

Important Strikes of the late 19th Century

Strike	Cause	What Happened?	Result
Railroad Strike of 1877	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers walked off job to protest a 10% reduction in wages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After employers hired replacement workers, <i>scabs</i>, the strikers tried to prevent trains from running - Riots broke out between strikers and local militia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President Hayes sent in federal troops to quell riots - Strikers reluctantly accepted their lower wages
Haymarket Affair of 1886	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers demonstrated for 8-hour workday - When strikes erupted, employers hired <i>scabs</i> - Striking workers fought with the <i>scabs</i>; police intervened and several workers died 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Union leaders, accompanied by local <i>anarchists</i>, protested the police action at a large gathering in Chicago's Haymarket Square - A bomb was thrown and 7 police officers were killed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although no one knows who actually threw the bomb, much of the American public began associating unions with violence and radicalism - Knights of Labor declined
Homestead Steel Strike of 1892	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers at the Carnegie Steel Company in Homestead, PA, went on strike after their wages were cut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Pinkertons, a private police force, were hired to break the strike and an armed battle ensued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The union eventually admitted defeat and accepted the company's terms for lower wages
Pullman Strike of 1894	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After the Panic of 1893, Pullman laid off workers and cut wages by 25% - In response, the union went on strike and Pullman shut down the plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eugene V. Debs called for a national boycott of Pullman cars - President Cleveland sent in federal troops to restore order and assure mail delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The strike failed - Set precedent for federal support of factory owners during strikes