

■ Essential Question:

- What role did presidents Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, & Harrison play in developing policy during the Gilded Age?



The Politics of the Gilded Age

No more than 1% of the popular vote separated the candidates in 3 of 5 elections

1876 to 1882 were the most closely contested elections ever

Congress was split as well:

Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883

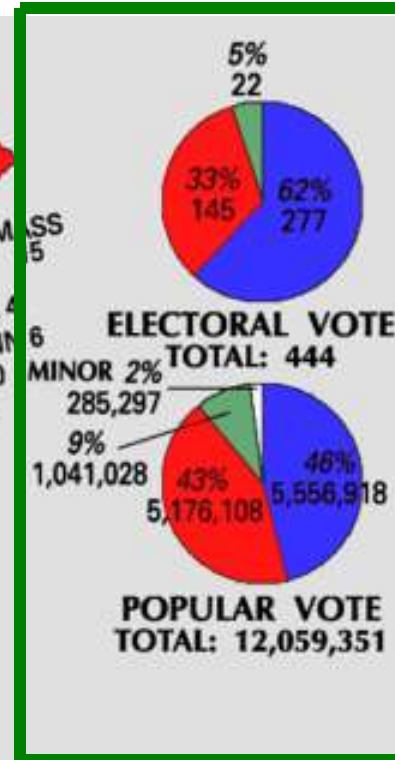
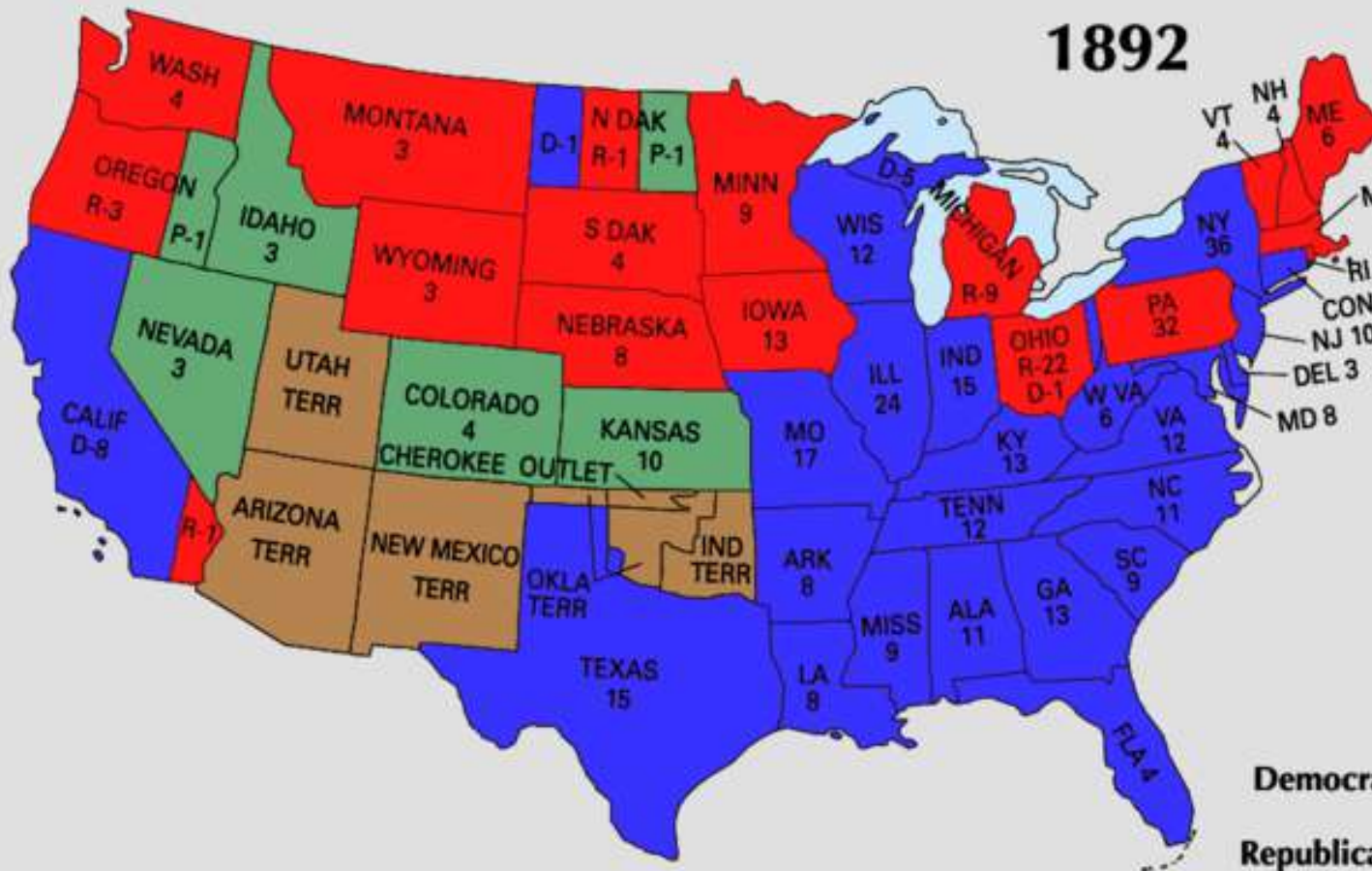
Interstate Commerce Act of 1887

Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890


McKinley Tariff Act of 1890


for any of the presidents or either party to pass significant legislation for 20 years

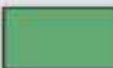
The Two-Party Stalemate: 1876-1892

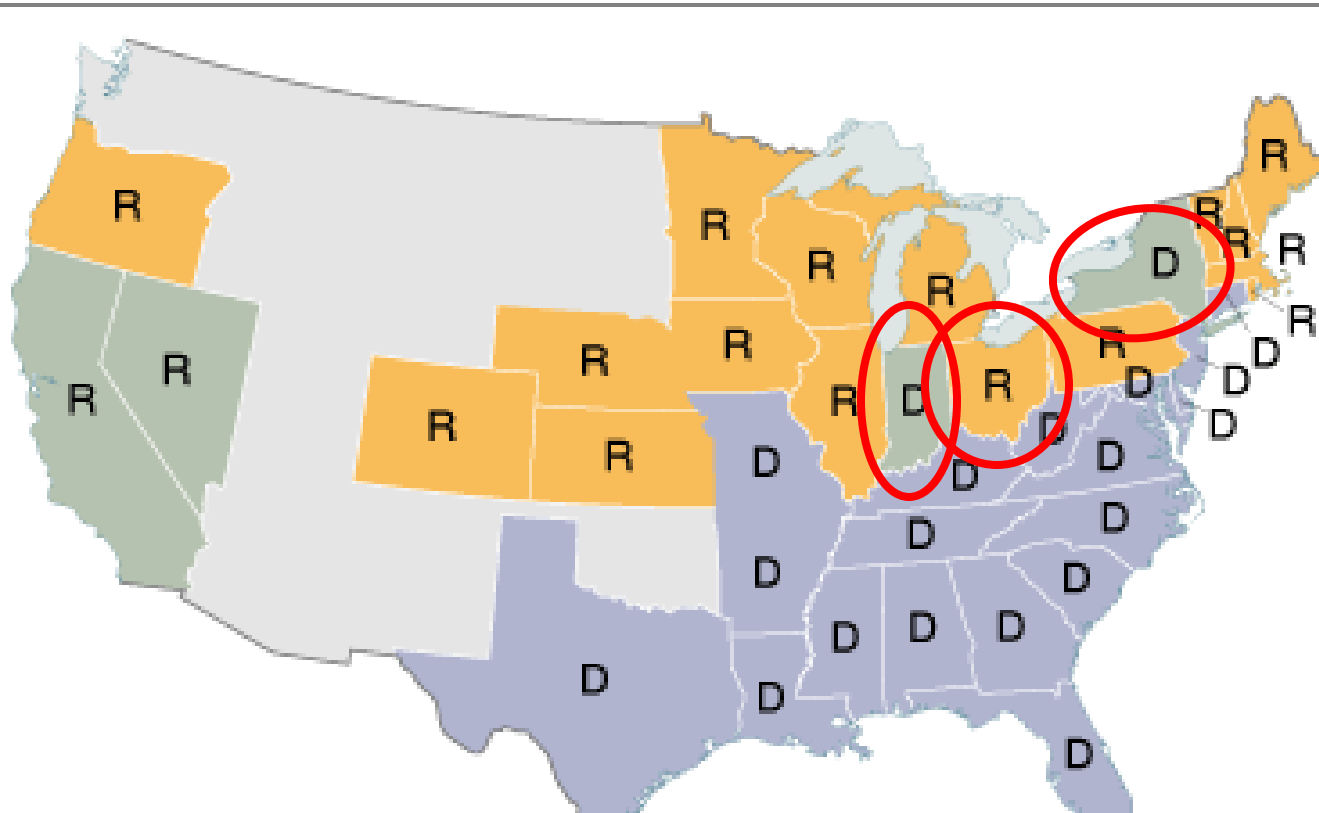


Territories

Democratic (Cleveland) 

Republican (B. Harrison) 

Populist (Weaver) 



A Two-Party

Republicans & Democrats were closely divided in New York, Ohio, & Indiana—these 3 states swung the 5 presidential elections

As a result, 16 of the 20 presidential & VP candidates were from NY, Ohio, or Indiana

Voting Blocs in the Gilded Age

Democratic Bloc

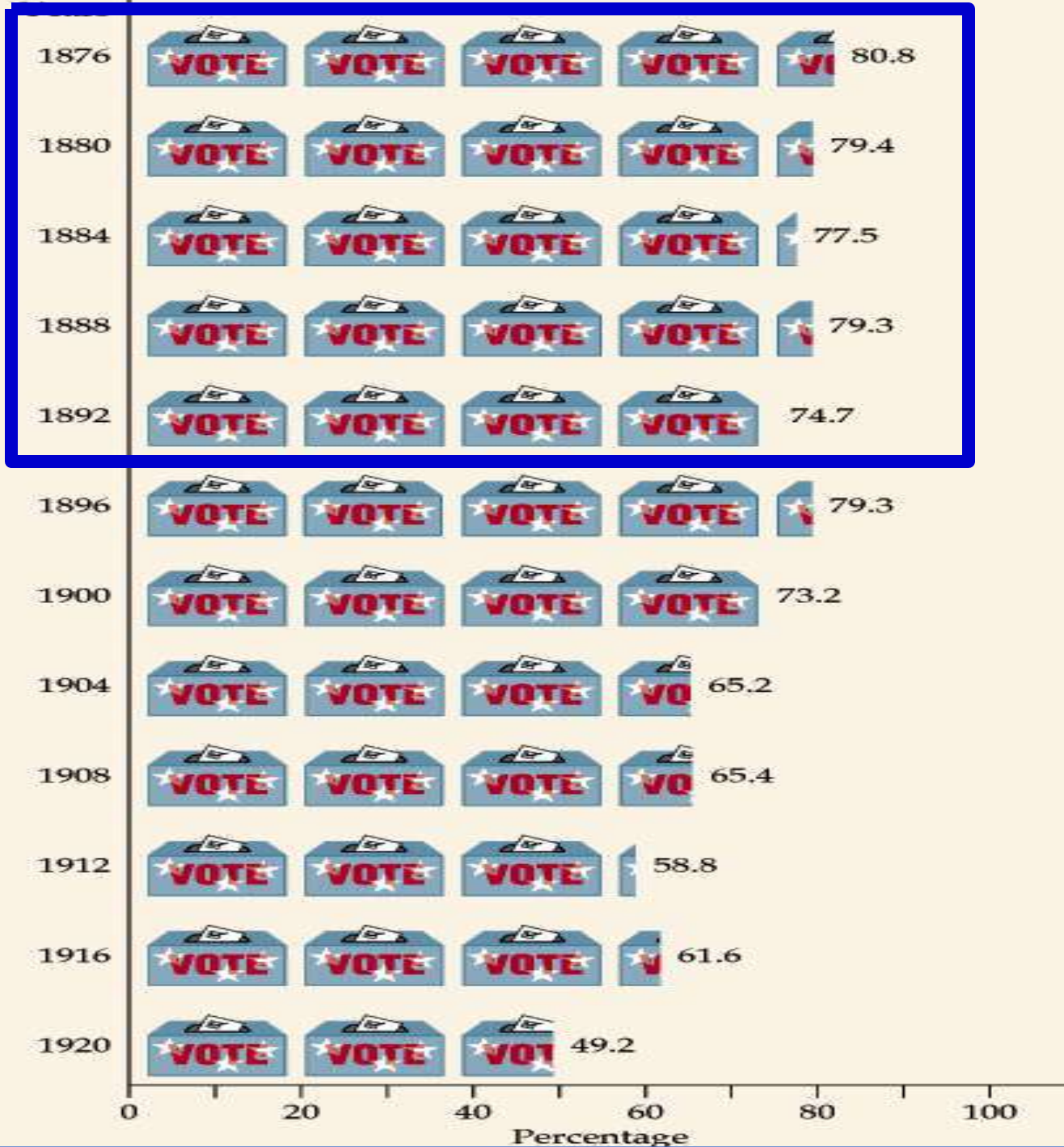


- Supported by white southerners, farmers, immigrants, & the working poor
- Favored white supremacy & supported labor unions

Republican Bloc



- Supported by Northern whites, blacks, & nativists
- Supported big business & favored anti-immigration laws



Intense
 Voter
 Loyalty to
 the 2
 Parties

Dept of Agriculture & Bureau of Indian Affairs were added

Treasury Dept grew from 4,000 employees in 1873 to 25,000 by 1900

- The federal bureaucracy swelled in size after 1860 & these positions were appointed via patronage (spoils system)
- Congressmen often took bribes or company stock for their votes
- 56,000 bureaucratic jobs were filled by patronage in 1881
- through bribes & personal favors



Boss Tweed
of the NYC
Democratic
Political
Machine,
Tammany Hall

"THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER."

TWEED. "As long as I count the Votes, what are you going to do about it? say?"

“If the spoils system could kill a president, it was time to end it”

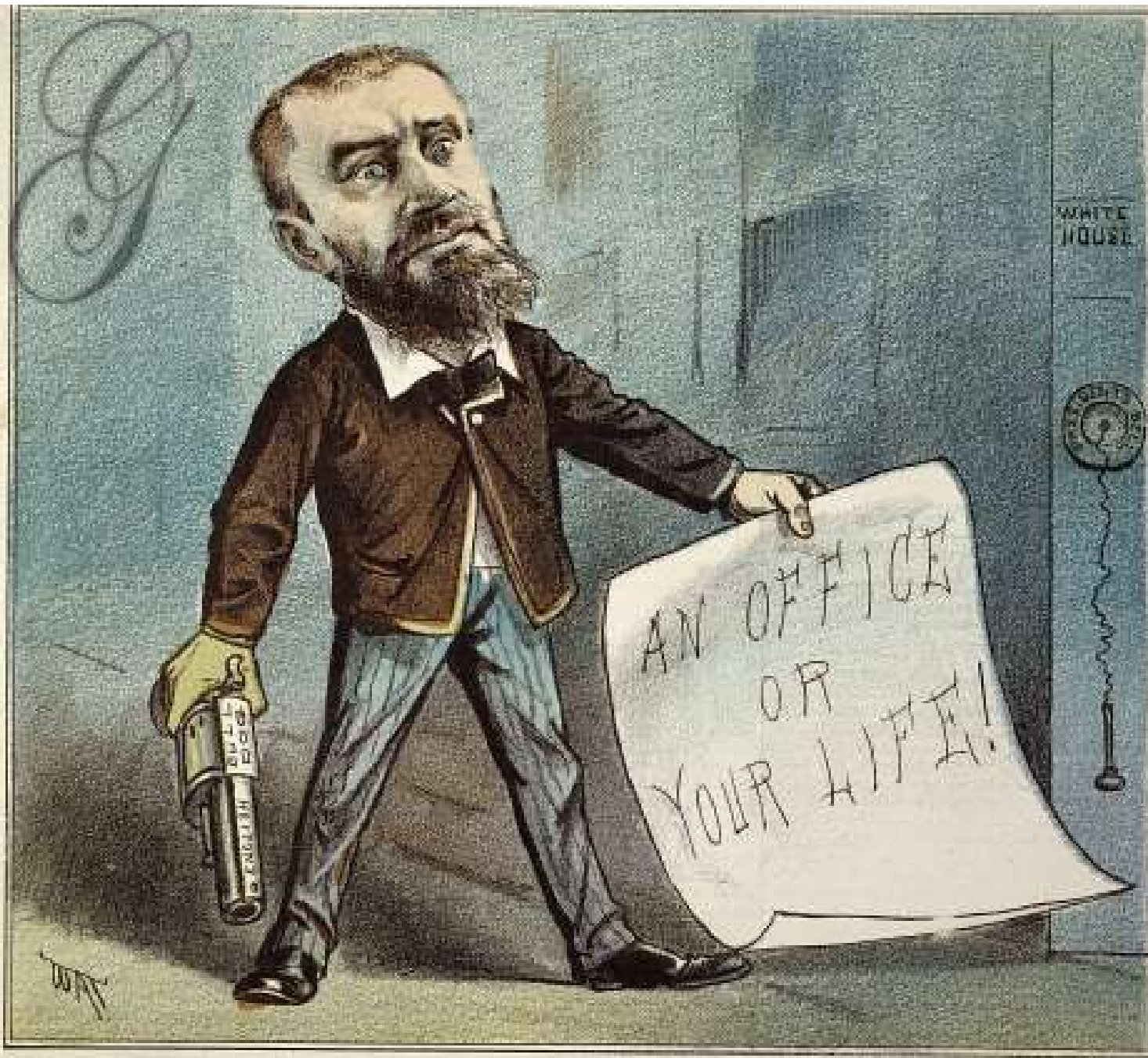
■ Civ

boost y disaffected patronage
seeker, Charles Guiteau,
assassinated President Garfield:

- In 1883, Congress created the Pendleton Act for merit-based exams for civil service jobs
- State & local gov'ts mirrored these reforms in 1880s & 1890s

Ch

field



A MODEL OFFICE-SEEKER.

"I am a Lawyer, a Theologian and a Politician!"—Charles J. Guzman.

Gov't Regulation of Industry

- From 1870 to 1900, 28 state commissions were created to regulate industry, especially RRs:
 - In 1870, Illinois declared RRs to be public highways; this was upheld by *Munn v. Illinois* (1876)
 - But, was overturned in *Wabash v. Illinois* (1886): “*only Congress can regulate interstate trade*”

U.S. v. E. C. Knight Co (1895) was the 1st test of the Sherman Antitrust Act

The Supreme Court weakened the Sherman Antitrust Act by ruling that this sugar monopoly do not restrain trade because making a good is not the same as selling it

regulatory agency
railroad industry

- The Sherman Antitrust Act in 1890 which made it illegal to restrain trade (punishable by dissolution of the company)

The Interstate Commerce Act



WORLD BANK. "WILD WEST" (LEFT AND RIGHT) SHOWS THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE ACTS IN THE WEST.

The Depression of 1893

- The most serious blow to politics in the Gilded Age was a five-year depression that began in 1893:
 - A stock market panic occurred when the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad went bankrupt
 - 500 banks, 200 railroads, & 1,500 businesses failed
 - Companies cut wages & laid off workers; unemployment hit 20%

Coxey's Army (1894)

- In 1894, there were 1,400 strikes led by hordes of unemployed people demanding gov't relief:
 - Jacob Coxey led an “army” from Ohio to D.C. to convince Congress to create jobs by spending \$500 million on new roads



The Pullman Strike (1894)

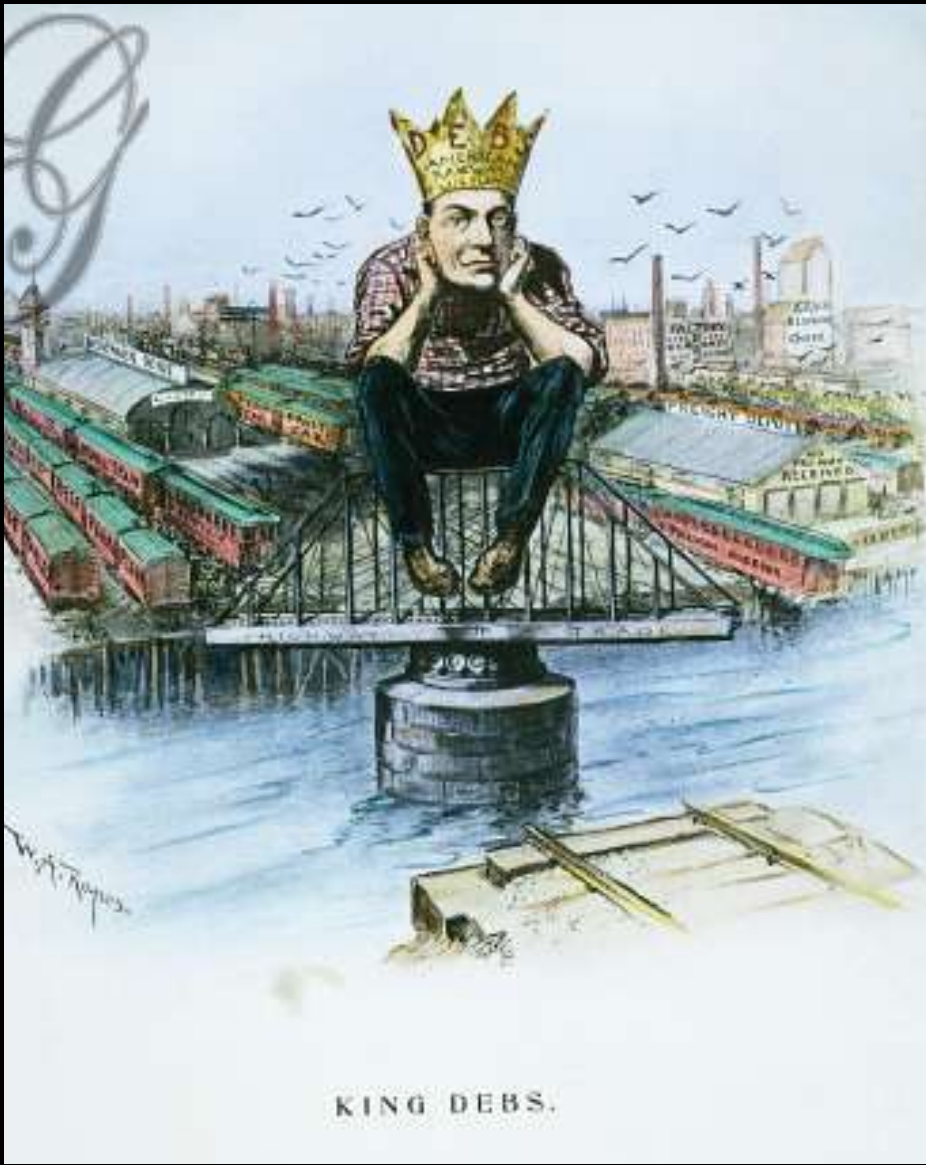
In re Debs in 1895, the Supreme Court ruled that the



- Strikers in 27 states resisted U.S. troops & dozens died

The Pullman Strike (1894)

Effects of the Pullman Strike



THE SOWER. Cartoon made for the Socialist Party.

■ Essential Question:

- What factors led to the rise of the Populist Party, what were the Populists' demands, & why were the Populists not more effective in meeting the needs of Americans living in the West?

■ Reading Quiz 20A (p. 684-700)



The Farmers' Movements & the Rise of the Populists

Political Organization

- The Gilded Age saw a rise in political organization among disaffected Americans:

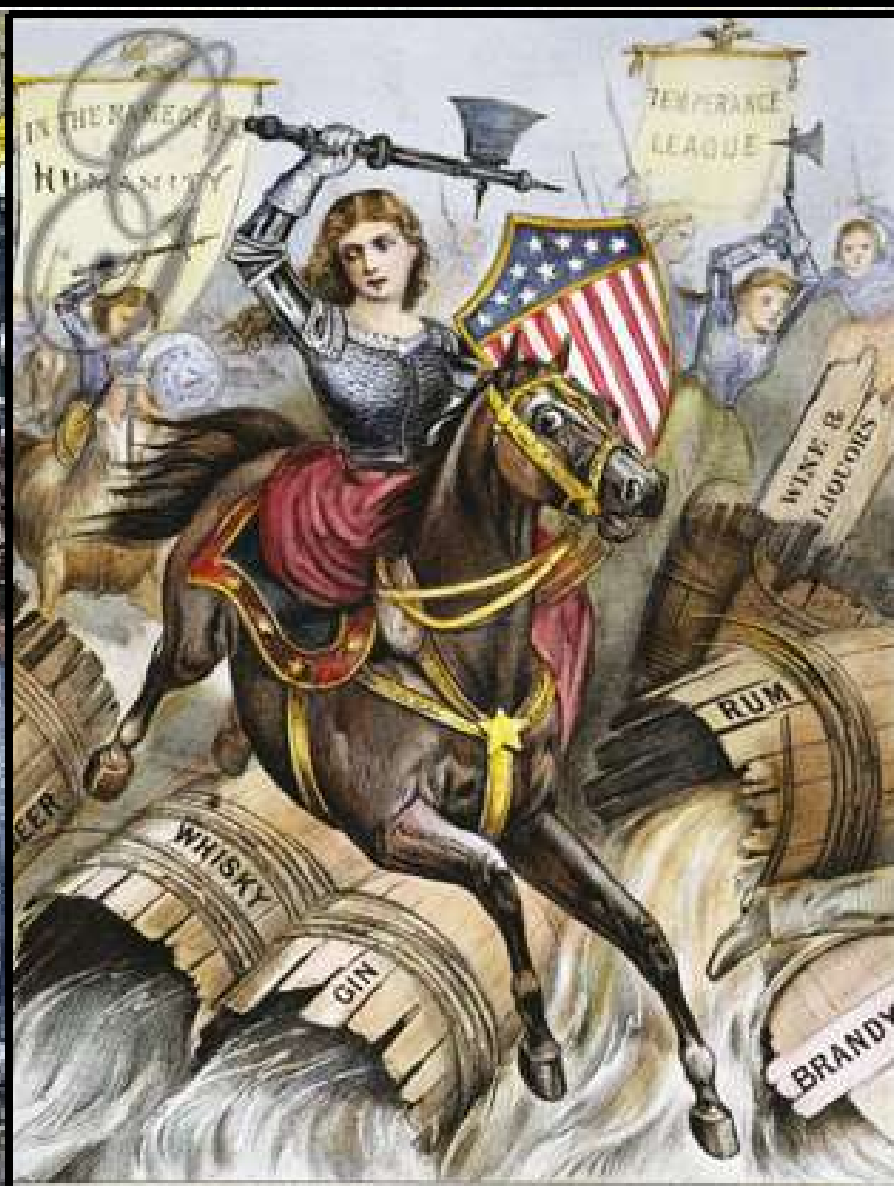
Labor unions (like the Knights of Labor & the AFL) encouraged industrial workers to vote

- Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) advocated temperance, race relations, & the right for women to vote

The great temperance agitator—Carrie Nation



"I CAS
Mrs.



WOMAN'S HOLY WAR.

Grand Charge on the Enemy's Works.

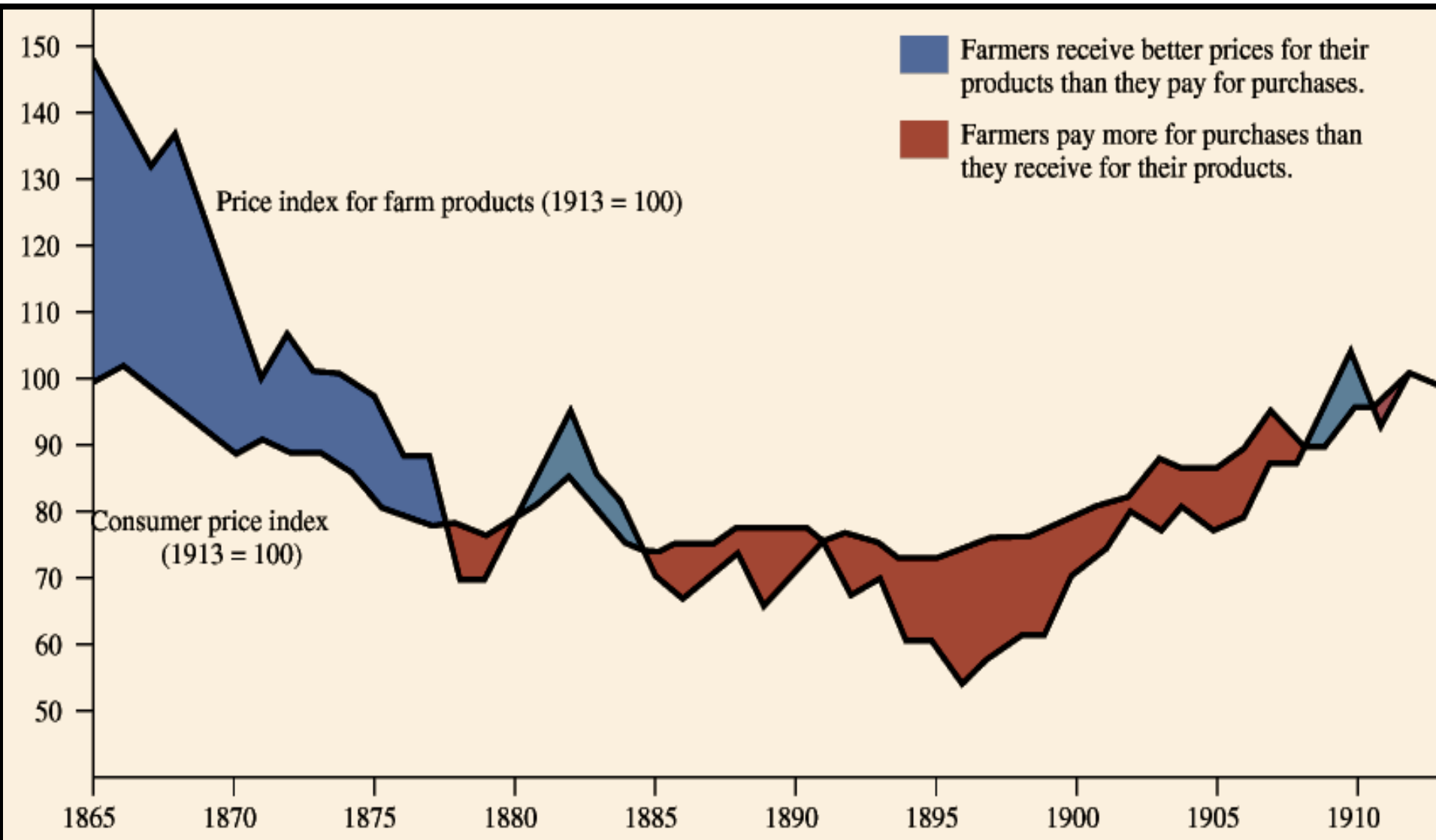


"CHET"
John.

The Farm Problem

- The most discontent group during the Gilded Age were farmers:
 - Harsh farming conditions
 - Declining grain & cotton prices
 - Rising RR rates & mortgages
 - Government deflation policies
- Farmers lashed out at banks, merchants, railroads, & the U.S. monetary system (gold standard)

Price Index for Consumer & Farm Goods (1865-1915)



The Currency Debate

- Grant's decision to reduce the number of greenbacks deflated the post-war money supply:
 - By 1879, the U.S. returned to the international gold standard & stabilized the U.S. economy
 - But this policy hurt western farmers because money was more scarce & credit was limited

This would lead to inflation & someone would consistently buy silver from miners

silver

—T

In 1878, Congress passed the Bland-Allison Act to coin between \$2-4 million in silver coins

In 1890, Congress passed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act to increase silver coinage but not to 16:1 (the act was repealed in

—But we found huge

lodes of silver & wanted “free silver”—the gov’t should buy all silver from miners & coin it

The Granger Movement

- The 1st attempt to organize farmers began with the Grangers:



The National Farmers' Alliance

- In 1890, the National Farmers' Alliance replaced the Grange as the leading farmers' group

~~In 1890, made Ocala Demands:~~

- ~~— Allow farmers to store crops in gov't silos when prices are bad~~
- Free-coinage of silver, a federal income tax, & regulation of RRs
- Direct election of U.S. senators

The Populist Party

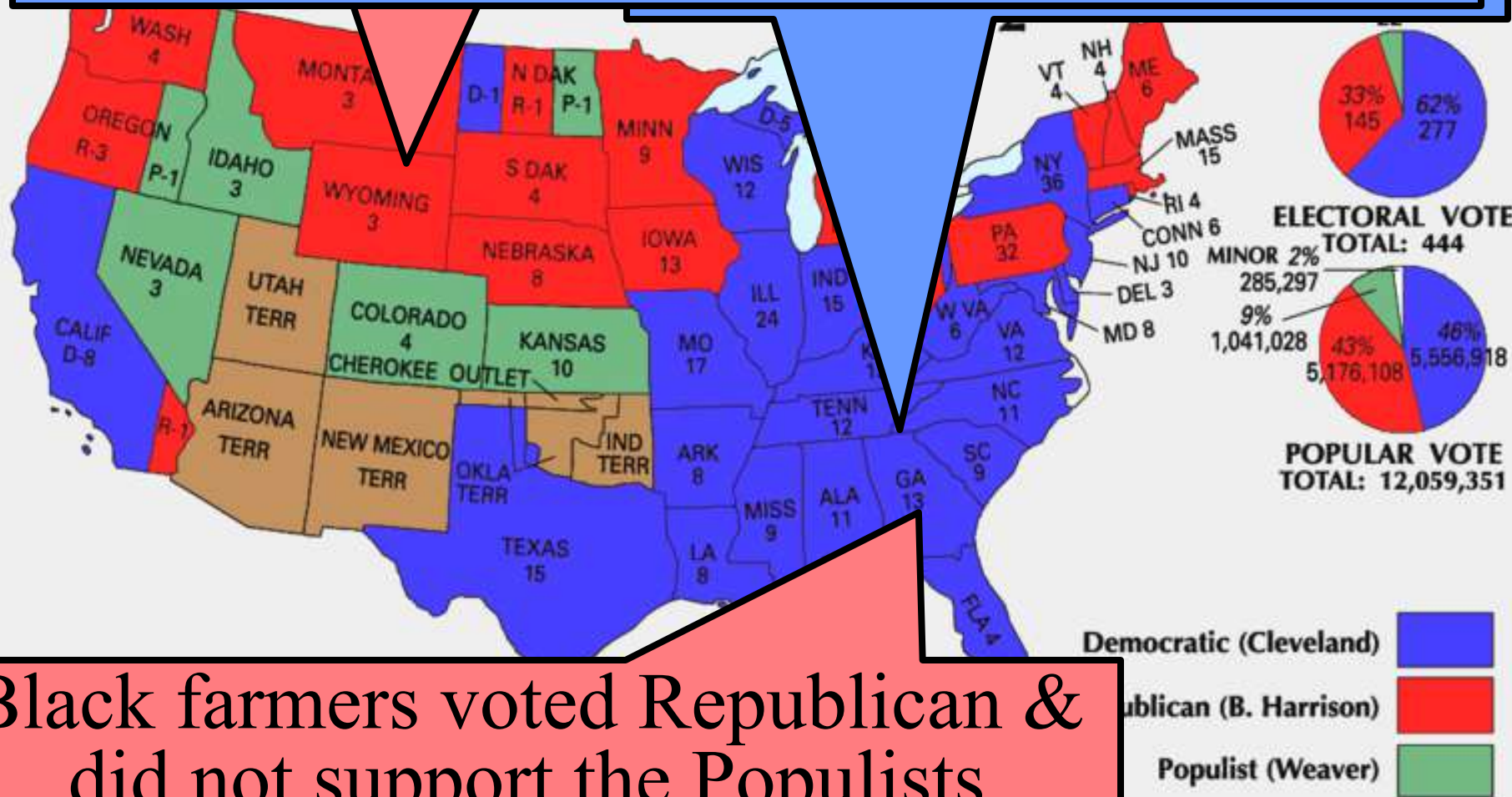
- In 1890, farmers & factory workers formed the Populist Party:

3 governors, 10 congressmen, 5 senators, & dominated the state governments of Idaho, NV, CO, KS, & ND

the breakup of monopolies, & tighter immigration restrictions

- Populists emerged as a powerful 3rd party & got numerous state & national politicians elected

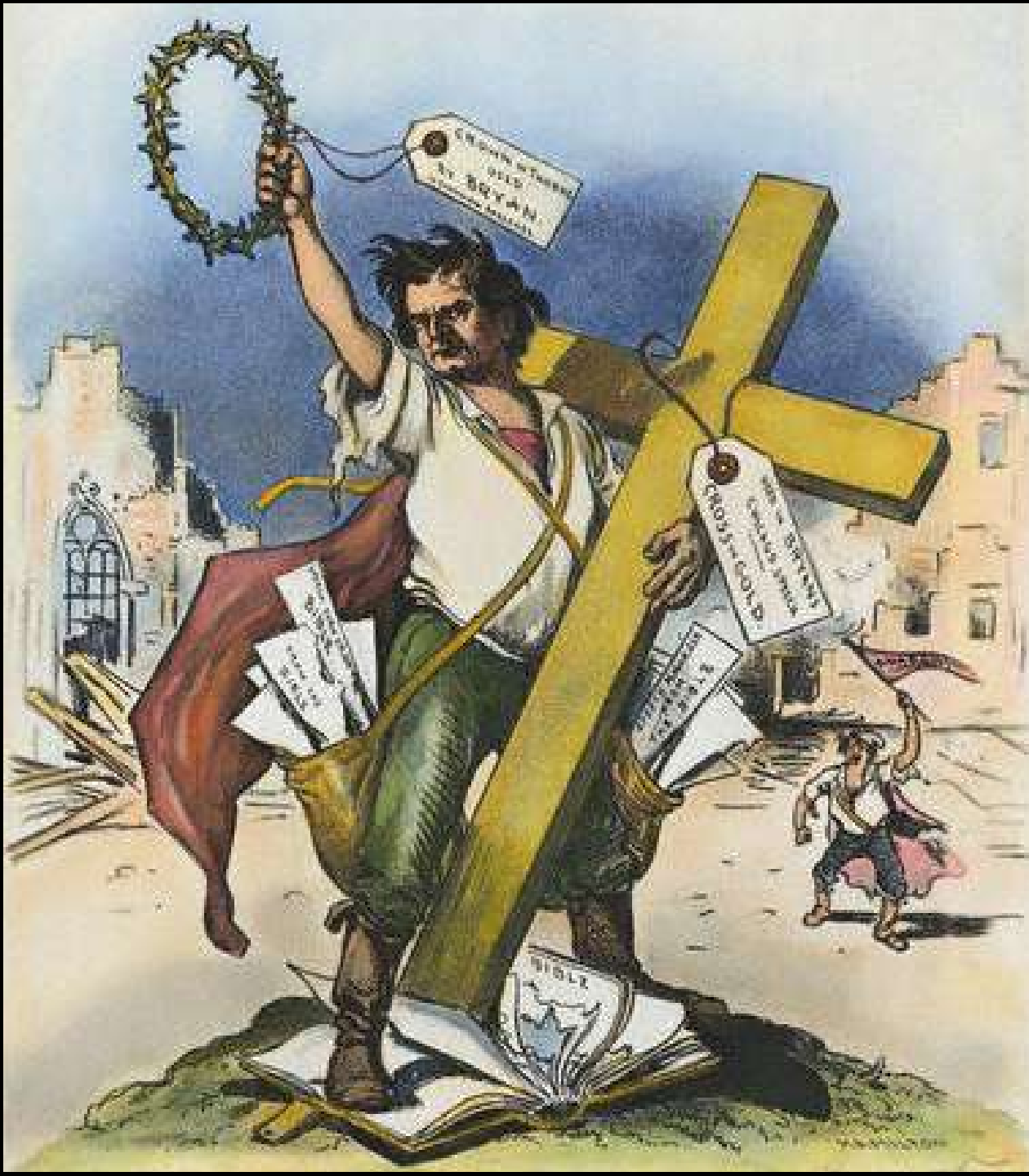
Upon his election, Cleveland called for and received the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act which alienated Southern & Western Democrats from the party



Black farmers voted Republican & did not support the Populists



Platform of Lunacy



1896

ng masses... we
e gold standard
on the brow of
you shall not
ss of gold."

m McKinley:
r & income
& injunctions
ates on his
ign to
about silver

Farmers' Friend



OR?

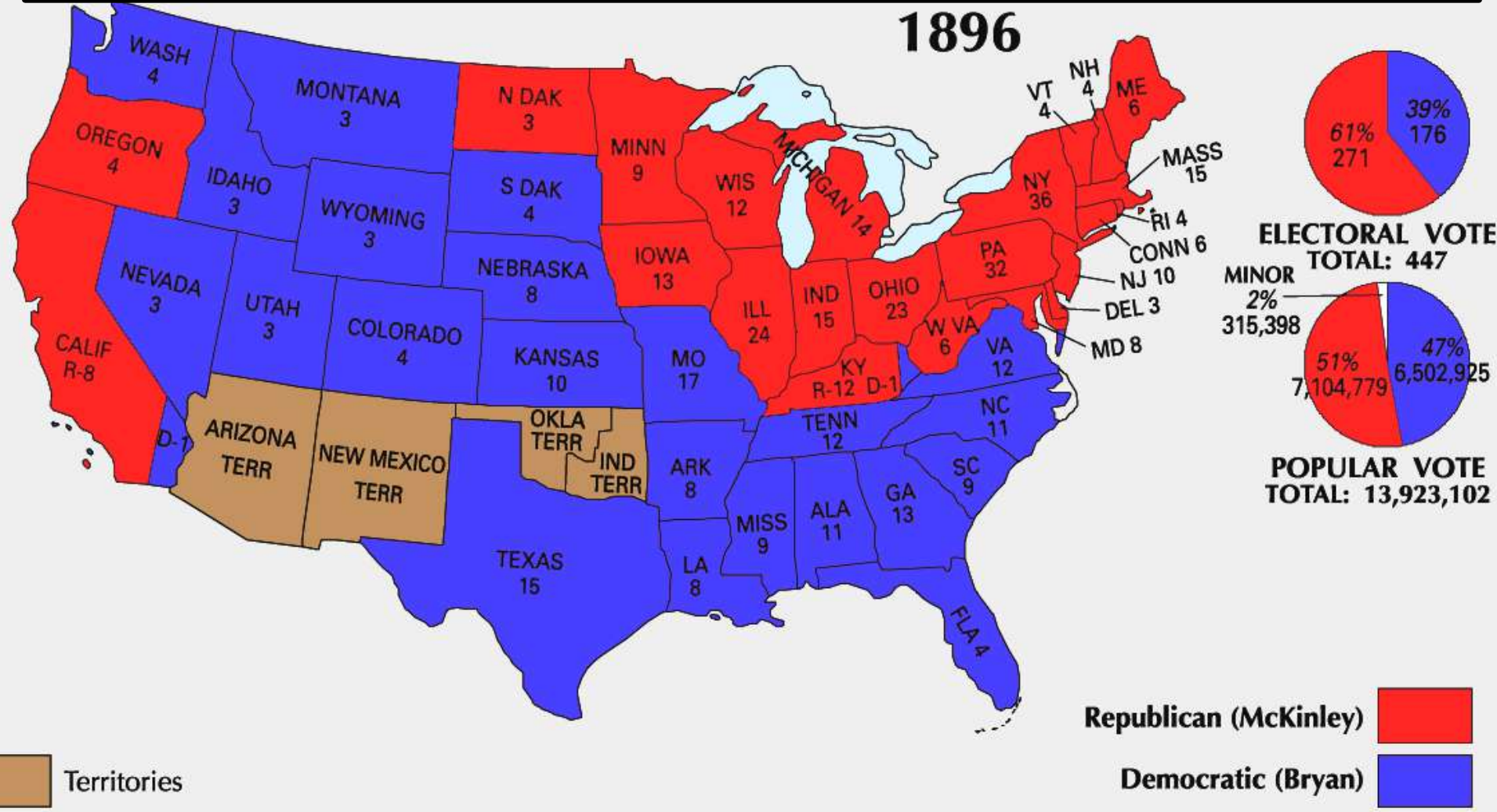
campaign whistle stops

The Election of 1896

- Advised by RNC chairman, Mark Hanna, McKinley waged a “front porch” campaign from Ohio
- Aided by the press, McKinley’s message reached as many voters:
 - Advocated economic, urban, & industrial growth
 - Aroused fear that a “free silver” victory would result in 57¢ dollar

The election of 1896 killed the Populist Party, but key Populist ideas (income tax, secret ballot, & direct election of Senators) would be enacted by other parties

1896





The McKinley Administration

The McKinley Administration

- Republicans benefited from an improving economy, better crop production, & discoveries of gold:

The election of 1896 cemented Republican rule for 30 years & became the party of prosperity

- From 1860-1890, Republicans had promoted industry; by 1900, it was time to regulate it

The McKinley Administration

- McKinley was an activist president and became the first “modern” president:

He communicated well with the press

- The Spanish-American War brought the USA respect as a world power
- The Gold Standard Act (1900) ended the silver controversy



Conclusions:

**A Decade of Dramatic
Changes**

A Decade of Changes: The 1890s

- The Depression of 1893 and the problems faced by farmers & industrial workers forced people to rethink industry, urbanization, & the quality of American life
- Many embraced the need for reform which opened the door to the Progressive Era

A decorative vertical bar on the left side of the slide, featuring a grey gradient background with a series of horizontal stripes in blue, red, and black. The stripes are of varying thickness and are positioned behind the text.

*National Government
in the Gilded Age:
A Sham of Democracy
Activity*

Problems of Farmers

- Read each document from Problem of Farmers & write 1 sentence that explains a problem faced by farmers
- *The Wizard of Oz* is a Populist allegory. Examine the list of characters from the story & guess who each character represents in the Gilded Age

Pop

“Emerald City””? “Oz””? The Wizard?

Oz

