

politics in the gilded age

Politics in the Gilded Age: Power, Corruption, and Transformation

politics in the gilded age was a fascinating and complex chapter in American history, marked by rapid economic growth, industrial expansion, and a political landscape rife with corruption and intense party rivalry. Spanning roughly from the 1870s to the early 1900s, this era witnessed the United States transform from a war-torn, agrarian society into an industrial powerhouse. But behind this prosperity lay a tangled web of political machines, patronage systems, and reform movements that together shaped the course of American governance.

Understanding politics during the Gilded Age requires diving into the key players, issues, and social dynamics that defined this period. From the dominance of political parties to the influence of business magnates, the era offers a vivid glimpse into how power and money intermingled in the late 19th century.

The Political Climate of the Gilded Age

The Gilded Age was a time when the United States experienced a sharp divide between the wealthy elite and the working class. Politics mirrored this divide, with elections often reflecting regional loyalties, class interests, and ethnic identities. National politics was dominated by two main parties—the Republicans and the Democrats—both of which had their strongholds and fiercely loyal voter bases.

Party Dominance and Electoral Dynamics

The Republican Party, rooted in the legacy of Lincoln and the Civil War victory, held sway in the North and Midwest, advocating for protective tariffs, a gold standard, and business-friendly policies. Meanwhile, the Democrats found strong support in the South and among immigrant urban populations, often opposing high tariffs and favoring states' rights.

Elections during this period were notoriously close and highly competitive. Voter turnout was extraordinarily high, often exceeding 70%, reflecting the intense enthusiasm and engagement of the electorate. However, the political process was far from pure; widespread voter fraud, ballot stuffing, and intimidation tactics were common, particularly in urban centers controlled by political machines.

Political Machines and Patronage

Perhaps no aspect better defines politics in the Gilded Age than the rise of political machines—organized groups that controlled local politics through patronage and sometimes corruption. The most infamous of these was New York's Tammany Hall, led by figures like Boss Tweed, who wielded immense power by trading favors and jobs for votes.

These machines thrived on the patronage system, also known as the spoils system, where politicians rewarded loyal supporters with government jobs regardless of merit. This practice led to widespread inefficiency and corruption but also cultivated strong party loyalty among immigrant communities, who often relied on the machines for social services and assistance.

Key Issues Shaping Gilded Age Politics

Several pressing issues dominated the political discourse during this era, many of which still resonate in American politics today. The rapid industrialization of the country brought economic challenges and social upheaval that politicians had to address—or sometimes exploit.

Economic Policies and Industrialization

The Gilded Age was a period of unprecedented industrial growth, with railroads, steel, oil, and finance industries expanding at breakneck speed. Politicians often aligned themselves with big business, championing policies like high tariffs to protect American manufacturers from foreign competition.

The gold standard was another contentious topic. Republicans generally supported maintaining gold as the sole basis of currency, which appealed to bankers and business interests, while many Democrats and Populists pushed for the inclusion of silver (bimetallism) to increase the money supply and aid indebted farmers.

Labor Unrest and Social Change

The rise of factories and urban centers created a new working class that often endured harsh conditions, low wages, and long hours. Labor unions began organizing strikes and protests, demanding better treatment and rights. Events like the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 and the Haymarket Affair of 1886 highlighted tensions between laborers, business owners, and government authorities.

Politicians largely sided with industrialists, deploying federal troops to break strikes and maintain order, which further alienated working-class voters and fueled calls for reform.

Corruption and Reform Movements

Corruption was rampant at all levels of government, with scandals such as the Credit Mobilier scandal and the Whiskey Ring scandal exposing graft among public officials and railroad companies. These scandals undermined public trust and led to the rise of reform movements advocating for civil service reform, transparency, and anti-corruption measures.

One significant outcome was the Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act of 1883, which established a merit-based system for federal employment, aiming to curtail the spoils system and reduce political patronage.

Influential Figures and Their Impact

The politics of the Gilded Age were shaped by a host of colorful and powerful personalities—presidents, party bosses, and industrialists—each leaving a distinct imprint on the era.

Presidents of the Gilded Age

The period saw a succession of presidents who often struggled to exert strong leadership amid factionalism and party politics.

- **Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877):** Though his presidency was marred by corruption scandals, Grant's administration oversaw Reconstruction efforts and the enforcement of civil rights for freed slaves.
- **Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881):** Known for ending Reconstruction, Hayes attempted civil service reform but faced opposition from within his party.
- **James A. Garfield (1881):** His assassination after only a few months in office highlighted the dangers of the spoils system.
- **Chester A. Arthur (1881-1885):** Surprisingly championed civil service reform despite his ties to the patronage system.
- **Grover Cleveland (1885-1889, 1893-1897):** The only Democrat to serve two non-consecutive terms in this era, Cleveland advocated for limited government and fiscal conservatism.
- **Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893):** Supported high tariffs and veterans' pensions, representing business interests.

The Role of Political Bosses and Business Magnates

Political machines like Tammany Hall wielded influence that rivaled elected officials, controlling votes and local governments. Meanwhile, industrialists such as John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and J.P. Morgan amassed vast wealth and used it to influence politics through lobbying and campaign contributions.

Their involvement fueled debates about monopolies, trusts, and the need for government regulation, eventually leading to antitrust laws like the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890.

The Legacy of Politics in the Gilded Age

The political developments of the Gilded Age laid the groundwork for the Progressive Era that followed. The widespread corruption and social inequalities exposed during this time galvanized reformers who sought to make government more responsive and honest.

Civil service reform, antitrust legislation, and the rise of labor rights can all trace their origins back to the tensions and contradictions of the Gilded Age. Additionally, the era's intense partisanship and voter engagement remind us how deeply politics can permeate society—even amid challenges like corruption and inequality.

For those interested in American history or political science, studying politics in the gilded age offers invaluable insights into how economic transformation, social change, and political power interact to shape a nation's trajectory. It's a vivid example of how the pursuit of wealth and influence can both drive progress and provoke conflict, lessons that resonate well beyond the 19th century.

Frequently Asked Questions

What characterized politics during the Gilded Age in the United States?

Politics during the Gilded Age (approximately 1870s to 1900) were marked by intense party loyalty, widespread political corruption, patronage systems, and the dominance of business interests in government.

How did political machines influence Gilded Age

politics?

Political machines, like New York's Tammany Hall, controlled elections through patronage, voter manipulation, and providing social services in exchange for votes, significantly shaping urban politics during the Gilded Age.

What role did the spoils system play in Gilded Age politics?

The spoils system involved awarding government jobs to political supporters and friends, leading to widespread corruption and inefficiency until civil service reforms began to curb the practice.

Who were the major political parties during the Gilded Age, and what were their platforms?

The major parties were the Republicans and Democrats. Republicans generally supported business interests, tariffs, and a strong federal government, while Democrats advocated for states' rights, limited government, and were stronger in the South.

How did the Gilded Age politics impact economic policies?

Economic policies favored industrialists and big businesses, including protective tariffs, limited regulation, and opposition to labor unions, which contributed to rapid industrial growth but also social inequality.

What were some key political reforms that emerged in response to Gilded Age corruption?

Reforms included the Pendleton Civil Service Act (1883) to establish merit-based government employment, antitrust laws like the Sherman Antitrust Act, and efforts to regulate railroads and monopolies.

How did voter turnout during the Gilded Age compare to other periods in U.S. history?

Voter turnout during the Gilded Age was exceptionally high, often exceeding 70%, due to strong party loyalty, competitive elections, and the influence of political machines mobilizing voters.

What was the significance of the Mugwumps in Gilded

Age politics?

The Mugwumps were reform-minded Republicans who opposed political corruption and the patronage system, supporting Democratic candidate Grover Cleveland in 1884, highlighting divisions within the Republican Party.

How did Gilded Age politics address issues related to labor and workers' rights?

Gilded Age politics largely favored business interests over labor, with limited government intervention in labor disputes, suppression of strikes, and minimal protections for workers, leading to the rise of labor unions and movements.

Additional Resources

Politics in the Gilded Age: An Analytical Review of Power, Corruption, and Reform

politics in the gilded age marked a transformative yet tumultuous period in American history, characterized by rapid industrialization, expansive urban growth, and a political landscape riddled with corruption and intense partisanship. Spanning roughly from the 1870s to the early 1900s, this era witnessed a complex interplay between burgeoning corporate power and political institutions, shaping the trajectory of the United States at the dawn of modernity. Understanding the nuances of politics during the Gilded Age offers valuable insights into the development of American governance, political conventions, and reform movements that emerged in response to systemic challenges.

The Political Landscape of the Gilded Age

The Gilded Age is often associated with a period of stark contrasts: immense wealth accumulation by industrial magnates juxtaposed against widespread social inequality and political dysfunction. The term "Gilded Age" itself, coined by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner, alludes to a thin veneer of prosperity masking deeper societal issues. Politics during this era were dominated by fierce competition between the Republican and Democratic parties, with elections frequently decided by razor-thin margins and voter turnout rates soaring above 70%.

Partisan Rivalry and Electoral Dynamics

One of the defining features of politics in the Gilded Age was the intense loyalty to political parties. The Republican Party, largely dominant in the

North and among business interests, advocated for protective tariffs and pro-industry policies. Conversely, the Democratic Party found its base in the South and among urban immigrant populations, often opposing tariffs and advocating for limited federal government intervention. This binary division created a highly polarized political environment marked by:

- Close and frequent elections with few decisive policy mandates
- Strong party machinery, including political patronage systems
- High voter engagement and turnout, reflecting deep social and economic cleavages

The era's electoral politics were also shaped by the spoils system, whereby victorious parties rewarded loyal supporters with government jobs, reinforcing party loyalty but also fostering widespread corruption.

Corruption and the Spoils System

Politics in the Gilded Age were notoriously tainted by corruption and patronage. Political machines, such as New York's Tammany Hall led by figures like Boss Tweed, wielded immense power by controlling city governments and dispensing favors in exchange for votes. These organizations manipulated elections, controlled public contracts, and often engaged in graft.

The spoils system encouraged a transactional style of politics, where government positions were treated as rewards rather than merit-based appointments. This practice led to inefficiency in governance and eroded public trust. The infamous Crédit Mobilier scandal and the Whiskey Ring scandal are emblematic of the widespread corruption that permeated federal and local governments alike.

Key Political Issues and Legislative Responses

Despite the challenges, politics in the Gilded Age were not static; they responded to the pressing economic and social realities of the time. Several critical issues dominated the political discourse, influencing legislation and reform efforts.

Economic Policy and Industrial Regulation

Industrialization brought unprecedented wealth to a select few but also

created harsh working conditions, monopolies, and economic disparity. Politicians grappled with how to regulate burgeoning industries and address labor unrest. Key legislative and judicial developments included:

- **The Interstate Commerce Act (1887):** The first federal law to regulate railroads, aiming to curb discriminatory practices and monopolistic behaviors.
- **The Sherman Antitrust Act (1890):** Enacted to combat monopolies and promote competition, though initially weakly enforced.
- **Tariff debates:** Republicans supported high protective tariffs to shield American industries, while Democrats pushed for tariff reductions to lower consumer prices.

These policies reflected the tension between laissez-faire capitalism and the emerging call for government intervention in the economy.

Labor Movements and Social Unrest

The rapid growth of factories and urban centers led to a burgeoning labor movement, as workers demanded better wages, hours, and conditions. Strikes like the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 and the Haymarket Riot of 1886 highlighted the volatility of labor relations. Politics in the Gilded Age often found itself caught between supporting business interests and addressing the demands of a restive working class.

While some politicians sympathized with labor, many sided with industrialists, deploying federal troops to suppress strikes. This approach underscored the era's limited political responsiveness to labor concerns, setting the stage for later Progressive Era reforms.

Political Reform Movements

The excesses and corruption of Gilded Age politics eventually sparked reform movements aimed at curbing patronage and enhancing democratic governance. Civil service reform emerged as a key focus.

The Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act

Passed in 1883, the Pendleton Act marked a significant shift away from the spoils system by establishing a merit-based system for federal employment.

This legislation created the Civil Service Commission, which introduced competitive exams for certain government jobs, reducing the influence of political patronage.

Although the Pendleton Act initially covered a limited number of positions, it laid the groundwork for expanding professional, nonpartisan public service and was a cornerstone of the broader reform movement.

Other Reform Efforts

Beyond civil service, reformers targeted electoral processes and corruption:

- **Secret Ballot:** Introduced to protect voter privacy and reduce coercion.
- **Direct Primaries:** Proposed to weaken party bosses and give voters more control over candidate selection.
- **Anti-corruption campaigns:** Investigations and prosecutions aimed at political machines and graft.

These efforts, while uneven in success during the Gilded Age itself, signaled a growing public demand for cleaner politics and more accountable governance.

Comparative Perspectives: Gilded Age Politics and Modern Parallels

Examining politics in the Gilded Age offers useful parallels to contemporary political challenges. The era's struggles with wealth inequality, corporate influence, and political corruption resonate with issues today, such as campaign finance debates and regulatory oversight.

Moreover, the intense partisanship and voter engagement of the Gilded Age echo current political polarization, underscoring that deeply divided electorates and fierce party loyalty are recurring features in American democracy. Understanding the mechanisms that eventually led to reform in the late 19th and early 20th centuries provides context for ongoing efforts to balance political power and economic interests.

Politics in the Gilded Age was a complex tapestry of rapid change, entrenched interests, and emerging reform impulses. The era's legacy is evident in the institutional structures and political norms that continued to evolve well into the Progressive Era and beyond, shaping the modern American political system in profound ways.

Politics In The Gilded Age

politics in the gilded age: Politics in the Gilded Age John M. Dobson, 1972 Groups currently attempting to reform the American system of society and government have much to learn from the Pyrrhic victory of the Mugwumps, the Independent Republicans of the late nineteenth century, whose successful efforts to destroy the patronage system produced one of the firmest realities of modern politics--the link between the governing party and various special-interest factions. The first significant step toward a national merit system, the Pendleton Act, was passed in 1883, largely as a result of the Mugwumps' efforts. But in the years after their great victory the Mugwumps steadily lost prestige and power as a result of their abandoning membership in the Republican party. Now both major parties could make their political calculations without considering the idealistic reformers. Ironically, by about 1896 the merit system was working so well that party managers could no longer depend on enforced contributions but, instead, relied on heavy funding from private industry. Thus the Mugwump attempt to ensure nonpartisan government led to the governing party's dependence on private interest groups. In this book, Professor Dobson describes the goals, achievements, and failures of the Mugwumps, leaving it for the reader to decide whether their experience should serve as a model to be emulated or as an example of what should be avoided in present-day confrontations--Back cover.

politics in the gilded age: Party Games Mark Wahlgren Summers, 2005-12-15 Much of late-nineteenth-century American politics was parade and pageant. Voters crowded the polls, and their votes made a real difference on policy. In *Party Games*, Mark Wahlgren Summers tells the full story and admires much of the political carnival, but he adds a cautionary note about the dark recesses: vote-buying, election-rigging, blackguarding, news suppression, and violence. Summers also points out that hardball politics and third-party challenges helped make the parties more responsive. Ballyhoo did not replace government action. In order to maintain power, major parties not only rigged the system but also gave dissidents part of what they wanted. The persistence of a two-party system, Summers concludes, resulted from its adaptability, as well as its ruthlessness. Even the reform of political abuses was shaped to fit the needs of the real owners of the political system--the politicians themselves.

politics in the gilded age: *Florida Politics in the Gilded Age, 1877-1893* Edward C Williamson, 1976-01-01

politics in the gilded age: American Politics in the Gilded Age Robert W. Cherny, 1997-01-30 Often Gilded-Age politics has been described as devoid of content or accomplishment, a mere spectacle to divert voters from thinking about the real issues of the day. But by focusing too closely on dramatic scandals and on the foibles of prominent politicians, many historians have tended to obscure other aspects of late nineteenth-century politics that proved to be of great and long-term significance. With the latest scholarship in mind, Professor Cherny provides a deft and highly readable analysis that is certain to help readers better understand the characteristics and important products of Gilded-Age politics. Topics covered include: voting behavior; the relation between the popular will and the formation of public policy; the cause and effect of the deadlock in national politics that lasted from the mid-1870s to the 1890s; the sources of political innovation at state and local levels; and the notable changes wrought during the 1890s that ushered in important new forms of American politics.

politics in the gilded age: Encyclopedia of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era John D. Buenker, Joseph Buenker, 2021-04-14 Spanning the era from the end of Reconstruction (1877) to 1920, the entries of this reference were chosen with attention to the people, events, inventions, political developments, organizations, and other forces that led to significant changes in the U.S. in that era. Seventeen initial stand-alone essays describe as many themes.

politics in the gilded age: *A genteel endeavor, American culture and politics in the gilded age* John Tomsich, 1971

politics in the gilded age: Special Interest Groups in American Politics Stephen Miller, 1983-01-01

politics in the gilded age: The Presidencies of Grover Cleveland Richard E. Welch, 1988
Grover Cleveland, who served as both the twenty-second and the twenty-fourth president of the United States, dominated the American political scene from 1884 to 1896. Viewed at one time as a monument of presidential courage, Cleveland has over the past generation been dismissed by historians as a Bourbon Democrat, the symbol of that wing of the Democratic party devoted to preserving the status quo and protecting the interests of the propertied. In this revisionist study, Richard Welch takes a fresh look at the Cleveland administrations and discovers a man whose assertive temperament was frequently at odds with his inherited political faith. Although pledging public allegiance to a Whiggish version of the presidency, Cleveland's aggressive insistence on presidential independence led him to exercise increasing control of the executive branch and then to seek influence over Congress and national legislation. Quick to denounce governmental paternalism and the centralization of political power, Cleveland nevertheless expanded the authority of the national government as he revised federal land and Indian policies in the West and ordered the army to Chicago during the 1894 Pullman strike. For all his fears of constitutional innovation, he was neither a champion of big business nor unaware of the problems posed by the post-Civil War economic revolution. He signed the Interstate commerce Act, warned against the growing power of industrial combination, advocated voluntary federal arbitration of labor-management disputes, and fought the monopolization of western lands by railroad and timber corporations. Welch places Cleveland's battles on behalf of tariff revision, civil service reform, and the gold standard within the context of the conundrum of a strong president who usually failed to gain the cooperation of Congress or the Democratic party. Cleveland reinvigorated the American presidency and reestablished an equilibrium between the executive and legislative branches of the federal government, but by his obdurate enmity to the silverites and the agrarian radicals, he helped assure the division and defeat of his party in the election of 1896. Welch demonstrates that Cleveland's achievements and failures as a political leader were attributable to an authoritarian temperament that saw compromise as surrender. Two chapters of the book are devoted to Cleveland's diplomacy, focusing especially on his response to Hawaiian and Cuban revolutions and the boundary dispute between Venezuela and Great Britain. Welch takes issue with the currently popular thesis that U.S. diplomacy in the last decade of the nineteenth century displayed a concerted governmental effort to solve domestic economic problems by expanding foreign markets in East Asia and Latin America. In addition to providing insights into the character of one of our more interesting presidents, this reassessment of Grover Cleveland's historical legacy shows clearly that the Cleveland years served as the essential preface to the development of a modern presidency and to the identification for executive power.

politics in the gilded age: The Divided Era Thomas Del Beccaro, 2015-05-26 The larger our governments, the greater the competition for their spoils—therefore our divisions. “There simply is so much at stake today. As a result, our governments that benefit so many, employ so many, and tax so widely—in short our governments that pick so many winners and losers—are understandably subject to an intense competition for their control.” So writes author Thomas Del Beccaro in this fascinating study of the history of political unity and division in the US, from the Revolution to the adoption of the Constitution, the Civil War through Reconstruction, The Gilded Age to our present Divided Era. While we have had our conflicts over large issues and the role of government in the past, and still do today, an emerging cause of the partisanship and division we now know today did not exist at our nation’s founding. Our governments were smaller, levied minimal taxes, and thus held out fewer spoils for citizens to fight over. Can the US find its way back to being a less divided country? Yes, says Del Beccaro, but only if citizens understand the growing source of our divisions: ever larger governments. Americans must demand that government shrink back to a less divisive size and scope and support leaders capable of setting unifying goals—for which Del Beccaro offers five key strategies. In fact, the consequences of not slimming the behemoth governments—federal,

state, and local—will only lead to an ever widening divide, and more acrimonious and harmful partisanship. The Divided Era lays out the case for smaller government, more responsive political leadership, and ultimately a more cohesive citizenry.

politics in the gilded age: *Philadelphia Politics in the Gilded Age* John D. Stewart, 1975

politics in the gilded age: *A Companion to 19th-Century America* William Barney, 2008-04-15 A Companion to 19th-Century America is an authoritative overview of current historiographical developments and major themes in the history of nineteenth-century America. Twenty-seven scholars, all specialists in their own thematic areas, examine the key debates and historiography. A thematic and chronological organization brings together the major time periods, politics, the Civil War, economy, and social and cultural history of the nineteenth century. Written with the general reader in mind, each essay surveys the historical research, the emerging concerns, and assesses the future direction of scholarship. Complete coverage of all the major themes and current debates in nineteenth-century US history assessing the state of the scholarship and future concerns. 24 original essays by leading experts in nineteenth-century American history complete with up-to-date bibliographies. Chronological and thematic organization covers both traditional and contemporary fields of research - politics, periods, economy, class formation, ethnicity, gender roles, regions, culture and ideas.

politics in the gilded age: *Bourgeoisie, State and Democracy* Graeme Gill, 2008-05-15 One of the key questions in social science is the role of the bourgeoisie in creating a democracy. An important issue in contemporary international politics is the trajectory of the current Russian political system. This book brings these questions together by exploring the role played by the bourgeoisie in shaping political outcomes in five countries: contemporary Russia, and industrial revolution Britain, France, Germany and the USA. Its main focus is the way the different new business classes have been integrated into the political system, and the implications this had for the political trajectories of the respective countries. The contemporary Russian experience is thrown into relief by comparison with the national experiences of the other four countries, enabling conclusions to be drawn about both the general question of the historic role of this class in democratisation and the more specific question of its role in Russia today.

politics in the gilded age: *Scandals in Past and Contemporary Politics* John Garrard, James Newell, 2006 Considers the social and historical significance of political scandal Examines the constant and changing features of political scandal over the past three centuries Offers an 'insider's account' of the role of the press in the reporting - and indeed manufacture - of some of the most memorable scandals of recent years Discusses the enduring.

politics in the gilded age: *The Oxford Handbook of American Political History* Paula Baker, Donald T. Critchlow, 2020-03-06 American political and policy history has revived since the turn of the twenty-first century. After social and cultural history emerged as dominant forces to reveal the importance of class, race, and gender within the United States, the application of this line of work to American politics and policy followed. In addition, social movements, particularly the civil rights and feminism, helped rekindle political and policy history. As a result, a new generation of historians turned their attention to American politics. Their new approach still covers traditional subjects, but more often it combines an interest in the state, politics, and policy with other specialties (urban, labor, social, and race, among others) within the history and social science disciplines. The Oxford Handbook of American Political History incorporates and reflects this renaissance of American political history. It not only provides a chronological framework but also illustrates fundamental political themes and debates about public policy, including party systems, women in politics, political advertising, religion, and more. Chapters on economy, defense, agriculture, immigration, transportation, communication, environment, social welfare, health care, drugs and alcohol, education, and civil rights trace the development and shifts in American policy history. This collection of essays by 29 distinguished scholars offers a comprehensive overview of American politics and policy.

politics in the gilded age: *The Presidencies of James A. Garfield & Chester A. Arthur*

Justus D. Doenecke, 1981 This is the first single volume to focus on the presidencies of both James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur. Drawing from a host of studies on the foreign and domestic policies of the nation during the Gilded Age, as well as from his own primary research, the author presents a somewhat revisionist look at Garfield and Arthur—revisionist in that he gives the reader a renewed appreciation of both men. Far from being cynical spoilsmen or naive incompetents, individuals whose presidencies provide studies in ineptitude, Garfield and Arthur emerge as men of considerable ability. While making no claims of greatness, Doenecke maintains that each was a significant transitional figure, playing a crucial role as the institution of the presidency moved from the weak leadership of Andrew Johnson to the forceful direction of Theodore Roosevelt. According to Doenecke, Garfield saw the office of chief executive primarily in administrative terms, and his great battle was over keeping the power of appointment in his own hands. His victory over the Stalwarts enhanced both the power and prestige of the office. His knowledge of how government worked was unmatched; long before Woodrow Wilson made his mark, Garfield was the scholar in politics. The diplomacy of Secretary of State James G. Blaine comes under critical scrutiny. Doenecke evaluates his performance in the Chile-Peru War (War of the Pacific), the Guatemala-Mexico dispute, the isthmian-canal issue, Irish-American activities in Britain, and efforts to secure markets in Korea. Garfield was assassinated less than six months after he entered office; he had yet to be tested on major issues of public policy. Chester A. Arthur was ill prepared to be chief executive, was in poor health much of the time while he was in office, and was faced with a hopelessly divided party. Nevertheless, he was one of the nation's great political surprises. His administration pioneered in the development of the navy, sought foreign markets for American surpluses, fostered civil-service reform, and pressed for a scientific tariff. Doenecke devotes one chapter to the spoils system and the background to the Pendleton Act, one to Arthur's strategy regarding the South, and then offers an in-depth analysis of diplomacy during Arthur's tenure. During the presidencies of Garfield and Arthur, the United States attempted to intervene in a war between Chile and Peru, sought to turn Nicaragua into a protectorate, supplied leading advisers to Madagascar and Korea, and took a major part in the Congo conference of 1884. In examining these activities, even while pointing to uncoordinated statecraft and inept diplomacy, Doenecke challenges the long-held view that, from 1881 to 1885, the nation was withdrawn and insular. His fresh perspective on the Garfield and Arthur years will be of considerable interest to historians of the Gilded Age.

politics in the gilded age: The Rough Rider and the Professor Laurence Jurdem, 2023-07-04 Evoking the political intrigue of the Gilded Age, *The Rough Rider and the Professor* chronicles the extraordinary thirty-five-year friendship between President Theodore Roosevelt and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts. Theodore Roosevelt was a uniquely gifted figure. A man of great intellect and physicality, the New York patrician captured the imagination of the American people with his engaging personality and determination to give all citizens regardless of race, color, or creed the opportunity to achieve the American dream. While Roosevelt employed his abilities to rise from unknown New York legislator to become the youngest man ever to assume the presidency in 1901, that rapid success would not have occurred without the assistance of the powerful New Englander, Henry Cabot Lodge. Eight years older than Roosevelt, from a prominent Massachusetts family, Lodge, was one of the most calculating, combative politicians of his age. From 1884 to 1919 Lodge and Roosevelt encouraged one another to mine the greatness that lay within each of them. As both men climbed the ladders of power, Lodge, focused on dominating the political landscape of Massachusetts, served as the future president's confidant and mentor, advising him on political strategy while helping him obtain positions in government that would eventually lead to the White House. Despite the love and respect that existed between the two men, their relationship eventually came under strain. Following Roosevelt's ascension to the presidency, T. R.'s desire to expand the social safety net—while attempting to broaden the appeal of the Republican Party—clashed with his older friend's more conservative, partisan point of view. Those tensions finally culminated in 1912. Lodge's refusal to support the former president's independent bid for a third presidential term led to a political break-up that was only repaired by each man's hatred for

the policies of Woodrow Wilson. Despite their political disagreements, Theodore Roosevelt and Henry Cabot Lodge remained devoted friends until the Rough Rider took his final breath on January 6, 1919.

politics in the gilded age: Rutherford B. Hayes and the Restoration of Presidential Powers Charles Quince, 2020-11-09 For years, scholars have dismissed Rutherford B. Hayes as an ineffective president. This work demolishes such conventional wisdom by showing that not only was Hayes' presidency effective, but it was also groundbreaking in its restoration of presidential prerogatives. When Hayes took office in 1877, Congress was taking an ever more decisive role in leading the nation. Hayes was up against a Democratic-controlled legislature and antagonized Republican Party bosses. This work shows how Hayes overcame these forces to advance his agenda. He resisted the hostile congressional effort to keep federal troops in the South; reinstated the gold standard; instituted civil service reform; and ignored the clamor from congressmen beholden to railway magnates to involve the military in the Great Strike of 1877. Hayes' triumph over these obstacles laid the foundation for the strong executive branch we know today. Presidential Prestige will garner an eager audience of students, scholars, and members of the general public with an interest in American history. By focusing on primary sources such as personal letters, congressional records, and news media, this book adds a new dimension to the overall historiography of the late nineteenth century American political landscape.

politics in the gilded age: The Concise Princeton Encyclopedia of American Political History Michael Kazin, Rebecca Edwards, Adam Rothman, 2011-08-28 Contains 150 articles that provide information about significant topics in American political history, including ideas, philosophies, movements, economics, religion, and more.

politics in the gilded age: From Bloody Shirt to Full Dinner Pail Charles W. Calhoun, 2010-08-03 A short, elegant overview of politics at the close of the nineteenth century In the wake of civil war, American politics were racially charged and intensely sectionalist, with politicians waving the proverbial bloody shirt and encouraging their constituents, as Republicans did in 1868, to vote as you shot. By the close of the century, however, burgeoning industrial development and the roller-coaster economy of the post-war decades had shifted the agenda to pocketbook concerns—the tariff, monetary policy, business regulation. In *From Bloody Shirt to Full Dinner-Pail*, the historian Charles W. Calhoun provides a brief, elegant overview of the transformation in national governance and its concerns in the Gilded Age. Sweeping from the election of Grant to the death of McKinley in 1901, this narrative history broadly sketches the intense and divided political universe of the period, as well as the colorful characters who inhabited it: the enigmatic and tragic Ulysses S. Grant; the flawed visionary James G. Blaine, at once the Plumed Knight and the Tattooed Man of American politics; Samuel J. Slick Sammy Tilden; the self-absorbed, self-righteous, and ultimately self-destructive Grover Cleveland; William Jennings Bryan, boy orator and godly tribune; and the genial but crafty William McKinley, who forged a national majority and launched the nation onto the world stage. *From Bloody Shirt to Full Dinner-Pail* also considers how the changes at the close of the nineteenth century opened the way for the transformations of the Progressive Era and the twentieth century.

politics in the gilded age: The Presidents and the Constitution, Volume One Ken Gormley, 2020-03-24 Shines a light on the constitutional issues that confronted and shaped each presidency from George Washington to the Progressive Era Drawing from the monumental *The Presidents and the Constitution: A Living History*, published in 2016, the nation's foremost experts in the American presidency and the US Constitution join together to tell the intertwined stories of how the first twenty-seven distinctive American presidents have confronted and shaped the Constitution and thus defined the most powerful office in human history. From George Washington to William Howard Taft, *The Presidents and the Constitution, Volume 1* illuminates the evolving American presidency in a unique way—through the lens of the Constitution itself. Arranged chronologically by president, the book examines the constitutional issues confronting each president in the context of the personalities driving historical events. The contributors illustrate the extensive powers of the

American presidency in domestic and foreign affairs, showing how they have been used by the men who were granted them, and brings to light the overarching constitutional themes that span this country's history and tie each presidency to the other branches of government.

Related to politics in the gilded age

Politics | CNN Politics Politics at CNN has news, opinion and analysis of American and global politics Find news and video about elections, the White House, the U.N and much more

Today in politics: Latest updates - CNN Today in politics By Meg Wagner, CNN Updated 12:40 PM EDT, Tue March 20, 2018 Paul Ryan on Porter: Vetting system needs fix

Breaking News, Latest News and Videos | CNN View the latest news and breaking news today for U.S., world, weather, entertainment, politics and health at CNN.com

Supreme Court news, cases, rulings and analysis | CNN Politics Trump asks Supreme Court to let him deport 300,000 Venezuelans Trump administration asks Supreme Court to let it limit passport sex marker choice for trans and nonbinary Americans

Republicans are (quietly) making 2028 moves | CNN Politics It seems too early, but it's not. Just as Democrats are plotting how to win the next presidential election, Republican candidates are too

Fact Check | CNN Politics CNN holds elected officials and candidates accountable by pointing out what's true and what's not. Here's a look at our recent fact checks

Trump canceling elections? Democrats increasingly sound alarm But at one point, Trump took a provocative diversion into domestic politics. Zelensky noted that, in his country, the law doesn't allow for elections during periods of martial

Tracking Trump's overhaul of the federal workforce | CNN Politics CNN is tracking the evolving firings and layoffs at federal offices in Washington and across the United States

What does an independent mean in politics? - CNN Nearly 40% say they are optimistic about politics, higher than all but the most GOP-aligned group of independents, and nearly half say the US political system needs only

Congress News | CNN Politics Follow CNN Politics US Crime + Justice World Africa Americas Asia Australia China Europe India Middle East

Politics | CNN Politics Politics at CNN has news, opinion and analysis of American and global politics Find news and video about elections, the White House, the U.N and much more

Today in politics: Latest updates - CNN Today in politics By Meg Wagner, CNN Updated 12:40 PM EDT, Tue March 20, 2018 Paul Ryan on Porter: Vetting system needs fix

Breaking News, Latest News and Videos | CNN View the latest news and breaking news today for U.S., world, weather, entertainment, politics and health at CNN.com

Supreme Court news, cases, rulings and analysis | CNN Politics Trump asks Supreme Court to let him deport 300,000 Venezuelans Trump administration asks Supreme Court to let it limit passport sex marker choice for trans and nonbinary Americans

Republicans are (quietly) making 2028 moves | CNN Politics It seems too early, but it's not. Just as Democrats are plotting how to win the next presidential election, Republican candidates are too

Fact Check | CNN Politics CNN holds elected officials and candidates accountable by pointing out what's true and what's not. Here's a look at our recent fact checks

Trump canceling elections? Democrats increasingly sound alarm But at one point, Trump took a provocative diversion into domestic politics. Zelensky noted that, in his country, the law doesn't allow for elections during periods of martial

Tracking Trump's overhaul of the federal workforce | CNN Politics CNN is tracking the evolving firings and layoffs at federal offices in Washington and across the United States

What does an independent mean in politics? - CNN Nearly 40% say they are optimistic about politics, higher than all but the most GOP-aligned group of independents, and nearly half say the US

political system needs only

Congress News | CNN Politics Follow CNN Politics US Crime + Justice World Africa Americas
Asia Australia China Europe India Middle East

Related Articles

- [5 voices assessment free](#)
- [amazon driver training day 3](#)
- [health economics jay bhattacharya](#)

[Back to Home](#)