**Unit 6 Study Guide**

**Chapter 23 – Political Paralysis in the Gilded Age**

**President Grant – Scandal and Corruption, weak president:**

* “Bloody Shirt” – Republicans used Civil War memories to get votes during the campaign.
* Administration scandals – Republican corruption:
  + Credit Mobilier – CM Construction Company - Railroad business insiders hire themselves for large pay at the expense of the federal government.
  + Whiskey Ring – Government officials help distillers evade tax - Stole excise tax money from the Treasury Department.

**Panic of 1873 – Panics always caused by overspeculation. Overproduction and inadequate demand (too much business growth):**

* Overproduction of railroads, mines, and factories.
* Banks give generous loans.
* Debate over hard money and soft money:
  + Lenders – hard currency and no inflation, debtors – soft money and inflation.

**Political Terms:**

* The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today – Mark Twain's book about corruption in this era.
* Solid South – consistent Democratic support in the South.
* Grand Army of Republic – several 100,000 Republican Union veterans.
* Stalwarts –led by Roscoe Conkling, believed in patronage.
* Half-breeds – Civil Service Reform! Led by James G. Blaine, believed in government jobs going by qualification.
* Mugwumps – Democrats who straddled the patronage issue.

**Political Machines – dominated urban politics and abused power to give supporters jobs.**

**Boss Tweed:**

* Tammany Hall, stole over 200 million dollars.
* Thomas Nast (cartoonist) contributed to his capture.

**The New South**

* The Solid South.
* Jim Crow Laws – legal segregation.
* Plessy v. Fergusson - Separate but equal. Segregation is legal.
* Crop Lien System – A credit system that kept farmers in debt.
  + South – commercialized. Farmers – kept down in debt.

**Election of 1876 – Hayes (Republican) vs Tilden (Democrat)**

* Compromise of 1877 – Hayes elected
  + Military Reconstruction is ended.
  + Railroad through Texas
  + Patronage for Democrats

**Civil Rights:**

* Civil Rights Act of 1875 – equal accommodation and fair jury selection
* Civil Rights Cases:
  + Supreme Court rules the 14th Amendment does not prohibit private action.
  + Jim Crow Laws – legal segregation.

**Railroads and Immigration:**

* 1880 – 9% of California’s population was Asian (they built railroads and mined gold).
  + Discrimination and Nativism.
* Chinese Exclusion Act – limits Chinese immigration until 1943.
* US vs Wong Kim Ark – reinforces citizenship to those born in the US.

**Era of Forgettable Presidents (1877 – 1896):**

* Rutherford B. Hayes - first president to use troops to end a labor strike 1877 Railroad Strike.
* James A. Garfield – shot by Charles Guiteau 6 months into office, civil service reform.
* Chester A. Arthur - Pendleton Act of 1883 – civil service reform, competitive exam for jobs.
* Grover Cleveland - Laissez-Fair advocate, lower tariffs (Democrats Down).
* Benjamin Harrison – McKinley Tariff – 49.5%. Billion Dollar Congress – first federal budget above one billion.
* And Grover Cleveland again – panic of 1893.
* All lame and ineffective – political power shifts away from the president.

**Tariffs:**

* 1881 – 145-million-dollar government surplus, mostly from tariffs.
* Cleveland (Democrat) wanted to lower tariffs.
* McKinley Tariff Act of 1890 – highest peacetime rate at 48.4%
  + Farmers hate it, the North loves it.

**Chapter 24 – Industry Comes of Age**

**Transcontinental Railroads – Gamechanger Of All Gamechangers!**

* Union Pacific Railroad – builds west from Omaha, Nebraska.
  + 20 square miles of land for each mile of tracks laid and loans from the government.
  + Employed Irish.
* Central Pacific Railroad – Sacramento to the Sierra Nevada.
  + Employed Chinese.
  + Given same government support as the Union Pacific.
* Promontory Point meet up for the total railroad.
* Great Northern – Minnesota to Seattle.
* Linked the nation - Telegraph lines laid at the same time.

**Railroads:**

* Cornelius Vanderbilt – popularized steel rail and made millions.
  + Steel rails were safer, stronger, and lasted longer.
* Standard gauge of track.
* Westinghouse air brake.
* Pullman palace cars
* Stimulated Immigration.
* National economy develops.
* Time zones.

**Corruption of the Railroads and Cornelius Vanderbilt:**

* Stock watering – railroad stock promoters greatly inflated the value of stock.
* Railroad Tycoons became powerful in politics based on wealth.
* "Pools" - agreements to divide business opportunities in an area and share the profit.
* Charged more for short trips than long trips.

**Government and the Railroads:**

* Laissez-faire since Grover Cleveland.
* Farmers want to regulate railroads – The Grange (prelude to Populism)
  + Munn v. Illinois (1877) – States can regulate railroads.
  + Wabash Case (1886) – Individual states cannot regulate interstate commerce. (Munn case overruled)
  + Interstate Commerce Commision (1887) – prohibited rebates (cheap ticket favors) and pools.
    - First time the government tries to regulate an industry.
    - Ineffective!

**Rose:**

* Railroads
* Oil - Rockefeller
* Steel – Carnegie and the Bessemer Process
* Electricity

**Inventions, millionaire investments, and patents:**

* Telephone – Alexander Graham Bell
* Electric lights, phonograph, moving pictures, dictaphone, mimeograph, moving pictures.

**Integrations:**

* Andrew Carnegie (steel) - vertical integration (second richest guy in American History)
  + Controls all aspects of production.
  + Eliminates middlemen fees.
* Rockefeller (oil) – horizontal integration (illegal) (Richest guy in American History)
  + Owning other businesses in an industry.

**The Gospel of Wealth – Carnegie (Donated 90% of his riches) believes the wealthy should be morally responsible.**

**Social Darwinism – survival of the fittest applied to business and humans.**

**Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)**

* Trusts control the economy.
* Tried to destroy monopolies, ineffective.
* Actually used against labor unions.

**Trusts – Monopolies**

* Social Darwinism – survival of the fittest businessmen.
* Laissez Faire Capitalism – Government should not regulate the economy.

**Labor Movement - Unions:**

* Management vs. Workers
  + Management have the courts and the government on their side and many anti-union tactics.
* National Labor Union – 1st large scale union
* Knights of labor – for EVERYONE, want better conditions for everyone (Radical) (Socialist?)
* American Federation of Labor –White Male Skilled workers, better wages and hours, less radical

**Strikes:**

* Great Railroad Strike of 1877 – Hayes uses troops to stop it.
* Haymarket Riot – Gathering protests police brutality, bomb kills 8 radicals and leaders convicted
  + Weakening of labor movement and xenophobia.
* Homestead Strike (1892) - Carnegie Steel
  + Pay cut, violent strike, PA militia broke it up.
* Pullman Strike (1894) - Railroads
  + Nationwide strike, Cleveland breaks it up.

**Impact**

* Standard of living increase.
* Cities grew
* Workplace impersonality and danger.
* New economic opportunities for women.
* EXREME social stratification – top 10% controlled 90% of the nation's wealth
* Foreign trade – overproduction leads to trade.

**Chapter 25 – America moves to the City (1865 – 1900)**

**The growth of cities:**

* First skyscraper built in Chicago 1885.
* Aspects of city life:
  + Electric trolleys.
  + Segregated neighborhoods.
* Industrial jobs drew in people from the country.
* Economic opportunities for women.
  + Social workers, secretaries, stenographers, etc.
* General Stores replaced by Sears and Montgomery Ward mail order catalogs.

**Issues of City Life:**

* No waste disposal.
* Crime.
* Population boom.
* Tenant houses.

**New Immigration (1880 - 1920):**

* Southern and Eastern Europe (Italy, Greece).
* Illiterate, poor, worked in cities.
* Tensions with old immigrants.
* Population boom and unemployment in Europe.
  + "American Letters," no draft, religious freedom.
  + Jews forced to leave Europe.
* Used as strikebreakers.
* Hard to unionize because of language.
* 1882 – Chinese Exclusion Act (Chinese not part of New immigrants)
* Literacy tests proposed, no enacted until 1917.
* More diverse and different from American Culture.

**American Reaction to Immigration:**

* Ignored except by political bosses (offered jobs for votes)
  + Also lots of nativism (American Protective Association)
* Social Crusaders attempted to improve city life.
  + Walter Rauschenbusch and Washington Gladden – Social Gospel
* Jane Addams – Hull House in Chicago (Food, clothing, and shelter)
  + Famous Settlement House

**Nativism:**

* Concerns about New immigrants – high birthrate (Anglo-Saxons could be outnumbered)
  + Different government views, like communism, socialism, and anarchism.
* Anti-Foreign Groups.
  + American Protective Association – urged votes against Catholics.

**The Social Gospel:**

* Church movement to improve societal conditions.
* YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army.

**Women's Christian Temperance Union (1874):**

* Fight against alcohol.
* Carrie A. Nation.

Comstock Law – illegal to publish obscene material and banned contraception.

**Education:**

* Horace Mann
* High schools increasing drastically by 1900.
  + Tax pays for textbooks.
  + Private Religious Schools.
  + Illiteracy rates cut in half.
* Morrill Act of 1862 – public land for education.
* Hatch Act 1887 – agricultural experimentation stations.

**Key African Americans:**

* Brooker T – accomodationist, former slave, blacks should learn trades to support themselves.
  + Atlanta Compromise (1895) - Blacks submit to white rule but given economic opportunities.
* W.E.B. Du Bois (Niagara Movement) – demanded immediate equality for blacks, helped found NAACP.
  + Talented tenth – top ten percent of blacks should lead the race.
  + Radical, no compromise.

**Press:**

* Sensationalism – public interest stories.
* Yellow Journalism – making up exaggerated stories to sell papers.
  + Hearst and Pulitzer – battle to sell more papers.

**Books and Authors:**

* Edward Bellamy "Looking Backwards" - government makes big business serve the public.
* Horatio Alger – virtue, honest, and industry are rewarded by success and wealth.
  + Rags to riches stories.
* William James – Behavioral Psychologist – practical results, not theories.
* Frank Norris "The Octopus" - railroad and political corruption.
* Jacob A. Riis – how the other half lives (1890) (Photo journalism to expose dirty city life)
* Mark Twain – Frontier realism and American dialect.

**Chapter 26 – The Great West and the Agricultural Revolution (1865-1896)**

**Fredrick Jackson Turner – TURNER THESIS - The West promotes democracy.**

**Native Americans:**

* Dwindling population – disease and fighting.
* Shrinking buffalo population.
* Battles with American troops:
  + Wounded Knee (1890), Little Bighorn (Sioux War).
* Helen Hunt – "A Century of Dishonor", government mistreated natives.
* Dawes Severalty Act of 1887
  + Dissolved many tribes as legal entities.
  + Indian family heads given 160 acres, tribal land ownership ended.
  + Alters natives' lives – assimilation.
* Carlisle Indian School - "Kill the Indian, save the man"

**Economy of the West**

* Mining boom:
  + Comstock Lode – gold and silver and Nevada.
  + Boom towns led to ghost towns.
  + Population of West, conflicts with Native Americans, Bimetallism?
* Cattle boom:
  + The Long Drive – cowboys drive cattle to the transcontinental railroad from Texas.
  + End of the Cattle Boom – overgrazing, bad weather, barbed wire (Joseph Glidden) enclosed the plains.
* Farming revolution – commercialization
  + Homestead Act.
  + More education, irrigation, and machinery.
  + Deflation, high tariffs, natural disasters.

**Homestead Act of 1862:**

* Please move out west – free 160 acres.
* Not very good land.

**1890 Census:**

* Frontier Line no longer distinguishable.
* Safety-Valve Theory – City dwellers moved west during depressions to farm and prospered.
  + Not really true, and many farmers were moving into cities.

**Crop Lein System** – High interest credit for poor farmers, cycle of debt in the South.

**Politics:**

* Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893)
  + Sherman Anti-Trust Act
  + Sherman Silver Purchase Act – Hard money vs. Soft Money.
  + The Grange – farmers discuss economy and ending monopolies.

**Political Parties:**

* The Greenback Party – soft money and inflation.
* Populist Party – farmers.
  + Omaha Platform (Ignatius Donnelley) - Free and unlimited silver money at 16:1 ratio.
  + William Jennings Bryan, cross of gold speech.
  + Graduated Income Tax (redistribute wealth).
  + Government owns railroads and telegraphs.
  + Initiative, referendum, recall.
  + Postal Savings Bank – safe government repository.
  + Land grants to settlers and not railroads.
  + Direct election of senators.
  + 8-hour work day

**Election of 1896 – Bryan (D) vs. McKinley (R)**

* McKinley – gold standard, east coast elite.
* Bryan – anti-Elitist reform and bimetallism
* McKinley wins.

**Strikes:**

* Homestead Strike – 1892 at Carnegie Steel, Pittsburgh.
  + Government always sides with business (not labor)!
* Pullman Strike – Eugene V. Debbs, government breaks it up for interrupting mail delivery.

**Panic of 1893 – OVERSPECULATION (AGAIN):**

* Overproduction, Stock Market Crash.
* Repeals Sherman Silver Act.
* William Jennings Brian – *Cross of Gold*

**Populism Legacy:**

* Led to the Progressive Era with many Populist ideas.