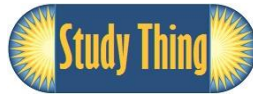


THE GILDED AGE



DIRECTIONS: *Indicate the single best response for each of the following items.*

1. The period known as the Gilded Age involved all of the following except:
 - a. the general transition from an agricultural country to an industrial nation
 - b. significant westward settlement beyond the Mississippi River
 - c. national politics dominated by Congress due to a series of mediocre Presidents
 - d. America's gradual shift away from economic democracy

2. Immigration from countries of southeastern Europe, such as Greece and Italy, is classified as:
 - a. "old" immigration
 - b. "late" immigration
 - c. "modern" immigration
 - d. "new" immigration

3. The first federal law to restrict immigration, passed in 1882, targeted people from:
 - a. Russia
 - b. Ireland
 - c. Mexico
 - d. China

4. The end of the Plains Indian Wars is marked by the:
 - a. Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868
 - b. abandonment of the Bozeman Trail by the United States government
 - c. Battle at the Little Bighorn River
 - d. Wounded Knee Massacre

5. The peak year of European immigration to the United States, during which more than one million people crossed the Atlantic, was:
 - a. 1855
 - b. 1892
 - c. 1907
 - d. 1921

6. All of the following were major sources of urban population growth in the Northeast during the Gilded Age except:
- farmers and people from small rural towns
 - southern blacks
 - immigrants from Europe and East Asia
 - unsuccessful California gold prospectors
7. The three largest American cities in 1900 were:
- Cheyenne, Omaha, and Sioux City
 - Baltimore, New York, and St. Louis
 - Boston, Los Angeles, and New York
 - Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia
8. All of the following were problems which accompanied rapid urban growth during the late 1800s except:
- increased crime
 - epidemic illnesses
 - factory closures
 - unfair labor practices
9. The formation of ethnic neighborhoods by immigrants in American cities:
- prevented their advancement in the workplace
 - resulted from discriminatory restrictions
 - intensified a sense of incoherence with American values
 - tended to reinforce the cultural values of their previous societies
10. The intent of the Sherman Act of 1890 was to:
- outlaw monopolies
 - encourage philanthropy
 - regulate farmers
 - create additional territories in southwestern United States
11. All of the following American novels portrayed the urban world realistically except:
- How the Other Half Lives*, by Jacob Riis
 - A Hazard of New Fortunes*, by William Dean Howells
 - Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, by Stephen Crane
 - The Call of the Wild*, by Jack London
12. The home city of the first paid professional baseball team was:
- Boston, Massachusetts
 - Cincinnati, Ohio
 - Hackensack, New Jersey
 - Brooklyn, New York

13. During the latter portion of the 1800s, Americans seemed to place high value on all of the following except:
- aggressive business tactics
 - progress and technology
 - material wealth
 - political honesty
14. "A no-nonsense attitude toward public administration was reflected in his courage, integrity, and diligence. He valued principle more than adulation of the multitude. When once urged by party leaders to equivocate his stand on a particular issue while campaigning for re-election, he replied, 'What is the use of being elected or re-elected, unless you stand for something?' Of the mediocre politicians who occupied the White House during the Gilded Age, his first term was probably the best." The President described is:
- James Garfield
 - Chester Arthur
 - Grover Cleveland
 - Benjamin Harrison
15. The Yale professor who applied Charles Darwin's biological theory of evolution to the socio-economic world was:
- Horatio Alger
 - Henry George
 - William Graham Sumner
 - Thorstein Veblen
16. The first American big business was:
- railroads
 - steel
 - donuts
 - petroleum
17. The Scottish immigrant who by the late 1800s dominated America's iron and steel industry was:
- Cornelius Vanderbilt
 - Andrew Carnegie
 - John Davison Rockefeller
 - Leland Stanford
18. People were lured to the West for all of the following reasons except:
- plentiful land at cheap prices
 - the dream of getting rich by prospecting gold
 - employment opportunities such as the railroads or cattle drives
 - better working conditions in factories

19. The group that often “waved the bloody shirt” during the Gilded Age was:
- aggressive labor unions
 - certain politicians
 - ruthless business tycoons
 - overzealous westerners
20. The law which granted 160 acres of free western land to any settler who would agree to farm the land for five years was the:
- Morrill Land Grant Act (1862)
 - Homestead Act (1862)
 - Desert Land Act (1877)
 - Dawes Act (1887)
21. All of the following statements about America’s first transcontinental railroad are true except:
- it was authorized by the Pacific Railway Act of 1862
 - much of the work was performed by Chinese and Irish immigrants
 - most of the cost was absorbed by the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific
 - it joined Sacramento, California, with Omaha, Nebraska
22. South Dakota became a state in:
- 1876
 - 1882
 - 1889
 - 1956
23. All of the following were influential national politicians of the Gilded Age except:
- James Blaine (Republican from Maine)
 - Wade Hampton (Democrat from South Carolina)
 - John Sherman (Republican from Ohio)
 - Richard Bland (Democrat from Missouri)
24. The creation of time zones in the United States is associated with the:
- cattle industry
 - Pony Express
 - addition of western statehoods
 - railroads
25. After the Civil War, the freed black slaves did all of the following in large numbers except:
- migrated to the larger cities of the North
 - remained in the South to make a living there
 - headed to the West where racial tensions were less pronounced
 - left the country and sailed back to their African homelands

26. Adolph Strasser and Samuel Gompers are associated with:
- urban development
 - election reform
 - organized labor
 - westward expansion
27. The federal government subsidized construction of a transcontinental railroad because:
- there was much danger involved passing through Indian-occupied territory
 - it was a good way to dispose of excess western land
 - such a railway was not otherwise profitable for private companies
 - the Canadian government had successfully done so several years earlier
28. By 1900, the number of America's statehoods had grown to:
- 45
 - 48
 - 50
 - 56
29. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the majority of Europeans arriving in America passed through the federal immigration station located at New York City's:
- Staten Island
 - Ellis Island
 - Angel Island
 - Long Island
30. The assassination of President James Garfield led to the:
- Pendleton Act
 - Roosevelt Corollary
 - Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*
 - Teller Amendment
31. The changes that occurred in America during the last third of the 1800s were:
- relatively insignificant
 - amazingly rapid
 - somewhat expected
 - carefully planned
32. The chain store concept was pioneered by:
- J. C. Penney
 - Montgomery Ward
 - F. W. Woolworth
 - Marshall Field

DIRECTIONS: Match each term in the upper group (numbered) with the correct definition from the lower group (lettered). Some of the definitions are not used.

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|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 33. steerage | 34. nativism | 35. graft |
| 36. entrepreneur | 37. laissez-faire | 38. monopoly |
| 39. arbitration | 40. multiplier effect | 41. tenement |
| 42. reform | 43. ghetto | 44. philanthropy |
| 45. gilded | 46. subsidize | 47. sharecropper |
| 48. social Darwinism | 49. treaty | 50. pudding |

- A. Person who risks personal capital to organize and operate a new business.
- B. French term which means “no interference.”
- C. Total value of all goods and services produced by the government.
- D. Cheapest accommodation aboard a ship.
- E. Point where organized land meets unsettled territory.
- F. Extreme, unwarranted dislike for foreigners.
- G. Positive change.
- H. To receive funding from the government for a certain project.
- I. Landless farmer who used crops to pay rent.
- J. Control of an entire economic market by a single company.
- K. Process whereby a neutral third party helps two feuding groups reach an agreement.
- L. Creation of many new jobs to support one particularly successful industry.
- M. Large residential building in a city.
- N. Contributing large sums of personal wealth to worthy civic or private organizations.
- O. Especially rundown and densely populated city district occupied by minority group.
- P. Lustrous on the surface but worthless underneath.
- Q. Formal contract negotiated between nations.
- R. Political corruption.
- S. Application of biological theory of “survival of the fittest” to socio-economic world.
- T. Smooth, creamy dessert.

The American Commonwealth. The Gilded Age witnessed a succession of weak presidents. This political vacuum in the executive branch was filled by the dominance of Congress, particularly the Senate. The great political parties seldom took clearly opposing positions on major national questions, preferring instead to deal with state and local problems. In general the South supported Democrats as did Catholics, immigrants, and most minorities other than Negroes, while the Republicans controlled New England and received the votes of most wealthy northerners.

Issues of the Gilded Age. Four issues captured the attention of politicians in these years. One was the "bloody shirt" tactic employed by many Republicans. This strategy reminded the electorate that the Democrats had fostered slavery, secession, and Civil War. The tariff remained a perennial issue. While a few economists favored free trade, most Americans supported protection, believing that high tariffs fostered the growth of industry and created jobs for workingmen. A third political issue was currency reform. By the end of the Civil War, anti-inflationists favored withdrawing the \$450 million "greenbacks" in circulation. On the other hand, deflation from 1865 to 1896 was injuring debtors, particularly farmers, who had borrowed heavily during the wartime boom to finance expansion. In 1878, the Greenback Labor party polled over a million votes and elected 14 congressmen, but the major parties were unwilling to confront the issue. Civil service reform was another issue. The increase in the number of federal employees from 53,000 in 1871 to 256,000 by 1900 was accompanied by corruption and waste. Politicians, afraid to relinquish patronage power, refused to heed reform sentiment.

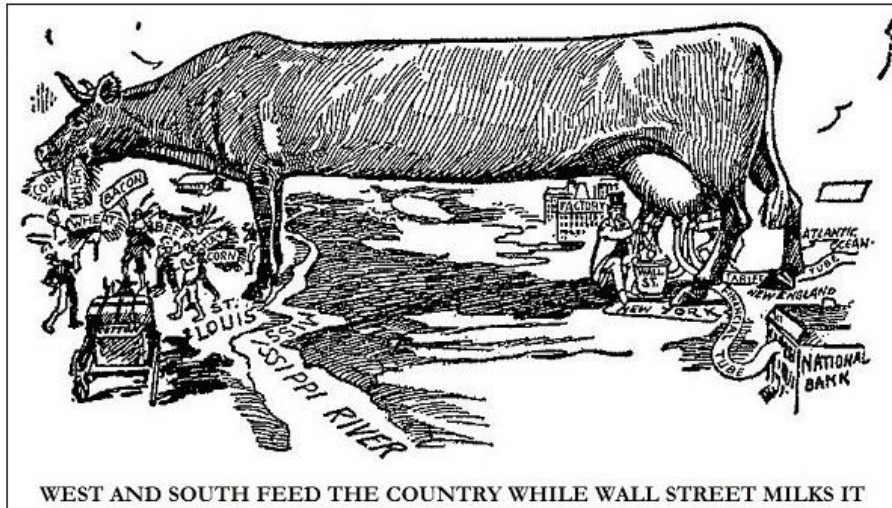
Political Strategy and Tactics. A precarious balance of power existed between both major parties which reduced their willingness to face the problems of social and economic change. Most presidential elections were determined in a handful of populous states (New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) where public opinion differed widely on current issues. Instead of debating the issues, political campaigns were conducted in a carnival atmosphere accompanied by mudslinging, character assassination, lying, and bribery.

The Men in the White House. Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio, a distinguished Civil War veteran, was a moderate on tariffs and the "bloody shirt," and a conservative on the currency issue. He favored civil service reform but was unsuccessful in limiting the spoils system. While decrying southern mistreatment of blacks, he took no action. His successor, James A. Garfield, another Ohioan, was assassinated by Charles Guiteau before making his mark on the presidency, but he had already demonstrated his indecisiveness. He was intellectually inclined toward low tariffs, inconsistent on the "bloody shirt," and he was totally opposed to inflationary schemes. In September 1881, Chester A. Arthur of New York succeeded Garfield. Arthur had been an unblushing defender of the spoils system, but he signed the Pendleton Act (1883), which classified about ten percent of all government jobs and created the Civil Service Commission. Arthur took a moderate position on tariffs, encouraged federal regulation of railroads, and supported the construction of a modern navy.

The election of 1884 resulted in Grover Cleveland of New York defeating James G. Blaine of Maine in a campaign based on scandal. Cleveland was a sound-money man and a moderate tariff reformer. He attempted a mid-road position on civil service reform but accomplished few changes. Cleveland took a fairly broad view of federal government powers, but he provided constructive leadership only on the tariff issue. In the 1888 election, Cleveland received a plurality of the popular vote, but Benjamin Harrison, his Republican opponent, carried several key industrial states and obtained a substantial majority in the electoral college. Harrison was both intelligent and able, but he was too reserved to make a good politician. He ardently backed sound money and high tariffs. In campaigning, he regularly used the "bloody shirt" and endorsed handsome veterans pensions. Like most of his predecessors he paid lip service to civil service reform but failed to follow through. Congress, for the first time in a period of peace, spent over \$1 billion in a single session.

Congressional Leaders. James G. Blaine of Maine was an outstanding figure in Congress, serving from 1863 to 1881. Roscoe Conkling long dominated New York state politics, but he squandered his energies in personal quarrels. Republican Thomas "Czar" Reed of Maine was an autocratic speaker of the house, who was able and courageous but ultraconservative and vindictive. Richard P. "Silver Dick" Bland of Missouri was perhaps the most attractive Democrat of the period. He was a free silver advocate who opposed tariffs and monopolies.

Agricultural Discontent. The American farmer's economic and social status failed to keep pace with industrial society during the three decades before 1900. Prices of commodities such as wheat and cotton dropped drastically, tariffs and cheap foreign transportation hindered international trade, and urbanites had come to view farmers with amused tolerance or even contempt. Financially, farmers in newly settled regions were usually worse off than those in older areas because they had to borrow money to get started and were burdened with fixed interest rates during a deflationary period. The agricultural and land boom in the mid-1880s came to an abrupt halt in Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas beginning with the bitter winter of 1886-1887, which crippled the range cattle industry. A drought followed, and thousands were forced to give up their lands and return to the East.



The Populist Movement. The profound agricultural depression triggered the Alliance movement which felt that political action was needed to increase agricultural prices, lower transportation costs, and reform the nation's financial system. Northerners favored forming a third party, while southerners preferred working to capture local Democratic machines. State and local elections in 1890 resulted in Alliance-sponsored candidates winning several governorships, numerous congressional seats, and control of several state legislatures.

The call went out to form a new national party, and in July of 1892 the People's Party was formed and General James B. Weaver was nominated for president. The convention drafted one of the most comprehensive reform programs ever advanced by an important American political party, calling for a graduated income tax, nationalization of railroads, telegraph, and telephone systems, a "subtreasury" plan, unlimited coinage of silver, and several political reform measures. The results of the campaign of 1892 proved disappointing. In the South, conservative Democrats, playing on racist fears, subverted the political unity of poor whites and blacks, labor support was negligible, and General Weaver ran a poor third as Grover Cleveland was elected president.

Showdown on Silver. By the early 1890s, discussion of federal monetary policy revolved around the coinage of silver. Traditionally, the United States had coined both gold and silver. The commercial value of the two metals had been set at a ratio of 15:1 in 1792. The ratio fluctuated, but after 1874, following a large production of silver from the mines of Nevada and Colorado, it became profitable for miners to coin their bullion. However, the Coinage Act of 1873 had demonetized silver and this led to demands by miners and inflationists to bimetallism. The Bland-Allison Act (1878) was a compromise measure which authorized the purchase of \$2 million to \$4 million of silver per month at the market price. This legislation had little effect and as the commercial price of silver continued to fall, the ratio reached 20:1 in 1890. The Sherman Silver Purchase Act (1890) required the government to buy 4.5 million ounces of silver monthly. The world trend toward a gold standard rendered the act impotent and the silver ratio fell to 32:1 in 1894.

With compromises failing, President Cleveland forced Congress to repeal the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in an effort to return to the gold standard. This action led the southern and western wings of the Democratic party to desert Cleveland. Public confidence was further eroded by Cleveland's heavy-handed treatment of Coxey's "army" which marched on Washington and the use of troops to end the Pullman strike in Illinois. A desperate gold crisis was narrowly averted in 1895 by the efforts of J. P. Morgan heading a syndicate of bankers who guaranteed a \$62 million government bond issue.

Increasingly the silver issue dominated politics. The Populists demanded the unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16:1. Their popularity forced both major parties to confront the money issue in 1896. The Republicans nominated William McKinley and drafted a platform calling for the gold standard. The Democrats endorsed free silver and nominated William Jennings Bryan, who had won the delegates with his dramatic "cross of gold" speech. Despite fears of losing distinctive party identity, the Populists also nominated Bryan, while substituting Thomas Watson as the vice-presidential nominee.

Election of 1896. The campaign of 1896 was intensely emotional and it produced drastic political realignments as silver Republicans backed Bryan and gold Democrats nominated their own candidate, John M. Palmer. The Republicans seemed to have the most advantages: McKinley had a distinguished war record and a solid political reputation, while Bryan was young and inexperienced and the Democratic party was poorly financed. Bryan, however, made up for many party handicaps by campaigning extensively. McKinley, under the astute management of Mark Hanna, conducted a "front-porch campaign" supplemented by large-scale literature distribution. In the election, McKinley carried the East and the Middle West with 271 electoral votes. The South, the plains states, and the Rocky Mountain region gave Bryan 176 votes. The election marked the coming of age of modern America. Bryan was a throwback to the rural America of Jefferson and Jackson, while McKinley was a man looking ahead to the 20th century.

Roots of Progressivism. The progressive movement sprang from many sources. One was the fight against corruption in government. A second was the effort to regulate big business. A third was the interest of reformers in the welfare of the urban poor. In particular, the middle class felt threatened, both by the corporate giants and by the big city bosses.

The Progressive Mind. Despite its democratic rhetoric, progressivism was paternalistic. Reformers oversimplified complicated issues and disagreed on regulation of big business, political reform, municipal socialism, nationalization of industries, and other issues. Progressives stressed individual freedom while supporting Prohibition. Also, anti-immigrant and racist attitudes were prevalent among progressives. But they never challenged the fundamental principles of capitalism, nor did they attempt a basic reorganization of society.