***America: Past and Present***

**Chapter 20 Political Realignments in the 1890s**

20.1 Multiple-Choice Questions

1) Why were Americans fascinated by politics during the late nineteenth century?

A) Women and men were voting for the first time.

B) African Americans were able to use their newly won suffrage.

C) The quality of political candidates was excellent.

D) Most Americans saw it as a form of entertainment.

E) Cash incentives made people eager to vote.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 498 [Conceptual]

2) The grandfather clause waived the literacy requirement for voters whose ancestor had

A) already passed a literacy test.

B) fought in the Civil War.

C) been white.

D) voted before 1867.

E) correctly interpreted the Constitution.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 498 [Factual]

3) Which of the following groups made up the bulk of the electorate until 1900?

A) white males

B) white males and white females

C) white and African American males

D) African American males

E) landowning white males

Answer: A

Page Ref: 498 [Factual]

4) Which of the following was NOT part of the Republican party's platform in the post-Civil War period?

A) high protective tariffs

B) civil rights legislation

C) subsidies to railroads

D) decentralized government power

E) promotion of moral progress

Answer: D

Page Ref: 498 [Factual]

5) Which of the following is NOT true of American politics in the 1870s and 1880s?

A) The Republicans dominated the Northeast.

B) The Democrats dominated the South.

C) National elections were usually decided in the "doubtful" states that extended from New York to Illinois.

D) The influence of the Civil War generation was fading.

E) Nationally, the two parties were evenly balanced in strength.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 498 [Factual]

6) The first state railroad commissions

A) had enormous power.

B) were advisory in nature.

C) could regulate intrastate commerce.

D) were effective in regulating trade.

E) focused primarily on agriculture.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 499 [Factual]

7) In this case, the Supreme Court upheld the right of states to regulate commerce.

A) *Wabash v. Illinois*

B) *Munn v. Illinios*

C) *E. C. Knight v. Illinois*

D) *Fletcher v. Peck*

E) *Marbury v. Madison*

Answer: B

Page Ref: 499 [Factual]

8) The *Wabash* decision stated that

A) states could regulate only intrastate commerce.

B) states could jointly regulate interstate commerce.

C) only the federal government could regulate intrastate trade.

D) private property was the sanctity of the individual.

E) states could regulate both intrastate and interstate commerce.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 499 [Factual]

9) The Interstate Commerce Commission

A) was designed to protect the power of the railroads.

B) had little effect on interstate commerce.

C) was designed to strengthen states' rights.

D) had little support from the American consumer.

E) was the first attempt at federal regulatory commissions.

Answer: E

Page Ref: 499 [Factual]

10) Until the 1890s,

A) the presidency was weaker than Congress.

B) the presidency was able to assert its power.

C) Congress had little interest in national affairs.

D) few presidents seemed committed to national affairs.

E) power was equally divided between the president and Congress.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 499 [Factual]

11) The president who entered the White House after the fraudulent election of 1876 was

A) Grover Cleveland.

B) William McKinley.

C) Rutherford B. Hayes.

D) Benjamin Harrison.

E) William Jennings Bryan.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 499 [Factual]

12) Which of the following presidents was assassinated in office?

A) James Garfield

B) Rutherford B. Hayes

C) Grover Cleveland

D) Chester A. Arthur

E) William H. Taft

Answer: A

Page Ref: 499-500 [Factual]



**Political Cartoon, c. 1900**

(Library of Congress)

13) Examine the political cartoon (circa 1900) shown above and determine which of the following observations could be correctly drawn from the drawing.

A) Politicians and political parties are innately corrupt.

B) Washington's observations in his "Farewell Address" about parties was correct.

C) The problem displayed in the cartoon still exists in contemporary politics.

D) Legislative bodies in a democracy are easily corrupted.

E) It was considered essential in 1900 to pass the direct election for U.S. senators amendment.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 500 [Conceptual]

14) The Pendleton Act

A) eliminated presidential appointments.

B) created a merit system for governmental appointments.

C) allowed Congress greater power in appointing government jobs.

D) gave the judiciary greater power in the national government.

E) established the Secret Service.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 500 [Factual]

15) Grover Cleveland

A) increased federal activities.

B) was committed to higher tariffs.

C) curtailed federal activities.

D) brought dishonor to the Democratic party.

E) was reelected in a landslide in 1888.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 500 [Factual]

16) Which of the following was a Democrat who served as president?

A) Grover Cleveland

B) Benjamin Harrison

C) William McKinley

D) James Garfield

E) William Jennings Bryan

Answer: A

Page Ref: 500 [Factual]



**Keep the Ball Rolling for Benjamin Harrison, 1888**

(Library of Congress)

17) Examine the photograph given above (circa 1888). Which of the following statements is a correct observation that can be drawn from the information contained within the photo?

A) The purpose of the ball was to entice the involvement of massive numbers of the voting public with "hands on" campaign efforts supporting Harrison.

B) A campaign tool of the opposition party, the campaign workers planned to roll over Benjamin Harrison and destroy his campaign in effigy.

C) This campaign tactic demonstrated the elitist nature of politics in 1888 where only a few individuals were allowed to participate.

D) Benjamin Harrison's main voter attraction was his gallant military career during the Civil War.

E) Benjamin Harrison's supporters stood for clean government and passage of a civil service bill to end the spoils system.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 500 [Factual]

18) Which one of the following court decisions severely crippled the Sherman Antitrust Act?

A) *Munn v. Illinois*

B) *United States v. E. C. Knight*

C) *Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railway v. Illinois*

D) *Simpson v. Thomas*

E) *Sherman v. Southern Mining*

Answer: B

Page Ref: 501 [Factual]

19) As speaker of the House, he was able to force legislation through Congress.

A) Thomas Reed

B) James Blaine

C) Roscoe Conkling

D) William Seward

E) James B. Seking

Answer: A

Page Ref: 500-501 [Factual]

20) Which of the following was NOT an accomplishment of the Harrison administration?

A) McKinley Tariff Act

B) Sherman Antitrust Act

C) Bland-Allison Act

D) Sherman Silver Purchase Act

E) Dependent Pensions Act

Answer: C

Page Ref: 501 [Factual]

21) The Sherman Antitrust Act

A) was vague and at the mercy of the courts.

B) had little effect on antitrust policy.

C) was only concerned with regulating railroads.

D) did not have criminal penalties for violators.

E) was used aggressively by the Justice Department.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 501 [Factual]

22) The case of *United States v. E.C. Knight*

A) strengthened the regulatory powers of the federal government.

B) provided stronger regulation over manufacturing.

C) had little effect on national policy.

D) gave the Supreme Court an opportunity to uphold and strengthen the Sherman Antitrust Act.

E) drew a sharp distinction between commerce and manufacturing.

Answer: E

Page Ref: 501 [Factual]

23) Those who supported the free coinage of silver

A) were convinced it would raise wages and crop prices.

B) were primarily found in the North and East.

C) wanted to keep the monetary power from the national government.

D) found little support for their views in Congress.

E) thought it would deflate the currency.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 501 [Factual]

24) The Sherman Silver Purchase Act

A) assured that the nation would have a bimetallic system.

B) allowed the government to demonetize silver in favor of gold.

C) kept limited silver coinage in circulation.

D) allowed for the free coinage of silver.

E) recognized the continuing scarcity of silver in the U.S.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 501 [Factual]

25) Why was the Republican-controlled Congress of 1890 important?

A) It was unable to assert federal authority.

B) Its legislation shaped the future policy of the nation.

C) It would be overwhelmingly re-elected.

D) It gained the support of the Democrats.

E) It spent frugally in an effort to build up the U.S. Treasury.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 502 [Factual]

26) Which of the following was NOT a reason for farm discontent in the late nineteenth century?

A) the inability to organize and voice their discontent

B) the belief that railroad rates were rising

C) the inability to control market prices

D) the perception of a loss of status in society

E) farm mortgages

Answer: A

Page Ref: 502 [Factual]

27) Which of the following was NOT an organization of farmers that sprang into existence in the late 1880s?

A) Colored Farmers' Alliance

B) Southern Alliance

C) Northwestern Alliance

D) the Grange

E) Farmer's Alliance and Industrial Union

Answer: D

Page Ref: 502-503 [Factual]

28) The major objective of the Alliance Movement was

A) to form a social organization for farmers.

B) to organize and politicize the American farmer.

C) to ensure equal distribution of wealth.

D) to elect Democrats and Republicans who represented the farmers.

E) to protect farmers against greedy cattle ranchers.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 502-503 [Factual]

29) Which one of the following was NOT a demand of the Populist party?

A) the free coinage of silver

B) creation of a subtreasury system

C) the end of protective tariffs

D) establishment of a federal income tax

E) maintenance of the gold standard

Answer: E

Page Ref: 504-505 [Factual]

30) The Populist candidate for president in 1892 was

A) William Jennings Bryan.

B) James Weaver.

C) Mary Lease.

D) William McKinley.

E) Grover Cleveland.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 505 [Factual]

31) The election of 1892

A) brought disappointing results for the Populists.

B) provided the Populists with a national forum.

C) saw many voters switching to the Populist party.

D) had little effect on the national issues.

E) brought Leonidas Polk to the presidency.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 505 [Factual]

32) The Panic of 1893

A) was caused by the economic changes of the period.

B) was confined to a small group of investors.

C) had little effect on the national government.

D) brought quick, decisive action by the government.

E) caused banks to increase their number of loans.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 505 [Factual]

33) Which of the following was NOT a consequence of the depression of 1893?

A) It changed American ideas about the role of the political system.

B) It created a bitter fight over currency.

C) It brought rural and urban societies closer together.

D) It had a lasting effect on American society.

E) It produced widespread business failures.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 506 [Factual]

34) As the leader of the unemployed marching on Washington, he demanded that the government fund jobs.

A) Eugene Debs

B) Thomas Watson

C) Samuel Gompers

D) Jacob Coxey

E) Samuel Boxley

Answer: D

Page Ref: 506-507 [Factual]

35) The individual who rocketed to national attention because of the Pullman strike was

A) Jacob Coxey.

B) Theodore Dreiser.

C) Eugene V. Debs.

D) Henry Adams.

E) Thomas Watson.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 507 [Factual]

36) President Cleveland broke the Pullman strike on grounds that it had

A) exposed the U.S. to foreign invasion.

B) interfered with the collection of taxes.

C) raised the possibility of open class warfare.

D) obstructed the delivery of the mail.

E) forced wealthy travelers to ride in ordinary passenger cars.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 507 [Factual]

37) Which of the following was NOT a consequence of the Pullman strike?

A) The economy of the western half of the nation was paralyzed.

B) Grover Cleveland won public support for his actions.

C) The Supreme Court endorsed the use of injunctions in labor disputes.

D) Eugene Debs rose to national prominence.

E) The workers had their demands met.

Answer: E

Page Ref: 507 [Factual]

38) In the 1890s, miners of the Midwest

A) were seriously affected by the flood of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe.

B) had strong public support for their economic goals.

C) were not impacted by the economic changes of the period.

D) were alienated from the political and economic system.

E) were generally well paid for their labor.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 507 [Factual]

39) The president of the United States during the depression of 1893 was

A) Ulysses S. Grant.

B) Grover Cleveland.

C) Rutherford B. Hayes.

D) William McKinley.

E) Theodore Roosevelt.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 508 [Factual]

40) Early in the 1890s, the Democrats succeeded in

A) modestly reducing tariff levels.

B) taking the United States off the gold standard.

C) driving the economy to higher levels.

D) both A and B

E) both A and C

Answer: A

Page Ref: 509 [Factual]

41) In 1894,

A) Grover Cleveland had strong support for his policies.

B) few voters supported a strong, active government.

C) the Populist party was a major political party.

D) the deadlock between the Republicans and Democrats ended.

E) Americans became more suspicious of government power.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 509 [Factual]

42) The greatest change in American literature during the late 1800s was the rise of

A) poetry.

B) evolutionism.

C) realism.

D) romanticism.

E) impressionism.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 511 [Factual]

43) The writings of Mark Twain

A) reflected the mood of romanticism in literature.

B) portrayed life in the tenements of the East.

C) relied on literary language in his prose style.

D) relied on the realism and humor of American life.

E) never gained international prominence.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 511 [Factual]

44) Which of the following individuals was NOT a prominent American writer of the late nineteenth century?

A) Mark Twain

B) William Dean Howells

C) Jacob Coxey

D) Stephen Crane

E) Frank Norris

Answer: C

Page Ref: 506-507, 511 [Factual]

45) The literary naturalists argued that

A) the environment had a great effect in shaping human character.

B) human beings had a great deal of control over the forces affecting their lives.

C) writers should focus on fabricating romances.

D) both A and B

E) both A and C

Answer: A

Page Ref: 511 [Factual]

46) The leading naturalist writer of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was

A) William Dean Howells.

B) Theodore Dreiser.

C) Mark Twain.

D) Joel Chandler Harris.

E) Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 512 [Factual]

47) The major issue of the election of 1896 was

A) currency.

B) tariffs.

C) patronage.

D) regulation of the railroads.

E) race relations.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 512 [Factual]

48) When the Democrats endorsed silver in 1896, the Populists

A) disbanded and merged with the Democrats.

B) seconded the nomination of Bryan.

C) disbanded and merged with the Republicans.

D) seconded the nomination of McKinley.

E) nominated Tom Watson of Georgia for president.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 516 [Factual]

49) The two major presidential candidates of the 1896 election were

A) William Howard Taft and William Jennings Bryan.

B) Thomas Reed and Grover Cleveland.

C) William Jennings Bryan and William McKinley.

D) Marcus Hanna and Thomas Watson.

E) Grover Cleveland and William Jennings Bryan.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 516 [Factual]

50) Why was William Jennings Bryan defeated in 1896?

A) He did not campaign directly among the voters.

B) He was unable to win Populist support.

C) The established eastern press had deserted him.

D) Few voters were interested in the campaign.

E) He was an awkward and shy speaker.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 516 [Factual]

51) As president, William McKinley

A) was an activist president.

B) could not get along with Congress.

C) was perceived as a reactionary president.

D) decreased federal power while in office.

E) maintained an isolated administration.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 517 [Factual]

52) The 1890s

A) seem unimportant in the twentieth century.

B) saw little economic growth.

C) entrenched the political patterns of the past.

D) saw the triumph of decentralization.

E) shaped the destiny of the nation.

Answer: E

Page Ref: 518 [Conceptual]

20.2 True/False Questions

1) During the late 1800s, relatively few Americans voted in the major elections.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 498 [Factual]

2) During the late 1800s, Democrats, for the most part, wanted to keep government local and small in scope, while Republicans had a national perspective.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 498 [Factual]

3) The 1870s and 1880s saw a new generation of politicians dominate the political system.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 498 [Factual]

4) State laws of the late nineteenth century enlarged governmental authority.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 502 [Factual]

5) During the late 1800s, farm prices fell steadily.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 502 [Factual]

6) During the depression of 1893, life was much better in the cities than on farms.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 496 [Factual]

7) Although Grover Cleveland and William Jennings Bryan were both Democrats, they had very different political philosophies.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 513 [Factual]

8) The election of 1896 forced William Jennings Bryan into an uncomfortable political alliance.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 516 [Factual]

9) After 1896, the Democratic party quickly returned to power.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 509, 517 [Factual]

10) The Republican-controlled Congress of 1890 was one of the least active in U.S. history.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 501-502 [Factual]

20.3 Essay Questions

1) Politics was a major interest in American society during the late nineteenth century. How successful were the political parties (Democrats and Republicans) in dealing with the major issues of the times? Was it inevitable for a third political party to be formed?

Page Ref: 498-502 [Factual and Conceptual]

2) Is it correct to assume the election of 1896 was a turning point in American political history? Explain.

Page Ref: 513, 516-518 [Conceptual]

3) What alternatives to the political system did American farmers have for solutions to their problems in the late nineteenth century?

Page Ref: 502-503 [Factual]

4) Why was the Populist party unsuccessful in reaching beyond its narrow base of support? Include an analysis of its platform, candidates, and supporters.

Page Ref: 505-510, 516-517 [Factual]

5) Beyond the immediate cause of the depression of 1893, why did it create a crisis for American society?

Page Ref: 505-506 [Conceptual]