In the late 1800s, the social order in the Western world slowly changed. Instead of nobles and peasants, a more complex social structure emerged, made up of three classes. The new upper class included very rich business families. Below this tiny elite were a growing middle class and a struggling lower middle class. Workers and peasants were at the bottom of the social ladder.
Class Structure

- Small upper class
- Medium-sized middle class
- Large manual working class
Middle Class

"Middle Class"

![Image of a house](image-url)
Peasants
Middle Class

- The middle class developed its own values and way of life, which included a strict code of rules that dictated behavior for every occasion.
- A **cult of domesticity** also emerged that idealized women and the home.
Rights for Women

- Demand for women’s rights also challenged the traditional social order
- Across Europe and the United States, many women campaigned for fairness in marriage, divorce, and property laws
- Many women’s groups also supported the **temperance movement** (reducing consumption and/or prohibiting alcohol)
- In the USA, reformers such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Sojourner Truth were dedicated to achieving women’s suffrage (right to vote)
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Sojourner Truth
Education

- Industrialized societies recognized the need for a literate workforce
- Reformers persuaded many governments to require basic education for all children and to set up public schools
- More and more children attended school, and public education improved
Scientific Challenges

- New ideas in science challenged long-held beliefs
- **John Dalton** developed the modern atomic theory
- The most controversial idea came from British naturalist Charles Darwin
- Darwin’s ideas upset those who debated the validity of his conclusions
- Darwin argued that all forms of life had **evolved** over millions of years
“Evolution of the Consumer”
Scientific Challenges

- Darwin’s theory of natural selection explained the long, slow process of evolution.
- In **natural selection**, members of each species compete to survive.
- The strongest members of each species survives and evolves over time.
- Unfortunately, some people applied Darwin’s theory of natural selection to encourage **racism**.
- Others applied his ideas to economic competition.
“Look at you... fast food, beer, cigarettes, you never work out... don’t you worry about the threat of natural selection?”
"I know you miss the Wainwrights, Bobby, but they were weak and stupid people—and that's why we have wolves and other large predators."
Racism Hurts
Religion

- Religion continued to be a major force in Western society.
- The grim realities of industrial life stirred feelings of compassion and charity.
- For example, the **social gospel** urged Christians to push for reforms in housing, healthcare, and education.
Powerpoint Questions (20 points)

1. Identify the new social structure made up of three classes. (3 points)
2. What two group found themselves at the bottom of the social ladder? (2 points)
3. What was included in middle class values and way of life? (2 points)
4. What is the *cult of domesticity*? (read Chapter 6.3)
5. What type of fairness were women seeking across Europe and the USA? (3 points)
Powerpoint Questions

6. What was the goal of the temperance movement?
7. What two reformers dedicated themselves to the women suffrage movement? (2 points)
8. What did education reformers persuade governments to do? (2 points)
9. Who developed the modern atomic theory?
10. Who argued in favor of the Theory of Evolution?
11. The idea that the weakest of a species will not survive is called _________.

Powerpoint Questions

12. What urged Christians to push for reforms in housing, healthcare, and education?
The End