

Chapter 6, Urban America

Section 4, Populism

Vocabulary:

Populism: A movement to increase farmer's political power and to work for legislation in their interest

Greenbacks: Paper currency that could not be exchanged for gold or silver coins.

Inflation: A decline in the value of money

Deflation: An increase in the value of money and a decrease in prices- began.

Cooperatives: Marketing organizations that try to increase prices and lowers costs for members.

Farmers Alliance: Organization that formed after the Grange began to fall apart.

People's Party: Also known as the populists and nominated candidates to run for congress and the state legislature.

Graduated Income Tax: One that taxed higher earnings more heavily.

William Jennings Bryan: A strong supporter of silver.

William McKinley: Governor of Ohio.



William Jennings Bryan



William McKinley

3. **What economic factors caused farmers to support populism?** They were in the midst of an economic crisis. The new technology enabled farmers to produce more crops.
4. **What issues did the Democrats endorse in the 1896 presidential election?** The issues were to nominate Grover Cleveland and to have silver coinage.

5. Why did the Populists support William Jennings Bryan? Populists supported William Jennings Bryan because he was a strong supporter of silver, and was in congress as a

6. How did the Farmers' Alliance contribute to the rise of a new political party? They were fighting for their interests and were attracting many supporters when a depression hit the 1890s.

Primary Source:

“Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world, supported by the commercial interests and the toilers everywhere, we will answer their demand for a gold standard by saying to them: You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.”

-quoted in America in the Gilded Age

A huge aspect of a society is appointing leaders, and the population growth during the 1890s effected the results of the campaign. With more people to sway, campaigning became more important towards individual opinion overall.

7. Look at the campaign poster above and choose one of the symbols or slogans and explain its meaning to Bryan's campaign. “No crowns of thorns” and “No cross of gold” are two slogans on Bryan's campaign he was trying to fight for silver and discuss economic problems, but people didn't agree the way he was supporting it with religious symbols.

Political Cartoon

Who ever is in charge would rather stay ahead of the situation and put it off instead of dealing with it head on, as if its less important.

