

- Politics of the Gilded Age
 - The Parties
 - Parties aroused excitement
 - Difference between majors = slight
 - Both = loose coalitions
 - Both – worked w/ industries
 - NOTE: Politicians not necessarily corrupt
 - Both parties contained reform-minded faction
 - Both avoided class issues
 - NOTE: Contentious issues left to 3rd Party Movements
 - Two primary issues separated parties – tariffs & monetary policy
 - Party loyalists remain true
 - Both parties needed to attract voters
 - Most voters = shrewd
 - Close elections made party unity important
 - Greatest challenge = spoils system
 - Efforts to blur differences didn't discourage voters
 - Voters focus more on state & local issues
- Republican Years
 - Hayes = POTUS after Compromise of 1877
 - Depression of 1870s = nearing its lowest point.
 - Traditional steps taken

- Challenge = “greenbacks”
 - Created by Legal Tender Act of (1862)
 - Issued from 1862-1863 to fund Civil War
 - Problem = nothing in Constitution expressly allows paper money
 - Even SCOTUS unsure how to address
 - *Hepburn v. Griswold* (1869)
 - *Legal Tender Cases* (1871)
 - Hard money advocates wanted greenbacks out of circulation
 - Soft money advocates didn’t want contraction
- 1870s = deflation
 - Farmers hit hard
 - Congress Acts – passes Resumption Act (1875)
 - Unintended consequences of Act
 - Issue surface in 1877 – after Hayes takes office
 - Sec of Treasury John Sherman began building up gold reserves
 - Effect = greenbacks steadily rise in value
 - 3rd Party emerges – Greenback Labor Party
 - Jan 1, 1879 - few bothered to redeem
 - “Can” kicked down the road
 - Greenback movement = short lived
 - Triggers demand for silver
- Drive for unlimited coinage of silver

- Promoters in both parties
- Battle lines drawn early
- Problems appear early as 1834
- Gold Rush deflates gold value
- Congress passed Coinage Act of 1873
- “Crime of ’73”
- Silver prices dip vs. Gold
- 1st test = Bland Bill of 1877
 - Rep. Richard “Silver Bill” Bland (D-MO)
- Bland Bill sabotaged in Senate
 - Sen. William Allison (R-Iowa)
- Bland-Allison Bill passes Congress
- Civil Service Reform
 - 1880 - POTUS Election
 - For the GOP
 - Hayes refused to run for a 2nd term
 - Stalwarts tried draft Grant again
 - Turns Rep. James Garfield of OH
 - Chester A Arthur of NY for VP
 - » NOTE: Roscoe Conkling
 - Party platform
 - Dems united behind Winfield Scott Hancock of PA

- Rep. William Hayden English of IN as VP
- Dem platform
- Election = uneventful but close
- Garfield as POTUS had two major accomplishments:
 - 1) Divides GOP
 - 2) Gets shot by Charles Guiteau
- Impact of Assassination = Civil Service Reform
 - Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883
 - Sen. George H. Pendleton (D-OH)
 - Act had four primary parts:
 - Act hit parties hard
- Campaign of 1884
 - As POTUS, Arthur pleased no one
 - 1st = waited on deck
 - 2nd = almost entire Garfield Cabinet resigned
 - 3rd = he pushed for some Half-Breed reforms
 - Didn't push for nomination
 - RNC selected James G Blaine (R-ME)
 - Blaine = Half-Breed leader
 - John A. Logan (R-IL) for VPOTUS
 - Blaine nomination splits GOP
 - *Mugwumps*

- DNC selected Gov Grover Cleveland (D-NY)
 - Cleveland = reform-minded
 - Thomas A. Hendricks (D-IN) for VPOTUS
- Also three 3rd Parties ran candidates
- Campaign = sensationalist; not substantive
 - Focus = private lives & personal morals
 - No differences politically
 - Result = one of closets races
- Cleveland as POTUS – take 1
 - Follower of “Gospel of Success”
 - Most views on gov’t = entirely negative
 - Disliked federal “paternalism”
 - Gave into cries for RR regulation
 - NOTE: RR rates steadily decline
 - States move first
 - SCOTUS opens door-*Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific RR Co. v. Illinois* (1886)
 - Congress walks in - Interstate Commerce Act (1887)
 - Focus of Act = reasonable RR rat
 - Failed to get tariff reform
- Election of 1888
 - 1888 = good year
 - Result = boring election

- Tariff policy = principal issue in election
- DNC = tranquil & joyous
 - Unanimously selected Cleveland w/out formal ballot
 - Only issue = VPOTUS
 - Senator Allen G. Thurman (D-OH) VPOTUS
- RNC
 - James G Blaine withdrew name
 - RNC nominated Sen Benjamin Harrison (R-IN) 8th ballot
 - Levi P Morton nominated for VPOTUS
- Tariff = principal issue
- Harrison loses pop vote but wins
- Harrison Years
 - GOP back in control
 - Short-lived
- 1st = McKinley Tariff of 1890
 - Rep William McKinley (R-OH)
- To pass, needed Western support
 - 1st = Sherman Silver Purchase Act (1890)
 - Sen John Sherman (R-OH)
 - 2nd = Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890)
 - FYI: consequence of act = new trust arrangements
- Populism

- Roots of movement lay in series of farmers' alliances
- Two regional groups
- Alliances = social groups
- Morphed into political & cultural movement
 - Radical farmers form 3rd Party – People's Party
 - Southern Alliance breaks from Dems; joins
- Result = formation of National Peoples' Party
 - Rep James B. Weaver (Iowa)
 - James G. Field (VA) as VPOTUS
 - Attack Gospel of Success
 - People's Party set aggressive platform
 - Crash of 1893 destroys People's Party
 - Used "election fusion"
 - Result = ideas survive in Progressive Movement
- Election of 1892
 - Was redo if 1888
 - Dems re-nominated Cleveland
 - Adlai Stevenson I (D-IL) selected as VPOTUS
 - GOP re-nominated Harrison
 - Whitelaw Reid of NY as VPOTUS
 - Issues = tariff & currency
- Difference = National People's Party

- Drained more GOP voters than Dems

- Cleveland – take two
 - Crash destroys Cleveland’s 2nd term
 - NOTE: began 13 days before Cleveland took oath
 - Blamed Silver Purchase Act of 1890; Congress repeals
 - Doesn’t stop run on Treasury
 - Reserves drop below \$50 million
 - Cleveland “needs” JP Morgan
 - Feb 1895 – Cleveland “borrows” \$62mil in gold
 - Morgan profits
 - Cleveland = “tool” of Wall Street
 - Cleveland also attempts tariff reform
 - Wilson-Gorman Tariff of 1894
 - FYI: act contained “Populist” provision – Income Tax
 - Cleveland = disgusted at own party
 - Dems suffer consequences in 1894 mid-terms
 - NOTE: *Pollock v. Farmers' Loan & Trust Co.* (1895)
 - Silver vs. Gold debate rips Dems apart
 - Farmers = appalled @ Cleveland
 - Worse w/ Southern Dems
 - Ex. Gov “Pitchfork Ben” Tillman of SC
 - Dem trouble encouraged GOP

- Select Gov. William McKinley (OH) on 1st ballot
- SGarret Hobart (R-NJ) as VPOTUS
- Both = favored business by interests & powerful party boss – Mark Hanna
- McKinley yields to sound-money plank
- Dems rebuke Cleveland
 - Selected 36yr old William Jennings Bryan (Neb)
 - NOTE: Dem Platform repudiates Cleveland’s policies
 - PLUS: unlimited coinage of silver @ ratio 16:1
 - Populists also nominated Bryan
- BUT: Bryan, handicapped
 - Dems & Pops nominated separate VP candidates
 - Dems = Arthur Sewall; Populists = Thomas Watson
 - National Democrats bolt from Party
 - PLUS: 4 other 3rd parties ran candidates
- Campaign = sows seeds of modern elections
 - McKinley ran front porch campaign
 - Campaign develops modern campaign financing
 - Monopolized friendly press
 - Bryan ran 1st “modern” campaign
 - Results = McKinley & GOP win
 - NOTE: most sectional since 1860
- Progressivism

- Movement overlaps decline of Populist Movement
 - Main causes = social & political evils of time
 - Goal = eliminating abuses
 - Progressives mobilized middle class
 - Method = disclosing social & political evils
- Muckrackers = mouth-pieces of movement
 - New generation of authors
 - Used sensationalism - Yellow Journalism
 - Lincoln Steffens
 - Ida Tarbell
 - Charles Edward Russell
 - Upton Sinclair
- Prohibition = greatest hit of Progressives
 - Strength of Prohibitionists = Rural, fundamentalists
 - Most support = middle-class women
 - Started with Women's Crusade
 - Torch taken up by Francis Willard
 - Women's Christian Temperance Union
 - Speeches only went so far
 - Ex. Carry A. Nation of Kansas & "*hatchetations*"
 - Anti-Saloon League = most successful Temperance/Dry group
 - Founder = Reverend Howard Hyde Russell

- Pressured local & State parties
- Influences national politics
 - » Webb-Kenyon Act of 1913
 - » Introduced Prohibition Amendment
 - » Revised again in 1917 = 18th Amendment
 - » Volstead Act 1919
- Second area = state constitutions
 - Direct primaries
 - Initiative
 - Referendum
 - Recall
- 3rd Progressive success = 17th Amendment
 - 1893, draft passes 2/3s in House; fails in Senate
 - States move
 - Congress responds
- 4th Progressive success = 3 successive progressive presidents (for next Exam)