**APUS HISTORY**

January 8-12-2018

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* **Welcome back to the second semester. As far as grades go on the 2nd Quarter the grades are complete. Now if you ended up with a 92, 84, or 74 thus falling one point from the next letter grade, I am sorry. But before you start whining you need to remember that you were given 5 points on each quarter and the midterm grade. Your "1 point" away was really much more distant.**
* **To start the 3rd Quarter we will have a little research text project on the American West. This is uploaded to the website as a separate document. You will have about 2 weeks to complete it and it is worth a test score. The good news is that before the due date we will have actually covered some pieces of this material in class.**
* **Additionally, you will be writing a DBQ on the above topic but here’s the fun part: you can partner write this DBQ!!! Only two people per paper and they can be in a separate class. Now, you can choose to work alone and that’s just fine. This assignment may be typed!!!!!**

**MONDAY**

* Examine the development of the Gilded Age 1878 – 1890s (POL-3) (WXT-4)
* Identify key political and economic issues in party politics (1868 – 1901) (POL-3) (WXT-4)

Materials Strategy/Format

PPT Intro-lecture/discussion SL.CCR.1

Student Activities

Chronological Reasoning (1,2,3)

Historical Argument (5,6,)

Interpretation/Synthesis (8,9)

**Introduction**

* The Gilded Age was a term coined by Mark Twain. He used of the term was critical of the avarice, corruption, and discontent that people felt toward the government. As we have seen in other cases, periods are often named by the media and adopted by historians. (Era of Good Feelings for example). We know that in the Era of Good Feelings, all did not “feel good” and there were serious problems with the economy and growing sectionalism. The Gilded Age was not all bad either. It was a time of explosive economic growth and recovery. By 1901 the U.S. will have the strongest economy in the world and only Britain could come close (and Germany in some industries like steel).
* Like the Antebellum Period, the Gilded Age was a long rich period in history. We will end up breaking the Gilded Age into several units (and tests).
* Today we will discuss the nature of politics during the period and key issues that were important. The first step in the process will be to look at the key issues and the philosophy of both major parties. In some respects, the period will look similar to our own when Congressional deadlock was made worse by political corruption and weak Presidential leadership.

**The Key Issues and Party Platforms**

**Voting Blocs**

**The Republicans**

1. **Regions:** The Republican Party tended to maintain its greatest strength in New England, Mid-Atlantic States (particularly PA), the Ohio Valley states, and much of the Midwest. However, they did not always win major urban areas like NY (because of Tammany) and Boston (the Catholic vote was usually Democrat)
2. **Groups:** The Republicans usually won the upper middle class vote especially professionals who were college educated. In the Midwest, they could rely upon farm votes (though a third party will sap off some of these known as the Populists. It is at this point that wealth starts to be associated with the Republicans because of their demand for a gold based economy. One of the most important single blocs for Republicans was the veteran vote. For a while at least African-American men still voted Republican.

**The Democrats**

1. **Regions:** The Democrats especially by the late 1870s were once again in control of the South. The “Solid South” could never have singlehandedly won Presidential elections for the party. But, the urban north yielded millions more. This had been true with little interruption from the time of Jackson. Furthermore, the Democrats often controlled New York and New Jersey. Sometimes the Democrats made inroads in the Midwest. The major swing states were the west. Only one Democratic U.S. President was elected during the Gilded Age; Grover Cleveland. But there were rarely ever landslides.
2. **Groups:** The Urban vote was in Democratic categories most often but not always. Chicago often went Republicanfor example. Though labor unions will one day support the Democrats, at this phase they were all seen as radicals. This explains why some people first became attracted to socialism/communism. Small businessmen often supported the Democrats as did farmers because many Democrats were less inclined toward a gold standard and favored lower tariffs.

**Key Issues**

1. **The Money Question:** We have discussed this before but it took on an added intensity at this point. The economy was seeing explosive growth and some people felt that a gold based economy could not keep up with the growth. In other words, since gold is finite, growth would have limits too. Additionally, since the wealthy already had gold, a gulf between super rich and super poor would develop. There was a proposal called bimetallism. This would be and gold and silver based economy. Republicans favored a gold standard because it would guarantee a strong, stable currency. Many Democrats believed that bimetallism would expand the currency and help the lower classes to buy goods. A third highly radical proposal was advanced by advocates of the Greenback Party who believed in paper money not backed by specie that would by guaranteed by the government as legal tender just as had occurred in the Civil War Years. It would guarantee easy credit and could be issued by the government as needed. Though radical, this is exactly what we now do have.
2. **Patronage:** The idea for jobs for political support was a part of politics since Andrew Jackson had pioneered the “spoils system.” Now it was out of control. Presidents were expected to provide these jobs and as Grant found out, he could not even go out in public without being hounded by job seekers. Both parties understood that the system was dreadful but reform could equate to lost political power. Democrats may have started the system but Republicans had expanded it. Worse still, the need for funding the system necessitated higher tariffs. A split will occur in the Republican Party over the need for reform.
3. **Veterans Pensions:** Another key issue of debate involved the payment of pensions to war veterans and their families. A lobbying organization called the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was created to guarantee these pensions. And since the veterans were identified with the Republican Party any attempt at reform resulted in “waving the bloody shirt,” a constant reminder that Republicans saved the Union and Democrats were the “party of rebellion.” But the system was corrupted because Northern Democrats also fought in the war, pensions were paid out to people who were too young to have fought in the war, families received pensions without proof of a veteran, sometimes the money was used to support Republican candidates.
4. **The Tariff:** Well, in the era before income taxes, the tariff was one of the main ways to generate federal income. As long as Republicans wanted to fund patronage and veteran’s benefits, there had to be income. It was not that all of income went to corruption. The Federal government had since the Civil War funded major projects like the trans-continental railroad and land grants like the Homestead Act and Morrill Act (more on these in a later unit)
5. **Political Machines and Bosses:** Your textbook calls the Gilded Age the “era of good stealing” and that is a great way to put it. There were constant scandals during this period. The Grant years were associated with several (see below). Some of these were the work of greedy individuals but usually the scandals were much bigger involving groups. Tammany Hall was the most well-known political machine and its leader William Marcy Tweed (Boss Tweed) stole millions of dollars. Many machines were urban organs that supported the Democrats. However, Republicans often ran machines at the state level. These machines were responsible for theft of tax dollars and also supporting weak, pliable Governors and Presidents. The weakness in executive leadership was similar to the antebellum years. Of the Gilded Age Presidents (Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland 2x, Harrison, and McKinley) Cleveland the Democrats was probably the best.
6. **New Political factions:** In the Gilded Age considerable discontent with the two-party system developed. Like nowadays, there was a feeling that neither party was really interested in governing and more interested in stealing. Large segments of population felt betrayed. Farmers in the Midwest developed and supported the Populist Party to advance their interests. They made inroads into the traditional Republican Midwest support but also developed a following in the traditionally Democratic Urban northeast when they developed a platform calling for the 8-hour workday. We will look at populism next week. Also, because of the growing labor union movement, some interest in Socialism and Communism developed. These parties were seen as too radical but as labor unrest intensified and the government suppressed strikes with force, the radicalism grew. Socialist leader Eugene Debs won millions of votes in his first two runs for the Presidency. This feeling of discontent would continue into the 20th century.

Homework

Begin research on your Western Unit Research

**TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY**

* Identify and analyze the key ideas behind Populism (POL-1,2,3) (WXT-3) (CUL-2)
* Examine Populist documents in class(POL-1,2,3) (WXT-3) (CUL-2)

Materials Strategy/format

Ppt and primary source materials Lecture/discussion

SL.CCR.1 and Close Text Reading (R.CCR.1)

Student Activities

Chronological Reasoning (1,2,3)

Historical Argument (5,6,)

Interpretation/Synthesis (8)

**Introduction**

* Before the midterm we opened our discussion of the Gilded Age there was much political scandals that beset the Grant administration. We also saw that despite it being associated with state's rights and civil war, the Democrats quickly surged back into power as evidenced by the results of 1876 election mess. By the 1880s there were major issues that set the parties apart but generally the electorate stayed entrenched. This fact led to the development of several third parties. The Greenback Party for example came along supporting the economic ideas of the lower classes. It formed based upon the demand to make paper money legal tender as the Union had done during the Civil War Years. Their demands appealed to many on the lowest end of the socio-economic ladder but seemed simply too radical at this juncture.
* One of the most important third parties to develop during the Gilded Age was called the People’s Party or Populist Party. Today we will look at this party, its bloc, and key ideas. Some of the Populist demands were aimed directly at the issues impacting farmers but also the industrial working class. The origins of the party were really unique.
* The Populist movement grew out of earlier movements that had emerged among southern and western farmers, such as the Grangers, the Greenbackers, and the Northern, Southern, and Colored Farmers Alliances. As early as the 1870s, some farmers had begun to demand lower railroad rates. They also argued that business and the wealthy--and not land--should bear the burden of taxation

The Granger Movement 1870s

* The first major rural protest was the Patrons of Husbandry, which was founded in 1867 and had 1.5 million members by 1875. Known as the Granger Movement, these embattled farmers formed buying and selling cooperatives and demanded state regulation of railroad rates and grain elevator fees. The Granger Movement was actually started by Oliver Kelley who was an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His original intent was to show farmers new methods of growing crops. Travelling around the Midwest he soon understood that farmers had little or no hope of prospering because big business was ranged against them. His particular focus and that of the organization were the unfair pricing practices of the railroad industry.
* The pricing practices led to political agitation and finally two important Supreme Court cases were passed that have generally came to be called the Granger Laws. In the case *Munn v. Illinois* the High court affirmed an Illinois law saying that a state does have a right to regulate the pricing practices of a private company in some cases. Justice Morrison Waite wrote “When private property is affected with a public interest,” it ceased to be exclusively private.” He went on to ground his ruling in nineteenth‐century American case law regarding bridges, ferries, railroads, and navigable waterways. Waite observed that when one devotes “property to a use in which the public has an interest, he, in effect, grants to the public an interest in that use, and must submit to be controlled by the public for the common good, to the extent of the interest he has created.” This was a major victory for the Grangers. However by the 1880s another case overturned this ruling Wabash v. Illinois (1887). This signaled the decline of the Grange movement but most joined the Populist Party.

**The Populist Party**

* Even while the Granger Laws were turning against the Midwestern Farmers, new organizations were forming to assert the rights of the farmers. The Farmers Alliances and Colored Farmers Alliances began to form across the Midwest but perhaps more importantly in the South where the farm vote nearly always went Democrat. There was a sure feeling that neither party would enforce farm demands
* Many farmers blamed railroad owners, grain elevator operators, land monopolists, commodity futures dealers, mortgage companies, merchants, bankers, and manufacturers of farm equipment for their plight. Many attributed their problems to discriminatory railroad rates, monopoly prices charged for farm machinery and fertilizer, an oppressively high tariff, an unfair tax structure, an inflexible banking system, political corruption, corporations that bought up huge tracks of land. They considered themselves to be subservient to the industrial Northeast, where three-quarters of the nation's industry was located. They criticized a deflationary monetary policy based on the gold standard that benefited bankers and other creditors
* The general demands an agricultural depression in the South and Great Plains gave rise to several lobbying organizations, including the Southern Farmers' Alliance and the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union. Under the leadership of Leonidas Polk (an ex- Confederate General)and Charles Macune, the two organizations met at Ocala Florida to organize the farm protest. The resulting Ocala Platform was the result.

1. Free and Unlimited coinage of silver
2. The abolition of all national banks (all banks to be run by the government)
3. A graduated income tax
4. The establishment of “crop banks” regulated by the government
5. Government control of major industries such as railroads
6. The Direct Election of Senators
7. A national 8 hour work day

**National Political Action and Populism’s Decline**

* The disgruntled farmers turned to direct political action on their own behalf. The Populist Party met at Omaha Nebraska to assert its ideology forming the Omaha Platform based upon the Ocala meeting. In July 1892 they organized the [Populist Party](http://www.answers.com/topic/people-s-party) at Omaha, Nebraska, and nominated James B. Weaver as their presidential candidate. Weaver garnered 1 million votes; carried the states of Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, and Idaho; but finished third in the race. In 1896 the Populist Party fused with the Democratic Party in support of William Jennings Bryan's presidential campaign. Bryan finished a distant second to [William McKinley](http://www.answers.com/topic/william-mckinley), and the Populist Party soon disbanded.
* The Populist Party tied its fortunes to William Jennings Bryan, the Democratic Candidate and as a result, ceased to be a major force. Eventually the Democratic Party absorbed the movement taking on some of its key demands. Be the way, Bryan is your new “Henry Clay;” not much on compromising but certainly liked running unsuccessfully for President.

**Conclusion**  
Even though Populism as a party died, the spirit continued on. Its socialist side became apparent with the growing strength of the Socialist Party in the early 20th century. Also, some believe that the book/movie The Wizard of Oz was a metaphor for Populism. It is also important to note that while the Populists lacked the force to get its demands met, another movement in the late 19th and early 20th century, Progressivism would be more successful.

Homework

Quiz Tomorrow Short Answer Format on the Gilded Age and Populism

**THURSDAY (5th Period 1st Lunch)**

* Assessment and review Gilded Age issues and Populism (POL-3) (WXT-4)

Materials Strategy/Format

Quiz forms w/sources Assessment/Review W.CCR.2

Student Skills

Context (1,2)

Historical Argument (5,6,)

Interpretation/Synthesis (8,9)

Instructions

You will need paper for this assignment and it will take most of the period. The format is short answer and there will be a few document based questions

Homework

Work on the Western Project

Textbook Needed Tomorrow

**FRIDAY (Textbook Needed)**

* Analyze sources on the origins of the labor union movement and major strike of the 19th century(NAT-7) (WXT-5,6)

Materials Strategy/Format

Textbook and information sheet Close text reading-docs analysis

Student Skills

Historical Argument (5,6,)

Interpretation/Synthesis (8,9)

Instructions

* This is one of our most important topics of the late 19th century Gilded Age Period, the development of labor unions developed hand in hand with the origins of the nation’s first multi-millionaires and billionaires. In this era the power of big business was almost completely unchecked by Federal and state authorities. For workers, this meant poor wages and dangerous working conditions. Soon after the Civil War labor unions began to form whose goal was the protection of members. At almost every turn these organizations were resisted, not only by the owners and management, but also by state and federal authorities. It is little wonder that, alongside of Populism, the first members of the Socialist Party (SPA) and Communist Party (CPUS) ran candidates for President often attracting tens of thousands of voters.
* Today using the text, you will be answering a few guided questions and documents related to the topic of labor and strikes. Next week in class we will discuss what you read-answered and add a bit more detail to your knowledge of the period. This assignment will take most of the class and 100% for sure is not a group or partner assignment!

Homework (3-day weekend)

This will be your ONLY weekend to do research for your western project. There will be some nights used only for the research available. Remember that this is a test score with an associated essay section graded like we do all tests.

Remember that this assignment is posted separately on the class website.

