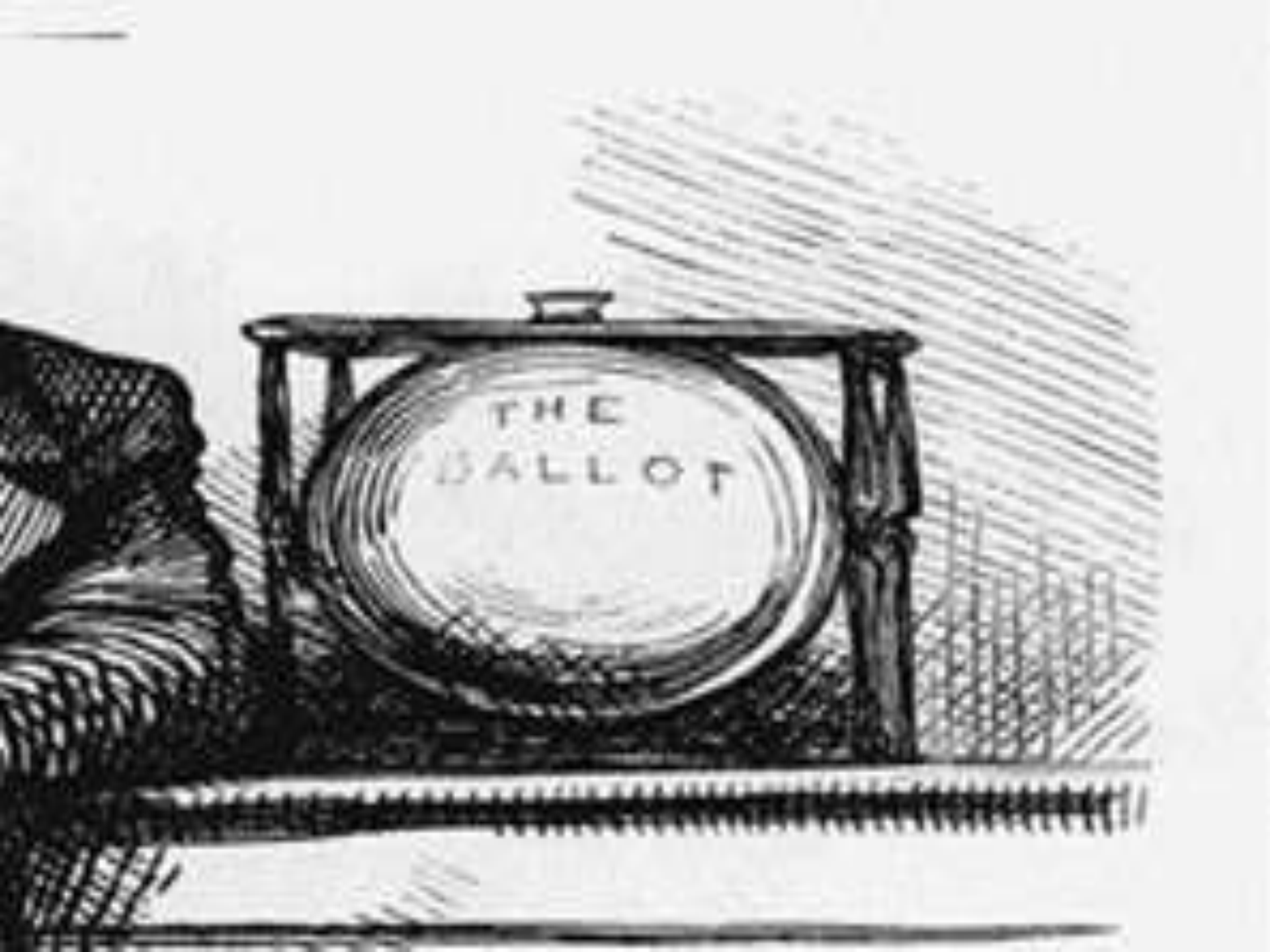


Politics in the Gilded Age

Warm-Up

- What do you see in the following pictures?



IN
COUNTING
THERE IS
STRENGTH

H. V. V.

THE MATTER."

what are you going to do about it? say?"



"THAT'S WHAT'S
BOSS TWEED. "As long as I count the Votes,



Warm-Up

▲ What is the meaning of this image?



"THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER."

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

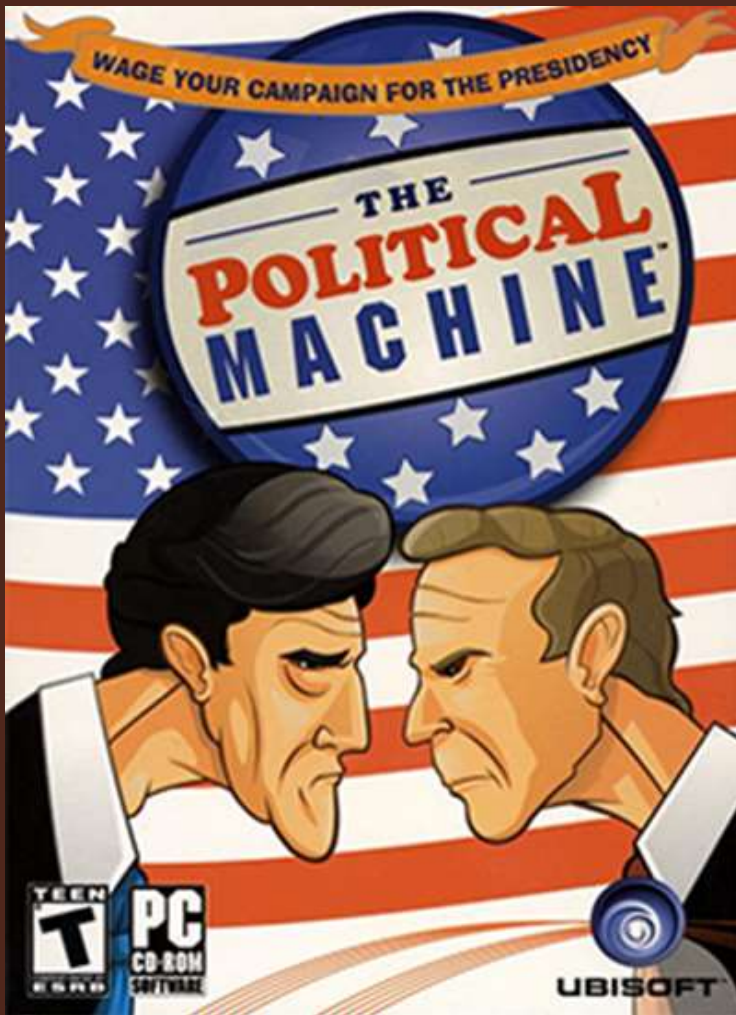
Boss Tweed Video

- Questions to Answer:
 1. How did Boss Tweed gain power?
 2. What caused his downfall?

The Main Idea

- Politics during the Gilded Age were known for corruption but would end up bringing great reform to politics.

Political Machine



- A political group in which an boss or small group has the support of the local people by giving people rewards for helping them get elected.

How Political Machines Work

1. Citizens feel local gov't doesn't provide enough jobs, financial aid, protection, sanitation, etc.
2. Political Machines take over a political party and run city, give their friends jobs in the city.
3. Political Machine provides services and business in exchange for votes (for their candidates) and money.
4. Political Machines take over Baltimore, NYC, Chicago, San Francisco and other major cities.

Political Machines

- Immigrants—were a loyal support base for the political machines.
- Corruption—Political machines used illegal tactics to maintain control, buying voter support and resorting to election fraud.

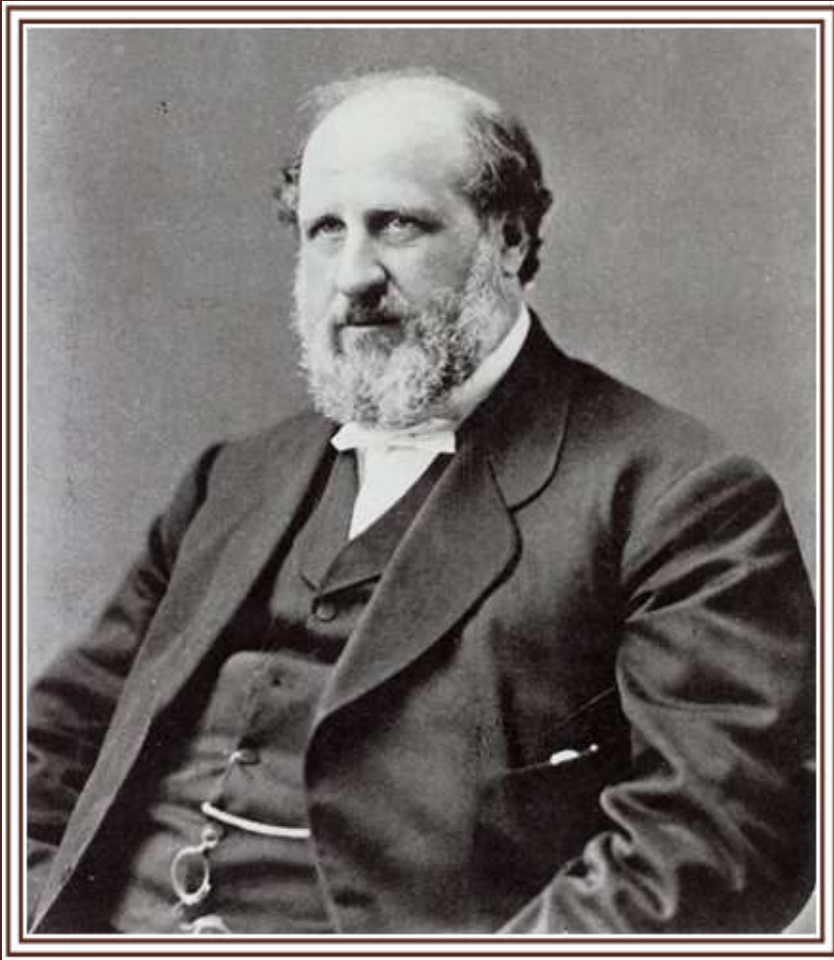


The Political Boss

- May serve as mayor he:
 - controls city jobs,
business licenses
 - influences courts,
municipal agencies
 - arranges building
projects, community
services
- Bosses paid by
businesses, get voters'
loyalty, extend influence



William "Boss" Tweed



- Corrupt political leader put New York City in debt
- Kept Democratic Party in power in NYC called Tammany Hall
- Formed the Tweed Ring
- Bought votes, encouraged corruption, controlled NYC politics

The Tweed Political Machines

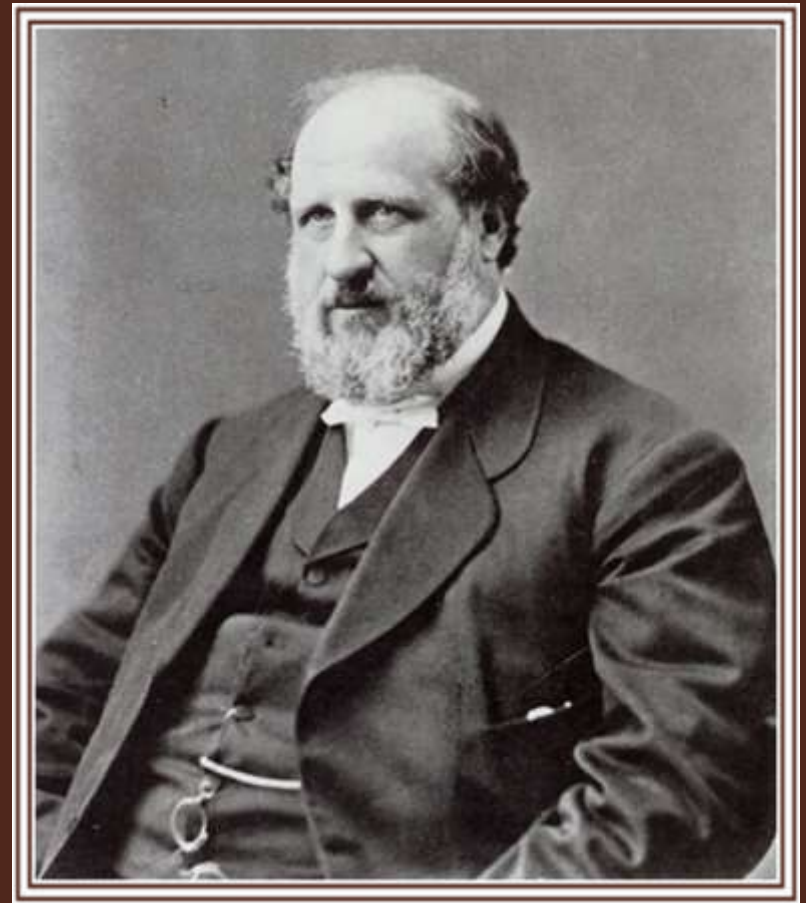
- Received large fees for interests (kickbacks) from the Erie Railroad
- Tweed Ring milked the city with false leases, padded bills, false vouchers, unnecessary repairs and over-priced goods
- For Example:
 - Chairs for a government building.
 - Only cost \$5, he would pay \$45 and would split the money with the business he bought it from.

The Fall of Tweed & Political Machines

- Thomas Nast—a political cartoonist who attacked the corruption in Harper's Weekly.
- Attacked Tweed
- Tweed Ring fell and 1873 Tweed convicted of embezzlement

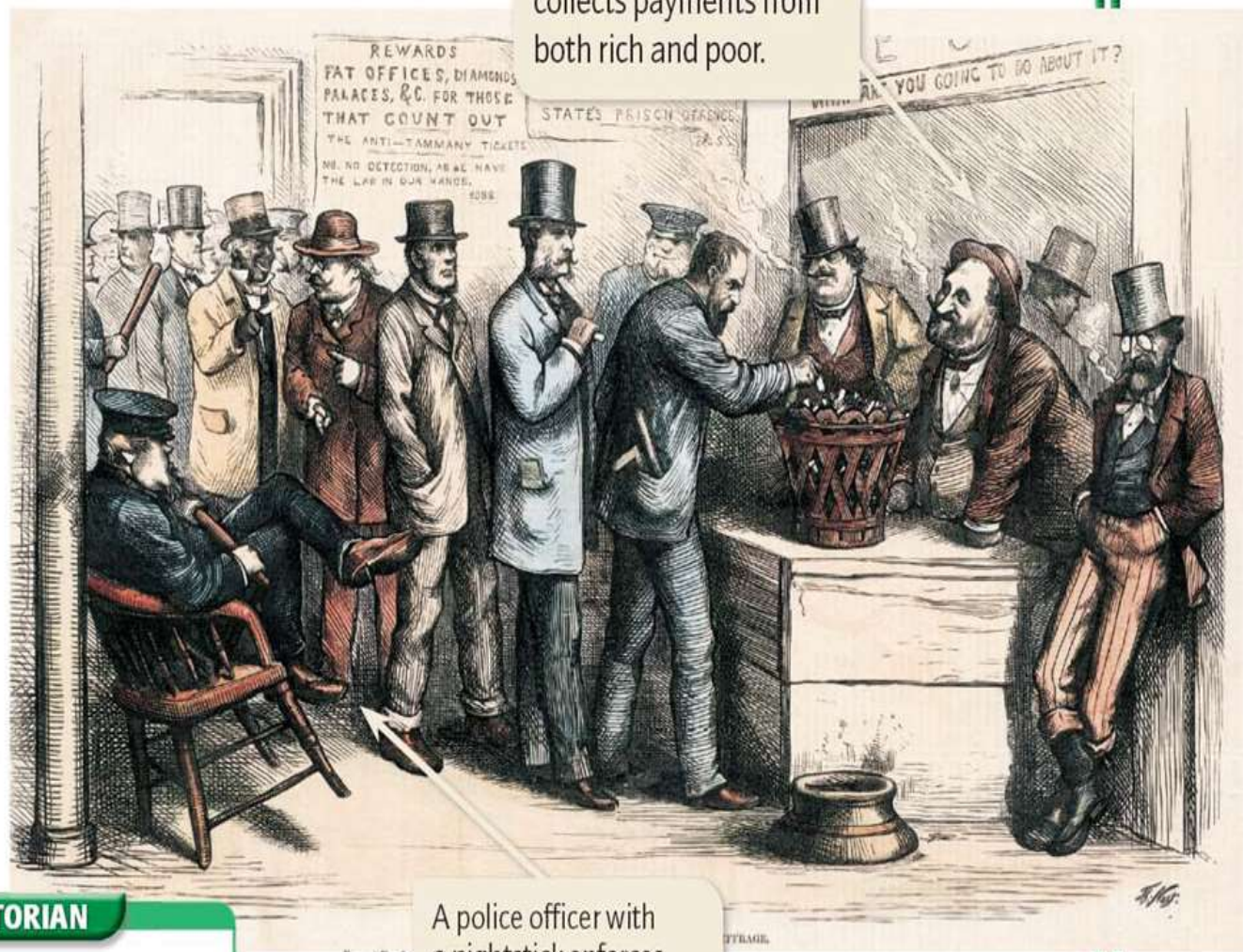
Political Cartoons

- Political Cartoonists = expressed their concern about the damaging effects of corruption and big money.



Political Cartoon

Thomas Nast's biting political cartoons helped expose the corrupt Tammany Hall political machine. Here Boss Tweed takes money from the public, while a sign above him says tauntingly, "What are you going to do about it?"



Tweed, behind the table, collects payments from both rich and poor.

**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

Identifying Points of View What message was Nast trying to send about public money?

Interpreting Political Cartoons What makes Tweed look corrupt?

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H28–H29, H31

A police officer with a nightstick enforces Tweed's shady business.

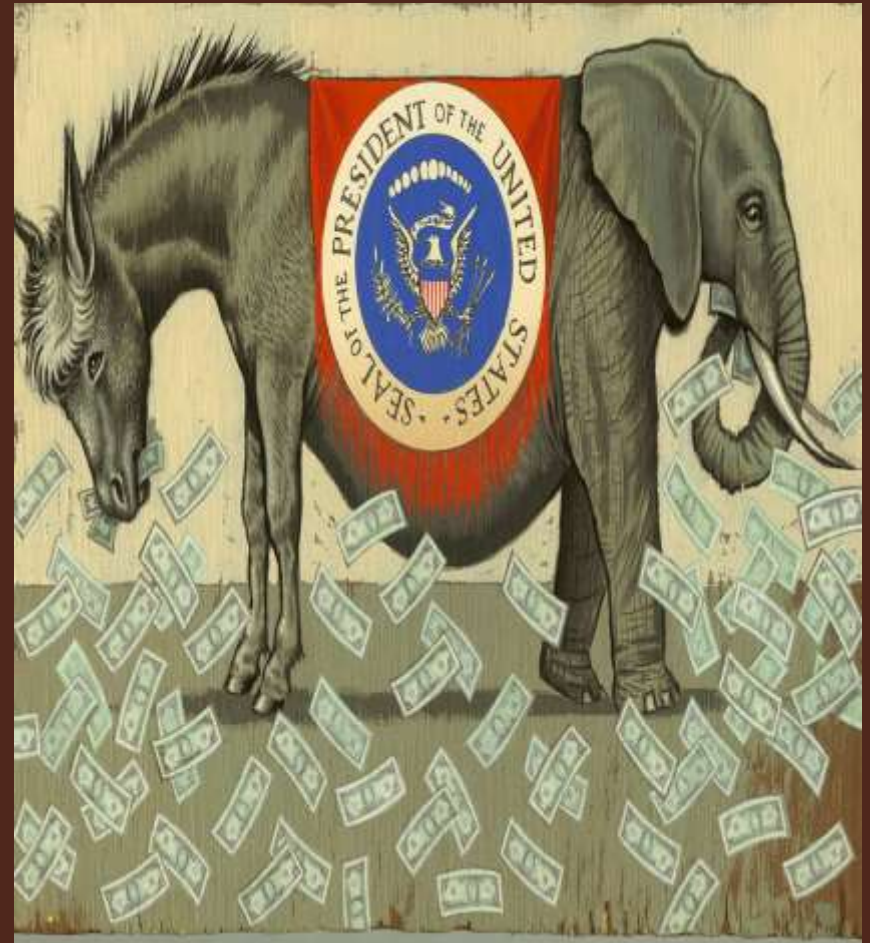
Spoils System

- A system in which a government official gives someone a job for helping them with a campaign.



The Spoils System

- During the Gilded Age, the Republicans and Democrats had roughly the same number of supporters.
 - To keep party members loyal, candidates rewarded supporters and tried to avoid controversial issues.



President James Garfield Assassinated

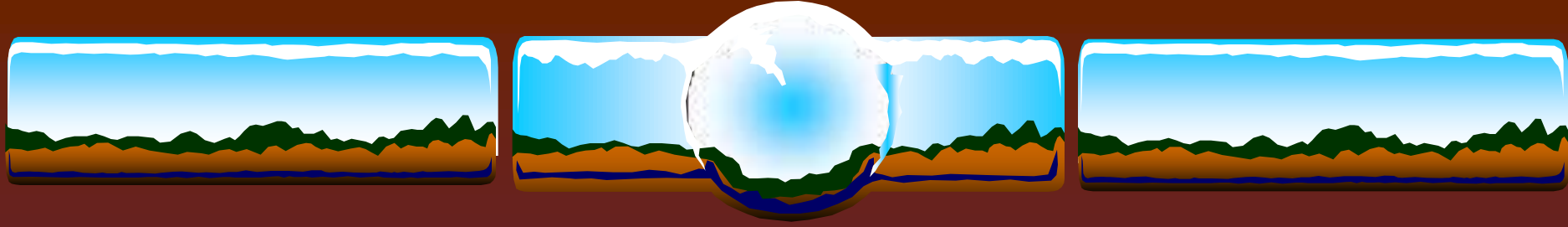


- Assassinated by an upset man.
 - Did not get a job from Garfield.
- Led to VP Chester Arthur becoming president
- Supported a change to the corrupt spoils system.

President Chester Arthur

- Signed into the law the Pendleton Act also called the Civil Service Act.
- Required candidates applying for government positions to a test to determine their qualifications.
- Ended the Spoils System.





Political Movements

Socialism & Populism



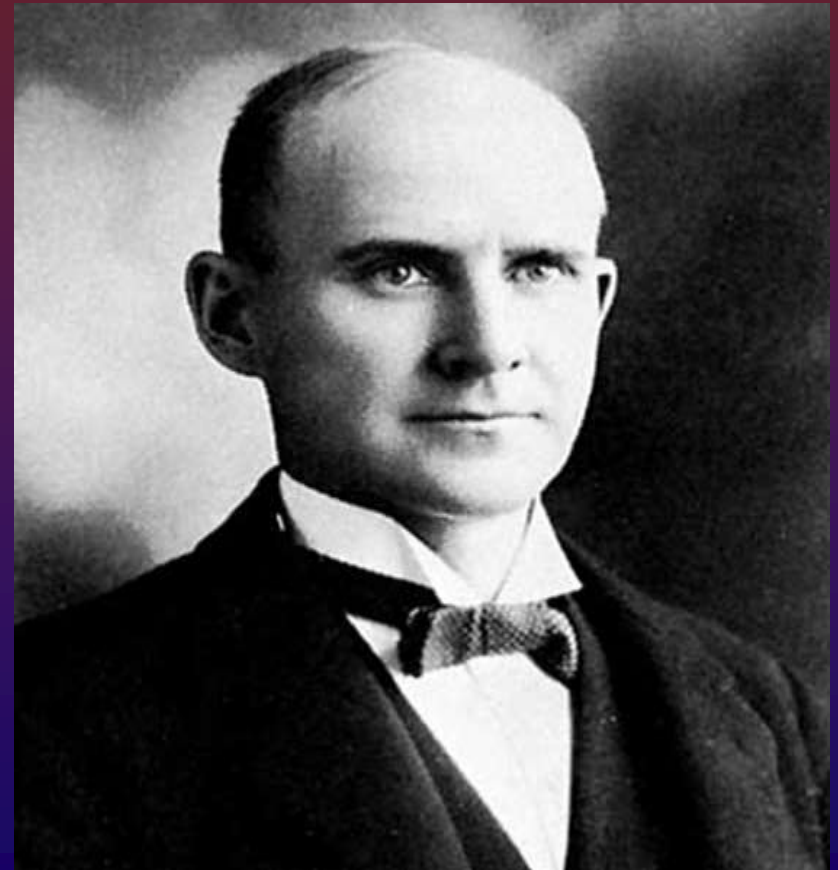
The Main Idea

- ❖ As the gap between rich and poor continued to grow, new political ideas and parties emerged in the United States and had a great impact.



Eugene Debs

- ❖ Father of American Socialism
- ❖ Founded the Socialist Party of America
- ❖ Proposed Radical Reforms





American Socialism

- ❖ The government should own all industries and divide the profits among skilled and unskilled workers alike.
 - ❖ Would decrease the profits of the wealthy business owners
 - ❖ Argued that it would ultimately help the United States as a whole



What If I Told You...

- ❖ That in the late 1880's a group of Americans would step up and change society and impact politics.
- ❖ Who do you think this group would be?





Farmers Struggles

- ❖ Prolonged droughts in the 1890s.
- ❖ Crop production and livestock numbers dropped.
- ❖ New farm equipment was expensive and hard to afford.
 - ❖ Farmers went in debt.
- ❖ Industrial (Bonanza) Farms were driving down prices of crops.
- ❖ Railroad companies increased their rates
- ❖ Everyone made money but the farmer doing the work



As A Result

- ❖ Farmers thought that railroads unfairly charged them higher storage and shipping rates.
 - ❖ They called for government regulations of railroad rates and fees.
- ❖ As a solution to their financial burdens, they also called for government reform of the nation's monetary policies.



Interstate Commerce Act

- ❖ Prohibited Railroads from giving special rebates to large shippers.
- ❖ Allowed the federal government to regulate commerce between states.
- ❖ Forbade the charging of more for short hauls than long hauls
- ❖ Created the Interstate Commerce Commission to oversee the RR's



Gold vs. Silver





Gold vs. Silver

- ❖ Farmers wanted to increase the money supply.
 - ❖ More money, better loan offers from banks
- ❖ Believed that more money would drive wages and prices up.
- ❖ This would increase farmers' earnings and thus, help them pay their debts.



Gold. Vs. Silver (Thinking)

Gold

- ❖ The “Gold Standard”
 - ❖ Money/currency should be backed by gold
 - ❖ Stability
- ❖ They said the gold standard would only benefit bankers and large companies.

Silver

- ❖ Increasing silver coins.
- ❖ Would cause inflation, decreasing the value of money
- ❖ If there is inflation, then money borrowed in the spring has more purchasing power than the same amount of money they would use to repay it in the fall.

The Grange



- ❖ Purpose was to bring isolated farm families together for social gatherings.
- ❖ Became a political and economic organization,
- ❖ Set up cooperative factories to lower prices,
- ❖ By the late 1870s, the Grange was in decline. Many local chapters had spent too much money on their cooperative machinery and supplies.



The Farmers' Alliance

- ❖ Replaced the Grange (1875)
- ❖ There was a Colored National Farmers Alliance
- ❖ These alliances both worked to promote economic policies that favored the farmer.
- ❖ The groups advocated for inflationary monetary policies, a graduated income tax, government control or national ownership of railroads, and low-interest loans for agriculture.



The Populist Party (1892)

- ❖ Formed from the Farmers Alliance
- ❖ Wanted political changes in addition to economic policy changes.
 - ❖ unlimited silver coinage
 - ❖ direct election of federal senators
 - ❖ public ownership of the railroads
 - ❖ federal warehouses for farmers to store crops and the ability to borrow money based on the current market price
 - ❖ • a graduated income tax



The Populist Party

- ❖ Welcomed Black & White voters
- ❖ Mainly popular in the Midwest, not really anywhere else.
- ❖ By 1896, the Democratic Party had adopted some of the Populist Party's core policies. The Democrats also acquired the support of Populist leader William Jennings Bryan and chose him to run as their presidential candidate.



The End of Populism

- ❖ Although the Populist movement died out by the late 1890s, Populist ideas were carried on by the social and political reformers of the Progressive Era, which was about to begin.



Foreshadowing??????





Order of Operations

- ❖ Complete the Political Machines Document Analysis