

## APUSH 1877 – 1900

Chapter 16: Conquering a Continent

## Intro

- **Transcontinental Railroad:** Completed in 1869 at Promontory, Utah, it linked the eastern railroad system with California's railroad system, revolutionizing transportation in the west
- Conquering the West → US became an industrial power, but it deepened rivalries with Europe
- Efforts by Congress during the Civil War set the stage for the 2<sup>nd</sup> IR and Big Business
  - Congress launched the transcontinental railroad project during the war
  - New national banking system
  - Protective tariffs that gave US manufacturers a competitive advantage
- Industrial US was a product of public-private partnership in which the gov played critical roles

## The New Union and the World

- **Treaty of Kanagawa:** treaty with Japan by Commodore Matthew Perry in 1854 that allowed US ships to refuel at two Japanese ports
  - US and Japan commenced trade 1858
- US influenced Latin America economically
  - Plan pioneered by William Seward, who urged the acquisition of new territories
- **Burlingame Treaty:** guaranteed the rights of US missionaries in China and set official terms for the emigration of Chinese laborers to work in United States
- 1868 Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia

## Integrating the National Economy

- US preferred to promote construction of railroads by private co., whereas in Europe railroads were controlled by the federal governments
  - US government did provide loans, subsidies, land to railroad companies
- \*Railroad co. transformed American capitalism, as it created a legal form of organization, "the corporation," which enabled them to raise private capital in great amounts
- During Reconstruction, Republicans imposed protective tariffs to help domestic industries. Democrats complained that it hurt American consumers by prohibiting them from purchasing cheap foreign goods. In reality the tariffs:
  - Increased US economic growth
  - Did NOT prevent industrial poverty, as corporations did NOT pass along their profits
  - Led to the development of trusts
    - Trusts: corporations that dominated whole sectors of the economy and wielded near-monopoly power
- State legislatures passed regulatory laws to limit the power of trusts, but these were challenged in federal courts

- *Munn v. Illinois*: an 1877 case in which the Supreme Court upheld states' regulation of railroads for the benefit of farmers and consumers
- The Due Process clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment was later invoked to shield corporations from excessive regulation
- **Gold Standard**: A monetary system in which paper money and coins are equal to the value of a certain amount of gold; backing a country's currency with its reserves of gold
  - US converted to this method in 1873
  - **Crime of 1873**: A term used by those critical of an 1873 law directing the US treasury to cease minting silver dollars, retire Civil War- era greenbacks, and replace them with the notes backed by the gold standard from an expanded system of national banks
  - By adopting the gold standard, Republican policymakers limited the nation's money supply to the level of available gold
  - Encouraged European investors as both US and European nations were on gold standard

### Incorporating the West

- **Homestead Act (1862)**: Provided free land in the West to anyone willing to settle there and develop it. Encouraged westward migration.
- **Morrill Act (1862)**: this law distributed millions of acres of western lands to state governments in order to fund state agricultural colleges.
  - **Land-Grant Colleges**: public universities founded to broaden educational opportunities and to foster scientific and technical expertise
- Mining Empires
  - Well-financed corporations, not individual prospectors, reaped most of the profits from Western mines
  - **Comstock Lode**: Rich deposits of silver found in Nevada in 1859 → brought a diverse population into the area and led to the establishment of boomtowns
  - **General Mining Act of 1872**: passed by Congress to encourage the development of western resources. Allowed those who discovered minerals on federally owned land to work the claim and keep all the proceeds
  - Increase in W. mining → increased market for timber and produce from Pacific NW
- Cattlemen on the Plains
  - Decimation of the Bison herds due to overhunting and European animal diseases
  - Southern Texas was an early model of cattle ranching
  - **Long Drive**: facilitated by the completion of the Missouri Pacific railroad in 1865, a system by which cowboys herded cattle north from Texas to Dodge City and the other cowtowns of Kansas
    - No longer necessary once railroads reached Texas
- Homesteaders
  - In SW, Americans chased Mexicans off their lands and seized the properties. Special courts aided in this endeavor by invalidating many Mexicans' land claims

- **“Rain follows the plow”** The false western theory that once people started to plow the fields, the rain would come and follow to irrigate them
- Great Plains = rich and fertile → influx of newcomers seeking an opportunity to better themselves economically
  - Union veterans settled in Kansas
  - 1870s, Norwegians and Swedes settled in Minnesota and Dakotas
- **Exodusters:** African Americans who traveled from Deep South to the West to find peace and prosperity in Kansas
  - Largest African American concentration in West aside from Texas
- Early miners, lumberman, cowboys = male; Homesteading = family affair
- Mormons in Utah 1840s
  - Exodus to Utah 1848
  - Utah legislature granted full voting rights to women in 1870
  - Emmeline Wells *The Women’s Exponent*
  - Several women won seats in Utah’s state legislature 1896
- Environmental Challenges
  - Water and lumber difficult to find; harsh weather; farming difficult in arid West
  - John Wesley Powell *Report on the Lands of the Arid Region of the US* (1879) argued that the environment was not suited to small homesteads and the gov needed to play a bigger role
    - Later federal funding paid for dams and canals that supported W. agriculture
- The first national park = Yellowstone 1872
  - Fear of overdevelopment → national parks
  - Boosted tourism and removed Native Americans from national park land
- US Fisheries Commission est. 1871 → US Fish and Wildlife Service 1930s

#### Native Peoples Dispossessed

- Before the Civil War, Americans believed the prairies could not be farmed, so Congress reserved the Great Plains for Natives
- Dakota Sioux promised to remain on reservation in Minnesota in exchange for supplies, but when supplies didn’t come and their pleas went unanswered → violence
  - Largest mass execution of rebellious natives by President Lincoln
- White settlers feared Indian attacks, and since the federal government was embroiled in the Civil War, they often took matters into their own hands
  - Colorado militia leader John Chivington led whites to attack Cheyenne tribe in 1864, killing mostly women and children in what is known as **Sand Creek Massacre**
  - **Fetterman Massacre:** In 1866, a tribe of Oglala Sioux under Chief Red Cloud, provoked by the building of the Bozeman Trail through their hunting ground in southern Montana, massacred a U.S. army unit
    - Closed down the Bozeman Trail, the main route into Montana

- Northern plains embroiled in conflict with natives as Sioux and Arapahos attacked white settlers
- Eastern public opinion turned against Indian wars
- Grant's Peace Policy
  - Reformers argued that Indian peoples should "become white"
  - Boarding schools to teach Indian children to adopt white ways
  - Corruption in Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - Indians were impoverished, starving, and dislocated from their tribal lands, and often perished due to disease
  - **Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock** (1903): Supreme Court ruled that Native Americans were "an ignorant and dependent race" and "wards of the state" so therefore had no rights and the government was able to revoke all treaties. Congress could make whatever Indian policies it chose, ignoring all existing treaties
  - Ex Parte Crow dog: no Indian was a citizen unless Congress designated him so
  - These ruling remained in force until the New Deal of 1930s
  - **Dawes Severalty Act (1887)**: law that gave Indians severalty (individual ownership of land) by dividing reservations into homesteads. The law was a disaster for native peoples, resulting in loss of 666% of lands held by Indians over several decades
    - Attempt to limit the ability of Indians to gather together, and an attempt reform them along white ways
- End of Armed Resistance
  - Sitting Bull: The leader of the Sioux, who, with Crazy Horse, killed General George A. Custer and his entire 250 man army. He was defending land in the Dakota Territory, which had been reserved for his people but was still being settled by whites
  - **Battle of Little Big Horn**: American cavalry under George Armstrong Custer attacked an encampment of Sioux, Arapaho, and Cheyenne Indians. Custer's force was annihilated, but the Native American military victory was short-lived.
    - Later became sensationalized as "Custer's last stand" and justified American conquest of Indian "savages"
  - Chief Joseph: Lead the Nez Perce (Pacific NW tribe) during the hostilities between the tribe and the U.S. Army in 1877.
  - Geronimo: Apache chieftain who raided the white settlers in the Southwest as resistance to being confined to a reservation (1829-1909)
    - Chiricahua Apache under Geronimo was the last stand, but even the Apaches surrendered 1886
- Strategies of Survival
  - Some Natives adopted white ways to succeed in the harsh white world, but many continued their traditions and culture
  - **Ghost Dance Movement**: Religion of the late 1880s and early 1890s that combined elements of Christianity and traditional Indian religion. It fostered Plains Indians' hope

that they could, through sacred dances, resurrect the bison and call a great storm to drive whites back across the Atlantic.

- **Wounded Knee:** The 1890 massacre of Sioux Indians by American cavalry at Wounded Knee Cree, South Dakota. Sent to suppress the Ghost Dance, soldiers caught up with fleeing Lakotas and killed as many as 300.
- Western Myths and Realities
  - Mythic ideals of rugged cowboys and savage Indians developed at this time, not in Hollywood
  - Buffalo Bill Cody and his Wild West show
  - Frederick Jackson Turner wrote of Indian “savagery” and claimed that the Western Frontier was the defining feature of the US

### Gilded Age

#### Intro

- Emerged right after Civil War
- Marked by the 2<sup>nd</sup> IR, widened gap btwn rich and poor, rise of Big Business, corruption in gov

#### Growth of Industrial America

- Rapid growth of US economy 1865-1900
- Abundant raw materials
- Increase in labor supply due to immigration
- Labor saving inventions and technologies
- Business friendly government policies (taxes, tariffs, laws)
- Railroads → creation of complex financial and stockholder corporations

#### Industrial Empires

- Andrew Carnegie – Steel
  - Born in Scotland and immigrated to US, worked his way up from poverty – “Rags to Riches” and began a manufacturing steel plant in Pittsburgh
  - Vertical Integration: A business model in which a corporation controlled all aspects of production from raw materials to packaged products. "Robber barons" or industrial innovators such as Gustavus Swift and Andrew Carnegie pioneered this business form at the end of the civil war
- Rockefeller – Standard Oil
  - Controlled 90% of US oil production
  - Standard Oil controlled supply and prices of oil → began to control the government’s control of oil production
  - Horizontal Integration: A business concept invented in the late nineteenth century to pressure competitors and force rivals to merge their companies into a conglomerate.
- J.P. Morgan

- War profiteering; Banker and Investor
- Purchased Carnegie Steel → US Steel
- Gustavus Swift – Swift and Co.
  - Vertical integration, predatory pricing, assembly line
  - Meat-packing empire in the Midwest

### Economic Theories of Gilded Age

- Laissez-Faire
  - Letting the economy work freely without gov regulation or intervention
  - Competition among businesses would produce improved goods at low prices
  - Without gov regulation, businesses have ability to maximize their profits
- Social Darwinism
  - Application of Charles Darwin's natural selection to society and economy
  - "Survival of the fittest" – concentrating wealth in the hands of the "fit" benefits everyone; the rich are the "fittest" (justifies why the rich should control things)
  - Led by Herbert Spencer and William Graham Sumner
  - Opposed government handouts, safety regulations, laws restricting child labor, as such actions would coddle the weak, and the unfit would be allowed to survive
- Gospel of Wealth
  - Hard work and material success are signs of God's favor
  - Wealthy people had a God-given responsibility to help those in need
  - 'Pioneered' by Andrew Carnegie

### Corporate Workplace

- **Management Revolution:** an internal management structure adopted by many large, complex corporations that distinguished top executives from those responsible for day to day operations and departmentalized operations by function.
- **Deskilling:** The elimination of skilled labor under a new system of mechanized manufacturing, in which workers completed discrete, small-scale tasks rather than crafting an entire product.
  - \*Used to make employers pay less for workers and replace them easier.
- **Mass Production:** A phrase coined by Henry Ford, who helped to invent a system of mass production of goods based on assembly of standardized parts. This system accompanied the continued deskilling of industrial labor.
- **Scientific Management:** A system of organizing work developed by Fredrick W. Taylor in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was designed to coax maximum output for individual workers, to increase efficiency and reduce production cost.
- **Trust:** A small group of associates that hold stock from a group of combined firms managing them as a single entity. Trust quickly evolved into other centralized business forms, but progressive critics continue to refer to giant firms like united states steel and Standard oil as "trusts"
- Advertising as a business emerges, and sales became systemized

### Rise of Middle Class

- Middle class expanded as new employment opportunities such as managers, accountants, salespersons, administrators opened up
- White women found work as secretaries; black women were employed in domestic service

### Wage Earners

- By 1900, 2/3 of working Americans worked for wages
- Women and children required to work to support family
  - Child labor most widespread in South
- Poor conditions and low pay → labor unions
- Businesses have little incentive to improve working conditions and pay since there was a surplus of cheap labor (especially immigrants)

### Resistance to Big Business

- Tactics
  - Strikes, Boycotts (only successful in small towns where the community helped the unhappy laborers boycott the business), sabotage (destruction of equipment)
  - Businesses responded with lockouts, Yellow-Dog contracts (employee promised to never join a union), strikebreakers, blacklists, private guards and militia, and government injunctions forcing strikes to disband
  - Unions were rarely organized in their goals, and couldn't decide if they wanted to include women, immigrants, and African Americans
- **National Labor Union (1866)**
  - First nationwide labor organization, est. by William Sylvis
  - Advocated for: higher wages and shorter hours, banning of prison labor, land reform laws to keep public holdings out of the hands of speculators, and national currency reform to raise farm prices
  - Consisted of skilled and unskilled workers, farmers, not African Americans – too many groups = conflicting goals, and the Union dissolved after Panic of 1873
- **Knights of Labor**
  - Est. by Uriah Stephens in 1869; height = 1886; led by Terence Powderly
  - 1<sup>st</sup> mass labor organization made in the American working class. They bridged boundaries of ethnicity, gender, ideology, race, and occupation to build a "universal brotherhood" of all workers (did exclude Chinese immigrants)
  - Advocated for: limits on immigration, restrictions on child labor, and government ownership of railroads, telegraphs, and telephones (cooperative commonwealth)
  - Struggled to organize on a national level and was decentralized
  - Electoral actions to achieve goals

- **Haymarket Square:** May 4, 1886. Conflict in Chicago where both workers and policemen were killed or wounded during a labor demonstration called by local anarchists. This led to a backlash against all labor organizations.
  - **Anarchism:** Advocacy of a stateless society achieved by revolutionary means. They were scape goats for the 1886 Haymarket Square Bombing.
- **American Federation of Labor (AF of L)**
  - Led by Samuel Gompers; formed 1886
  - Focused on higher wages and better conditions
  - Loose grouping of smaller craft unions – \*members were skilled workers only
  - Closed shop: A workplace where a job seeker had to be in a union to gain employment. Promoted by craft unions to keep out lower-wage workers and strengthening the unions' bargaining position with employers.
- **Grange Movement**
  - Led by Oliver Kelley; formed in 1867, height at 1875
  - National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry: rural protest group that sought to counter the rising power of corporate middlemen through cooperation and mutual aid
  - Started out a cooperatives, but then endorsed political candidates and lobbied for legislation
  - Wanted to create inflation by increasing the money supply through dollars not backed by gold, bc then farmers could make payments easier and their debts would be worth less
  - Identifying the railroads as the chief villains, Grangers lobbied state legislatures for regulation of the industry
    - **Granger Laws:** Economic regulatory laws passed in some Midwestern states 1870s.
    - Commissions to regulate insurance and utility companies and to supervise railroad rates and policies
  - Died out and was replaced by Farmers' Alliance
- **Farmers' Alliance**
  - A rural movement founded in Texas during the depression to spread the across the South and the Plain states.
  - Wanted cooperative stores and exchanges that would circumvent middle men and it called for better government aid to farmers and stricter regulations of rail roads.
  - Largest farmer-based movement in American history; included women and there was a **Colored Farmers' Alliance** chapter
  - As price of crops fell and cooperatives were underfunded and under attack by middlemen, the effort collapsed. Alliances in TX ,Kansas, SD → **Populist Party**
  - Some states passed laws but these were ineffective as federal laws were needed to combat corporations that operated on a national or global scope
- **Populist/People's Party**

- Omaha Platform: solidarity with industrial workers, opposition to immigration to help American workers, coinage of silver, government ownership of railroads, graduated income tax, direct election of US senators, shorter workdays
- **Panic of 1893** gave greater momentum to the Populist movement
- Backed Democrat candidate William Jennings Bryan for the 1896 presidential election, and his platform was “free silver” – that inflation and an easy \$ supply would loosen the control that N. banks held over the country
  - Bryan’s defeat and an improved economy ended the Populist movement
- **Green-Back Labor Party**
  - A nation political movement calling on government to increase the money supply in order to assist borrowers and foster economic growth; "Greenbackers" also called for greater regulation of cooperation and laws enforcing an 8 hour workday.
  - National political movement forged during the 1870s depression
  - Consisted of Grangers, labor advocates, local workingmen’s parties
  - Producersism: argument that real economic wealth is created by workers who make their living by physical labor such as farmers and craftsmen and that merchants, lawyers, bankers and other middle men unfairly gain their wealth from such producers.
  - Height = 1878 when it elected 15 congressmen
  - \*Short-lived Greenback movement created the foundation for more sustained efforts to regulate big business
- Major Strikes
  - **Great Railroad Strike of 1877**: A nationwide strike of thousands of railroad workers and labor allies, who protested the growing power of the railroad corporations and the steep wage cuts imposed by railroad managers amid a severe economic depression.
    - 1<sup>st</sup> major strike in US, set stage for other strikes to develop
    - US gov created the National Guard
  - **Homestead Lockout (1892)**: Lockout of workers at the Homestead, Pennsylvania, steel mill after Andrew Carnegie refused to renew the union contract. Union supporters attacked the guards hired to close them out and protect strikebreakers who had been employed by the mill. The National Guard Suppressed this resistance and Homestead, like other steel plants, became a non-union mill.
  - **Pullman Strike (1894)**: George Pullman manufactured railroad cars, and in response to the trike he attached his Pullman cars to mails trains (so now the strikers are interfering with the US mail service → gov steps in). The Supreme Court orders the union to stop the strike. The leader of the strike, Eugene Debs, goes on to found the American Socialist Party
- 1887 Congress and President Grover Cleveland passed
  - **Hatch Act**: provided federal funding for agricultural research and education
  - **Interstate Commerce Act (1887)**: created **Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)**, a federal regulatory agency designed to oversee the railroad industry and prevent collusion and unfair rates

- An effort to help farmers; also stabilized railroad industries
- Eugen v. Debs and American Socialism
  - Based their beliefs on the writings of Karl Marx
  - Government should own all industries and divide the profits among those who actually created the products.
  - At its height, the party numbered over 100,000 active members; Debs ran for president

Immigrants

- Immigration to US reached its peak from 1880-1920
  - Economic opportunities in America; steam ships made transatlantic fair affordable
- Migration from W. Europe started 1840s with Irish potato famine and enclosure movements
- Most immigrants were unskilled and 1/3 returned to their home countries
- Beginning of immigration from Eastern Europe, especially Jews fleeing religious persecution
- **Chinese Exclusion Act:** Law that barred Chinese laborers from entering US. (passed 1882-1940)
  - Created the legal foundations on which far reaching exclusionary policies would be built in the 1920s and after

Old Immigration	New Immigration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N. and W. Europe</li> <li>- Literate (to some degree)</li> <li>- Some money</li> <li>- Protestant (excluding Irish, who were Catholic)</li> <li>- Experience with democracy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S. and E. Europe, and some from Asia</li> <li>- Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox, as well as Jewish</li> <li>- Spoke little English and many were illiterate in their native tongues</li> <li>- No experience with democracy</li> <li>- Little integration, often lived in ethnic neighborhoods (Chinatown, Little Italy)</li> <li>- Majority of immigrants from S. and E. Europe by 1880s</li> </ul>

- Factory owners liked immigration = cheap labor
- Protestant leaders horrified at growing numbers of non-Protestants
- Racial Purists feared the genetic outcome of the eventual pooling of these new bloods
- Nativists lobbied, successfully, for exclusion of some ethnic groups (mainly Asian)

Culture

- Consumer Culture
  - Mail-order companies and the development of large department stores
  - Standard of living rising for all as goods are now cheaper and more widely available
- Urban Life
  - Urbanization: most Americans moving to cities
  - Electricity (1879), telephones (1876), skyscrapers, indoor plumbing, cable cars, subway
  - Tenement housing (mass housing, for workers and immigrants) was cramped and disease-ridden

- Average size of American family decreased
- Religious Revival
  - Working class attending Protestant churches less and less
  - Increase in Roman Catholic churches, Eastern Orthodox churches, Jewish synagogues
  - Social Gospel movement grew out of the concern of the ever dwindling attendees to Protestant churches
  - Progressive-minded preachers began to tie the teachings of the church with contemporary problems, and many preachers became politically active
  - Preached an end to child labor, the enactment of temperance laws, and civil service reform; women were particularly active in social reform
  - Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Assoc. and the Young Women's Christian Assoc.
  - **Third Great Awakening:** Like the first two awakenings, it was characterized by revival and reform. The temperance movement and the settlement house movement were both affected by church activism. However, the 3<sup>rd</sup> GA took place in urban areas
- Artistic and Literary Trends
  - Horatio Alger's American Dream
  - Henry George *Progress and Poverty* (1879): argued against the optimistic view of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IR, said it brought only poverty and wedge in society
  - Patronage by wealthy millionaires
  - American Renaissance (Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson, Theodore Dreiser, Walt Whitman)
  - Painters and writers depicted a realistic look at the glories and hardships of this new age; an end to the Romantic period and a more pessimistic view born from Civil War
  - **Realism:** 19th century artistic movement in which writers and painters sought to show life as it is rather than life as it should be
  - Naturalism: 19th century literary movement that was an extension of realism and that claimed to portray life exactly as it was
- Education
  - Church leaders, modern liberals, anti-child labor advocates all supported education
  - Massachusetts led the way in mandating school for children
  - **Jim Crow** laws kept Southern schools segregated
  - Kindergartens in urban areas
  - Black colleges and female colleges arose
- Sports and Leisure
  - Baseball, football, boxing, basketball
  - Vaudeville Theaters; saloons
  - Barnum and Bailey Circus
  - Bicycles
- Women
  - Maternal Commonwealth: women's values cultivated in the sphere of domesticity would be applied to public life for social reform

- Most of the advocates of maternal commonwealth were white, upper-middle-class women with college education
  - **Woman's Christian Temperance Union**, launched by Frances Willard
    - Pressured state and local governments to pass dry laws
    - Also ran soup kitchens and medical clinics
  - **Settlement House Movement**: provided shelter for destitute immigrants as well as lessons in English and tips on how to adapt to American culture
  - Working women still gained freedom through their economic independence
- Victorian Values
  - Dominated American social life for much of the 19th century – “separate spheres”
  - Industrialization and urbanization brought new challenges to Victorian values
    - Women were more educated, and both genders wanted to participate in the new leisure activities
  - Young, single, middle-class women who worked in the cities headed the “revolt” against Victorian ideals
  - Greater acceptance of sexual expression
- Print Revolution
  - Linotype machine, invented in 1883, allowed for much faster printing of many more papers
  - Newspapers began to add sports columns for men, and some were targeted at women by printing fashion and beauty tips
  - Mass circulation of newspapers led to competition btwn Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst
    - Sensationalism and Yellow Journalism

### Gilded Age Politics

- National Politics
  - Considered the low point of American politics, both Republicans and Democrats were heavily influenced by businesses and were often corrupt
  - Gov at all levels accomplished little due to the stalemate btwn the two parties and corruption
  - “Forgettable” presidents, in that they didn’t do much and let the Republican-dominated Congress govern
    - Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison
  - **Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act**: opened jobs to competitive examination rather than political connections; signed into law by Chester Arthur
    - Dismantled the old spoils system pioneered by Andrew Jackson
  - **Sherman Anti-Trust Act**: Congress passed an anti-trust act in 1890 at the insistence of the middle-class. It prohibited trusts and monopolies but was ineffective until 1900s
- Political Bosses

- Dominated municipal governments and often resorted to criminal means (bribes, voting fraud, secret deals) to accomplish their goals, though they did much to help alleviate the situation of the poor
- **Political Machine:** a complex, hierarchical party organization such as New York's Tammany hall, whose candidates remained in office on the strength of their political organization and their personal relationship with voters, especially working class immigrants who had little alternative access to political power
- William "Boss" Tweed and Tammany Hall – controlled NYC politics for 20 years
- **Election of 1896**
  - Democrats and Populists nominated William Bryan Jennings ("Cross of Gold" speech) and sought to increase the coinage of gold and silver
  - Republicans nominated William McKinley
  - McKinley won and it marked the end of the political stalemate and stagnation that characterized the Gilded Age
  - After 1896 the Populist Party declined, though much of its platform was later adopted by Progressives
  - Marked the beginning of urban and modern dominance of American politics

### The New South

- Developed by Henry Grady, the "New South" valued a self-sufficient S. economy based on modern capitalism, industrial growth, improved transportation
  - South's rate of economic expansion surpassed the rest of the country in population, industry, and railroads
  - By 1900 many Southern cities were leading producers in steel, timber, and tobacco
- Poverty remained rampant due to the South's late but rapid industrialization and its poorly educated workforce
  - Industrial workers' wages in the South were half that of the national average
- Agriculture
  - Sharecropping
  - S. economy still tied to production of cotton, but leading scientist George Washington Carver helped diversify S. agriculture by promoting the growth of other crops
- Segregation
  - Playing on racial fears of whites, politicians learned they could exert power by discriminating against blacks
  - **Plessy v. Ferguson** (1896): "separate but equal" → Jim Crow laws
  - **Jim Crow Laws:** required public places to be segregated on the basis of race
- Civil Rights Refused
  - Literacy tests, poll taxes, grandfather clauses kept blacks from voting
  - Blacks were given harsher punishments for crimes; lynch mobs
  - Discrimination kept blacks out of skilled and industrial jobs, stunting their ability to move into the middle-class

- The Supreme Court did nothing to stop Jim Crow laws, ruling that the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment did not protect blacks from discrimination by private businesses, and that blacks would have to seek protection from state, not federal, governments
- In 1883 the SC reversed the Civil Rights Act of 1875 (which opposed segregation)
- Response to Discrimination
  - Ida B. Wells used the newspaper to campaign against lynching and Jim Crow laws
  - Booker T. Washington est. Tuskegee University and emphasized racial harmony and economic cooperation
    - Emphasized education = key to socio-economic mobility

#### Summary – Gilded Age

- Rise of Big Business
- Mass transportation and increased urbanization
- Emergence of new “culture” (Realism, decline in Puritan values, leisure time activities)
- Education, social reform movements, 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Awakening
- Political stalemate btwn parties; federal government largely ineffective
- Political Machines and “bosses”
- Jim Crow laws and *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- Industrialization of South and “second” IR in North
- Immigration
- Rise of Unions
- Settlement in the West → eviction of Native Americans
- Gold Standard, money issues, Panic of 1873 and Depression of 1893

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