

RICHEST AMERICANS THEN AND NOW

*Their wealth as
a percentage of the
nation's economy*

1918	1. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER	Oil	1.6%	2. HENRY CLAY FRICK	Coal, steel	0.3%	3. ANDREW CARNEGIE	Banking	0.3%
2006	1. BILL GATES	Software	0.4%	2. WARREN E. BUFFETT	Investments	0.3%	3. SHELDON G. ADELSON	Hotels, casinos	0.2%



1. **John D. Rockefeller**
Once controlled 90 percent of the nation's **oil** business.

2. **Cornellius Vanderbilt**
Undercut competitors' **steamboat** prices; bought **railroad** lines in his late 60s.

3. **John Jacob Astor**
Sold his **fur** business to invest in New York City **real estate**.

4. **Stephen Girard** Used his shipping fortune to enter **banking**; helped finance the War of 1812.

5. **Bill Gates**
Co-founder of **Microsoft**.

6. **Andrew Carnegie**
Built a **steel** empire, then gave most of his money away.

7. **A.T. Stewart**
Founded the first **department store** in New York, on lower Broadway.

8. **Frederick Weyerhaeuser**
Owned more than 2 million acres; was a leading **timberman**.

9. **Jay Gould**
Sold most of his gold just before market crashed; famed as a **ruthless financier**.

10. **Stephen Van Rensselaer**
Leased **inherited land** to tenants in New York.

11. **Marshall Field** Was the first to display prices in **retail** stores; made most of his money in Chicago **real estate**.

12. **Henry Ford**
Introduced the Model T and efficient **automobile** assembly lines.

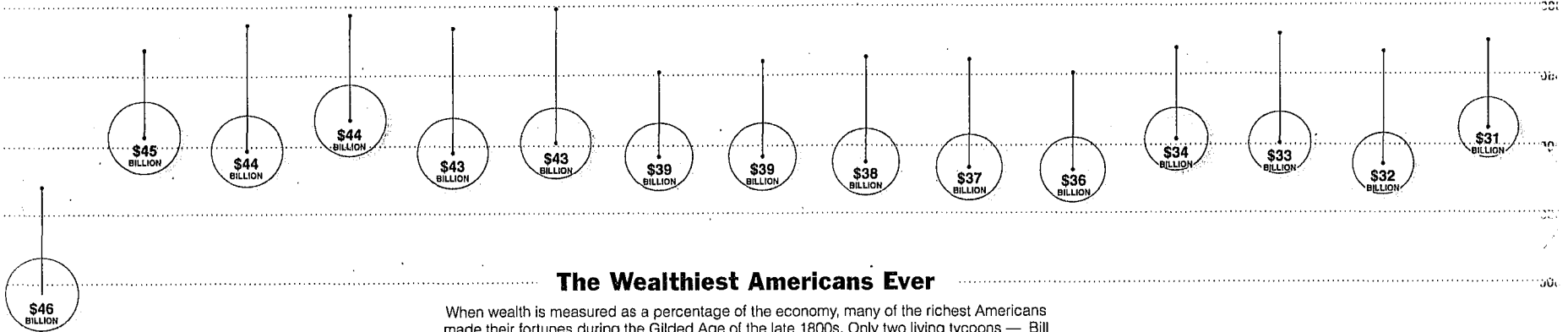
13. **Sam Walton**
Brought giant **retail** stores to small towns.

14. **Andrew W. Mellon**
Made fortune in **banking** along with his brother.

15. **Richard B. Mellon**
Made fortune in **banking** along with his brother.



- 16. **Warren E. Buffett**
Created a **stock** market portfolio with spectacular results.
- 17. **James G. Fair** Was part of the largest **silver** find in history.
- 18. **William Weightman** Developed a new malaria drug and found new uses for citric acid.
- 19. **Moses Taylor** Controlled the **bank** that would become Citibank.
- 20. **Russell Sage** Was a **financier** who invested in railroads and public transit.
- 21. **John I. Blair** Built a **railroad** network in the Midwest.
- 22. **Edward Henry Harriman** Turned around poorly performing **railroads**.
- 23. **Henry Huttleston Rogers** Partner with John D. Rockefeller in **Standard Oil**.
- 24. **J.P. Morgan** Was a famed **financier**, underwriting the mining, rail, steel and utilities industries.
- 25. **Oliver H. Payne** Served as treasurer of **Standard Oil**.
- 26. **Henry Frick** Built a **coke-making** enterprise; was an aide and then a rival to Andrew Carnegie.
- 27. **George Pullman** Developed a comfortable **railroad** sleeping car.
- 28. **Collis Potter Huntington** Built the Central Pacific **Railroad**.
- 29. **Peter A.B. Widener** Owned **streetcar** tracks in Philadelphia and in other cities.
- 30. **James C. Flood** Benefited from the largest **silver** find in history.



The Wealthiest Americans Ever

When wealth is measured as a percentage of the economy, many of the richest Americans made their fortunes during the Gilded Age of the late 1800s. Only two living tycoons — Bill Gates and Warren E. Buffett — are among the top 30.