

American History: Chapter 19

From Crisis To Empire

The Politics of Equilibrium

- Big Ideas during the late 19th century:
 - High voter turnout
 - Control of Congress switched between parties frequently
 - Republicans – northern Protestants, middle class, high tariffs
 - Democrats – Catholics, immigrants, poorer workers, low tariffs
- How did the government support economic development?
 - Subsidies to Railroads
 - Military to end work stoppages
- Key terms to know:
 - Stalwarts – Republicans that favored patronage
 - Roscoe Conkling
 - “Half-Breeds” – favored reform in government
 - James Blaine

The Politics of Equilibrium Cont.

- James A. Garfield
 - 20th president; killed by a Stalwart
 - Chester A. Arthur – Pendleton Act (1883) – Civil Service Exam
- Election of 1884:
 - Cleveland v. Blaine
 - Dirty campaigning – “Ma, ma, where’s my pa?”
 - Cleveland wins – laissez-faire president
- Tariff issue separated Republicans and Democrats
- Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)
 - More symbolic than anything else
 - Purpose was to break up trusts
 - ***In actuality it was used to break up unions***

The Politics of Equilibrium Cont.

- McKinley Tariff (1890) – he was a Republican
 - Republicans wanted to RAISE tariff rates
- *Munn v. Illinois*: (1877)
 - State governments can regulate industries when in best interest of public
- *Wabash Case*: (1886)
 - Yet again, states cannot regulate interstate commerce (overturned *Munn* decision)
- Interstate Commerce Act:
 - Created ICC
 - Outlawed higher rates on short hauls than long hauls
 - RRs must publish their rates

The Agrarian Revolt

- The Grange:
 - Provided social and economic opportunities for FARMERS
 - Sought to end monopolies in RR, wanted government ownership of businesses
- Populist Party
 - Absorbed some ideas from farmers
 - **Omaha Platform** (written by **Ignatius Donnelly**)
 - **Free and unlimited coinage of silver at ratio of 16:1**
 - A graduated income-tax (redistribute wealth)
 - Gov't ownership of the telephone and telegraph, and railroads.
 - Initiative, referendum and recall
 - Postal savings banks (safe repository run by gov't)
 - Limiting gov't land grants to settlers rather than railroads
 - Direct election of senators

The Crisis of the 1890s

- Panic of 1893 Causes:
 - Who would have guessed it, overspeculation
 - Stock-market crash, Overproduction
- Results:
 - Gov't repeals Sherman Silver Act
- Coxey's Army:
 - Advocated a public works program
 - Marched a group of unemployed individuals to Washington
 - Broken up by police
- Free Silver:
 - Having silver back the value of the dollar at a ratio of 16:1
 - Would favor farmers and debtors – easier to pay off debt

A Cross of Gold

- William Jennings Bryan
 - Won Democratic nomination in 1896; great orator
 - Challenged McKinley
- *Cross of Gold* (Like Henry Clay, he ran for President three times and lost!)
 - *"We will answer their demands 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.'"*
- Election of 1896:
 - First "modern" campaign"
 - Bryan advocated lowering the tariff (Democrats want the tariff to go DOWN!)

Stirrings of Imperialism

- US sought expansion overseas – why?
 - Manifest Destiny was complete
 - Frontier “closed”
- ***Alfred T. Mahan*** - *Influence of Sea Power*
 - Control of the sea was important to world dominance
 - Urged the US and other countries to build their navies
 - Favored by T. Roosevelt and other expansionists

- Why was Hawaii attractive to US?
 - Sugar production
 - Since 1840s, US had foreign interest in HI
- US wanted to annex HI
 - 1890, tariff exemption on Hawaii ended, high prices on imports – hurt US farmers in Hawaii
 - Queen Liliuokalani believed native Hawaiians should control the islands
 - Queen was overthrown in 1893 after revolt by planters
 - Treaty to annex HI was initially rejected by Grover Cleveland
- 1878 – US naval station in Samoa

War With Spain

- In 1895, Cuba revolted against Spain, following a policy of *scorched-earth*
- US very concerned. Why?
 - \$50 million of investments, \$100 million of annual trade
- Spanish General “Butcher” Weyler tried to crush rebellion
 - Barbed-wire reconcentration camps
 - Yellow Journalism: “You furnish the pictures and I’ll furnish the war”
- Spanish Minister spoke negatively about McKinley: Called him weak!
 - De Lome letter

War With Spain Continued

- *USS Maine* mysteriously blew up, killing 260 sailors
 - *USS Maine* and subsequent pictures was a HUGE cause for US involvement in war (February 15, 1898)
- April 11, 1898 McKinley sends a message to Congress urging war with Spain
- Teller Amendment:
 - Once US overthrew Spanish rule, Cubans would be given their freedom
- “Rough Riders”
 - Group of volunteers that played a role in Spanish-American War in Cuba
- August 12, 1898 armistice was signed
- 400 Americans died during battle, 5,000 died due to disease

War With Spain Continued

- What did America gain?
 - Guam, Cuba, Puerto Rico
 - Philippines
 - Key issue of what to do. McKinley planned to “Christianize and civilize them”
- Anti-Imperialist League
 - Mark Twain, Presidents of Harvard and Stanford, Samuel Gompers, and Carnegie
 - Didn’t Filipinos deserve “Consent of the governed?”
- *White Man’s Burden* encouraged imperialism
- **Foraker Act** of 1900
 - Puerto Ricans granted limited degree of popular government
 - Later granted US citizenship in 1917 – Jones Act

The Republic As Empire

- Key question with new land: Does Constitution follow flag? Protect these people?
- ***Insular*** Cases
 - Constitution does not apply to new areas. “Subjects may be subject to American rule, but they did not enjoy all American rights.”
- 1902, US withdraws from Cuba.... sort of
- Platt Amendment (Know this!!)
 - Cuba can't have treaties with other countries that compromises independence
 - US can intervene to restore order
 - Guantanamo Bay given to US
- Philippines thought they would receive independence like Cuba, not included in peace negotiations
- Emilio Aguinaldo wanted revenge
 - Guerilla warfare
- Aguinaldo is captured

The Republic As Empire Continued

- Europe established spheres of influence in China
 - US fearful of missing out on markets
- Secretary of State John Hay established Open Door Note
 - Purpose was to ensure US would not be locked out of China
- Secret Society of the Harmonious Fists
 - “Death to Foreign Devils!!!!”
 - Broken up by multinational troops