

- Question: How could the founding fathers' government cope with this massively different society?
- In this time period, all the elections are very close
 - No president gets more than 1% lead on popular vote
 - Two presidents win without popular majority
 - House and senate usually controlled by opposite parties
 - Republicans wave the red flag
 - * Parade that they won the civil war
 - High election participation in the time period
 - Civil war loyalties are intense
- Everyone operating on trying to maximize personal profit
 - Miners want to get everything to be coined
 - Gold ratio of 16:1 (gold:silver)
 - But the mining industry screws this up
 - Generally, the supply of silver increases faster than the supply of gold until the discovery of the Klondike
- Reconstruction dies
- Currently no national bank, but there is bank regulation
- Rutherford B. Hayes
 - Regarded as a fraud
 - Declares he will only serve one term
 - * Decreases his effectiveness
 - Passes Coinage Act
 - * Only coins gold
 - * Known later as the crime of '73
 - Bland Allison Act passed
 - * Requires the US to purchase a certain amount of silver
 - * Makes silver miners happy
 - * Passed over veto
 - New legislation passed
 - * Makes sure that the silver bought doesn't need to be coined

- Decides to deal with corruption that has built up
 - * Conflict with Roscoe Conkling
 - * Standoff between government and private powers
- Since Hayes isn't running, election of 1880 is wide open
 - Democrats turn to Godkin
 - Move in Republican party to get Grant back in office
 - * Reformists pull out all the stops to block Grant
 - * Turn to Garfield
 - Election is reasonably close
 - Garfield wins
 - * Gets assassinated
- Chester Arthur becomes president of the US
 - Chinese exclusion act gets passed over his veto in 1883
 - Passes the first significant Naval support bill
- 1883 Pendleton Civil Service Act
 - Arthur signs and supports it
 - Originally only applies to about 12% of the employees
 - Allows the president to expand the classes of workers who get covered
 - Each outgoing president from here on will turn several of his people into civil servants
 - By 1900, 40% of the employees will be covered
 - Hiring done by merit
- Election of 1884
 - Grover Cleveland
 - * Competant politician
 - * Will do pretty much anything required
 - Because of the candidates' histories, this is one of the dirtiest elections ever (in terms of political techniques)
 - William Tecumseh Sherman offered the nomination
 - * Issues a Sherman - Will not run, will not serve
 - * Very definitive

- Cleveland wins a narrow victory
- Cleveland “accomplishes two things”
 - One is a marriage
 - Other is backing more naval funding