“The American Beauty Rose can be produced in the splendor and fragrance which bring cheer to its beholder only by sacrificing the early buds which grow up around it. This is not an evil tendency in business. It is merely the working-out of a law of nature and a law of God.”

–John Rockefeller

Which of the following conclusions could be drawn about John Rockefeller based on the quote above?

a. He was a strong supporter of government regulation in business.
b. He was a proponent of trust-busting and opposed any one company having too much control over an industry.
c. He welcomed competitors because he knew competition was beneficial to consumers.
d. He supported the theory of Social Darwinism.

Answer

d. he supported the theory of Social Darwinism

Social Darwinism is an ideology of society that seeks to apply biological concepts of Darwinism or of evolutionary theory to sociology and politics, often with the assumption that conflict between groups in society leads to social progress as superior groups outcompete inferior ones.

Here Rockefeller is stating that he thinks some industrial groups are superior to others and that they may crush some business as they grow, but in the end it will be better for society.