

APUSH

1868-1890's

GILDED AGE POLITICS

REVIEWED!

American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 23

American History (Brinkley) Chapters 15, 17, 19

America's History (Henretta) Chapters 15, 17, 20

President Grant (1868-1876)

- Civil War hero **Ulysses S. Grant** wins the Presidency for the **Republican party** in 1868

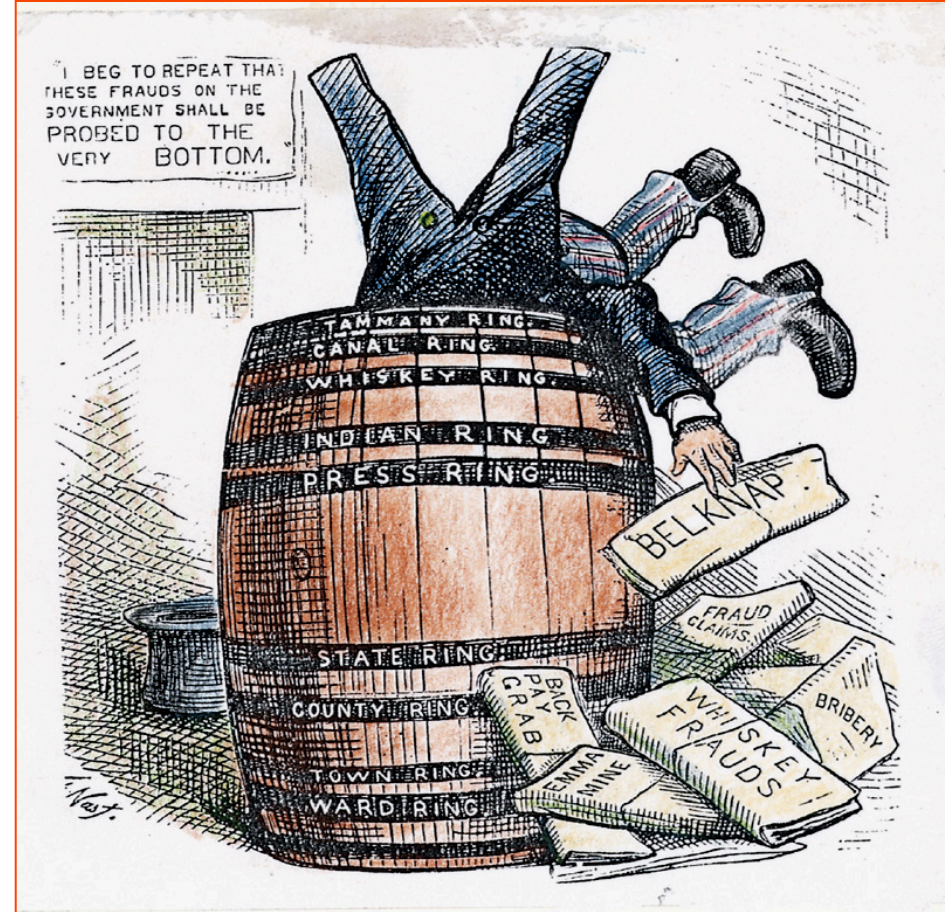
- Temporary social and political revolution- **black voters** vote for Republican candidates

- Corruption during the Grant administration

- **Credit Mobilier affair**: VP & members of Congress involved in RR stock scandal

- **Whiskey Ring**: 1875-Private Secretary of Grant helped steal 3 million from the fed govt in a tax corruption scheme.

- “**Grantism**”- term used to describe corruption in politics



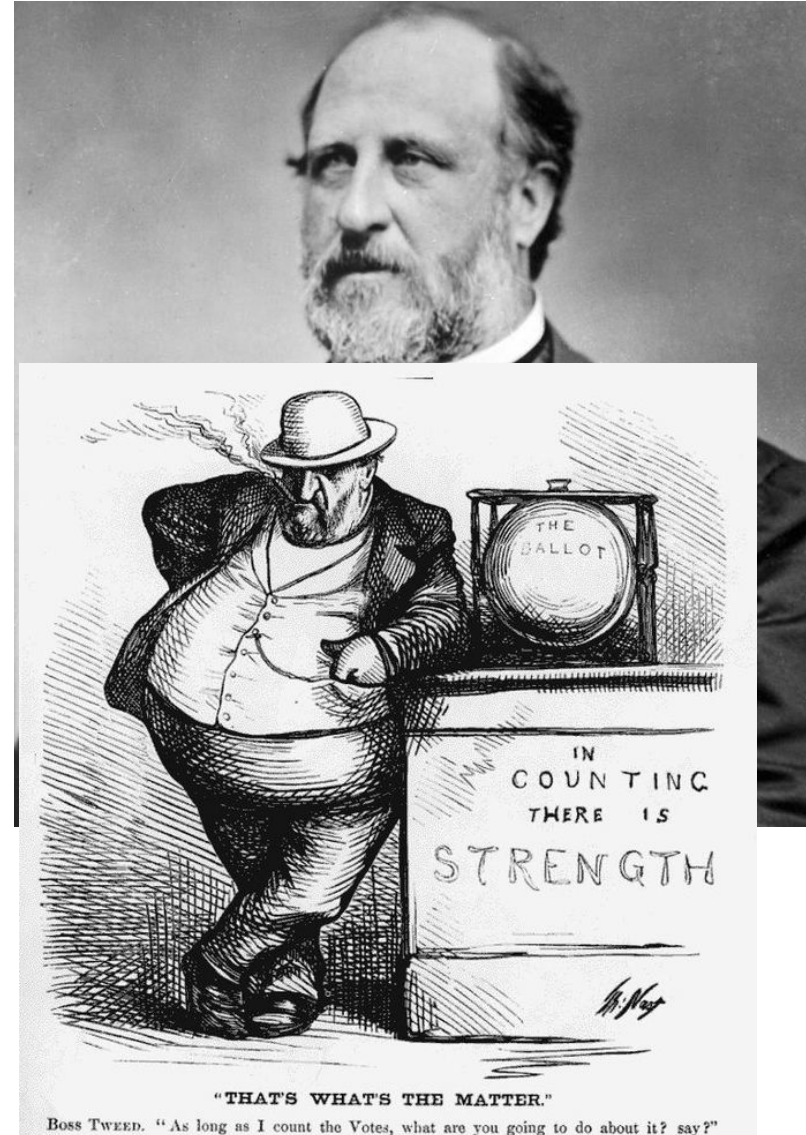
The Ultimate Symbol of Gilded Age Political Corruption: Boss Tweed

Local Political corruption:

Tammany Hall (Democratic party **political machine**):

- “Boss” Tweed used bribery, graft, and fraudulent elections to steal over \$200 million from NY taxpayers

- **Thomas Nast** would expose this corruption to the masses



PANIC OF 1873

- Severe **economic collapse** further distracts the nation from enforcing Reconstruction
- Causes: 1) **Overproduction** in industries such as factories, railroad, and mining. 2) **Over speculation** by bankers: too much money loaned out
- Hard times inflicted the worst effects on debtors
- Debtors advocate for relaxation of **tight money policies**
 - Debate between **“hard currency”** vs. **“greenbacks”**
 - Agrarian and debtor groups want “cheap money”
 - want **greenbacks** issued

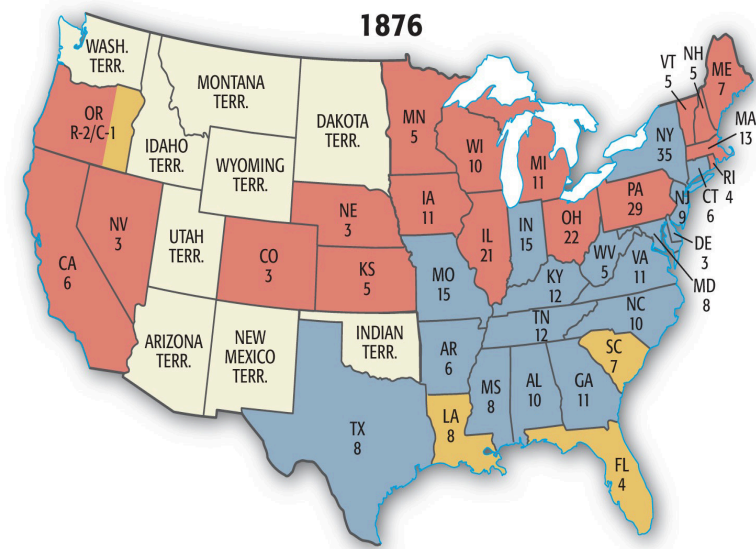


Election of 1876

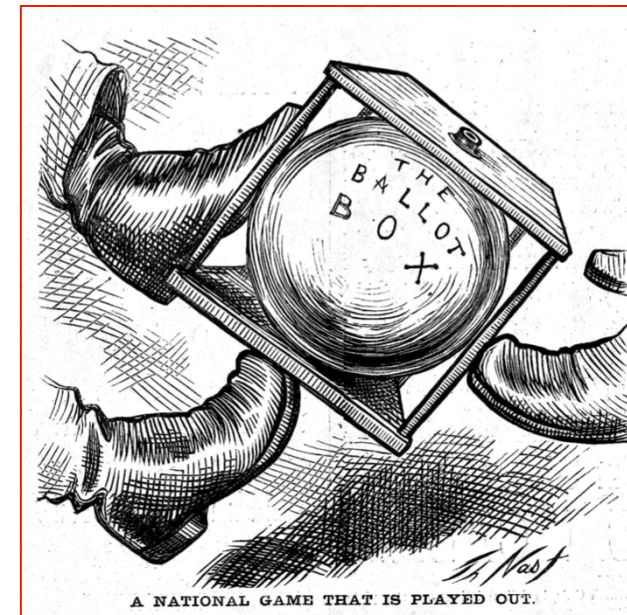
- Republican Rutherford **Hayes** vs. Democrat Samuel **Tilden**
- Political controversy as **results** in 3 southern states were **contested**

Compromise of 1877

- South/Democrats would recognize **Hayes as President**
- Hayes would pull federal **troops out** of the South and **end Reconstruction**
- Hayes to provide **south political positions (patronage)** and federal **aid for a transcontinental RR** for the south



Candidate (Party)	Uncontested Electoral Vote	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote
Hayes (Republican)	165	185 50%	4,034,311 48.0%
Tilden (Democrat)	184	184 50%	4,288,546 51.0%
Contested			
Territories			



The Court Undermines Reconstruction

- **Civil Rights Act of 1875: Protected Rights**
 - made it a crime for any individual to deny full & equal use of public places
 - Prohibited racial discrimination in jury selection
- **Civil Rights Cases of 1883: Court striking down!**
 - Supreme Court said 14th amendment only protected against government violations of civil rights
 - Individuals can discriminate all they want
 - Overturns the Civil Rights Act of 1875
- **Jim Crow laws** spread throughout the south
- **Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)**
 - Racial segregation was constitutional if equal facilities were made available to each race (“separate but equal”)

- **Idea of “**New South**” promoted: south would rebuild, industrialize, and develop their economy.**
- **However, Agrarian **sharecropping** and **tenant farming** continued to dominant the region**
- **Life for African Americans in the Post Reconstruction South continued to be filled with **many challenges**.**

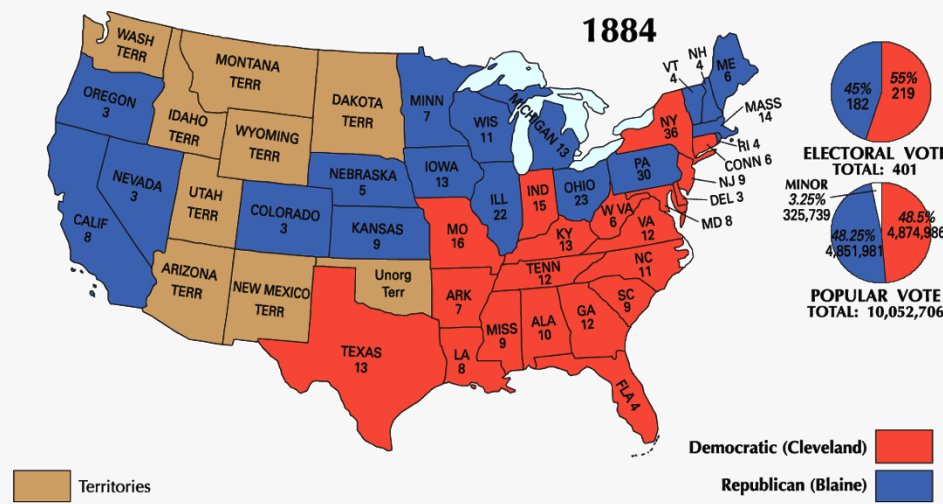
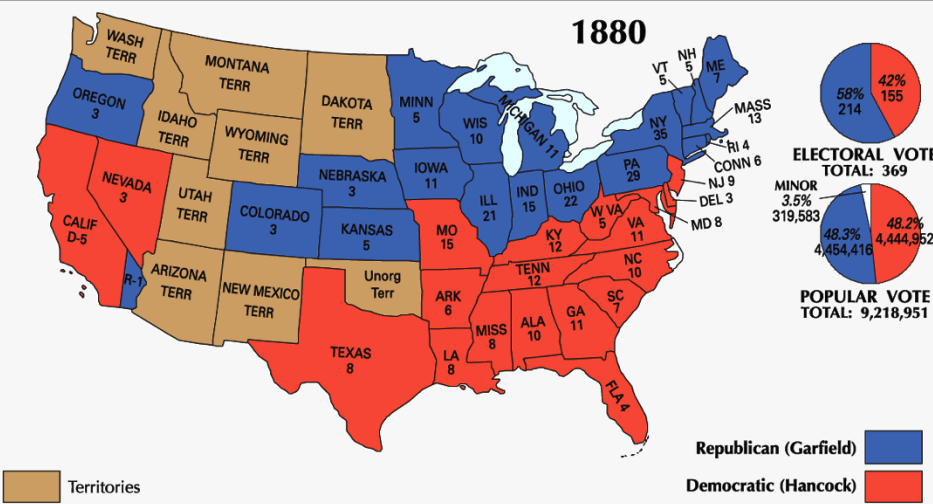
1.) Literacy Test

2.) Poll Taxes

3.) Property Requirements

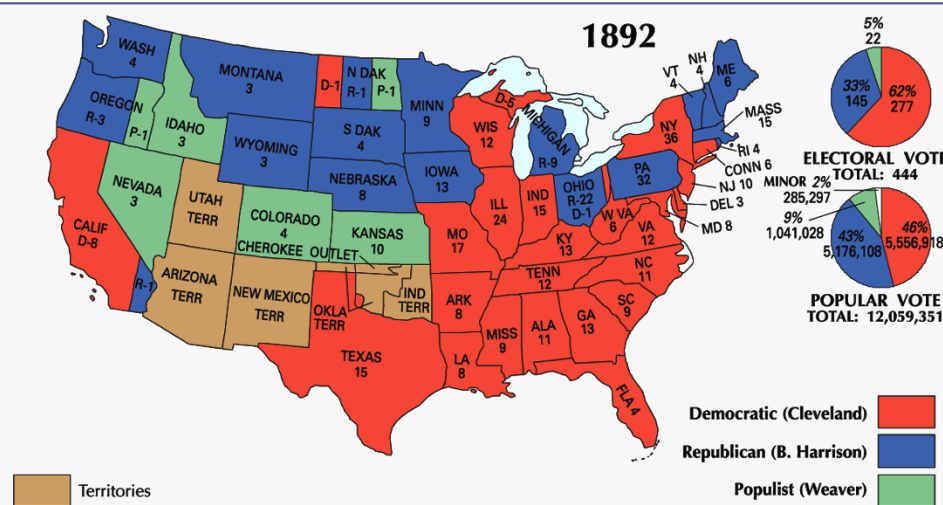
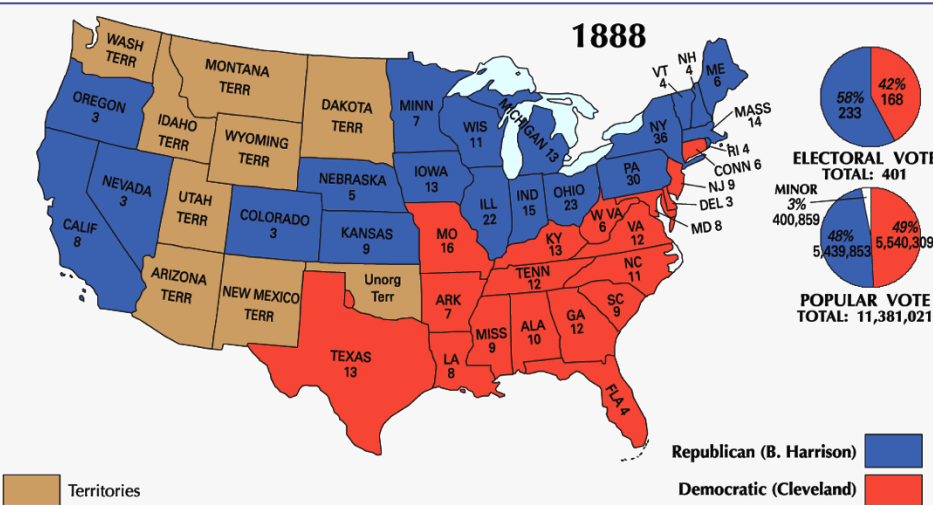
4.) Grandfather Clauses: Exempted from electoral requirements anyone who had voted in 1860





Democrats Dominate the South

White Democrats (“Redeemers”) reassumed political power in the South



Chinese Immigration

- **Large increase in Asian immigration (especially from China)**
- **Important during the various mining booms and building of railroad**
- **Spike in nativism toward Asian immigrants in the west**
- **Chinese Exclusion Act 1882: prohibited further immigration of Chinese laborers**
 - **1st time immigration restrictions on basis of race and nationality**



Gilded Age Presidents

- **1876-1880: Rutherford B. Hayes (R)**
- **1880-1884: James Garfield (R) killed**
 - **VP Chester A. Arthur takes over**
- **1884-1888: Grover Cleveland (D)**
- **1888-1892: Benjamin Harris (R)**
- **1892-1896: Grover Cleveland (D)**
- **1896-1900: William McKinley (R)**

“Gilded Age politics were intimately tied to big business and focused nationally on economic issues such as tariffs and currency policy.”

Both political parties during the Gilded Age ignored the political and social consequences of industrialization

LAISSEZ FAIRE

Key Issues: **Currency, Civil Service Reform & Tariffs**

- **Patronage** was used by both political parties
 - **Civil Service** jobs given to supporters (“to the victor belong the spoils”)
 - **Calls for Civil Service Reform**
- **Half-Breeds**: advocated civil service reform (James Blaine)
- **Stalwarts**: supporters of patronage (Roscoe Conkling)
- By the 1880’s the U.S. Treasury had a **huge surplus** from **tariffs**



IN MEMORIAM—OUR CIVIL SERVICE AS IT WAS

Gilded Age Presidential Politics

- **1876-1880: Rutherford B. Hayes (R)**
 - **Becomes President following Compromise of 1877**
 - **Sends **federal troops** to break up **Great Railroad strike****
- **1880-1884: James Garfield**
 - **Garfield is assassinated**
 - **Chester A. Arthur throws support behind the **Pendleton Act** (1883) civil service reform**
- **1884-1888: Grover Cleveland (D)**
 - **Strong advocate of **laissez faire**- “*Though the people support the government,*” “*the government should not support the people*”**
 - **Signed into law **Interstate Commerce Act** (1887)**
- **1888-1892: Benjamin Harrison (R)**
 - **advocated for keeping the tariff high.**
 - **Billion-dollar Congress- **McKinley Tariff, Civil War pensions****
- **1892-1896: Grover Cleveland (D)**

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