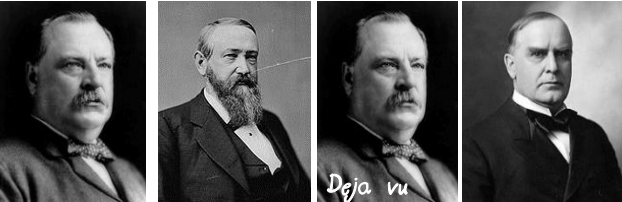
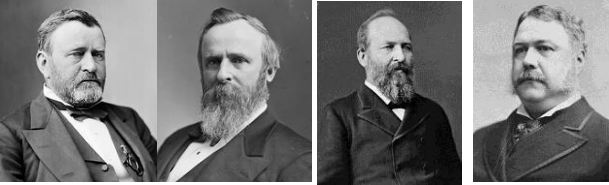


## Guided Reading & Analysis: **The Politics of the Gilded Age, 1877-1900**

### Chapter 19- *The Gilded Age* pp 380-391



Pictured: Gilded Age Presidents, Grant-Hayes-Garfield-Arthur-Cleveland-Harrison-Cleveland-McKinley, Public Domain.

**Reading Assignment:** Ch. 19 AMSCO; If you do not have the AMSCO text, use chapter 23 of *American Pageant* and/or online resources such as the website, podcast, crash course video, chapter outlines, Hippocampus, etc.

**Purpose:** This guide is not only a place to record notes as you read, but also to provide a place and structure for *reflections and analysis* using your noggin (thinking skills) with new knowledge gained from the reading. This guide, if **THOUGHTFULLY completed in its entirety BOP (Beginning of Period) by the due date**, can be used on the corresponding quiz as well as earn up to 10 bonus points. In addition, completed guides provide the student with the ability to correct a quiz for ½ points back! The benefits of such activities, however, go far beyond quiz help and bonus points. ☺

**Mastery of the course and AP exam await all who choose to process the information as they read/receive.** This is an optional assignment.

*So... young Jedi... what is your choice? Do? Or do not? There is no try.*

#### **Directions:**

- Pre-Read:** Read the prompts/questions within this guide before you read the chapter.
- Skim:** Flip through the chapter and note titles and subtitles. Look at images and read captions. *Get a feel for the content you are about to read.*
- Read/Analyze:** Read the chapter. If you have your own copy of AMSCO, **highlight key events and people as you read**. Remember, the goal is not to “fish” for a specific answer(s) to reading guide questions, but to **consider questions in order to critically understand what you read!**
- Write** Write (do not type) your notes and analysis in the spaces provided. Complete it in **INK!**

#### **Key Concepts FOR PERIOD 6:**

**Main Idea: The transformation of the United States from an agricultural to an increasingly industrialized and urbanized society brought about significant economic, political, diplomatic, social, environmental, and cultural changes.**

**Key Concept 6.1:** The rise of big business in the United States encouraged massive migrations and urbanization, sparked government and popular efforts to reshape the U.S. economy and environment, and renewed debates over U.S. national identity.

**Key Concept 6.2:** The emergence of industrial culture in the United States led to both greater opportunities for, and restrictions on, immigrants, minorities, & women.

**Key Concept 6.3:** The “Gilded Age” witnessed new cultural and intellectual movements in tandem with political debates over economic and social policies.

### **Section 1 Background and Introduction, page 380**

Read page 380 and additional information below. **Highlight major cues**, and answer the question that follows.

The Gilded Age, which spanned the final three decades of the nineteenth century, was one of the most dynamic, contentious, and volatile periods in American history. America’s industrial economy exploded, generating unprecedented opportunities for individuals to build great fortunes but also leaving many farmers and workers struggling merely for survival. Overall national wealth increased more than fivefold, a staggering increase, but one that was accompanied by what many saw as an equally staggering disparity between the rich and the poor. Industrial giants like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller revolutionized business and ushered in the modern corporate economy, but also, ironically, sometimes destroyed free-market economic competition in the process. Record numbers of citizens voted in national elections, but the politicians they voted for were often lackluster figures who turned a blind eye to the public interest. It was, as Dickens might have said, the best of times and the worst of times. But even that Dickensian understanding of the Gilded Age isn’t quite right. It’s not enough to say that the Gilded Age was a time of high highs and low lows; the highs and lows were actually often deeply intertwined parts of the exact same developments. In other words, the highs often were the lows, and vice versa. In the Gilded Age, every dark cloud had its silver lining... and every silver lining had its dark cloud. For more than a hundred years, critics have been ripping the business strategies that allowed big industrialists to build powerful monopolies—but those much-maligned monopolies brought desperately needed order to America’s immature economic system. Many have also long resented the immense fortunes of personal wealth that a handful of big businessmen were able to acquire—but that wealth paid for a huge surge in philanthropy, building hundreds of libraries, schools, museums, and other public facilities still enjoyed by the American people even today. Reformers decried the way urban politicians turned corruption into a way of life—but those same crooked politicians also provided vital services to working-class and immigrant neighborhoods. The Gilded Age was a dynamic age of incredible economic opportunity, just as it was a harsh era of incredible economic exploitation. Any version of this tale that includes only the exploitation but not the dynamism—or vice versa—is missing half the story. (Snoop.com)


**How did the Gilded Age differ from the era of Reconstruction?**

**Why did Mark Twain call this era “gilded?”**

## Section 2 Guided Reading, pp 380-391

The Presidents of the Gilded Age are often called the “Forgettables.” This string of single term presidents begins with Hayes and ends with Cleveland (who served two inconsecutive terms. McKinley is sometimes included in this era as is Grant, but... Grant is more significant to Reconstruction era and McKinley to Imperialism, many historians assert. These presidents were more “administrators” than “leaders.”

### 1. Politics of the Gilded Age, pp 380-385

Key Concepts & Main Ideas	Notes	Analysis
<p>The “Gilded Age” witnessed new <b>cultural and intellectual movements</b> in tandem with <b>political debates</b> over <b>economic and social policies</b>.</p> <p><b>Gilded Age politics</b> were intimately tied to <b>big business</b> and focused nationally on economic issues — <b>tariffs, currency, corporate expansion, and laissez-faire economic policy</b> — that engendered numerous calls for reform.</p> <hr/> <p><i>* One scandal not outlined in your book (during the Grant years) is the Indian Ring. <b>Belknap</b>, Secretary of War, was forced to resign after taking bribes from suppliers to Indian reservations... was impeached and removed by Congress after he resigned (resigned to avoid it but they did it anyway).</i></p> <hr/> 	<p>Politics of the Gilded Age...</p> <p>Causes of Stalemate...</p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>Belief in Limited Government...</p> <p>Campaign Strategy...</p> <p>Republicans...</p> <p>Democrats...</p> <p>Party Patronage...</p> <p>Presidential Politics...</p> <p>Rutherford B. Hayes...</p>	<p>Explain the key issue dividing Mugwumps, Halfbreeds, and Stalwarts.</p> <p>List three similarities between Antebellum Era Democrats and Gilded Age Democrats:</p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p> <p>List three similarities between Antebellum Era Republicans (you may include the Whigs in this comparison) and Gilded Age Republicans:</p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p> <p>How was the Antebellum Two Party System different from the Gilded Age Two Party system?</p> <p>*Turn back to page 300 and re-read the section on Greed and Corruption during the Grant years. Then, define the following:</p> <p>Fisk &amp; Gould scandal:</p> <p>Credit Mobilier affair:</p> <p>Whiskey Ring:</p> <p>Tweed Ring:</p>

**REMEMBER...** As you read the chapter, jot down your notes in the middle column. Consider your notes to be elaborations on the Objectives and Main Ideas presented in the left column and in the subtitles of the text. **INCLUDE IN YOUR NOTES ALL SIGNIFICANT VOCABULARY AND PEOPLE.** After read and take notes, *thoughtfully*, analyze what you read by answering the questions in the right column. Remember this step is essential to your *processing* of information. Completing this guide *thoughtfully* will increase your retention as well as your comprehension!

**Politics in the Gilded Age Continued...**

Key Concepts and Main Ideas	Notes	Analysis
<div data-bbox="170 394 316 577" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="170 592 316 772" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="89 798 332 987">The “Gilded Age” witnessed new <b>cultural and intellectual movements</b> in tandem with <b>political debates</b> over <b>economic and social policies</b>.</p> <p data-bbox="89 1018 332 1312"><b>Gilded Age politics</b> were intimately tied to <b>big business</b> and focused nationally on economic issues — <b>tariffs, currency, corporate expansion, and laissez-faire economic policy</b> — that engendered numerous calls for reform.</p> <div data-bbox="170 1348 316 1549" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p data-bbox="381 409 552 436"><b>James. Garfield...</b></p> <p data-bbox="381 630 568 657"><b>Chester A. Arthur...</b></p> <p data-bbox="406 766 625 793">Pendleton Act (p.384)...</p> <p data-bbox="354 898 592 926"><b>Congressional Leaders...</b></p> <p data-bbox="354 1171 568 1199"><b>The Election of 1884...</b></p> <p data-bbox="354 1365 584 1392"><b>Cleveland’s First Term...</b></p> <p data-bbox="406 1476 649 1503">Interstate Commerce Act...</p> <p data-bbox="406 1587 527 1614">Dawes Act...</p> <p data-bbox="354 1722 771 1749"><b>Issues: Civil Service, Currency, and Tariffs...</b></p> <p data-bbox="381 1885 1071 1942"><b>Civil Service Reform...</b> (during Arthur’s presidency... put notes on this topic under Arthur above)</p>	<p data-bbox="1166 409 1542 493">How did the role of government change during Garfield, Arthur, and Cleveland’s terms in office?</p> <p data-bbox="1166 846 1550 930">Explain how the issue of spoils or patronage in the Gilded Age is similar to politics in the Jackson Era.</p> <p data-bbox="1166 1203 1526 1371">Which was more significant to Gilded Age political corruption, patronage or the power of big business? Consider your reading on both industrialization and politics. Defend your answer with specific evidence.</p>

## Politics in the Gilded Age Continued...

Key Concepts and Main Ideas	Notes
<p>The “Gilded Age” witnessed new <b>cultural and intellectual movements</b> in tandem with <b>political debates</b> over <b>economic and social policies</b>.</p> <p><b>Gilded Age politics</b> were intimately tied to <b>big business</b> and focused nationally on economic issues — <b>tariffs, currency, corporate expansion, and laissez-faire economic policy</b> — that engendered numerous calls for reform.</p>	<p><b>Money Question...</b></p> <p>Debtors, farmers, and start-ups wanted...</p> <p>Bankers, creditors, investors, and established businesses wanted...</p> <p><b>Greenback Party...</b></p> <p><b>Demands for Silver Money...</b></p> <p><b>Tariff issue...</b></p>

### Going Deeper... The Gold Standard

#### Highlight cues as you read and review!

During the nineteenth century, U.S. currency was backed by both gold and silver—in other words, a dollar in silver, nickel, or copper coins or in paper money was guaranteed by the government to be convertible into a dollar's worth of either metal. As a result of this "bimetallic standard," the valuation of U.S. currency fluctuated wildly. Because the value of the two metals on the open market was constantly changing, speculators were able to turn a profit by selling their coins for more than their face value when the value of the metal exceeded its denomination. When the government flooded the market with silver coins, the price of silver dropped, citizens traded in their silver coins for gold, and federal gold reserves were exhausted. At the same time, prices of wholesale and retail goods saw a steady decline from the end of the Civil War through the 1890s, sending farmers and other providers of goods, whose fixed debts did not decline, into crisis. This chronic monetary instability was a large factor in the 1896 election of President William McKinley, who ran on a platform that included a change to a gold standard. In 1900 McKinley signed the **Gold Standard Act**, making gold reserves the basis of the monetary system. The gold standard remained in effect until 1933, when the economic pressures of the Great Depression—including gold-hoarding by a panicked citizenry—led the United States to abandon it, and legislation was passed that allowed the Federal Reserve to expand the supply of paper money irrespective of gold reserves. We went completely off the Gold Standard during Nixon's administration. Today our paper money is "fiat" money... back by nothing tangible.

Bimetallism is...

Gold Standard is...

*Textbook or Internet Search Break...*

Review the economic policies below by explaining each one's purpose and impact on the American economy.

**Legal Tender Act 1862**

Purpose:
Impact on economy:

**National Banking Act 1863**

Purpose:
Impact on economy:

**Coinage Act 1873**

Purpose:
Impact on economy:

**Specie Payment Resumption Act 1874**

Purpose:
Impact on economy:


**Bland Allison Act 1878**

Purpose:
Impact on economy:

**Gold Standard Act 1900**

Purpose:
Impact on economy:


**2. Back to the Book.... The Growth of Discontent, 1888-1896, pp 385-388**

Key Concepts and Main Ideas	Notes	Analysis
<p>The "Gilded Age" witnessed new <b>cultural and intellectual movements</b> in tandem with <b>political debates</b> over economic and social policies.</p>	<p>The Growth of Discontent, 1888-1896...</p> <p>Harrison and the Billion Dollar Congress...</p>  <p>The Election of 1888...</p>	<p>Benjamin Harrison was the grandson of William Henry Harrison (war hero; Battle of Tippecanoe and president briefly in 1841). He defeated Cleveland, the sitting president, although Cleveland had more popular votes. The main issue was the tariff. Harrison favored protective tariffs and Cleveland wanted them reduced, because he saw them as unfair taxes on consumers. Identify a comparative context for this election.</p>


## The Growth of Discontent Continued...

Key Concepts and Main Ideas	Notes	Analysis
<p>The “<b>Gilded Age</b>” witnessed new <b>cultural and intellectual movements</b> in tandem with <b>political debates</b> over <b>economic and social policies</b>.</p>	<p><b>Billion Dollar Congress..</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The McKinley Tariff of 1890...</b></li> </ol> <p><u>Note on McKinley Tariff:</u> The Democrats had pledged to lower tariffs, and protested the McKinley Tariff... but by the time the <b>Wilson-Gorman Tariff of 1894</b> made it through Congress, it was so loaded with special-interest protection that it hardly made a difference in the McKinley Tariff rates. Cleveland allowed the bill, but the Supreme Court, much to the dismay of the Populists, struck down the income tax provision of the tariff.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890...</b></li> </ol> <p><u>Note on the Sherman Antitrust Act:</u> Despite being a step toward challenging trusts and protecting the free market, this act was largely unsuccessful, because politicians were unwilling to truly challenge big business and the new law was used more to thwart efforts of organized labor than to break up the power of the monopolies – trusts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890...</b></li> </ol> <p><u>Note on the Silver Purchase Act:</u> Although this was a victory for farmers and other debtors, it was unsuccessful because the increased supply of silver reduced its value which resulted in the inability of miners to make a profit and leading thousands to exchange silver notes for gold notes which led to lack of gold supply.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ol> <p><b>Return of the Democrats...</b></p> <p><b>Rise of the Populists...</b></p> <p><b>Omaha Platform...</b></p>	<p>Which action by the Billion Dollar Congress was the most impactful? Explain and defend your answer with specific evidence.</p> <p>Explain how the Populists illustrate the impact of industrialization and urbanization. Defend your answer with specific evidence.</p>


## The Growth of Discontent Continued...

Key Concepts and Main Ideas	Notes	Analysis
 <p><i>Deja vu</i></p> <p>The “<b>Gilded Age</b>” witnessed new <b>cultural and intellectual movements</b> in tandem with <b>political debates</b> over <b>economic and social policies</b>.</p>	<p>The Election of 1892...</p> <p>Depression Politics...</p> <p>Panic of 1893...</p> <p>Gold Reserve and Tariff...</p> <p>Jobless on the March...</p>	<p>Compare the Wilson-Gorman Tariff of 1894 to the McKinley Tariff of 1890. What is significant about this comparison in terms of politics?</p> <p>Were William H. Harvey’s views more consistent with Jacksonian Democrats or Lincoln Republicans. Explain your answer.</p> <p>Gilded Age Presidents did not assess the government in the same way populists and progressives did. How does this event, “Coxey’s Army,” illustrate a turning point in American politics?</p>

## 5. Turning Point in American Politics: 1896, pp388-390

Key Concepts and Main Ideas	Notes
<p>The “<b>Gilded Age</b>” witnessed new <b>cultural and intellectual movements</b> in tandem with <b>political debates</b> over <b>economic and social policies</b>.</p> 	<p>Turning Point in American Politics: 1896...</p> <p>The Election of 1896...</p> <p>Bryan, Democrats, and Populists...</p> <p>McKinley, Hanna, and Republicans...</p>

## Turning Point in American Politics: 1896 Continued...

Key Concepts and Main Ideas	Notes
<p>The “Gilded Age” witnessed new <b>cultural and intellectual movements</b> in tandem with <b>political debates</b> over <b>economic and social policies</b>.</p> 	<p>McKinley’s Presidency...</p> <p>Significance of the Election of 1896... Populist Demise... Urban Dominance... Beginning of Modern Politics... <u>EXPLAIN THOROUGHLY...</u></p>

### 6. Historical Perspectives: Who Were The Populists? Page 391

<p>To what extent was the Populist movement a practical, liberal response to the political and economic problems of the Gilded Age?</p> <p><b>Evidence for Populists as Realistic:</b></p>	<p>To what extent was the Populist movement a romantic, idealistic response to the changes in American culture and economy during the Gilded Age?</p> <p><b>Evidence for Populists as Idealistic:</b></p>

“There is indeed much that is good and usable in our Populist past... Populism was the first modern political movement of practical importance in the United States to insist that the federal government has some responsibility for the common weal. ... Populists... bypassed and humiliated by the advance of industrialism... were rebelling against the domination of the country by industrial and financial capitalists... They sought to restore the conditions prevailing before the development of industrialism and the commercialization of agriculture.”

Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform from Bryan to F.D.R.*, 1955

“...Populism was indeed a response to the times, but it was also something more. It was an attempt to transcend those times and, in the act of transcending the existing social context, to pose an alternative conception for the development of America... Thus, Populists contended, government must be a responsive tool, one which can actively intervene in the economy to regulate matters affecting the public interest, and when necessary own outright monopolies of this character, and can just as actively aid the underprivileged and work for a more equitable distribution of wealth.”

Norman Pollack, *The Populist Mind*, 1967

The essential difference between these two viewpoints is:

Reading Guide written by Rebecca Richardson, Allen High School

Sources include but are not limited to: 2015 edition of AMSCO’s *United States History Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination*, College Board Advanced Placement United States History Framework, and other sources as cited in document and collected/adapted over 20 years of teaching and collaborating..