

The New South:
From Reconstruction to WWI
PART 1

UNIT 5

GPS

SS8H7 The student will evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia between 1877 and 1918.

- a. Evaluate the impact the Bourbon Triumvirate, Henry Grady, International Cotton Exposition, Tom Watson and the Populists, Rebecca Latimer Felton, the 1906 Atlanta Riot, the Leo Frank Case, and the county unit system had on Georgia during this period.
- b. Analyze how rights were denied to African-Americans through Jim Crow laws, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *disenfranchisement*, and *racial violence*.
- c. *Explain the roles of Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, John and Lugenia Burns Hope, and Alonzo Herndon.*
- d. Give reasons for World War I and describe Georgia's contributions.

Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

Conflict and Change: The student will understand that the beliefs and ideals of a society influence the social, political, and economic decisions of that society.

1. What key social issues were significant during the New South era? (H7)
2. What key political issues affected the development of the state during the New South era? (H7)
3. What were the causes of WWI? (H7d)

Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

Individuals, Groups, Institutions: The student will understand that the actions, of individuals, groups, and institutions affect society through intended and unintended consequences.

1. Who were the civil right's activists of this period and how did their views differ? (H7c)
2. How did society and politics deny rights to certain individuals and groups during this era? (H7a, b)
3. What were the causes of the outbreak of WWI? (H7d)
4. What was Georgia's role in WWI? (H7d)
5. What was the impact of the Bourbon Triumvirate on Georgia politics and economy? (H7a)
6. What were the beliefs of the Populists, and how did Populist Tom Watson change Georgia and the nation? (H7a)
7. What were the differences in political views and philosophy among the following: Bourbon Triumvirate, Henry Grady, Tom Watson, Rebecca Latimer Felton. (H7a)
8. What do the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot and the Leo Frank case have in common? (H7a)

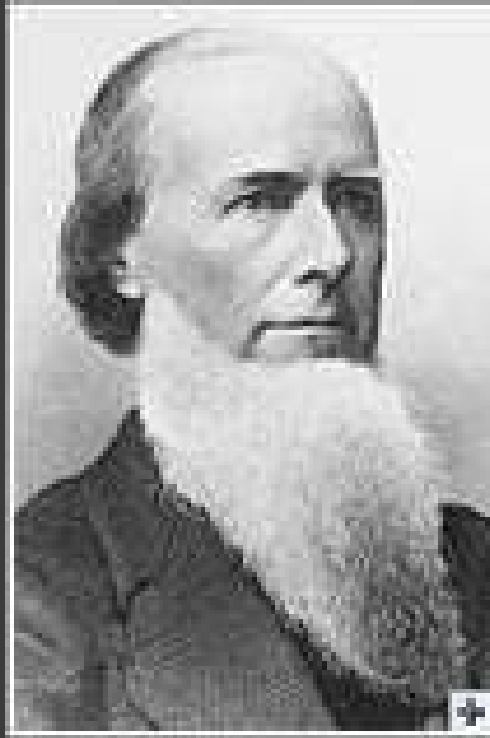
The Bourbon Triumvirate and the “New South”

- ⦿ After Reconstruction, Democrats known as *Bourbons* rose to power in the South.
- ⦿ They thought that the South needed to rely less on agriculture and have more industry in order to have economic growth.
- ⦿ Three of the Bourbons dominated GA politics and were known as the *Bourbon Triumvirate*.

Joseph E. Brown

- ⦿ The first member of the Bourbon Triumvirate.
- ⦿ Brown was a fiery secessionist prior to the Civil War and served four terms as GA's governor.
- ⦿ During the Civil War, Brown often resisted Jefferson Davis's war policies because he felt that they violated States' Rights.
- ⦿ Brown was removed from being governor after the Civil War, Republican governor Rufus Bullock named him chief justice of GA's Supreme Court.
- ⦿ Eventually he served GA as a US senator from 1880-1891.

Joseph E. Brown



John B. Gordon

- ① The second member of the Bourbon Triumvirate.
- ① Fought in the Confederate Army and later became leader of the KKK in GA.
- ① Defeated Alexander Stephens in 1872 to become a US Senator and played a key role in securing the Compromise of 1877.
- ① Abruptly resigned from his senate post in 1880 to become general counsel of the state-controlled Western and Atlantic Railroad.

John B. Gordon

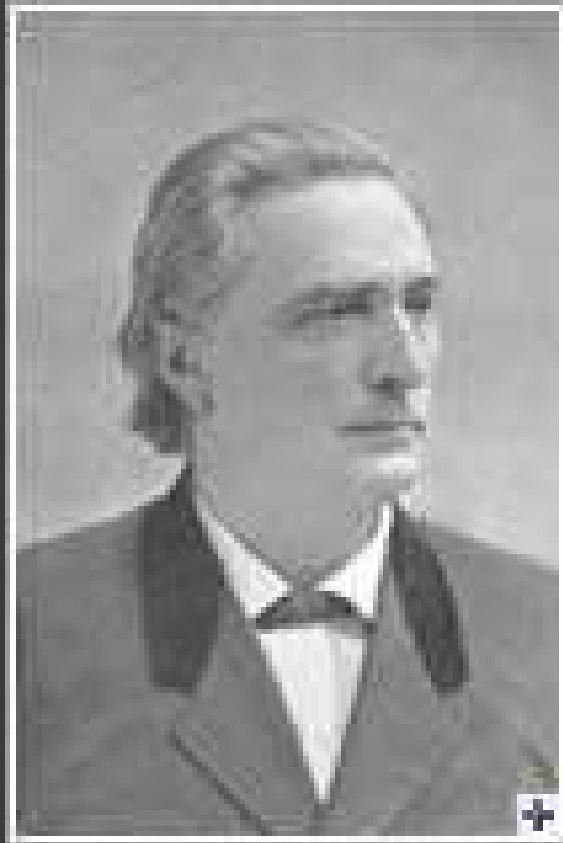


- ⦿ Joseph Brown was appointed to Gordon's vacated Senate seat.
- ⦿ In 1886, he won the first of two terms as GA's governor.
- ⦿ Returned to the US Senate later, but retired amid accusations of serving for self-gain.

Alfred H. Colquitt

- Third of the Bourbon Triumvirate.
- Educated at Princeton University.
- Was a slave owner before the Civil War and served in the Confederate Army.
- Believed that blacks needed whites to take care of them.
- Was a lay preacher and often taught Sunday School in black churches after Reconstruction.
- Lost his bid for governor in 1857, but was elected and served as the State's first Democratic governor after Reconstruction from 1877-1882.

Alfred H. Colquitt



- 1883, Colquitt was elected to the US senate where he served until he died in 1894.

Positive Accomplishments of the Bourbon Triumvirate

- ① Promoted policies that eventually replaced GA's former large landowning class with a new and growing middle and business class.
- ② Expanded the railroads and increased industrialization.

Negative Accomplishments of the Bourbon Triumvirate

- ⦿ Promoted “white supremacy” in order to keep the political support of white racists.
- ⦿ They often used their political power to make money as they ran the government.
 - Convict Lease System – profited from convicted prisoners being used as slave labor.

Henry W. Grady & the “New South”

- Grady was the editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*
- Grady used his newspaper to promote the idea of the “New South”.
- Believed the South needed to become more like the North economically (more reliance on industry and less on farming)
- He called for cooperation between the North and South and tried to get Northern businesses to invest in the South.

Henry W. Grady & the “New South”

- 1866, Grady convinced businesses in New England to invest in Atlanta.
- In 1887, he helped establish a new university that focused on technology. This new university eventually became known as Georgia Tech.
- Grady died unexpectedly from pneumonia in 1889 without seeing the “New South” fully develop.

The International Cotton Exposition

- As part of the New South program, Grady promoted GA's first International Cotton Exposition in 1881.
- The first exposition attracted 200,000 paid visitors in two and one half months.
- The Exposition showed visitors that GA was ready for more industry.

Long Term Effects

- Because of the efforts of Grady and the Bourbons, Atlanta once again became the transportation hub of the south and its new industrial center as well.
- Atlanta also became GA's capital in 1868.
- Because of the state's large cotton production, textile mills became GA's #1 industry, attracting a lot of Northern investors.

More Industrial Growth

- GA was #1 in the world in the shipment of naval stores, turpentine and rosin used in building and maintaining wooden ships.
- By the late 1800s, fertilizer production, sawmills, and even coal, marble, and iron ore mining became growing industries.
- Agriculture remained GA's biggest business.

Tom Watson and the Populists

- ⦿ Not everyone agreed with Grady's concept of the "New South".
- ⦿ Tom Watson, a political leader, claimed the New South program hurt small farmers in GA and the farmers had reason to believe him.
- ⦿ In the late 1880's farmers were suffering economically and slipping more into debt because of the Crop Lien System.

Tom Watson and the Populists

- The Crop Lien System allowed farmers to borrow money against their upcoming harvest in order to get the supplies they needed.
- Farmers sometimes did not harvest enough to cover what they borrowed, resulting in more debt and eventually losing their land.
- Frustrated and angry, many farmers joined the Populist movement.

Tom Watson and the Populists

- Populism was a political movement that fought to help farmers.
- The political party eventually became known as the People's Party.
- The Populists want the government regulate the economy so farmers could earn more for their crops.
- Farmers were encouraged to form cooperatives or alliances to strengthen their cause.

Tom Watson and the Populists

- Tom Watson was the most powerful voices for Populism in GA and in the USA.
- He was elected to Congress in 1890 as a Democrat, but left the party to become a Populist when he felt that the Dems were not doing enough to help farmers.
- 1892, Watson ran for reelection as a Populist, but was defeated.
- He ran again in 1894, but was defeated.

Tom Watson and the Populists

- ① Watson was popular, but could not overcome the Democrat's domination of GA politics.
- ② The Populists were not supported by white supremacists because the party often courted black farmers.
- ③ 1896, the Populists realized that they did not have enough support to win the Presidential election.

Tom Watson and the Populists

- ⦿ However, the Populists could control which major party won the election.
- ⦿ The Populists supported Democrat William Jennings Bryan, even though he did not fully agree with the ideas of the Populists.
- ⦿ Tom Watson was nominated by the Populists as Bryan's VP.
- ⦿ However, Republican William McKinley won the presidential election, all but ending the Populist movement.

Tom Watson and the Populists

- ◎ Watson ran as the Populist candidate for president in 1904 and 1908, but the party lacked the momentum it had in the 1880s.
- ◎ Watson was once criticized for advocating cooperation between black and white farmers, however, he spent his last few years supporting white supremacy to sell his publications and win the white, rural vote.
- ◎ He finally won a seat in the US Senate in 1920, but died in 1922.

The County Unit System

- ⦿ As businessmen in Atlanta gained more power, rural Georgians feared that they were being pushed out of the political process.
- ⦿ In response to this, the state established the County Unit System in 1917 to use for political primaries.
 - Political Primaries – A vote to determine who will represent a party in an upcoming election.

The County Unit System

- ① Under the Unit System, whichever candidate won the most unit votes won the election.
- ② Counties were classified three ways: urban, town, and rural.
 - Urban counties (8) received 6 votes.
 - Town counties (30) received 4 votes.
 - Rural counties (121) received 2 votes.
- ③ Whoever won the most votes in the county won the county's votes.

The County Unit System

- ⦿ The rural counties controlled the majority of the vote even though only one third of the population lived in rural counties.
- ⦿ Under this system, a candidate could win even though the majority of the people voted for another candidate.
- ⦿ This system kept power in the hands of rural Georgians.
- ⦿ The County Unit System was declared unconstitutional in April of 1962.

Race Relations and Reform

- ◎ The late 1800s and early 1900s is known as the Progressive Era in US History. This was a time when progressive leaders called for change.
- ◎ One of GA's most noted reformers was Rebecca Latimer Felton.

Rebecca Latimer Felton

- ⦿ Wife of a progressive congressman and an activist.
- ⦿ She wrote newspaper articles that challenged the Bourbon Triumvirate.
- ⦿ She and her husband, William, publically criticized the convict lease system and helped to bring it to an end.
- ⦿ Fought fiercely for women's suffrage, or women's right to vote.

Rebecca Latimer Felton

- ⦿ After women were granted the right to vote by the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, 87 year old Felton was appointed to the US Senate by the governor to fill the seat vacated by Senator Tom Watson after his death.
- ⦿ She served only 2 days before a special election chose a permanent replacement.
- ⦿ She was the 1st woman in history to sit in the US Senate.

Segregation in the South

- ◎ Like many other states in the South, GA practiced segregation.
 - Segregation – meant that blacks and whites had separate facilities in public places.
- ◎ To ensure segregation, GA and many other Southern states passed the Jim Crow laws.
- ◎ The Jim Crow Laws required that blacks and whites remain separated.
 - GA's first Jim Crow Law whites and blacks to ride in separate railroad cars.
 - Some laws made it illegal for blacks and whites to be buried in the same cemetery.

Segregation in the South

- The US Supreme Court upheld segregation in the famous court case, *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
- Louisiana had a law, like GA, that required blacks and whites to ride separate railway cars.
- Homer Plessy, a man who was 1/8 African American, purchased a ticket to ride in the “whites only” railway car.
- This was done to challenge LA law.

Segregation in the South

- ⦿ When the conductor arrived, Plessy informed the conductor that he was 1/8 African American and that he would refuse to leave the car.
- ⦿ Plessy was then arrested and spent the night in jail.
- ⦿ Plessy sued to challenge the LA law under the 13th and 14th amendments.
- ⦿ His legal challenge took him all the way to the US Supreme court where they ruled 7-1 against Plessy, thus upholding the Jim Crow Laws and the doctrine of separate but equal.

Homer Plessy



Who were the key African-American figures in the New South?

Booker T. Washington

- ⦿ Former slave
- ⦿ Believed blacks should focus on learning a trade such as farming, teaching, or carpentry.
- ⦿ Founded the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama that focused on such training.
- ⦿ Felt that blacks could prove themselves in such fields and be treated as equal citizens.



Booker T. Washington

- Gave Atlanta Compromise speech in 1895. Told blacks and whites to “cast down your bucket.”

— Cloudy book pg. 353

Key African-American Figures



W.E.B. DuBois

1st Af Am. to
earn PhD from
Harvard

- ⊙ Taught at Atlanta University
- ⊙ Disagreed with Washington, thought African-Americans should strive to be intellectuals - “Talented Tenth”
- ⊙ Promoted liberal arts education
- ⊙ Felt that blacks needed to achieve leadership positions to change their stand in society.

Key African-American Figures

John & Lugenia Burns Hope

- John was born to a white father and black mother, could have passed for a white man.
- Served as 1st African-American professor at Morehouse College and first black president at Atlanta University.
- Lugenia was a social activist and welfare worker.
- She organized the Atlanta Neighborhood Union in 1908 that included a health clinic, clubs for boys and girls, and vocational classes for children.
- She also helped change policies at the YMCA that discriminated against blacks.

John & Lugenia Burns Hope



Key African-American Figures



Alonzo Herndon

- Born a slave, grew up to become a barber.
- He owned 3 barber shops in Atlanta by 1907.
- In 1922, he started the Atlanta Life Insurance Company.
- He became the wealthiest African American in Atlanta and gave large sums of money to Atlanta University.

The Atlanta Compromise

- 1895, Booker T. Washington gave a speech to a mostly white audience in support of segregation.
- Washington said blacks and whites could be, “as separate as fingers, yet one as the hand”.
- W.E.B. DuBois was angry at the speech and labeled it the Atlanta Compromise.
- DuBois believed that Washington had sold out his own people to win favor with whites.

Niagara and the NAACP

- In 1905, many African American intellectuals gathered on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls to discuss how to better help the black cause.
- DuBois, John Hope, Alonzo Herndon and his son, Norris, were among those in attendance.
- This meeting gave birth to the Niagara Movement which became known as the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).
- DuBois moved to New York and became the editor of the organization's key publication, *The Crisis*.
- The NAACP is still a key political voice for African Americans today.

Ethnic Violence and Disfranchisement

- Many southern whites came up with ways to keep blacks disenfranchised, or unable to vote, even though their citizenship and right to vote (for men) had been granted by the 14th and 15th amendments.
- GA enacted a grandfather clause in 1901 that stated voters in GA had to be a veteran of the Confederate Army or a descendant of a veteran.

Ethnic Violence and Disfranchisement

- ⦿ Since African Americans generally did not fight for the Confederacy, this prevented blacks from voting.
- ⦿ The legislature and some local governments passed laws requiring voters to pay a poll tax and/or pass a literacy test.
- ⦿ Most African Americans in the south were poor and illiterate and therefore could not vote.
- ⦿ These laws failed to disfranchise blacks, but groups like the KKK tried to use intimidation, lynchings, and other violence to keep blacks from voting.
- ⦿ 1890-1930 was the bloodiest period of racial violence in GA's history.

The 1906 Atlanta Race Riot

- ⦿ September 1906, growing racial tensions in Atlanta resulted in the 3 day Atlanta race riot.
- ⦿ On September 22, a white drunken mob started the riot because of unproven reports that several white women had been assaulted by black men.
- ⦿ The mob attacked black-owned businesses and killed several business owners.
- ⦿ Over 20 African Americans dies during the violence and at least 2 whites.

The Leo Frank Case

- African Americans were not the only targets of ethnic violence in the early 1900s.
- In April 1913, 13 year old Mary Phagan from Marietta was murdered.
- Leo Frank, the last known person to see her alive, was arrested and convicted for her murder, even though he maintained his innocence.
- After many unsuccessful appeals, GA governor John Slaton commuted Frank's sentence from death to life in prison.

The Leo Frank Case

- ⦿ In August of 1915, a group of citizens from Marietta traveled to the Milledgeville prison where Frank was housed and kidnapped him.
- ⦿ He was taken back to Marietta and hanged.

Georgia and WWI

- ⦿ WWI began in Europe in 1914 when Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist.
- ⦿ Austria-Hungary threatened war with Serbia, which in turn pulled all of their allies in Europe into the war.
- ⦿ Germany and Austria-Hungary formed the Central Powers while Russia, Great Britain, and France fought against them as the Triple Entente.

WWI Map



Georgia and WWI

- ⦿ US President Woodrow Wilson and most of the US public did not want to get involved in the war because it was a European issue.
- ⦿ This opinion changed for 2 reasons:
 1. German U-boats, the first submarines, kept sinking US ships in the Atlantic headed to England because they thought they contained military supplies. One ship, The Lusitania, a commercial cruise ship, was sunk by a German U Boat in 1915 killing 128 Americans.

Georgia and WWI

2. Zimmerman Telegram – Germany sent a telegram to Mexico promising territory in the western US if Mexico would help fight the US. Mexico never accepted this offer.
- ⦿ These 2 events infuriated the American people resulting in the US declaring war in 1917.

Georgia's Contributions to the War

- When the US entered the war, thousands of Georgians joined the military.
- By the end of the war, 100,000 Georgians had served, around 3,000 had died fighting in the war.
- President Wilson approved the Selective Service Act in May of 1917 to institute a draft because there were not enough volunteers joining the military.
- Russia had withdrawn from the war at this time (creating the need for more troops to fight the war) due to the Russian Revolution that began in February 1917 that eventually led to the creation of the USSR, or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Georgia's Contributions to the War

- ⦿ GA's cotton farmers prospered during the war because the value of cotton tripled.
- ⦿ However, many farmers were drafted, which concerned the state that a labor shortage would be created.
- ⦿ GA passed the “work or fight” policy, requiring men between 16 and 55 to prove that they were either serving in the war effort or gainfully employed. Those who couldn't were arrested.

Georgia's Contributions to the War

- ◎ A number of military bases played key roles in preparing US troops for the War:
 - Ft. McPherson – located near Atlanta
 - Ft. Gordon – Augusta
 - Ft. Benning – Columbus, ordered opened in 1917 by General John Pershing, who was appointed to command the army in Europe by President Wilson.

Georgia's Contributions to the War

- ⦿ GA's textile mills produced fabric that was used for blankets and uniforms.
- ⦿ Farmers produced needed food, livestock, cotton and tobacco
- ⦿ GA's railroads transported men, weapons, and supplies.
- ⦿ Citizens volunteered with the Red Cross and grew much of their own food so that troops could have what they need.
(victory gardens)

The End of WWI

- ⦿ November 1918, Germany signed an Armistice with the Allies (US, Great Britain, France, & Italy).
 - An armistice is an agreement to stop fighting.
- ⦿ The Allies ultimately forced Germany to sign a treaty and take full responsibility for the war even though President Wilson believed that the Germans should not be punished.
- ⦿ Georgians, along with other Americans, celebrated the end of the war and hoped to never experience such a war again.
- ⦿ However, another World War would come just two decades later.