Name of Student

Name of Professor

Name of Class

Day Month Year

**Response**

The description of the popular business leaders of the 19th century varies as per the perspectives and beliefs of a particular person. The people who were adversely affected by these business leaders will certainly term them as robber barons. Farmers were very upset and faced several challenges because of the owner of railroads. They viewed them negatively. Likewise, the small businesses that were compelled to sell to the larger enterprises will also be viewing these leaders negatively. A critical appraisal of these events reflects that a wide range of people viewed them as robber barons. However, there existed certain classes which deemed them the captains of industry.

The people who were staunch supporters of the theory of the survival of the fittest will view these business leaders as the proficient captains of the industry. They may view them form an entirely different lens in comparison to the other people who view them as robber barons. For instance, they may highlight them as successful individuals who ran their businesses productively and managed to cut costs to offer products at a lower price. These business leaders were adept at utilizing resources to boost their business with a competitive advantage. For instance, John D. Rockefeller found new ways to utilize the by-products which were extracted from crude oil(“America’s Gilded Age”). American economy received potential benefits after the endeavors and success of these business leaders. They aimed at accelerating the American economy at a rapid pace. As their business expanded and they grew older, many of these leaders became philanthropic. They engaged in humanitarian services and the poor community received significant relief across the world. The bottom line is these business leaders of the 19th century can be termed both captains of industry and robber barons based on the diverse opinions and their ambivalent nature

Works Cited

“America’s Gilded Age: Robber Barons and Captains of Industry.” *Maryville Online*, https://online.maryville.edu/business-degrees/americas-gilded-age/. Accessed 2 Feb. 2019.