and Wyatt Earp (and the film industry decades later), places such as Dodge City, Kansas, and Deadwood, South Dakota, and Tombstone, Arizona, are legendary today. In the meantime, several pieces of America's continental puzzle between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean were officially defined and given names, bringing the number of Uncle Sam's states to 45 by the turn of the century.

The most painstaking change occurred in the South. The former Confederate states wallowed in the throes of Reconstruction after losing their beloved institution of slavery via the Civil War. While some southerners begrudgingly tried to adjust, others attempted every scheme imaginable to maintain black subservience. By 1877, political Reconstruction had been accomplished, but the northern-dominated Congress discovered that legislating the social aspects of Reconstruction was merely an exercise in futility. So while a pre-war working relationship among all states was resumed, Dixie maintained a unique character, often functioning as an entity if not separate from the North, then certainly joined only by contract. Many blacks left the South, either for the northern cities where more job opportunities existed or for the western expanse and its hope of increased racial equality. Those blacks who remained in the South, many as sharecroppers and tenant farmers, had a new neighbor to deal with. His name was Jim Crow.

FILM NOTES

Far and Away is the adventure of two young Irish immigrants who journey to the United States during the very late 1800s. Each is seeking a better life, but from vastly different perspectives. Tom Cruise appears as Joseph, the strong-willed son of a poor tenant farmer, and Nicole Kidman is cast as Shannon, the obstinate daughter of a wealthy land owner. Joseph and Shannon meet by pure chance, and although neither would care to admit it, the internal bond between them soon becomes inseparable. The movie is entirely fictional, but it touches on several important elements of the Gilded Age, such as immigration, urbanization, industrialization, nativism, political graft, extreme working conditions, westward settlement, and transcontinental railroad construction, to list a few. Robert Prosky (Shannon's father), Barbara Babcock (Shannon's mother), and Thomas Gibson (Shannon's boyfriend) also appear in the 1992 production, directed by Ron Howard. *Far and Away* is rated PG-13. It contains some mild sexual inferences which most viewers will appreciate as more humorous than offensive.

QUESTIONS

1. The period known as the Gilded Age involved all of the following except:
 - A. significant westward settlement beyond the Mississippi River
 - B. America's general transition from an agricultural country to an industrial nation
 - C. national politics dominated by Congress due to a series of mediocre Presidents
 - D. America's gradual shift away from economic democracy
 - E. profound urbanization of the United States
2. The changes that occurred in America during the last third of the 1800s were:
 - A. relatively insignificant
 - B. mostly unwelcome
 - C. largely expected
 - D. amazingly rapid
 - E. carefully planned
3. The immigration of the main characters in *Far and Away* is an example of _____ immigration.
 - A. "new"
 - B. "late"
 - C. "modern"
 - D. "early"
 - E. "old"
4. The first federal law to restrict immigration, passed in 1882, targeted people from:
 - A. Mexico
 - B. Ireland
 - C. China
 - D. Italy
 - E. Russia
5. One major source of urban population growth in the northeastern United States during the Gilded Age was:
 - A. southern blacks
 - B. immigrants from Europe and East Asia
 - C. disappointed California gold prospectors
 - D. canal operators and riverboat captains whose jobs became obsolete due to expanding railways
 - E. aliens from outer space
6. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the majority of Europeans arriving in America passed through the federal immigration station located at _____ Island in New York City.
 - A. Long
 - B. Coney
 - C. Angel
 - D. Ellis
 - E. Staten
7. The three largest American cities in 1900 were:
 - A. Boston, Pittsburgh, and New Orleans
 - B. Atlanta, New York, and San Francisco
 - C. Paris, London, and Rome
 - D. New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia
 - E. Billings, Casper, and Sioux Falls

8. *Far and Away* shows all of the following problems which accompanied rapid urban growth during the late 1800s except:
- A. increased crime
 - B. epidemic illnesses
 - C. political graft
 - D. unfair labor practices
 - E. substandard living conditions
9. The formation of ethnic neighborhoods by immigrants in American cities:
- A. prevented their advancement in the workplace
 - B. resulted from discriminatory restrictions
 - C. intensified a sense of incoherence with American values
 - D. tended to reinforce the cultural values of their previous societies
 - E. was closely monitored and heavily regulated by the federal government
10. All of the following novels portray the urban world realistically except:
- A. *Sister Carrie* by Theodore Dreiser
 - B. *A Hazard of New Fortunes* by William Dean Howells
 - C. *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* by Stephen Crane
 - D. *Brave and Bold* by Horatio Alger
 - E. *The Bitter Cry of the Children* by John Spargo
11. The home city of the first salaried professional baseball team was:
- A. Boston
 - B. Cincinnati
 - C. Los Angeles
 - D. New York
 - E. Cleveland
12. Of the following individuals, the one associated most negatively with the great urban growth during the late nineteenth century is:
- A. William Marcy Tweed
 - B. John Roebling
 - C. Frank Winfield Woolworth
 - D. Jane Addams
 - E. Walter Rauschenbusch
13. The Yale professor who applied Charles Darwin's biological theory of evolution ("survival of the fittest") to the socio-economic world was:
- A. Lincoln Steffens
 - B. Thorstein Veblen
 - C. William Graham Sumner
 - D. Henry George
 - E. Lester Frank Ward
14. The first American big business was:
- A. picnic baskets
 - B. textiles
 - C. petroleum
 - D. iron and steel
 - E. railroads

15. During the latter portion of the 1800s, Americans seemed to place high value on all of the following except:
- A. profit and material wealth
 - B. aggressive business tactics
 - C. political honesty and governmental efficiency
 - D. global economic and political expansion
 - E. technology and progress
16. For most westerners, life was:
- A. centered around the mining industry
 - B. extremely violent due to Indian raids and general lawlessness
 - C. primarily concerned with adapting and surviving
 - D. considerably easier than in the industrial Northeast and the agrarian South
 - E. very adventurous and completely unpredictable
17. The Sioux chief who waged successful war on the Bozeman Trail was:
- A. Crazy Horse
 - B. Two Moons
 - C. Spotted Tail
 - D. Red Cloud
 - E. Sitting Bull
18. In *Far and Away* a cannon was fired:
- A. as part of a July 4th celebration in Boston
 - B. by a Spanish warship as it approached the passenger liner transporting Joseph and Shannon across the Atlantic Ocean
 - C. to signal the opening of Indian land in Oklahoma for white settlement
 - D. at hostile Indians attacking a wagon train heading west across the Great Plains
 - E. to mark the completion of America's first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Point, Utah
19. People were lured to the West for all of the following reasons except:
- A. plentiful land at cheap prices
 - B. the dream of getting rich by prospecting gold
 - C. employment opportunities such as railroading or cattle drives
 - D. better working conditions in factories
 - E. sheer adventure
20. The incorrect match among the following (legislation → objective) is:
- A. Homestead Act (1862) → made cheap land available in the West
 - B. Dawes Act (1887) → designed to assimilate western Indians into American society
 - C. Interstate Commerce Act (1887) → passed to regulate America's foreign trade
 - D. Pendleton Act (1883) → aimed at civil service reform
 - E. Sherman Act (1890) → attempted to outlaw monopolies
21. All of the following statements about America's first transcontinental railroad are true except:
- A. it was authorized by the Pacific Railway Act of 1862
 - B. much of the work was performed by Chinese and Irish immigrants
 - C. it joined Sacramento, California, and Omaha, Nebraska
 - D. the cost was largely absorbed by the two companies involved (Central Pacific and Union Pacific)
 - E. completion was celebrated by driving the "golden spike"

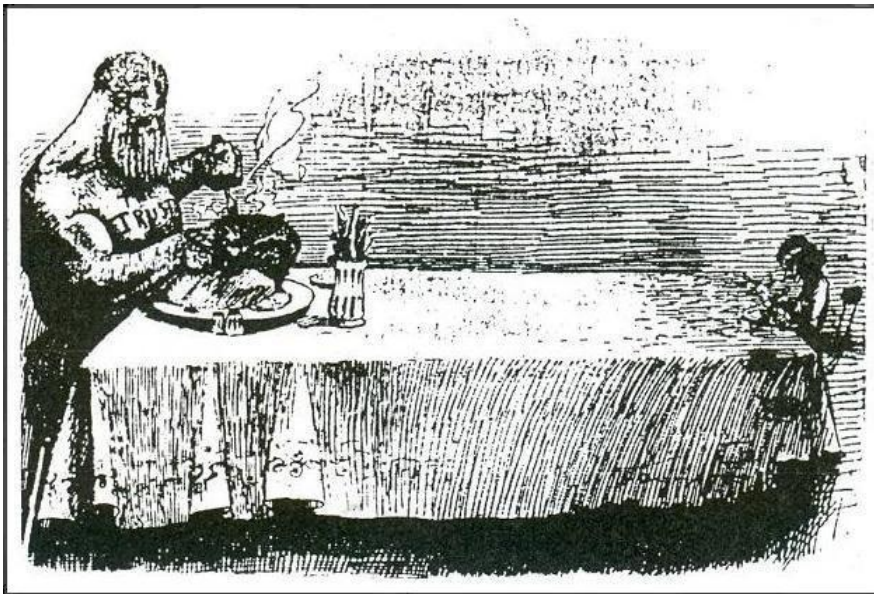
22. The federal government subsidized construction of a transcontinental railroad because:
- the Canadian government had successfully done so several years earlier
 - several eastern states banded together to block construction of a nationwide railroad
 - it was a good way to dispose of excess western land
 - of the danger involved passing through Indian-occupied territory
 - such a railway was not otherwise profitable for private companies
23. All of the following are correct opponents and bowl games for the Oregon State Beavers over the years except:
- Notre Dame Fighting Irish in the Fiesta Bowl
 - Duke Blue Devils in the Rose Bowl
 - Missouri Tigers in the Sun Bowl
 - Florida State Seminoles in the Gator Bowl
 - Maryland Terrapins in the Emerald Bowl



24. The most appropriate label for the persons depicted in the cartoon above is:
- “robber barons”
 - “industrial argonauts”
 - “political bosses”
 - “caretakers of society”
 - “global gardeners”
25. All of the following are railroads appearing on the *Monopoly* game board except:
- Reading
 - Short Line
 - B & O
 - Erie
 - Pennsylvania

26. The end of the Plains Indian Wars is marked by the:
- A. Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868
 - B. abandonment of the Bozeman Trail by the United States government
 - C. Wounded Knee Massacre
 - D. death of General George Armstrong Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn
 - E. Wade-Davis Bill
27. All of the following are considered secondary sources of historical data except:
- A. television program about the gunfight at the O.K. Corral on The History Channel
 - B. someone telling you football scores printed in the *Rapid City Journal* recently
 - C. teacher lecture about the events drawing the United States into war with Spain in 1898
 - D. chapter four (entitled "Settling the West") in your course textbook
 - E. your grandmother's favorite photograph of her father, standing in a cornfield on an Iowa farm
28. Helen Hunt Jackson's book advocating humane treatment of the Indians was entitled:
- A. *The Last of the Mohicans*
 - B. *My Life on the Plains*
 - C. *A Century of Dishonor*
 - D. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*
 - E. *I Will Fight No More Forever*
29. The statement pair which describes the same state is:
- A. "state of destination for most of the great cattle drives during the 1870s and 1880s" and "Battle of the Little Bighorn was fought here"
 - B. "the infamous gunfight at the O.K. Corral took place here" and "last statehood prior to 1900"
 - C. "home state of Chief Joseph's Nez Percé tribe" and "state enlarged by the Gadsden Purchase"
 - D. "gold was discovered here in 1848" and "state which served as the starting point for eastward construction of the first transcontinental railway"
 - E. "first statehood following the Civil War" and "contains America's first national park and first national monument"
30. The Scottish immigrant who by the late 1800s dominated America's iron and steel industry was:
- A. J. Pierpont Morgan
 - B. Andrew Carnegie
 - C. John Davison Rockefeller
 - D. Leland Stanford
 - E. James Fisk
31. The buffalo played an integral role in the lives of many Plains Indian tribes, providing for all of the following essentials except:
- A. food
 - B. clothing
 - C. fuel
 - D. spirituality
 - E. transportation
32. Based on their actions in the finale of *Far and Away*, Shannon's parents could be labeled:
- A. "Exodusters"
 - B. "Carpetbaggers"
 - C. "Sodbusters"
 - D. "Jayhawkers"
 - E. "Sooners"

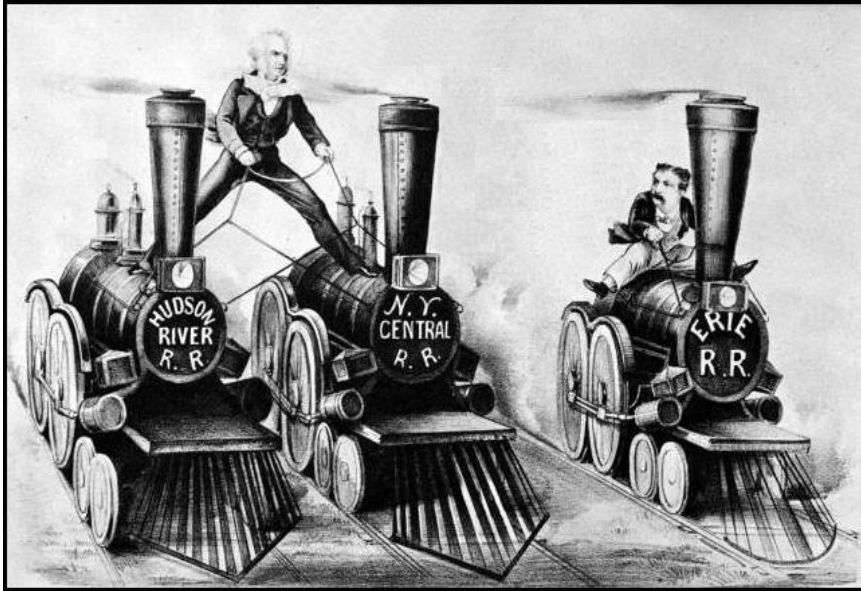
33. The geographical uniqueness of the Sioux tribe was that it occupied:
- land which became the juncture of the North American horse and gun frontiers
 - territory violated by Black Hills gold prospectors, transcontinental railroad construction crews, and twice-yearly cattle drives
 - region shared with other Great Plains tribes, including the Cherokee, Chippewa, and Seminole
 - mountainous terrain which provided excellent natural shelter from soldiers
 - the present-day states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming
34. "A no-nonsense attitude toward public administration was reflected in his courage, integrity, and diligence. He valued principle more than adulation of the multitude. When once urged by party leaders to equivocate his stand on a particular issue while campaigning for re-election, he replied, 'What is the use of being elected or re-elected, unless you stand for something?' Of the average politicians who occupied the White House during the Gilded Age, his first term was probably the best." The President described is:
- James Garfield
 - Chester Arthur
 - Grover Cleveland
 - Benjamin Harrison
 - William McKinley
35. All of the following matches are correct except:
- Thomas Nast → political cartoonist extraordinaire
 - Hiram Revels → southern black politician during the Reconstruction Period
 - Charles Russell → renowned artist of the American West
 - Mathew Brady → famed Civil War photographer
 - William Fetterman → founder of the Ku Klux Klan



36. According to the cartoon above, trusts during the late 1800s:
- controlled the food industry
 - impacted the economic growth of the United States in an equitable manner
 - faced increasing federal legislation designed to limit their dominance
 - opposed child labor laws
 - wielded excessive power and contributed to the impoverishment of America

37. All of the following associations make sense except:
- A. railroad industry → creation of time zones
 - B. William Jennings Bryan → Omaha Platform
 - C. Elisha Otis → Pony Express
 - D. orange and black → Oregon State Beavers
 - E. Compromise of 1877 → end of political Reconstruction
38. The purpose of driving huge herds of cattle northward from southern Texas was to:
- A. satisfy the higher demand for beef in Plains states such as Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska
 - B. avoid excessive grazing on Texas soil, which disrupted homesteaders trying to manage their crops
 - C. evade the Comanche Indians of the Red River region, who had vowed to destroy the Texas cattle industry
 - D. circumvent the excessive tax burden placed on Texas ranchers by the federal government
 - E. reach railways to ship the cattle to cities like Chicago and St. Louis where they would be slaughtered and processed
39. All of the following were leading Radical Republicans except:
- A. Charles Sumner (Massachusetts)
 - B. Stephen Douglas (Illinois)
 - C. Thaddeus Stevens (Pennsylvania)
 - D. Henry Winter Davis (Maryland)
 - E. Benjamin Wade (Ohio)
40. The city that became known as the “Pittsburgh of the South” is:
- A. Richmond, Virginia
 - B. Memphis, Tennessee
 - C. Jackson, Mississippi
 - D. Trenton, New Jersey
 - E. Birmingham, Alabama
41. All of the following major industries were somewhat confined to a certain geographical section of the United States except:
- A. petroleum
 - B. textiles
 - C. cattle
 - D. railroads
 - E. tobacco
42. Joseph Glidden invented:
- A. birds
 - B. cotton candy
 - C. time
 - D. rockets
 - E. barbed wire
43. Andrew Carnegie’s “The Gospel of Wealth” (1889) advocated:
- A. nativism
 - B. political reform
 - C. entrepreneurism
 - D. territorial expansion
 - E. philanthropy

44. All of the following were true at the point of America's departure from the Gilded Age except:
- A. unemployment was substantial
 - B. cities were growing at a rapid pace
 - C. union membership was high and labor practices were well-regulated
 - D. immigrants were pouring into the United States
 - E. development of new manufacturing methods was common



45. From the information provided by the drawing above, the least likely correct identification of either of the two men atop the locomotives is:
- A. James Fisk
 - B. Cornelius Vanderbilt
 - C. John Chivington
 - D. Leland Stanford
 - E. Jay Gould
46. The incorrect cause-to-effect relationship following is:
- A. immigration → urbanization
 - B. economic hardship for farmers during the 1880s → formation of the Populist Party
 - C. election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency → secession of South Carolina and six other southern states
 - D. unfair and unsafe working conditions in big city factories → creation of labor unions
 - E. discovery of gold in the Black Hills → construction of the Bozeman Trail
47. "On May 4, some 1200 people gathered to protest the killing of a striker by police at the McCormick Harvester plant the day before. Late that night, police arrived to monitor the crowd. Chaos erupted when someone tossed a bomb at the police line and anxious policemen responded by firing into the crowd. Several police officers and workers died in the melee. As a result of this incident, the public began to frown on the organized labor movement." The event described is the:
- A. Great Railroad Strike (Baltimore, 1877)
 - B. Haymarket Square Demonstration (Chicago, 1886)
 - C. Populist Party Convention (Omaha, 1892)
 - D. Homestead Strike (Pittsburgh, 1892)
 - E. Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire (New York City, 1911)

48. The three states of Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota were similar in all of the following ways except:
- A. homesteads and crops were subject to hazards such as bitter climate and swarming locusts
 - B. residents were more likely to vote for William Jennings Bryan than William McKinley in the presidential election of 1896
 - C. boundaries upheld the American principle of equality because the states measure three degrees longitudinally (north and south)
 - D. home to Indian tribes which lived in temporary tepee villages, easily dismantled and transported in order to follow roaming buffalo herds
 - E. entered the Union during the 1880s
49. Adolph Strasser, Samuel Gompers, and Uriah Stephens are associated with:
- A. election reform
 - B. city parks and beautification projects
 - C. the cattle industry
 - D. immigration restrictions
 - E. organized labor



50. All of the following statements regarding Reconstruction are true. The statement supported by the political cartoon above is:
- A. "political Reconstruction ended under President Rutherford B. Hayes"
 - B. "much of the Ku Klux Klan's terrorism was directed toward southern whites who aided former black slaves during the Reconstruction Period"
 - C. "slavery in the United States was officially abolished by the Thirteenth Amendment"
 - D. "many emancipated black slaves remained in the South to become sharecroppers and tenant farmers"
 - E. "the Radical Republicans favored punitive measures toward the South"

51. In *Far and Away* Joseph and Shannon:
- A. emigrate to the United States, arriving in New Orleans, then travel by riverboat on the Mississippi River to St. Louis
 - B. arrive in Boston but depart almost immediately for New York City, where they attempt to make a living together
 - C. journey together to Boston, but separate after falling on hard times there, only to meet again by chance in Oklahoma Territory a few months later
 - D. spend a good deal of time in Boston, then together head westward by train to purchase land in California
 - E. travel to America—the trip funded by Shannon’s wealthy father—but lose their money through various unwise investment deals with crooked businessmen in Boston
52. “Look into any of these houses. One, two, three beds are there, if the old boxes and heaps of foul straw can be called by that name, a broken stove with crazy pipe from which the smoke leaks at every joint, a table of rough boards propped up on boxes, piles of rubbish in the corner. The closeness and smell are appalling.” This excerpt is taken from:
- A. *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair
 - B. *Pilgrim’s Progress* by John Bunyan
 - C. *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis
 - D. *The Octopus* by Frank Norris
 - E. *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
53. All of the following support the label of “gilded” applied to the late 1800s except:
- A. new manufacturing technology and miserable working conditions in factories
 - B. railroad construction and westward expansion
 - C. skyscrapers, suspension bridges, and tenement houses
 - D. “caretakers of society” and “robber barons”
 - E. increased amenities available in big cities and decaying inner-city facilities
54. Under the system known as sharecropping:
- A. any former slave family could claim a portion of land (up to 50 acres) from a plantation owner by marking out the boundaries, agreeing to plant a crop, and building some form of residence
 - B. local merchants extended credit to black planters in order to purchase supplies in return for a lien or mortgage on the growing crop
 - C. black farmers would be allowed to store non-perishable crops in public warehouses until the market price peaked; in the meantime, the government would make available low-interest loans
 - D. the plantation owner divided his land into small units, each farmed by a black family who would repay the land owner by giving him a portion (usually half) of the harvested crop
 - E. to obtain a certain plot of land, a black family would agree to work the entire farm of the donor planter for a certain amount of years, typically 5-7
55. *Far and Away* is best described as a:
- A. documentary-type film which portrays the American experience of the vast majority of European immigrants
 - B. parallel version of Mark Twain's book *The Gilded Age*
 - C. true story of two Irish immigrants who came to the United States during the late nineteenth century
 - D. fictional tale that covers, with some degree of accuracy, several important aspects of the Gilded Age
 - E. reasonable historical presentation that explores significant topics in both the Reconstruction Period and the Age of Big Business