

The Populist Challenge:

- I. As industrialism strengthened, agriculture weakened, leading to smaller farmers having increasing economic instability and insecurity
 - A. Cotton started to be grown in places like India, Egypt, and Brazil plummeting the prices of cotton from 11 cents a pound to 4.6 cents per pound
 - B. Farmers also suffered by not being able to pay back their loans to the bank and suffering from increasing railroad prices
 - C. The Farmers Alliance was formed to better farmers economic conditions
 - 1. Exchanges would allow loans to farmers to help sell their produce, though farmers could not finance this plan by themselves; the alliance would then propose that the government should establish warehouses where farmers would store crops until they are sold, and the government could issue loans to farmers at low interest rates using the crops as collateral: this is called the Subtreasury plan
 - D. The Alliance would evolve into the People's party/ populists, to appeal to all producing classes and winning their support
 - 1. People from groups like the Knights of Labor would join, but most of its support was in the wet belts of the South and West
 - 2. They used propaganda in the form of newspapers to portray America as a commonwealth of the small producers that secure their own freedoms through their labor, thought of in the 19th century
 - a) They were radical though, in the sense that they accepted modern technology and advocated for agricultural education and technological advances, and hoped that agricultural development could not be a partisan issue
 - 3. In some southern states, populists made great efforts to unite white and black farmers to be on the same political page, met to much failure forcing the blacks to create their own organization called the Colored Farmers Alliance, organizing a strike of cotton pickers in deep south plantations; this event was violently suppressed by authorities and landowners
 - 4. A coalition of white populists and Black Republicans won North Carolina in 1894, bringing a second reconstruction that allowed increased spending on education and black office holding, though most other southern states fended off Populist influence by mobilizing whites by warning them about potential black supremacy, and intimidating black voters as well as committing election fraud
 - 5. Populists also worked with women to aid in the cause, simultaneously supporting women's suffrage in states like Colorado and Idaho, approving extending the vote to women
 - 6. Populists made a lot of efforts to gain the support of urban workers, but urban workers did not agree with populist efforts to raise prices of farm goods as it would make food more expensive for factory workers and reduce the value of their wages

- E. The populists and Democrats support William JHennings for democratic candidate for presidency in 1896, as he supported farmers through calling for the free coinage of silver
 - 1. Republicans thought the opposite, believing that the gold standard was the way to go, nominating William McKinley
 - a) Millions of dollars were poured into the presidential campaigns as the candidates traveled around the country to rally support
 - b) Ryan got the south and the west while McKinley would win with the Northeast and Midwest winning the presidency

The Segregated South:

- I. As Populists failed in the SOuth, a group of merchants, planters, and business men would dominate the region's politics as the redeemers, to get rid of "black rule"
 - A. Their goal was to undo Reconstruction by slashing state budgets and taxes, affecting the most public schools
 - B. Those who were unemployed or did minor crimes were punished significantly harder
 - C. As blacks suffered the most from these policies and economic conditions, networks of institutions created after the Civil War served as the foundation to support the growth of a black middle class through more educated professions like teachers or doctors, deposit racial segregation from these hobs
 - 1. Some blacks would escape farther north in hopes of having better economic conditions, but many had no choice but to stay in the south
 - D. Between 1890 and 1906, every southern state enacted legislation to eliminate the black vote by forcing literacy tests and the grandfather clause that would exempt anyone whose family was capable of voting form before the civil war
 - 1. White leaders resented disenfranchisement as a way to purify the vote, but their goal was clear as the black vote was heavily suppressed
 - E. In the Civil Right Cases of 1883, the Supreme Court invalidated the Civil Rights Act of 1875, insisting that that is promoting unequal treatment from state authorities, not private businesses
 - 1. In Plessy Vs Furgenson, the court said that it was okay to separate facilities based on race claiming separate but equal, allowing the south to segregate all facets of life to make sure that whites always held the upper hand
 - F. Lynching was common of blacks who wanted to challenge the system
 - 1. These attracted much public support and law enforcement did nothing to prevent the crime as many of the victims were accused of sexual misconduct with whites, which was as good an indictment to the crime for southern society

Redrawing the Boundaries:

- I. Social and class divisions became more acceptable in SOuthern society as depicting blacks and other groups as lesser was seen as the right thing to do

- A. Immigration rose as millions of immigrants from mainly Europe
 - 1. Leaders from Both parties expressed dismay about Chinese immigrants as starting in 1882, Congress barred Chinese immigrants from coming into the country, and thousands of Chinese were expelled out of towns and mining camps and faced assault from mobs
 - a) This anti Chinees sentiment was reinforced through th Fond Yue ing decision of 1893, which allowed the federal government to expel the Chinese without due process
- B. AFL Union rose from the lKnights of Labor, but instead of advocating for workers of all skills, they advocated for mainly skilled workers
- II. The 1890s would be considered the start of the Women's era, as women were allowed larger opportunities for economic independence through laws giving married women control over their own wages and proper tu
 - A. College educated women started to pop up
 - B. Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was formed as a temperance union to prohibit alcoholic beverages
 - C. Feminist ideas of equal rights with women started conversation in the political and social world, though it would not take a more defined form until years later

Becoming a World Power:

- I. The end of the 19th century was considered the European Age of Imperialism, where Europe divided up the world to their liking, where American was considered a second rate power
 - A. Groups like religious missionaries wanted to spread their nation's influence overseas to spread Christianity
 - 1. Late nineteenth thinkers actively promoted AMerican expansionism in hopes of empire
 - B. America would emerge as a world power in the Spanish American War of 1898, which stems from Cuban efforts to claim their independence
 - 1. Americans saw Spanish uses crueler tactics such as putting Cubans in detention camps and resonated with CUban independence efforts
 - a) An explosion for the US Battleship Maine in Havana Harbor heightened tensions with United States and Spain, as Spain was blamed and war was declared to aid Cuba
 - (1) Americans won major battles in the Philippines and Cuba, marking their first victories outside of the Western Hemisphere, reinforcing the idea of the embracement of American Imperialism. As the US acquired territories like the Philippines and Guam at the end of the war
 - (a) Philipino support for American intervention soon turned negative as American involvement in the second war led the atrocities comited by merican troops such as the bruning of villages, tourturing of prisons of war, rape, and execution

- II. American rule brought racial attitudes as debates round the relation between political democracy, race, and American citizenship will come into play
 - A. Leaders of both parties feared that an alien race and foreign tongue would be incorporated into the Union
 - 1. The supreme court will golf up that the constitution does not fully apply to these territories and hinders their freedom
 - B. Internal debates about American Imperialism gave birth to opponents like the Anti IMperialist Age, united writers and social reformers who believed that the United States should concentrate its efforts internally towards economic and political corruption as well as dealing with racism, or help the colonies that were taken by the US rather than subjecting them to colonial rule
 - C. The beginning of the 1900s signals United States becoming a global superpower, as their manufacturing capabilities out perform European giants like Britain or Germany
 - 1. Questions still arise about debates of freedom in relation to political and economic liberty, the role of government in creating the conditions of freedom, and the definition of who are entitled to citizens rights , struggling with the traditional ideals of freedom