

THE GILDED AGE

- * **Last decades of the 1800s (1865 thru 1900).**
- * **Term applied historically by author Mark Twain.**
- * **Lustrous surface (bare metal underneath).**
- * **Dynamic 35-year period (which defies pattern).**

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH

- ✓ _____ (readmission of the Confederate states into the Union)
- ✓ _____ (integrating the freed black slaves into white society)
- ✓ _____ (fixing the southern economy, then consolidating with the North)

THE AMERICAN FRONTIER WEST

- ✓ Plains Indian Wars
- ✓ Transcontinental railway
- ✓ Great cattle drives
- ✓ Western _____ and statehoods

THE AGE OF BIG BUSINESS

- ✓ America's transition from _____ to _____
- ✓ Industry's influence on America
- ✓ Rise of organized labor
- ✓ Growth of the _____

GILDED AGE POLITICS

- ✓ General overview of America's political landscape
- ✓ Presidential administrations
- ✓ The _____ Party
- ✓ Partly addressed by the Progressive Era

AMERICA'S GLOBAL EXPANSION

- ✓ America's interest in foreign lands
- ✓ America's transition into a _____
- ✓ The Spanish-American War

Gilded Age



- ◆ Succession of undistinguished Presidents
 - ✓ Abraham Lincoln to Theodore Roosevelt
 - ✓ Most (and opponents) were former high ranking Union officers
 - ✓ Most eminent and qualified public figures were not entering politics
 - ✓ Grover Cleveland's first term generally viewed most positively by historians

- ◆ National politics controlled by Congress
 - ✓ James Blaine (Maine)
 - ✓ John Sherman (Ohio)
 - ✓ Richard Bland (Missouri)
 - ✓ Roscoe Conkling (New York)
 - ✓ Thomas B. Reed (Maine)
 - ✓ Benjamin Butler (Massachusetts)

- ◆ Both major parties vague on issues
 - ✓ "Bloody shirt" issue vs. corruption charges
 - ✓ Protective tariff
 - ✓ Civil service reform
 - ✓ Gave rise to third parties (due to inner-party squabbling)

- ◆ Voter emphasis on party loyalty
 - ✓ Patriotic symbols replaced solid debate
 - ✓ Campaigns became somewhat of an entertainment outlet
 - ✓ Over 80% participation
 - ✓ Voting patterns decidedly sectional

☺ ☹ ☹ Abraham Lincoln 🐘 🐎 (Illinois) is assassinated in April of 1865.

☺ ☹ ☹ Andrew Johnson 🐘 🐎 (Tennessee) survives impeachment.

☺ ☹ ☹ Ulysses S. Grant 🐘 🐎 (Ohio) endures corruption.

☺ ☹ ☹ Rutherford B. Hayes 🐘 🐎 (Ohio) slides into the presidency.

☺ ☹ ☹ James Garfield 🐘 🐎 (Ohio) offers no reform.

☺ ☹ ☹ Chester Arthur 🐘 🐎 (New York) steadies the presidency.

☺ ☹ ☹ Grover Cleveland 🐘 🐎 (New York) finds relative success.

☺ ☹ ☹ Benjamin Harrison 🐘 🐎 (Indiana) bows to Congress.

☺ ☹ ☹ Grover Cleveland 🐘 🐎 (New York) turns the tables.

☺ ☹ ☹ William McKinley 🐘 🐎 (Ohio) ends the era.

☺ ☹ ☹ Theodore Roosevelt 🐘 🐎 (New York) revives White House greatness.

The Populist Party

(aka the People's Party)

The Populist Party emerged as the common axis around which various agrarian groups rallied during the very late 1800s. According to the Populists, greed and privilege had upset the balance between work and reward. Americans who grew crops and made products were impoverished while individuals who raised rates and made deals were becoming disproportionately rich. The party's roots can be traced back to 1867, when the Patrons of Husbandry (aka the Grange) was founded by Oliver Kelley.

◆ The Populist Party's historical legacy is its Omaha Platform (1892).

- ①
- ②
- ③
- ④
- ⑤
- ⑥
- ⑦
- ⑧
- ⑨
- ⑩

◆ The Populist Party experienced immediate success.

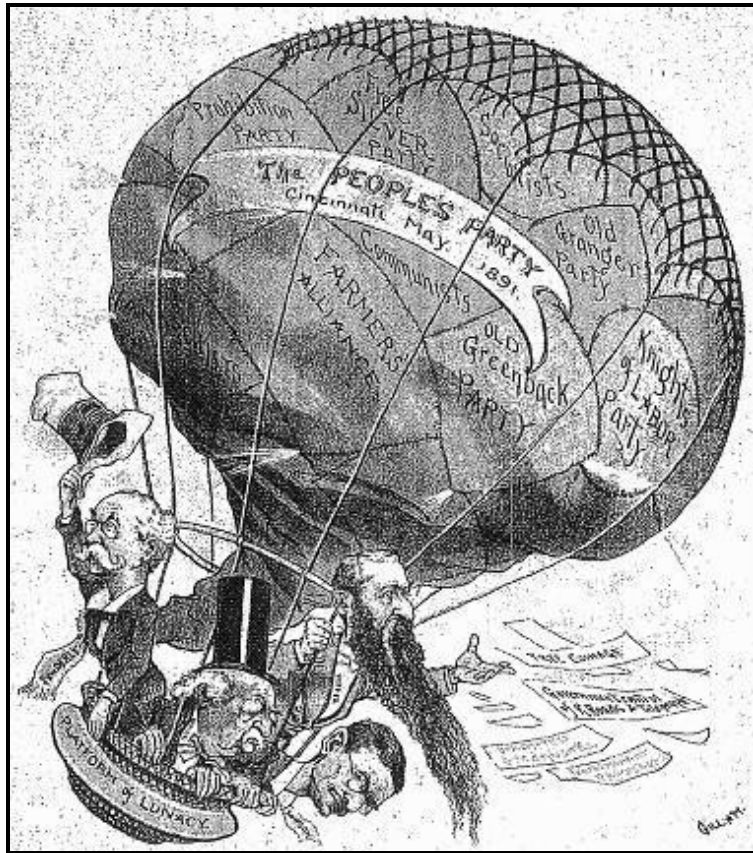
- ✓ 1892 presidential candidate was _____ of Iowa.
 - ... garnered almost _____ % of the nat'l popular vote.
 - ... won 4 states & portions of 2 others (_____ electoral votes).
- ✓ Populists impacted statewide elections.
 - ... placed governors in _____ & _____.
 - ... won 15 seats in Congress (10 House, 5 Senate).
 - ... elected some _____ state lawmakers.

◆ The decline of the Populist Party was as sudden as its success.

- ✓ Fused w/ _____ Party for 1896 presidential campaign.
 - ... backed _____ ("Boy Orator of the Platte").
 - ... different candidate would split anti-_____ (aka Republican) vote.
- ✓ Named separate vice-presidential candidate (Tom Watson of _____).
 - ... to promote _____ & retain some degree of party identity.
 - ... displeased w/ Bryan's running mate (rich Maine banker _____).

◆ The 1896 election marks the effective end of Populist Party.

- ✓ Last serious effort of any party to win presidency w/ mostly _____ votes.
- ✓ Resonated America's shift from rural, agricultural country to _____, _____ nation.
- ✓ Heralded Republican grip on White House broken only once thru _____.
- ✓ Profound impact on political America; most of the Populists' reform agenda adopted by _____ Party (enacted at various times during 1900s).



"Party of Patches" is the caption accompanying this cartoon, highly critical of the People's Party, officially founded in Cincinnati in 1891. The balloon, fashioned from several incongruous pieces, appears unstable and misguided. Riding in the "platform of lunacy" are four party leaders. Terence Powderly (doffing his hat) headed the Knights of Labor from 1879 through 1893. The organization formed one union from skilled and unskilled workers alike rather than separating its members by craft. Next to Powderly is Ignatius Donnelly (wearing the top hat), a Minnesota politician known for attaching to several third-party movements during his public career. Sensitive to the plight of minorities, Donnelly favored expanding clout of the Freedmen's Bureau during Reconstruction and was an early proponent of women's suffrage. In 1892, Donnelly wrote the preamble to the Populist Party's celebrated Omaha Platform. The other two passengers were Kansas politicians. Jerry "Sockless" Simpson (wearing glasses) was a House of Representatives member. When he once described a political opponent as a pampered product of wealth whose feet were "encased in fine silk hosiery," Simpson was admonished that having silk socks was better than having none at all. William Peffer (with the long white beard) was the Populist Party's first Washington senator. He was a humorous figure to many journalists and politicians in the East, who saw little evidence of Populism in their states and often viewed the party as folly.