

Name: _____ Hour: _____

Crash Course U.S. History #26: Gilded Age Politics - <https://nerdfighteria.info/v/Spgdy3HkcSs/>

Introduction: “The Gilded Age”

“gilded” (definition): _____

The term “Gilded Age” comes from a book by _____ and Charles Warner (1873). The term usually makes us think of over-the-top parties and people with WAY too much money (but not enough sense). The “Gilded Age” was also about politics and corruption, however.

Urban Political Machines

★ “political machine” (definition): _____

★ **The Mystery Document** - Complete this paraphrase of this week’s Mystery Document (by George Plunkitt):

“Let’s say my party is in power in the city and they have a lot of improvements planned. _____

_____ That’s what we call ‘honest graft.’”

★ The most famous political machine of the day was Tammany Hall in New York City, run by

_____.

★ He manipulated the system so that normal city projects cost WAY more than they should have - the contractors made a fortune, but he made even more in kickbacks.

★ “kickbacks” (definition): _____

★ On the other hand, political machines provided valuable help to _____ and other _____ in cities.

★ The local political boss helped them find somewhere to live, made sure they had a job, and provided basic necessities until they could take care of themselves. In return, the folks they helped were expected to _____.

★ When that wasn’t enough to guarantee success on election day, political machines helped rig elections in favor of their own party.

The Grant Administration (President Ulysses S. Grant)

- ★ President Grant himself was not corrupt, but he was far too trusting of many of the men working for him who were.
- ★ _____ - this was a complicated scheme involving grossly overcharging the U.S. government for the costs of building _____, then using some of the profits to bribe the Congressmen who voted for the funding in the first place.
- ★ The _____ - whiskey distillers in St. Louis didn't like paying taxes on their product, so the guy in charge of overseeing whiskey production for the government started taking bribes to lie about how much whiskey they actually made (which lowered their taxes).
- ★ For many years after the Grant Administration, Americans were VERY skeptical about Congress and about the honesty of the federal government in general.

The Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)

- ★ “monopoly” (definition): _____

- ★ a “trust” (define/explain): in this context, a trust was an agreement between several businesses to control prices, all pay the same wages, and in many ways operate like one big company - almost a monopoly.
- ★ This was one of the earliest Congressional efforts to limit the power of big businesses, but it was very difficult to enforce.

State Efforts to Improve Conditions

- ★ Because Congress wasn't particularly helpful in the late 19th century, many states began passing laws trying to improve public _____ & _____.
- ★ Cities invested in public works like _____, gas, and _____.
- ★ The movement towards public _____ continued to grow.
- ★ Some northern states passed laws limiting _____ (although the courts usually struck these down as unconstitutional).
- ★ There wasn't much “reform” in the south, but there was pressure in the west for government to get involved and do something about _____.



Thought Bubble:

- ❖ The Grange Movement (1870s): _____

- ❖ The Farmers' Alliance Movement: _____

- ❖ The People's Party / Populist Party: _____

The Populist Party wanted...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

*{NOTICE THE EFFORT TO BRING IN NORTHERN FACTORY WORKERS TO THEIR CAUSE
BY INCLUDING THE BIT ABOUT THEIR RIGHT TO FORM LABOR UNIONS!}*

The Populist Party

- ★ The Populists had some success, but failed to capture many major offices because...
 1. _____

 2. _____

- ★ William Jennings Bryan: _____

- ★ The Populists may have had limited success in the late 19th century, but many of their ideas would resurface a generation later as part of the Progressive Movement

