

# AP United States History

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## Politics of Farmers

- Turner's Thesis: "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"
  - Americans were forced to adapt as they moved west
    - Western expansion and toughness, self-improvement, democracy
    - Came from western expansion and were part of American culture
  - Many criticize his disregard of minorities like Native Americans and African Americans as obstacles and means to an end
- Farmers Fighting Back
  - Farmers adapt to new realities of mechanized agriculture
    - Dependence on evolving railroad system by creating local and regional organizations
  - Sought to resist corporate control and agricultural markets
- The Grange: Founded by Western Farmers in 1867
  - Local, social organizations that allowed farmers to buy in bulk to be able to compete with big business
  - Rallied against railroad companies, lobbied "Granger Laws"
- Grange Laws and Supreme Court Response
  - State laws regulate rate of railroads and storage facility
    - Munn v Illinois - States can regulate the railroad (1877)
    - Wabash - States can't regulate interstate commerce (1886)
  - Interstate Commerce Act
- National Farmers Alliance: More Broad than Granges
  - More political and less social on a national level
  - Support more money in circulation, regulation of railroads, farming subsidies
- Ocala Platform - 1890, not a Political Party, Evolves into Populism
  - Group of farmers meet in Florida to address concerns
  - Direct elections of senators (19th amendment), lower tariffs, income tax
  - New banking system that was off the gold system, more money