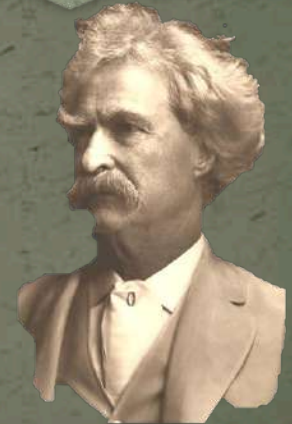


Political Paralysis in the Gilded Age

1869-1896

AP U.S. History

I came-up with
the term “Gilded
Age.”



Mark Twain was so witty!

Essential Question

- To what extent did post-Civil War America see a rebirth of American idealism?
 - (to effectively answer this question you must first define what “American idealism” means to you).

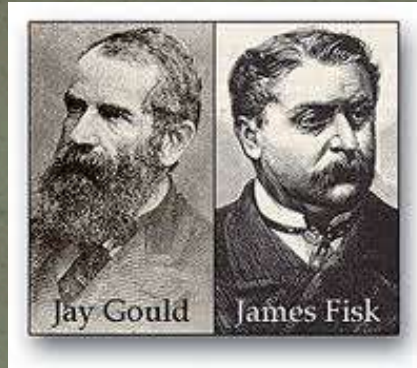
The Era of Good Stealings

Check-out all the scandals while I was president

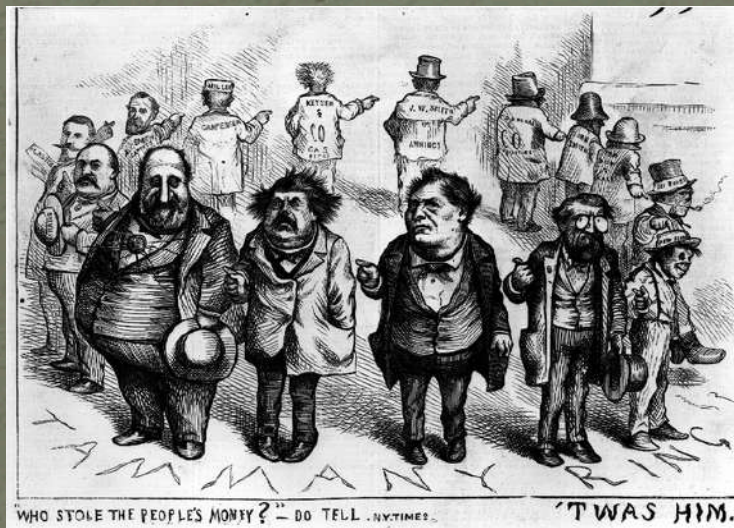


President Grant's time as president was marked by his tolerance of corruption and his loyalty to crooked friends.

Boss Tweed's widespread corruption was finally brought to a halt by The journalistic exposes of *The New York Times* and cartoonist Thomas Nast



Financiers Jim Fisk and Jay Gould tried to involve the Grant administration in a corrupt scheme to corner the gold market.



Your political machine was corrupt

My job was to get votes for Democrat politicians - what's wrong with that?



Nast drew that. Can you see why it was so influential?



"Boss" Tweed

The Era of Good Stealings



The Credit Mobilier scandal involved railroad corporation fraud and the subsequent bribery of congressmen. Union Pacific Railroad created the Credit Mobilier construction company and then hired themselves, at inflated prices, to build the railroad line. The company gave a lot of money to Congressmen to ensure they didn't get busted.



Officials in Grant's administration were skimming money collected from taxes on whiskey.

Can you interpret the two political cartoons?

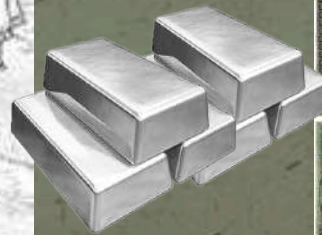
Depression, Deflation, and Inflation



The depression of the 1870s led to increasing demands for inflation of the money supply by issuing more paper or silver currency.



The crash was caused by laying too many railroad tracks, building way too many mines, sowing too many grain fields, and erecting more factories than the markets could bear. Bankers, in turn, made too many unwise loans.



Greenbacks was a currency printed during the Civil War. Greenbacks were printed like crazy and depreciated in value.

The solution? Debtors, such as farmers and miners, wanted to coin silver money and print more “greenbacks.”

Pallid Politics in the Gilded Age

United States: 1876

Republicans were strong in the midwest and rural Northeast.



Democrats were strong in the South and northern cities.

Elections for Congress were always close – Congress went back and forth between Democrat and Republican majorities for over twenty years. Since elections were always close, the major political parties were reluctant to take a stand on any national issue.

And yet, the two parties were very competitive and there was strong party loyalty and high voter turnout – why?!

I love puppies

I love puppies more



Congressman A

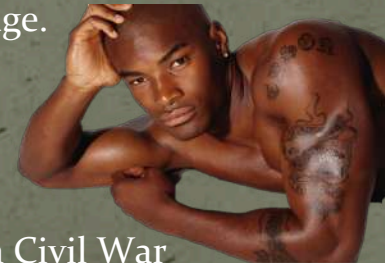
Congressman B



The primary goal for which all factions in both political parties contended during the Gilded Age was patronage.



Union Civil War vets and Blacks voted Republican.



The Irish, Catholics, and Lutherans voted Democrat.

The Compromise of 1877 and the End of Reconstruction

Consequences of the Compromise of 1877:

1. The Republican party abandoned southern Blacks.
 1. Republican carpetbag governments collapsed in the South (goodbye black politicians and black voters).
 2. The Supreme Court determined the 14th Amendment did not protect blacks from discrimination by individuals.
 3. Blacks and poor whites became sharecroppers.

And, I have a beard.

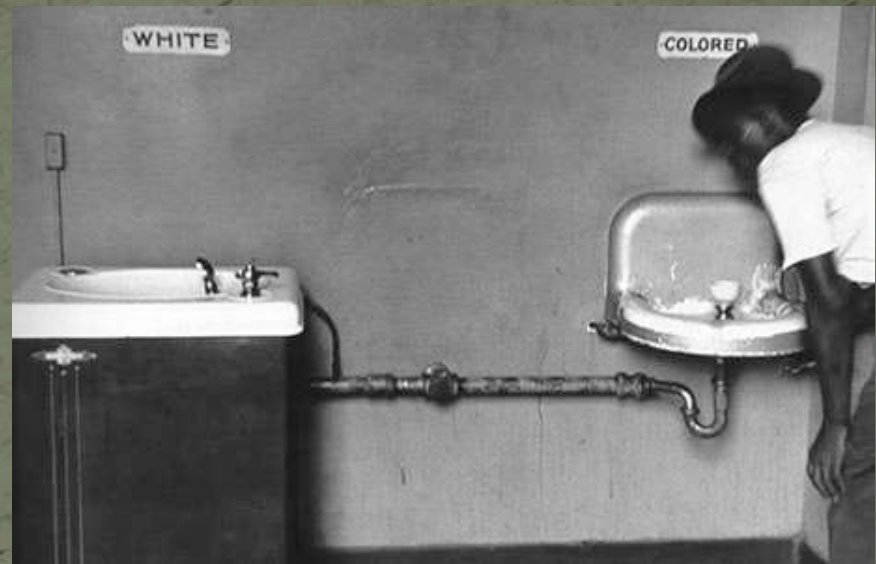
Coollest presidential name: Rutherford B. Hayes



President Rutherford B. Hayes

The Birth of Jim Crow in the Post-Reconstruction South

Jim Crow was legal segregation of Blacks and Whites.



The 14th Amendment says, “no state may deny a person equal protection under the law,” but what does that mean?

The Supreme Court’s ruling in Plessey v. Ferguson upholding “separate but equal” public facilities in effect legalized the system of unequal segregation between the races

Class Conflict and Ethnic Clashes

The long depression and deflationary monetary policies (getting rid of greenbacks and accumulating gold in the U.S. Treasury) led to explosive fights between social and racial classes.



The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 was a response to employee wages being cut. President Hayes sent in federal troops to put down the unrest.

A major weakness of the labor movement was racial and ethnic biases among the workers. The Irish especially didn't like the Chinese.

I need more money!



Railroad owners, like Cornelius Vanderbilt, decided to cut wages in order to increase profits – railroad workers freaked out.



The final result of the widespread anti-Chinese agitation in the West was a Congressional law to prohibit any further Chinese immigration.



Garfield and Arthur

That sucked.



President Garfield

No relation -
sorry.

James Garfield was elected president...and then promptly assassinated.



President James Garfield was assassinated by a mentally unstable and disappointed office seeker.

Disgusted with Garfield's murder, politicians passed the **Pendleton Act of 1883**, which attempted to limit patronage in government. Without easy access to well-paying government jobs for patronage, politicians and political "bosses" turned to corporations for money and influence.

You should have stuck with me.



Former President Hayes

I had 80 pairs of trousers.



Vice President Arthur became president



“Old Grover” Takes Over – Twice!

THE GREAT AMERICAN *MUGWUMP*.



Mugwumps were Republicans who wanted to address corruption in government and supported Democratic presidential candidate Cleveland instead of the perceived dishonest Republican candidate.

Republicans angered farmers out West and in rural areas (who typically voted Republican!) because of a bill, the McKinley Tariff Act of 1890, that increased tariffs for manufactured goods but didn't protect agricultural products.

I was the first sitting president to be voted out since Martin Van Buren!



With Republicans in disarray, the Democrats won the presidency, with Grover Cleveland, after almost 30 years of Republican control of the White House! And then he lost the next presidential election.

My grandfather was President William Henry Harrison.



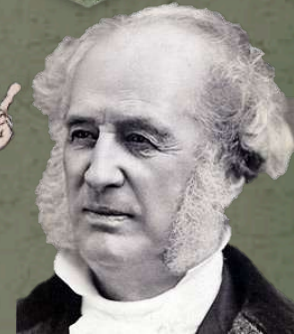
Benjamin Harrison became president after Cleveland angered many by reducing tariffs.

The Drumbeat of Discontent

We're getting screwed by the railroad companies.



Whoa, dude. I can charge whatever I want for you to ship your crops on my railroads.



Angry and frustrated farmers formed the People's Party, or "Populists," which was rooted in the Farmers Alliance in the West and South. They demanded free silver, a graduated income tax, and government ownership of the railroads, telegraph, and telephone.

By the way, the People's Party couldn't win the presidential election because Southern Whites didn't trust Southern Blacks, who had formed a Farmers Alliance of their own.



The People's Party split the Republican vote and Grover Cleveland became president - again.

Cleveland Breeds a Backlash

Another depression hits the United States and this time, it's a really, really, bad one.

What to do? What...to...do? Earlier, Republicans, under President Harrison, passed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890, which pleased miners by having the federal government purchase silver (again) at the rate of 16 ounces of silver to one ounce of gold. But, this led to gold flowing out of the U.S. Treasury and potentially bankrupting the U.S. government.

Cleveland repealed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890 but it didn't do much to stabilize the country's economy. What to do?! What...to...do?

You're welcome

Thanks dude.



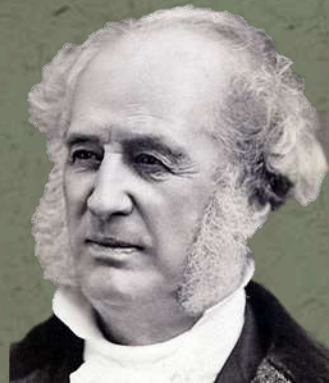
How about borrowing \$65 million from J.P. Morgan, one of the richest men on the planet, in order to save the monetary gold standard? President Cleveland raised Cain with the deal and he suffers politically.

What's Up with the Facial Hair?!

J.P. Morgan



Cornelius
Vanderbilt



Rutherford
B. Hayes



James
Garfield



Chester
Arthur



Benjamin
Harrison



Congressman A



Congressman B



Grover Cleveland –
lamest facial hair and
only Democrat
president of the era.

Questions to Consider

1. Were the Populists radicals or reactionaries?
2. Which of the following issues was the most important, in your opinion? The tariff issue, the money question, or the rights of labor.
3. How were African Americans sacrificed for political stability?