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APUSH

Period 4

11/20/2020

CH 19 FQs 3,5, DTP1, CH 20 & 4 Political Platforms

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3. America had faced many panics and recessions by the late 1800s, but the Panic of 1893 was the most severe depression it had ever faced. As hardship and unrest became widespread, little action was taken by the Federal government and Grover Cleveland to help, angering many1.The American public began to look towards a cause for the recession, and many concluded that an easy fix for their problem would be to reinstate silver as a national currency and revert the “Crime of 73”2. They thought that when the government removed silver as currency in 73, the total money in America was decreased, and that adding it back would reinstate America’s wealth. Internationally, the panic affected nations in different ways. The European depression in 1893 was a problem for American goods and markets, but the effect it had on weakening old imperial powers, such as the Spanish Empire, was much greater. America recovered from the Panic within the following decade and was ready to stand up to other them.

5. The Spanish-American war was America’s first war with another major power in over a hundred years, and it marked a turning point in America’s role in the world. The new Manifest Destiny and the importance of trade in the new world order was becoming increasingly vital to Americans, who, at the beckoning of imperialists such as Alfred Mahan, grew cozy with the ideas of American greatness. He campaigned for increased navy spending, America, by the turn of the century, was a major naval power. The Spanish-American war was the first test of these newfound military powers, and it went incredibly well for America. America now had its own colonies in the Philippines and Cuba and was, like its peers, committing atrocities3. The United States became a global presence, even becoming involved in Chinese politics such as the Boxer Rebellion. After the Spanish-American war, it was clear that the United States was drawn from its isolationism into worldwide politics4.

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1. The Chautauquas were a national phenomenon in the early 1900s, and were incredibly influential in everyday Americans’ lives. This was a time of many economic changes and difficulties, and that is the reason for their profitability. Many of the people in these Chautauquas, such as William Bryan, Theodore Roosevelt, and Eugene V. Debs provided much hope and prospect for lower- and middle-class Americans. Many of these Populists and Progressives brought hope for Americans in hard times, and romanticized the Nation’s past5. The widespread corruption in the government gave lots of popularity to those who did anything to combat it. These Chautauquas also preached religion and health, which during rapid industrialization and the loss of control for workers, would feel like a breath of fresh air compared to the corruption in the government. Populists in these movements also played will with public opinion, supporting the popular side in the Silver Question and the workers unions6. This allowed the popularities of Chautauquas to skyrocket.

**The Election of 1912**

The Republic Party

The Republican Party had been in power for twenty years by 1912 and had a vast array of accomplishments over the decades. However, the unpopularity of President Taft and the division into the Progressive Party was their main issue going into the election. The Party is quick to state that, historically, they have been the party of progress and party of advanced statesmanship. They, like many other parties and the populace, were heavily opposed to the monopolies and trusts of the time, and were clear to state their history in attacking them. President Roosevelt’s destruction of tariffs and the creation of the Federal Trade Commission were also highlighted7. They placed a heavy emphasis on their beliefs on a stable banking and currency, a staple of the Republican Agenda. They stated the construction of the Panama Canal, US Navy, and the growth of the American economy since the Panic of 1893. However, these accomplishments weren’t able to stop the splintering of the party, from the populism and the establishment(sounds familiar…).

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The Democratic Party

The Democratic Party had been the opposition party for almost two decades by 1912, and were ready for a comeback after the splintering of the republican party. They had little accomplishments over the last decades, and were instead focused on their future, and on attacking Republican policies. They were the first to mention the high cost of living in America9, and blamed it on protective tariffs. They also supported destroying monopolies with their strict Anti-Trust Law. The Democratic Party also labor rights included in their platform10, which after events like the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, was bound to receive support from industrial centers. Their progressivism was a clear difference from their policies of the past, which mainly appealed to southern, rural farm owners. This massive difference from this policies of the 1800s was a clear indicator of the growing influence of the progressive, working-class vote and the power of the industrialized workforce.

The Progressive Party

After the, from Roosevelt’s point of view, disaster of the Taft Presidency and Roosevelt’s failure to secure the Republican party nomination, he was quick to create the Progressive Party. This party was another in many third parties in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This party was the party of hardcore progressives and followers of Teddy Roosevelt, as many were not willing to leave the Republican Party. The Party placed a heavy emphasis on fiscal and social issues, such as the creation of a department of labor, and the conditions of industrial workers in cities11. The Progressive Party, compared to the other parties, also had significant political changes to implement, such as to suffrage, corruption, the courts, and even to the Constitution12. They were also the party of “Social Justice”, and were vital in their role in making society much more equal. Despite this, they do little to acknowledge Black Americans, but do state that they support equality on racial grounds. These desires were truly progressive at the time.

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The Socialist Party

The Socialist Party of America, led by Eugene Debs, had been growing in popularity since the dawn of the century, and were even more radical than the Progressive Party. They were quick to point the finger at Capitalism for the “unspeakable misery and suffering” it has caused on the working class of America13. They gained popularity blaming the Democratic and Republican parties for this chaos and suffering and instead turning to Socialism. Their demands for federal acquisition of major institutions such as the monopolistic Railroads, telegraphs, transportation, and communications, despite being extremely radical, gained popularity among Americans. Many of their policies were in direct conflict with the Constitution, such as the abolition of the Senate, electoral college, and the election of president by popular vote. They had little chance at the presidency or political power but were a display of discontentment of American from traditional means of change and progressivism

Sources:

1. Populist Party Platform (1892)
2. Populist Party Platform (1892)
3. Platform of the American Anti-lmperialist League in Speeches, Correspondence, ard Political Papers of Carl Schurz, vol. 6, ed. Frederick Bancroft
4. Platform of the American Anti-lmperialist League in Speeches, Correspondence, ard Political Papers of Carl Schurz, vol. 6, ed. Frederick Bancroft
5. Populist Party Platform (1892)
6. Populist Party Platform (1892)
7. Republican Party Platform (1912)
8. Republican Party Platform (1912)
9. Democratic Party Platform (1912)
10. Democratic Party Platform (1912)
11. Progressive Party Platform (1912)
12. Progressive Party Platform (1912)
13. Socialist Party Platform (1912)
14. Socialist Party Platform (1912)