#33 - Social Darwinism

- Herbert Spencer, a British philosopher, developed the theory of Social Darwinism based on a corrupted view of Darwin’s theory of evolution and natural selection.
- Spencer believed society improved because the strongest and most intelligent survived. Social Darwinism’s motto became “survival of the fittest.”
- According to Social Darwinism, the most “fit” were white, industrialized societies such as the United States and Great Britain.

#33 - Social Darwinism (con’t)

- In business, the doctrine of laissez-faire economics followed similar lines. This belief opposed government interference with business.
- Industrialist Andrew Carnegie developed a theory called the Gospel of Wealth. He believed wealthy Americans should create conditions that would allow the poor to help themselves.