Harrison as president, 1890:

* Sherman antitrust act - government can break up monopolies.
* McKinley Tariff - tariffs go up, government wants people to buy American
* First “Billion Dollar Congress”

1892, Cleveland wins for his second, non-consecutive term. During this election, a third party became popular: the Populists.

**Populists** are economically liberal but socially conservative. Essentially the opposite of libertarian. Populist platform:

* Bimetallism
* Income tax
* Election reform
* Government control of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, etc.

1896, **William Jennings Bryan** gave his **“Cross of Gold”** speech criticizing republicans and the gold standard.

Elections of 1896 and 1900: WJB and McKinley. McKinley is assassinated in 1901, Roosevelt is president now.

# Progressive Era 1890-1920

Progressive characteristics:

* **Reform minded**
* Active government intervention
* Emphasis on expertise and science
* Elitism
* Pragmatism
* Historicism - right or wrong are products of their time
* Evolution
* “Common good” trumps individual rights

Populism was a rebellion against the Gilded Age, and a precursor to progressivism.

**The Wisconsin Idea** was started by LaFollette, who doesn’t like monopolies, and wants:

* Regulation of railroads
* Corporate and property taxes
* Municipal ownership of utilities
* Electoral reforms
  + Primaries
  + Initiative
  + Referendum
  + Recall