And industry especially railroads as being their biggest block from success they blame their problems on them the problem is the farmers are outlast they're spread out they're not very unified and they don't have any power so how many wide range the farmers alliance and eventually the populist party the farmers come together and try to make a change eventually through politics realizing that the only way we're gonna get change is by electing people to federal office Congress the presidency and make those changes happen OK this populist party becomes a very popular third party but never going to have the traction that the Republicans and the Democrats will have the platform we talked about yesterday included lots of things that will be eventually included in American politics but will not be included by the farmers the populists they will be accepted by groups later on and those groups having more power and more influence will get some of those things like the graduated income tax the direct election senators things like that will be infused into the way we do things politically by those other more influential groups right so there's a guy his name is frank Bob he has a newspaper added her out last so he lives with the farmers and sees their problems he's also a bit of a wack job it's a matter of fact he says the farmers whose cattle are starting because there's no grass to fit his count their cows with green glasses and feed them woodchips so they'll think that they're eating grass gay guy really kind of had a whacked out imagination which kind of brings you to the book the Wizard of Oz he writes this children's book which many people believe is a parable on populism meaning everything in the book represents something about populism and the populist party now please understand that none of this has been proven by a letter from bom saying that he did this this is only a theory but as people looked at the Wizard of Oz and looked at the things represented in the Wizard of Oz they believe that many of those things represented 19th late 19th century politics the Gilded Age and the populist party themselves and by the way Bob was a very strong supporter of the populist and William Jennings Bryan so there is some sort of tie but again there's nothing directly tying them so let's look at some of those representations why would you walk the yellow brick road well if you remember from our discussion yesterday money in America was based on the gold standard gold is molded into ingots which look like bricks gold bricks yellow brick road right and you wonder where do you get the Wizard of Oz oz isn't a word in the English language before this but as is the abbreviation for the word out which is the way that we measure gold and silver in the movie because it's 1939 and just like the movie that we watched earlier this year gone with the wind is one of the first movies in Technicolor they made dorothy's slippers Ruby so they would shimmer and shine on the big screen but in the book they're silver dorothy who represents the farmers walks the yellow brick road wearing silver slippers if you remember the Into the money system would create more money for them to have in their pockets and to be able to pay their bills and call it bimetallism so you've got silver slippers and the yellow brick road the gold and silver standard bimetallism the fight between what the farmers wanted and what big business want Dorothy is from Kansas right she's not satisfied living in Kansas Kansas doesn't give her what she wants so she runs away when she runs away she gets swept away by a tornado which is a very real thing that happens in Kansas and she lands in eyes in the fantasy world have all her wishes come true when she really finds out all she ever needed to do was click her heels three times and go back home where she wanted to go right by the way just so you know I don't know if you remember in the movie The whole first part of the movie is not in color is it it's in black and white in the book it very directly talks about the West and how everything was dull and drab and grey uncle Henry was Gray and ham was grey the Prairie was grey hence maybe black and white two when you get to eyes and the Technicolor work right the cowardly lion they believed was William Jennings Bryan himself the cowardly lion had a loud roar if you didn't know him you might be scared of him but then behind it all he really was a scary cat he didn't have and the ability to finish to get it done just like William Jennings Bryan who was a great orator of the time he could get crowds whipped up into a frenzy he was intelligent he was strong in front of that group but when it really came down to getting things done and winning the election he couldn't get it done right if you remember one of the things we talked about helping the populace was the fact that there was an economic depression in the early 1890s right well when they meet the tin woodsman what is he we remember he is rusted salad right what happens to factories during impression they shut down like being rusted salad people lose their jobs the factory doesn't do anything and until Dorothy squeeze this soap oil into his joints and get some moving I eat a populist getting the factories going because we're going to kick start in that time you would bimetallism right then this beat in woodmont is able to go and help Dorothy and the populace realize what they needed to realize the scarecrow the big dummy right looking for a brain didn't have the ability to realize that in reality he had the power to make change but because he was not very intelligent he couldn't figure that out he had to go to the wizard to try to get a brain so he could figure that out himself right he really has the power if he could just recognize what power he had then get together with the other farmers maybe they could realize the political changes that they needed to make and if you remember when talking about how respected he was when they find the scarecrow all the crows were around him and on top of them like he's not even doing his job there right the wizard the great and powerful odds pay no attention to the man behind the curtain he's all fire and brimstone and scary and powerful looking but in the end do you remember what he does anybody remember what happens at the end he runs away and leaves them all to us doesn't he when he sends them off to get the wicked witch's broomstick is he doing that 'cause he's gonna give them the things that they need no he wanted the broomstick because he wanted the witch of the West gone so that he could leave it was all about serving his own interests oh just like Gilded Age politicians who only serve their own interests yes they gave food and shelter and jobs for people but why were they really doing this to get there and there to get their boats it was all self serving I'm gonna give you a place to stay I'm gonna get you a job I'm gonna be the guy that gets it for you but you gotta vote for me it was all about self serving and that's what the wizard is right he's just that normal guy behind the curtain that really doesn't have the power to do anything he doesn't give any of them what they need remember Dorothy gets home not because of the wizard but because of the power of the silver slippers anybody ever been to Washington DC what are most of the big buildings and monuments made out of what building material heard it it's a rock what is it not quartz marble what happens to marble overtime it does get green and oxidizes and gets green green is emerald isn't it interesting Washington that shiny city off in the distance is the green city right many of those monuments turn green but also you could use it as the idea of money remember the greenbacks that were the the currency after the civil war supported by the federal government some people think maybe it was the greenbacks but other people believe in Washington many of those buildings and monuments are green the wicked witch of the east she's the one at the beginning that dorothy's house falls on right who was in the east that was wicked to the farmers the banks the railroads well OK but not not in this sense what is this map right and then hold the mortgage the bill the bankers hold the mortgage on the House and the property that the farmers are being foreclosed on right so a house falls on the wicked witch of the east and that frees the munchkins who are the working people the immigrants that work in the factories at the will of the wicked witch of the east the the banks and the the industrialists and it's interesting that she dies when a house falls on her and oh by the way she was wearing the silver slippers Ruby slippers in the movie that magically get put onto dorothys how was she killed they throw water on her out West the farmers were tortured by the weather and it just happened to be a drought a huge drought during this time period how do you end the drought with rain with water the wicked witch of the West is killed with water glinda she passed in and out all the time right behind the scenes never really doing anything but giving Dorothy the realization of the direction to do the things that she does glinda represents the farmers alliances right in the background behind the scenes not really in the full public view but making the farmers realize that they have the power to make change and that if they use that power they can get rid of evil the things that are torturing the farmers and eventually make life better for them flying monkeys directed by The wicked witch of the West out in the West who were the tormentors of the farmers in India right the Native Americans roamed the plains and harassed the farmers attacked the farmers killed the farmers so the flying monkeys represent the Native Americans who are at the whim of the wicked witch of the West not very smart I know like children they're very savage they're brutal right and they are the ones that harassing Dorothy and her friends who are on their way to us at the whim of the wicked witch of the West even total where do you come up with the name totem well Toto is actually the nickname for a group of people who wanted to get rid of alcohol they were called the temperance party or the prohibition party they recall teetotalers or Toto and they were allies of the populace of the farmers many farmers were totos they were teetotalers and Dorothy is from Kansas the strongest populous state in the union was the state of can't that's where she wanted to go to go home so where did all this come from well it actually came from a social studies teacher his name was Mr Littlefield give me a second to bridge back here and let's learn about where this all came from in summer of 1963 a high school teacher changed the way the world looked at the Wizard of Oz his name was Henry Littlefield and he was teaching at American history class he'd made it to the late 19th century a time for the Gilded Age but he was struggling to keep his class interested in the complex social and economic issues of the time and then one night while he was reading the wonderful Wizard of Oz to his daughters he had an idea in the 1890s farmers wanted to add silver to the gold standard to put more money in circulation and make it easier for farmers to borrow don't you want the city road in her silver shoes and movies Ruby red slippers started out as silly silver and gold on the road to prosperity L frank Baum had published the book in 1900 at the height of the Gilded Age and the analogy didn't seem out of the question no one else had seen these connections but that didn't return Littlefield he taught his class about the Gilded Age using the blood and soon he was slaves were finding more for instance in the late 1890s EU S had recently recovered from the civil war and integrated vast new territories bringing an era of prosperity for some but now he's fine farmers across the South and Midwest struggled this went to the populous united farmers and workers against urban Viking 296 the movement had grown into the People's Party and its support of Democrat William Jennings Bryan put him in reach of the presidency meanwhile in has claimed Littlefield Dorothy is a typical American girl whose hard life in Kansas is literally turned upside down by powerful forces outside her control the munchkins are becoming people oppressed by the witch of the east banks and monopolies the scarecrow is the farmer considered naive but actually quite resource the tin Woodman is the industrial workers dehumanized by factory labor and the cowardly lion is William Jennings Bryan who could be an influential figure if only you were brave enough to adopt the populist radical program together they travel long road towards the grand city whose rulers power turns out to be built on the ilusions some of these observations actually a critique of American capitalism 1960 other scholars took up the feet and the proposed analogies and connections multiply they suggested that both these dog Toto represented the teetotalers of the prohibition party office was proving the abbreviation for oz and important unit in the silver domain the list goes on this understanding of the book was accepted so widely that several American history textbooks mentioned it in discussions of late 19th century politics but is the theory right introduction claims the book is just an innocent children story could have been deliberately throw people off the trail and is it fair to second guess him so many decades later there's no definitive answer which is part of why authorial intent is a complex tangled fun question to our mouth and some recent dollars have interpreted the wonderful Wizard of Oz in the opposite way as Littlefield big coin it's a celebration of the new urban consumer culture historian William leach argued that the dazzling emerald city of Oz was meant to acclimate people to the shiny new America in the end all we know for sure is that bomb inspired by European folk legends had set out to create one for American children and whether or not he intended any hidden meanings its continuing relevance suggests he succeeded in creating a fairy tale America can call its own so again there is no letter from Bob saying that yes I wrote the Wizard of Oz to talk about the populist it's all theory but when you think about it and think about the things that are represented in the book it's kind of interesting how things tie together now like I said bomb was a supporter Brian the book was written after the election that Ryan lost which would mark pretty much the end of the populist party so this could be kind of like a last hurrah in writing about you know the the the perils of the populist party to put it out there for America to understand my job but it's all basically due to interpretation whether it's Mr Littlefield or other historians really comes down to their interpretation I think it's kind of cool I know now that whenever you watch the Wizard of Oz you might remember this OK as Oh my gosh this is more than just that movie that scares me or that movie that we watched the family but this might have something to do truly with American history and it's a different way to look at it like if if you put this down as actual fact I couldn't back that up because we don't know that but it's kind of interesting to think of history in that way and like we talked about all of the fantasy books that you guys read as children that were kind of cool this is one of those things from american's childhood whether it's you guys in the movie or me the book in the movie 'cause I thought you guys have you guys were at the book yeah oh good OK so somewhere you have read the book I mean it's kind of interesting think about that having some sort of representation too American history questions on any of this Are you sure OK couple things first of all if you are planning on taking this class to front it registration opens up i just sent everybody an email today from embassy see not only talking about which remember the registration information is in the class information folder it's a PDF file