



Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

US HISTORY #26-GILDED AGE POLITICS

Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

boss	republicans	whiskey	muckrakers	racism
corrupt	antitrust	populists	corruption	machine

- ☐ 1. America's political system both nationally and locally dealt with these problems in the best way possible: by becoming incredibly _____.
- ☐ 2. So a political _____ is basically an organization that works to win elections so that they can exercise power.
- ☐ 3. " _____ " Tweed basically ran New York in the 1860s and early 1870s.
- ☐ 4. But _____ wasn't limited to big cities like New York and Chicago; some of the biggest boondoggles involved the United States Congress and the executive branch under President Ulysses Grant.
- ☐ 5. The second major scandal involved the so called " _____ Ring," which was a group of distillers in Saint Louis who decided they didn't like paying excise taxes.
- ☐ 6. As for their parties, Gilded Age _____ favored high tariffs, low government spending, paying off national debt, and reducing the amount of paper money, or greenbacks in circulation.
- ☐ 7. And then in 1890 the Sherman _____ Act forbade combinations and practices that restrained trade, but again, it was almost impossible to enforce this against the monopolies like U.S. Steel.
- ☐ 8. Eventually these politically motivated farmers and their supporters grew into a political party, the People's Party, or _____.
- ☐ 9. Populist leaders also struggled to unify because _____.
- ☐ 10. The corruption in government, both federal and local, continued and new journalists, called _____, began exposing it in the press.



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Directions: Write one thing you think you know about the topic.

1. _____

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- ☐ 1. America's political system both nationally and locally dealt with these problems in the best way possible: by becoming incredibly _____.
- ☐ 2. So a political _____ is basically an organization that works to win elections so that they can exercise power.
- ☐ 3. " _____ " Tweed basically ran New York in the 1860s and early 1870s.
- ☐ 4. But _____ wasn't limited to big cities like New York and Chicago; some of the biggest boondoggles involved the United States Congress and the executive branch under President Ulysses Grant.
- ☐ 5. The second major scandal involved the so called " _____ Ring," which was a group of distillers in Saint Louis who decided they didn't like paying excise taxes.
- ☐ 6. As for their parties, Gilded Age _____ favored high tariffs, low government spending, paying off national debt, and reducing the amount of paper money, or greenbacks in circulation.
- ☐ 7. And then in 1890 the Sherman _____ Act forbade combinations and practices that restrained trade, but again, it was almost impossible to enforce this against the monopolies like U.S. Steel.
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Answer Key

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boss	republicans	whiskey	muckrakers	racism
corrupt	antitrust	populists	corruption	machine

- ☐ 1. America's political system both nationally and locally dealt with these problems in the best way possible: by becoming incredibly **corrupt**.
- ☐ 2. So a political **machine** is basically an organization that works to win elections so that they can exercise power.
- ☐ 3. "**Boss**" Tweed basically ran New York in the 1860s and early 1870s.
- ☐ 4. But **corruption** wasn't limited to big cities like New York and Chicago; some of the biggest boondoggles involved the United States Congress and the executive branch under President Ulysses Grant.
- ☐ 5. The second major scandal involved the so called "**Whiskey** Ring," which was a group of distillers in Saint Louis who decided they didn't like paying excise taxes.
- ☐ 6. As for their parties, Gilded Age **Republicans** favored high tariffs, low government spending, paying off national debt, and reducing the amount of paper money, or greenbacks in circulation.
- ☐ 7. And then in 1890 the Sherman **Antitrust** Act forbade combinations and practices that restrained trade, but again, it was almost impossible to enforce this against the monopolies like U.S. Steel.
- ☐ 8. Eventually these politically motivated farmers and their supporters grew into a political party, the People's Party, or **Populists**.
- ☐ 9. Populist leaders also struggled to unify because **racism**.
- ☐ 10. The corruption in government, both federal and local, continued and new journalists, called **Muckrakers**, began exposing it in the press.