Politics and Empire, 1877-1900

Topics of Discussion

I. Pro-Business Government
II. Weak Republican Presidents
III. The Emergence of the Populist Party
IV. The Election of 1896
V. The Spanish American War
Politics and Empire, 1877-1900

I. Pro-Business Government

A. Railroad Acts of 1862 and 1864
B. McKinley Tariff (1890) and Dingley Tariff (1897)
C. Ended State Regulation of Railroads
   *Wabash v. Illinois* (1886)
D. Weak Interstate Commerce Commission (1887)
E. Problematic: Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890)
F. Sherman Act Used Against Labor: Re Debs (1895)
G. Inability to regulate manufacturing
   *United States v. E.C. Knight Co* (1895)

II. Weak Republican Presidents

A. Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881)
B. James Garfield (1881-1881)
C. Chester A. Arthur (1881-1885)
   *Pendleton Civil Service Act* (1883)
D. Grover Cleveland (Democrat: 1885-1889)
E. Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893)
F. Grover Cleveland (second term 1893-1897)
G. William McKinley (1879-1901)
Politics and Empire, 1877-1900

III. The Emergence of the Populist Party

A. Farmers’ problems after the Civil War
   1. Railway Monopolies
   2. Price Discrimination
   3. Mechanization
   4. Overproduction
   5. Bankers
Politics and Empire, 1877-1900

III. The Emergence of the Populist Party

B. Patrons of Husbandry (The Grange) – 1870s

1. Midwest and South
2. Militant
3. Education
4. Hatred for bankers
5. Never a political party
6. State legislatures pass anti-monopoly laws
7. "BUY LESS PRODUCE MORE!"
III. The Emergence of the Populist Party

C. Farmers' Alliance (POPULIST) – 1880-90s

1. Militant organization
2. Cooperatives
3. Monopsony
4. Subtreasury Plan
5. "RAISE LESS CORN AND MORE HELL"
6. 1891-92, The People's Party (Populist)
7. 1892, 11 representatives to Congress,
8. 1892, Presidential Candidate, James Weaver
9. 1894 sent 40 representatives to Congress

IV. The Election of 1896

A. 3 Parties: Republicans, Democrats, Populists
B. Republicans, William McKinley
C. Democrats, William Jennings Bryan
D. Populist party - Betrayal of 1896
E. Decline of Populist power
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V. The Spanish American War, 1898

1. 1875-1900: Age of Imperialism
2. After 1890, Many Americans seek Empire
   A. Josiah Strong, Our Country (1885)
   B. Alfred Mahan, Influence of Sea Power (1890)
3. Naval Bases Sought: Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Cuba
4. Cuban Independence Movement against Spain, 1895
5. Feb 15, 1898: Maine exploded in Havana harbor
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V. The Spanish American War, 1898

7. Declaration of War against Spain, April 1898
8. Teller Amendment
9. War: less than 4 months and 400 killed
10. US received Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam
11. Cuba forced to accept Platt Amendment
12. And, in July 1898: Hawaii annexed
13. Citizens of subjects?
**The Election of 1900**

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