

Promises and Costs

Evaluate Georgia's New South changes and their effects.

SS8H7 "Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia during the New South Era."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail that shows an economic change, one political change, and one social change. Write E, P, or S beside each underlined detail so you can compare who benefited and who was harmed.

Georgia's New South Era

- ① After the Civil War, many Georgia leaders promoted a "New South." Editor Henry Grady urged the state to build factories, welcome investment, and rely less on cotton. Atlanta became a growing railroad and business center. The 1881 International Cotton Exposition displayed machines and products to visitors. Yet cotton remained important, and many farmers borrowed money for seed and supplies. When crop prices fell, debt could trap families. New factories created jobs, but workers often earned low wages and worked long hours.
- ② Political power during this period was controlled largely by the Democratic Party. Joseph E. Brown, Alfred H. Colquitt, and John B. Gordon, often called the Bourbon Triumvirate, favored low taxes and limited government spending. Their policies appealed to business interests, but public services such as schools improved slowly. Georgia also used the convict lease system, renting prisoners, many of them Black, to private companies. The system supplied cheap labor and produced state revenue, while prisoners faced dangerous conditions and harsh treatment.
- ③ Not everyone benefited from the New South. Farmers organized through the Farmers' Alliance and supported Populist leader Tom Watson, who called for reforms that would help rural people. Racial violence and segregation also shaped daily life. In 1906, false newspaper reports helped fuel the Atlanta Race Riot, during which white mobs attacked Black residents and businesses. The riot showed that Atlanta's growth did not bring equal safety or political power. To evaluate the era, weigh industrial growth and new investment against debt, unequal rights, and harsh labor systems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did factory growth bring both an opportunity and a problem for Georgians?

2 Explain how falling cotton prices could affect a farming family.

3 What was one effect of the Bourbon Triumvirate's low-tax, limited-spending policies?

4 What does the Atlanta Race Riot suggest about the limits of Atlanta's growth during the New South Era?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence evaluation of this claim: "The New South improved life for all Georgians." State your claim, then use at least two details from two different types of change, economic, political, or social, to explain your reasoning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail that shows an economic change, one political change, and one social change. Write E, P, or S beside each underlined detail so you can compare who benefited and who was harmed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did factory growth bring both an opportunity and a problem for Georgians?	Factories created jobs, but workers often earned low wages and worked long hours.
2	Explain how falling cotton prices could affect a farming family.	Families who borrowed money for seed and supplies could become trapped in debt when cotton prices fell.
3	What was one effect of the Bourbon Triumvirate's low-tax, limited-spending policies?	The policies appealed to business interests, but public services such as schools improved slowly.
4	What does the Atlanta Race Riot suggest about the limits of Atlanta's growth during the New South Era?	It showed that economic growth did not bring Black residents equal safety or political power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The statement is not accurate because New South changes helped some Georgians more than others. Factory growth and the Cotton Exposition showed new investment, but workers often had low pay and long hours. The convict lease system gave companies cheap labor while prisoners endured dangerous conditions. The Atlanta Race Riot also showed that growth did not give Black Georgians equal safety or political power.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations drawn from the passage. For the open response, accept either claim if the student uses at least two accurate details from two different categories and explains how the details support the claim.