

# #20



## Gilded Age Politics

1. During the late 1800s, the government body known as a “rich man’s club” was the
  - A) Senate.
  - B) House of Representatives.
  - C) Supreme Court.
  - D) presidential Cabinet.
2. During the late nineteenth century, the \_\_\_\_\_ was disorderly and inefficient.
  - A) Senate.
  - B) House of Representatives.
  - C) Supreme Court.
  - D) presidential Cabinet.
3. The distinction between Democrats and Republicans in the late 1800s arose from differences
  - A) concerning tariffs, internal improvements, and political reform.
  - B) founded in the contrasting principles of Social Darwinism versus the Social Gospel.
  - C) regarding minority rights—blacks, women, and Native Americans.
  - D) in religious affiliation, geographic location, and ethnic background.
4. During the latter part of the nineteenth century, Republicans were particularly strong in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) the middle Atlantic region
  - B) the Pacific Northwest
  - C) the southern states
  - D) New England
5. National elections between 1856 and 1912 were characterized by
  - A) landslide outcomes mostly won by the Republicans.
  - B) close elections mostly won by the Democrats.
  - C) landslide results in which both major parties defeated the other.
  - D) tight elections with an approximate balance of power.
6. The “bloody shirt” argument refers to
  - A) lingering sectional tensions after the Civil War.
  - B) federal Indian policies.
  - C) conflicts between homesteaders and ranchers.
  - D) issues between workers and employers.
7. Politicians respond to the demand for civil service reform in which manner?
  - A) It was generally supported by Democrats while rejected by Republicans.
  - B) Republicans and Democrats alike embraced the movement.
  - C) Both Democrats and Republicans insisted it would destroy the political parties.
  - D) While largely supported by the Republican Party, it was virtually ignored by the Democratic Party.

8. Despite \_\_\_\_\_ being a key issue of the era, the major parties spent little time debating the topic; the National Greenback party was formed to confront the issue.
- A) interstate commerce regulation
  - B) currency reform
  - C) widespread urban squalor
  - D) protective tariffs
9. The huge organization of Union veterans that quickly became a powerful national political pressure group was the
- A) Union Party.
  - B) American Legion.
  - C) Stars and Bars.
  - D) Grand Army of the Republic.
10. Political campaigns during the late 1800s were characterized by
- A) extensive debate on the major issues steeped with honesty and integrity.
  - B) admirable restraint of partisanship in the spirit of Americanism.
  - C) political chicanery such as character assassination and bribery.
  - D) energetic rallies, boisterous parades, and other loud forms of public showmanship.
11. Presidents during the late nineteenth century
- A) were often elected by landslides, but failed to carry out voters' wishes.
  - B) dominated both houses of the Congress by their patronage powers.
  - C) took strong stands on the issues, providing clear choices for voters.
  - D) were lackluster leaders who showed little interest in meaningful contemporary questions.
12. Americans have suffered through three notably corrupt presidencies. Which is NOT a correct match?
- A) Yazoo Land Fraud ··· Thomas Jefferson.
  - B) Whiskey Ring ··· Ulysses S. Grant.
  - C) Teapot Dome Scandal ··· Warren G. Harding.
  - D) Watergate Affair ··· Richard Nixon.
13. Rutherford B. Hayes was nominated for the presidency because of his reputation for
- A) favoring an inflationary monetary policy.
  - B) opposing rampant big business.
  - C) political glamour and charisma.
  - D) being honest and moderate.
14. President James Garfield's assassination in 1881 by an unstable office-seeker fueled support for the
- A) Dawes Act.
  - B) Sherman Act.
  - C) Atlanta Compromise.
  - D) Pendleton Act.
15. All of the following statements are true about President Grover Cleveland EXCEPT that he
- A) is the only President to have the same last name as a major city in Ohio.
  - B) served non-consecutive terms, the only President to do so.
  - C) was the only Democrat elected to the White House during the entire Gilded Age.
  - D) is considered by historians to be among America's worst Chief Executives.

16. President Benjamin Harrison was especially noted for
- A) granting statehoods to North and South Dakota.
  - B) unwavering pursuit of civil service reform.
  - C) flamboyant waving of the “bloody shirt.”
  - D) resistance to the demands for increased veterans’ pensions.
17. Blacks in the South were not totally disfranchised or segregated until
- A) the Supreme Court struck down the Civil Rights Act of 1875.
  - B) Radical Reconstruction ended in 1877.
  - C) *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896).
  - D) southern states enacted literacy tests and poll taxes in the 1890s.
18. “If one race be inferior to the other socially, the Constitution of the United States cannot put them upon the same plane.” The source of this quote, which established America’s long-lasting “separate but equal” doctrine, is
- A) *The Gilded Age*, by Mark Twain.
  - B) President Chester Arthur’s Inaugural Address.
  - C) the Atlanta Compromise.
  - D) *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
19. Big-city bosses inadvertently played a major part in
- A) developing labor unions.
  - B) popularizing professional sports.
  - C) Americanizing immigrants.
  - D) creating slums.
20. Which of the following notorious city bosses was NOT connected with New York City?
- A) William Marcy Tweed.
  - B) Abe Reuf.
  - C) George W. Plunkitt.
  - D) Richard Croker.
21. Many urban reformers resented the boss system because it
- A) led to increased taxes for public services.
  - B) promoted civil service reform.
  - C) gave political power to poor immigrants.
  - D) encouraged gambling and prostitution.
22. The vacuity of American politics in the late nineteenth century may have stemmed from the
- A) simmering class conflict which politicians could not face.
  - B) inability to deal with foreign threats.
  - C) prevailing sectional and political harmony.
  - D) complacency of the middle-class majority.
23. Throughout the mid-1880s farmers on the Plains experienced
- A) excellent harvests, but abysmally low wheat prices.
  - B) disastrous crop destruction from grasshoppers and hail storms.
  - C) bountiful harvests and high wheat prices.
  - D) severe drought and dustbowl conditions.

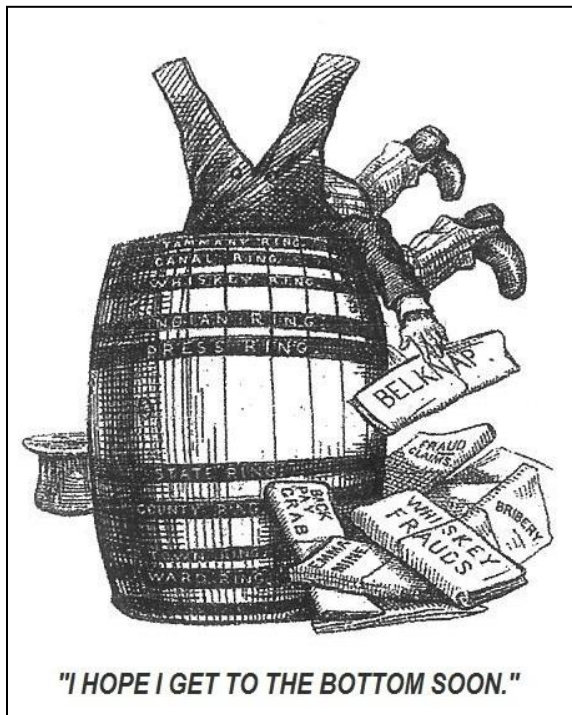
24. In the late 1880s, the Farmers' Alliance
- A) elected state legislators committed to regulating railroad rates and establishing rural free delivery of the mail.
  - B) focused on encouraging the latest techniques in scientific agriculture.
  - C) was simply a social, non-political organization.
  - D) failed to establish marketing cooperatives for their crops because they could not raise the necessary capital from banks.
25. Populist Party members saw themselves as a
- A) victimized majority betrayed by the establishment.
  - B) revolutionary agrarian movement.
  - C) persecuted minority targeted by the pro-business government.
  - D) forgotten group of downtrodden workers.
26. Which of the following was NOT part of the 1992 Omaha Platform of the Populist Party?
- A) National ownership of railroads.
  - B) High tariff on farm produce.
  - C) Graduated income tax.
  - D) Presidential term limit.
27. The Populist Party's 1992 Omaha Platform advocated important revisions in government operation, including national adoption of initiative, referendum, and recall—three means by which the people may bring their will to bear more directly on the legislative process and the machinery of government. Over the ensuing years, many states adopted these procedures, perhaps just one, possibly two, and in some cases, all three “politics of direct action.” The first state to incorporate initiative, referendum, and recall into its governmental process was
- A) Massachusetts.
  - B) Oregon.
  - C) South Dakota.
  - D) Wisconsin.
28. After the election of 1892, it became clear that coinage of silver was of utmost interest to voters. The debate over “free silver” was
- A) especially abhorrent to farmers in the Midwest who could ill afford inflationary movement in the nation's economy.
  - B) nothing more than a smokescreen created by Wall Street bankers to distract the public from their financial manipulations.
  - C) somewhat superficial because the key question was halting the deflationary spiral of the economy.
  - D) the key issue to understanding the floundering economy in these years.
29. During 1894 and 1895, at the outset of President Grover Cleveland's second term, the economy
- A) floundered in one of the worst depressions in American history.
  - B) was devastated by double-digit inflation.
  - C) surged forward, bringing unrivaled prosperity to all sectors of the economy.
  - D) finally stabilized after a decade of turbulence under flawed Republican fiscal management.

30. In early 1895, when the United States Treasury's gold reserves reached a desperately low point, a banking syndicate headed by \_\_\_\_\_ underwrote a new bond issue which saved the federal government from bankruptcy.

- A) Jacob Coxe.
- B) Alexander Hamilton.
- C) J. P. Morgan.
- D) Arthur Sewall.

31. The dramatic "Cross of Gold" speech garnered the Democratic presidential nomination in 1896 for \_\_\_\_\_, who became known as "Boy Orator of the Platte" (because of his oratorical prowess) and "The Great Commoner" (owing to his devotion to the common people).

- A) William McKinley.
- B) Grover Cleveland.
- C) Marcus Hanna.
- D) William Jennings Bryan.



32. The intent of the cartoon above was to show that

- A) the Gilded Age was characterized by a string of undistinguished Presidents.
- B) civil service reform measures, such as the Pendleton Act, were necessary to solve the widespread corruption and inefficiency of the federal government.
- C) President Ulysses S. Grant's administration was plagued with corruption.
- D) the presidential election of 1896 was muddled with numerous candidates from several political parties, none of which seemed interested in addressing key issues of the day.

33. William Jennings Bryan discarded presidential campaign tradition in 1896 by
- A) conducting a “front porch” campaign for visiting delegations.
  - B) spending millions of dollars on advertising.
  - C) traveling throughout the country giving hundreds of speeches.
  - D) selecting a third-party candidate as his running mate.
34. Ultimately, the battle between gold and silver
- A) proved William Jennings Bryan right and William McKinley—the election victor—wrong.
  - B) remained a politically significant issue for the next half century.
  - C) became inconsequential due to global economic woes beyond control of the United States.
  - D) was insignificant because within two decades the country abandoned basing the volume of currency on bullion.
35. Comparing and contrasting William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan in the election of 1896,
- A) Bryan was pragmatic, while McKinley was an uncompromising idealist.
  - B) McKinley looked toward an idealized rural past, but Bryan welcomed revolutionary forces of the next century.
  - C) Bryan’s approach was parochial, whereas McKinley’s was national.
  - D) McKinley was considerably better qualified and more nationally known than was Bryan.
36. “This political party emerged as the common axis around which various agrarian groups—such as the Grange and the Farmers Alliance—rallied during the very late 1800s. According to party leaders, greed and privilege had upset the balance between work and reward in the United States. Consequently, Americans who grew crops and made products were impoverished while unethical businessmen who raised rates and made deals became disproportionately rich.” Which political party is described?
- A) Mugwumps.
  - B) Stalwarts.
  - C) Populists.
  - D) Razorbacks.
37. The capital of South Dakota is
- A) Juliette.
  - B) Philippe.
  - C) Maurice.
  - D) Pierre.