ORIGINS OF THE POPULIST MOVEMENT

BY KELSEY HAYES AND MARTHA HAWTHORNE
CITY
1865-1900

- Urbanization occurred and cities began to grow with people from country sides and abroad.
- The appearance of factories and mines created many job opportunities causing individuals to move into cities.
- New technology was a main factor in job opportunities.
- Population in cities grew so rapidly that many changes were undergone.
• Many individuals moved from farms to cities in search of a better life because new technology in cities had made it more difficult for farmers to make a living.

• Wheat and cotton farmers struggled under a decline in prices for agricultural commodities.

• Farmers also suffered from falling prices for export crops.
IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION

• All ethnicities traveled to America in search of work and to escape problems back in their homeland. Some immigrants came for freedom of religion or political reasons.

• Many of the immigrants who came to America were unfamiliar with a democratic government.

• The cultural differences between America and other countries caused the immigrants to not assimilate into American culture.
IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION

• Once in America, immigrants found other individuals of their same ethnicity and they formed communities with similar ethnic backgrounds.

• Many acts that regarded immigration were put into play, such as the
  • Page Act of 1875
  • Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
  • Immigration Act of 1882
There are 5 sections that make up the Page Act of 1875:

1. Immigration from the Chinese, Japanese, or any Asian country, are to be free and voluntary.
2. Any citizen of the United States who tried to transport a Chinese, Japanese or an individual from any of the Asian countries without their permission would be punished.
3. Women transported to the United States for the purpose of prostitution were to be forbidden.
4. Anyone who made a deal to illegally supply slave labor would be penalized.
5. Foreign individuals convicted of a crime not including political crimes and women transported to work as a prostitute would be denied access to the United States.
The Page Act of 1875 led to the reduction of prostitutes but also caused there to be very few Chinese women living in America.

The Chinese were unable to make a family because there were very little Chinese Women.

Before the Chinese Exclusion act, 39,579 Chinese entered the U.S., and only 136 of them were women.
CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT OF 1882

• This act was put into play because the Chinese did not assimilate to American society. They did not adapt to living under a democracy and were unwilling to abide by American laws.

• The Chinese Exclusion Act said that Chinese non-laborers who wanted admittance into America needed to receive a certificate from the Chinese Government stating that they met the requirements to come to the United States.

• The act also stated that Chinese immigrants who already lived in America were excluded and not considered U.S. citizens.
IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1875

- The Immigration Act of 1875 was put into place because of the rapid immigration of Europeans into America.
- This act denied entry into America if the individual was unable to financially support themselves without becoming a public charge. Also, it denied convicts, and anyone they thought was a lunatic (or mentally ill).
IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION

- Many people started living in cities and the population increased so rapidly that there was not enough room to live.
- Poor living conditions and no official sewers led to disease.
- The population growth due to immigrants also led to diseases spreading more quickly and to more people.
- Some diseases that turned into epidemics were:
  - Smallpox
  - Typhoid
  - Yellow fever
- Families tended to have bigger families so at least one of their children would survive.
ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 8, 1892

Grover Cleveland
- Democrat Party
- Opposed free coinage of silver
- Proponent of the gold standard

Benjamin Harrison
- Republican Party
- Supported Bi-metallism
FREE COINAGE OF SILVER

Pros
• Caused inflation and an increase in food prices which would benefit farmers who made money selling their crops
• Farmers were in debt due to rapid advancements in industrialization

Cons
• Negatively affect urban wage-earning workers
• Would cause inflation and increased food prices while still earning the same income.
OUTCOMES OF 1892 ELECTION

- Cleveland won the electoral vote with 277 to 145 to 22
- Failure to reverse the depression of 1893 led to a Republican legislature in 1894
COXEY’S ARMY

• Jacob Coxey was the leader and planned to march to Washington 1894.
• He hoped that many other unemployed individuals would march with him to protest about the government’s failure to aid Americans during an economic downtime caused by the Panic of 1893.
• Only about 500 men joined Coxey’s army and when they reached the capitol, the protest was put down and Jacob was arrested.
ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 3, 1896

William Bryan
• Nominated by the Populist Party, Democratic Party, and Silver Party
• Known for his great speaking ability
• Defended farming
• Strongest in the South and rural Midwest
• Supported free coinage of silver

William McKinley
• Republican nominee
• Known for doing most of his campaigning through Marc Hanna and posters
• Strongest in urban areas such as the Northeast, Upper Midwest, and Pacific Coast
• Had support from businessmen, professionals, factory workers and prosperous farmers
• Opposed free coinage of silver
ELECTION OF 1896

• Results:
  • Electoral votes 271 to 176 McKinley
• Major Parties:
  • Republican: pro-gold
  • Democrat: pro-silver
  • Populist: agrarianism
  • National Democrat: pro-gold
  • Silver Republican: pro-silver; opposed pro-gold republicans
• Bryan's loss led to the dissolving of the Populist Party into both the Democrat and Republican Parties.
• The election showed a shift from the third party system (civil war, reconstruction and monetary) to the fourth party system (progressive era, WWI, and Great Depression)
• Reasons for McKinley's win:
  • He was supported by laborers and urban states because these individuals were against the free silver idea
  • Election came down to city vs. country as inflation could help debt-ridden farmers but hurt wage-earning factory workers
  • Decrease support for Bryan as farm prices rose
  • McKinley also had support because there had been Republican control in the White House for the past 20 years
  • He was able to promote policies of pluralism, industrial growth, and the gold standard
CULTURE AND AMUSEMENTS OF THE LATE 1800’S

• Entertainment:
  • Theater: Benjamin Keith introduced American Vaudeville theater. Featured ideas of the “legitimate” stage, free of vulgarity and policy of consecutive performances.
  • Movies: Introduction of Edison’s kinetograph for motion pictures. Nickelodeons were first permanent theaters. By the 1900’s there was already 10,000 movie theaters across the country. Thrived because of efficiency.

• Traveling Shows:
  • Circus: Barnum and Bailey competed against the Ringling Brothers. It introduced major advertising in order to beat out competition.
  • Chautauqua: This blended education with entertainment. Large audiences came to hear orators, comedians, and musicians. They gave companies big pay offs.
CULTURE AND AMUSEMENTS OF THE LATE 1800’S

• Music:
  • New forms such as Ragtime and the Cakewalk. Greatly emphasized with the development of silent movies. Many different cultural styles of music was introduced with immigration.

• Activities:
  • Amusement Parks: increased due to higher incomes and affordable transportation. First roller-coaster developed from coal mining tracks in the 1870’s. wanted to break away from old Victorian style living, modern Americans were paying for thrills.
  • Bicycling: Became popular for both men and women but women were larger targets for this business as it gave them a new kind of freedom with the development of more causal clothing to ride in.
  • Spectator Sports: Baseball became a professional sport. Better transportation and more free time added to the baseball craze. Railroads allowed teams to compete across the nation. Much money came out of ticket sales, baseball supplies, and baseball cards.
INTELLECTUALS

• The degree to which an individual is engaged with the vital reality of contemporary times.
• Usually participates in politics to defend a concrete proposition or to denounce and injustice by producing an ideology or defending a system of values.
• Categorized as an agrarian form of Populism romanticizing hard working farmers and peasants.
  • Example: In France, Dreyfus affair addressing anti-Semitism to the public or the Russian Narodniki movement


