

william jennings bryan definition us history

william jennings bryan definition us history refers to a pivotal figure in American history whose influence shaped political, social, and economic discourse from the late 19th to the early 20th century. Known as the “Great Commoner,” Bryan was a leading voice in the Democratic Party, famously championing populist reforms, religious values, and anti-imperialist stances. This comprehensive article will explore Bryan’s biography, his defining moments such as the Cross of Gold speech, his role in presidential elections, and his lasting impact on U.S. history. Readers will gain insight into Bryan’s significance, political ideology, and legacy, as well as his involvement in major events like the Scopes Trial and the evolution of Progressive Era politics. Whether you’re a student, educator, or history enthusiast, this resource provides an authoritative overview of William Jennings Bryan’s definition in U.S. history, supported by factual analysis and essential context. Continue reading to discover the multifaceted legacy of one of America’s most influential historical figures.

- William Jennings Bryan: Biography and Early Life
- The Rise of Bryan in U.S. Political History
- The Cross of Gold Speech and Economic Reform
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- The Scopes Trial and Bryan’s Religious Advocacy
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William Jennings Bryan: Biography and Early Life

William Jennings Bryan was born on March 19, 1860, in Salem, Illinois. His upbringing in a religious and politically active family fostered his interest in public affairs and moral values. Bryan attended Illinois College, graduating with honors, and later studied law at Union Law College in Chicago. By the late 1880s, Bryan had established himself as a successful lawyer in Lincoln, Nebraska, known for his eloquent public speaking and persuasive advocacy. His early career was marked by a deep commitment to agrarian and populist causes, reflecting the struggles of farmers and working-class citizens in post-Reconstruction America.

Bryan’s formative years laid the foundation for his future leadership in the Democratic Party. His passion for reform, Christian principles, and equal rights distinguished him from many contemporaries. As he entered the political arena, Bryan’s oratory skills and grassroots appeal quickly earned him national recognition.

The Rise of Bryan in U.S. Political History

Emergence as the “Great Commoner”

Bryan’s advocacy for ordinary Americans earned him the nickname “Great Commoner.” He was a staunch opponent of elitism and corporate monopolies, arguing for policies that benefited farmers, laborers, and small business owners. Bryan’s leadership in the Democratic Party was characterized by his commitment to popular democracy and his criticism of unchecked capitalism.

Political Philosophy and Populist Roots

Bryan’s definition in U.S. history is inseparable from the rise of populism during the late 19th century. He favored bimetallism, social justice initiatives, and government intervention to address economic disparities. His policy proposals resonated with millions of Americans struggling with economic hardship and political disenfranchisement.

- Advocated free silver to expand the money supply
- Promoted antitrust laws to curb corporate power
- Supported women’s suffrage and progressive labor reforms
- Opposed imperialist foreign policy and militarism

The Cross of Gold Speech and Economic Reform

Significance of the 1896 Democratic National Convention

Bryan’s “Cross of Gold” speech, delivered at the 1896 Democratic National Convention, was a defining moment in U.S. political history. In this passionate address, Bryan criticized the gold standard and championed the cause of bimetallism, arguing that monetary policy should serve the interests of everyday Americans. His speech electrified the convention and secured his nomination for president at just 36 years old.

Impact on Economic Policy and Public Opinion

The Cross of Gold speech cemented Bryan’s status as a national leader of reform. He articulated the economic struggles of rural communities and urban workers, calling for a more equitable financial system. Bryan’s advocacy for inflationary policies and the free coinage of silver influenced subsequent debates about banking, currency, and economic justice.

Presidential Campaigns and Democratic Leadership

Three-Time Presidential Nominee

William Jennings Bryan ran for president three times—in 1896, 1900, and 1908—as the Democratic Party's nominee. Despite never winning the presidency, Bryan's campaigns reshaped American political discourse and mobilized millions of voters. His platforms emphasized progressive reforms, anti-trust measures, and expanded political participation.

Role as Secretary of State

Bryan served as Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson from 1913 to 1915. During his tenure, he promoted diplomatic solutions over military intervention and sought to reduce the likelihood of war through treaties and negotiations. Bryan's pacifist principles led to his resignation when the United States entered World War I, highlighting his commitment to nonviolence and moral governance.

1. 1896 Campaign: Focused on free silver and economic justice
2. 1900 Campaign: Emphasized anti-imperialism and labor rights
3. 1908 Campaign: Advocated progressive reforms and regulation

Bryan's Role in the Progressive Era

Advocacy for Social and Political Reform

Bryan's definition in U.S. history includes his substantial contributions to the Progressive Era. He championed causes such as women's suffrage, income tax reform, and direct election of senators. Bryan's efforts helped shape the Democratic Party's progressive platform and inspired future generations of reformers.

Influence on the Democratic Party

Bryan's leadership transformed the Democratic Party from a conservative, pro-business organization into a more populist and reform-oriented party. His emphasis on social justice, economic equality, and government accountability became central tenets of Democratic ideology in the 20th century.

The Scopes Trial and Bryan's Religious Advocacy

Context of the Scopes "Monkey" Trial

In 1925, Bryan participated in the famous Scopes Trial in Dayton, Tennessee, which debated the legality of teaching evolution in public schools. Bryan represented the prosecution, arguing for the primacy of Biblical creationism over Darwinian evolution. The trial became a national spectacle, symbolizing the tension between science and religion in American society.

Legacy in Religious and Educational Debates

Bryan's involvement in the Scopes Trial highlighted his deep religious convictions and his belief in the moral foundation of law. While he faced criticism from secularists and scientists, Bryan's advocacy influenced debates about faith, education, and American identity for decades. His role in the trial remains a defining aspect of his historical legacy.

Legacy and Lasting Influence in U.S. History

Enduring Impact on Politics and Culture

William Jennings Bryan's definition in U.S. history extends beyond his political campaigns and public speeches. He shaped the national conversation on economic fairness, social justice, and the role of religion in public life. Bryan's ideas inspired later movements for civil rights, democratic participation, and progressive reform.

Recognition and Historical Assessment

Bryan is remembered as a powerful orator, principled leader, and tireless advocate for the common good. His legacy is reflected in policy changes, constitutional amendments, and the enduring values of American democracy. Historians continue to debate his influence, but Bryan's significance in U.S. history is undeniable.

Frequently Asked Questions about William Jennings Bryan

Q: What is the definition of William Jennings Bryan in U.S. history?

A: William Jennings Bryan is defined as a leading American politician, orator, and reform advocate

who shaped the Democratic Party and national policy through his populist ideas, progressive reforms, and influential speeches.

Q: Why is William Jennings Bryan called the “Great Commoner”?

A: Bryan earned the nickname “Great Commoner” for his steadfast advocacy on behalf of ordinary Americans, especially farmers and workers, and his opposition to elite interests and monopolies.

Q: What was the significance of Bryan’s Cross of Gold speech?

A: The Cross of Gold speech was pivotal in U.S. history because it challenged the gold standard and promoted bimetallism, mobilizing support for economic reform and helping Bryan secure the Democratic presidential nomination in 1896.

Q: How did Bryan influence the Progressive Era?

A: Bryan’s leadership and reformist agenda contributed significantly to the Progressive Era by promoting social justice, women’s suffrage, income tax reform, and more democratic political structures.

Q: What was Bryan’s role in the Scopes Trial?

A: Bryan served as chief prosecutor in the Scopes Trial, advocating for the teaching of creationism instead of evolution in public schools, which symbolized broader debates over science, religion, and education.

Q: Did William Jennings Bryan ever become president?

A: No, Bryan ran for president three times but was never elected. Despite this, his influence on American politics and policy was substantial.

Q: What was Bryan’s position on foreign policy?

A: As Secretary of State, Bryan favored diplomacy and peace over military intervention, resigning from his position when the U.S. entered World War I.

Q: How did Bryan impact the Democratic Party?

A: Bryan transformed the Democratic Party by infusing it with populist and progressive values, promoting reforms that became central to its identity in the 20th century.

Q: Why is Bryan's legacy important today?

A: Bryan's legacy endures in debates about economic justice, democratic participation, and the intersection of religion and public life, making him a key figure in the history of American reform movements.

Q: What are some key achievements of William Jennings Bryan?

A: Bryan's achievements include three presidential campaigns, the Cross of Gold speech, advocacy for progressive reforms, service as Secretary of State, and significant involvement in landmark events such as the Scopes Trial.

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William Jennings Bryan: Definition & Impact on US History

Introduction:

William Jennings Bryan. The name conjures images of impassioned speeches, populist fervor, and a pivotal moment in American history. But who exactly was William Jennings Bryan, and what was his lasting impact on the United States? This comprehensive guide delves into the definition of William Jennings Bryan within the context of US history, exploring his life, beliefs, and enduring legacy. We'll examine his role in the Populist movement, his famous "Cross of Gold" speech, and his lasting influence on American politics and culture. Prepare to uncover the complex and fascinating story of one of America's most influential, yet controversial, figures.

H2: William Jennings Bryan: A Brief Biographical Overview

Born in Salem, Illinois, in 1860, William Jennings Bryan's life was defined by his deep-seated faith and his unwavering commitment to populist ideals. A gifted orator, he rose through the ranks of the Democratic Party, quickly becoming a prominent voice for the common man. His legal background, combined with his exceptional speaking abilities, made him a powerful force in shaping the political landscape of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His upbringing in a relatively modest environment fueled his empathy for the working class and farmers, shaping his political philosophy

significantly. He attended Illinois College and later graduated from the Union College of Law.

H2: The Rise of the Populist Movement and Bryan's Central Role

The late 19th century saw the rise of the Populist movement, a powerful coalition of farmers, laborers, and reformers who sought to challenge the dominance of big business and the established political order. Bryan emerged as a leading figure in this movement, championing policies aimed at protecting the interests of ordinary Americans. This included advocating for free silver, which he believed would alleviate the economic hardships faced by farmers and workers burdened by debt. His advocacy for this policy directly challenged the gold standard, a cornerstone of the established financial system.

H3: The "Cross of Gold" Speech: A Defining Moment

Bryan's most famous moment came at the 1896 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. His electrifying "Cross of Gold" speech, a passionate plea for bimetallism (using both gold and silver as currency), captivated the audience and secured him the party's nomination for president. The speech's powerful imagery and emotional appeal resonated deeply with the public, transforming Bryan into a national figure practically overnight. This masterful display of rhetoric solidified his position as a champion of the common people against the perceived tyranny of powerful financial interests.

H2: Bryan's Presidential Campaigns and Their Impact

William Jennings Bryan ran for president three times (1896, 1900, and 1908), each campaign reflecting the ongoing struggle between agrarian interests and industrial capitalism. While he ultimately lost all three elections, his campaigns significantly impacted the political discourse and broadened the scope of progressive ideals. His strong showing in 1896 demonstrated the power of populist sentiment and forced the establishment to address the concerns of farmers and workers.

H3: Beyond Presidential Politics: Bryan's Later Years and Legacy

Beyond his presidential bids, Bryan remained a powerful figure in American politics and society. He served as Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson, although his tenure was marked by controversy, particularly his opposition to American intervention in World War I. His later years were devoted to promoting his personal beliefs, including prohibition and fundamentalist Christianity. His involvement in the Scopes Trial, defending the prosecution against the teaching of evolution, further solidified his image as a staunch defender of traditional values.

H2: William Jennings Bryan's Lasting Influence on US History

William Jennings Bryan's impact on US history is undeniable. His advocacy for populist causes helped shape the progressive era and forced a national conversation about economic inequality and the role of government. His speeches and writings continue to inspire debate and analysis, and his legacy as a powerful orator remains largely unchallenged. He fundamentally altered the landscape of American political rhetoric, proving the effectiveness of emotional appeals and direct engagement with the common people. His influence can be seen in subsequent progressive movements and the ongoing struggle for economic justice.

Conclusion:

William Jennings Bryan was far more than just a three-time presidential candidate. He was a transformative figure who embodied the spirit of populism and left an indelible mark on American history. His legacy continues to spark discussions about economic justice, social reform, and the power of rhetoric to shape public opinion. Understanding his life and career is crucial to comprehending the complexities of American political and social evolution.

FAQs:

1. What was William Jennings Bryan's stance on the gold standard? Bryan vehemently opposed the gold standard, advocating for bimetallism (using both gold and silver as currency) to expand the money supply and alleviate the economic hardships faced by farmers and working-class individuals.
2. How did the "Cross of Gold" speech impact his political career? The speech catapulted Bryan to national prominence, securing him the Democratic presidential nomination and making him a leading figure in the Populist movement.
3. What was Bryan's role in the Scopes Trial? Bryan served as a key expert witness for the prosecution in the Scopes Trial, defending the Tennessee law that prohibited the teaching of evolution in public schools.
4. What were Bryan's main political beliefs? Bryan was a staunch advocate for populist policies, including free silver, government regulation of railroads, and income tax reform. He also held strong religious convictions and was a prominent figure in the fundamentalist Christian movement.
5. How did Bryan's beliefs reflect the social and economic conditions of his time? Bryan's beliefs were a direct response to the economic hardship and social inequality experienced by many Americans during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His advocacy for the common person mirrored the anxieties and concerns of farmers and workers facing challenging economic times.

william jennings bryan definition us history: A Godly Hero Michael Kazin, 2007-03-13 ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: THE WASHINGTON POST, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, LOS ANGELES TIMES, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH. Politician, evangelist, and reformer William Jennings Bryan was the most popular public speaker of his time. In this acclaimed biography—the first major reconsideration of Bryan's life in forty years—award-winning historian Michael Kazin illuminates his astonishing career and the richly diverse and volatile landscape of religion and politics in which he rose to fame. Kazin vividly re-creates Bryan's tremendous appeal, showing how he won a passionate following among both rural and urban Americans, who saw in him not only the practical vision of a reform politician but also the righteousness of a pastor. Bryan did more than anyone to transform the Democratic Party from a bulwark of laissez-faire to the citadel of liberalism we identify with Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1896, 1900, and 1908, Bryan was nominated for president, and though he fell short each time, his legacy—a subject of great debate after his death—remains monumental. This nuanced and brilliantly crafted portrait restores Bryan to an esteemed place in American history.

william jennings bryan definition us history: A Righteous Cause Robert W. Cherny, 1985 Three times the Democratic Party's nominee for president (1896, 1900, and 1908) and secretary of state under Woodrow Wilson, William Jennings Bryan voiced the concerns of many Americans left out of the post-Civil War economic growth. In *A Righteous Cause: The Life of Williams Jennings Bryan*, Robert W. Cherny presents Bryan's key role in the Democratic Party's transformation from the conservatism of Grover Cleveland to the progressivism of Woodrow Wilson. Cherny draws on

Bryan's writings and correspondence to trace his major political crusades for a new currency policy, prohibition, and women's suffrage, and against colonialism, monopolies, America's entry into World War I, and the teaching of evolution in the public schools. -- goodreads.com

william jennings bryan definition us history: *The Gilded Age* Mark Twain, Charles Dudley Warner, 1904

william jennings bryan definition us history: *These Truths: A History of the United States* Jill Lepore, 2018-09-18 "Nothing short of a masterpiece." —NPR Books A New York Times Bestseller and a Washington Post Notable Book of the Year In the most ambitious one-volume American history in decades, award-winning historian Jill Lepore offers a magisterial account of the origins and rise of a divided nation. Widely hailed for its "sweeping, sobering account of the American past" (New York Times Book Review), Jill Lepore's one-volume history of America places truth itself—a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence—at the center of the nation's history. The American experiment rests on three ideas—"these truths," Jefferson called them—political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. But has the nation, and democracy itself, delivered on that promise? *These Truths* tells this uniquely American story, beginning in 1492, asking whether the course of events over more than five centuries has proven the nation's truths, or belied them. To answer that question, Lepore wrestles with the state of American politics, the legacy of slavery, the persistence of inequality, and the nature of technological change. "A nation born in contradiction... will fight, forever, over the meaning of its history," Lepore writes, but engaging in that struggle by studying the past is part of the work of citizenship. With *These Truths*, Lepore has produced a book that will shape our view of American history for decades to come.

william jennings bryan definition us history: *The Old World and Its Ways* William Jennings Bryan, 1907

william jennings bryan definition us history: *Guide to U.S. Elections* Deborah Kalb, 2015-12-24 The CQ Press *Guide to U.S. Elections* is a comprehensive, two-volume reference providing information on the U.S. electoral process, in-depth analysis on specific political eras and issues, and everything in between. Thoroughly revised and infused with new data, analysis, and discussion of issues relating to elections through 2014, the *Guide* will include chapters on: Analysis of the campaigns for presidency, from the primaries through the general election Data on the candidates, winners/losers, and election returns Details on congressional and gubernatorial contests supplemented with vast historical data. Key Features include: Tables, boxes and figures interspersed throughout each chapter Data on campaigns, election methods, and results Complete lists of House and Senate leaders Links to election-related websites A guide to party abbreviations

william jennings bryan definition us history: *Summer for the Gods* Edward J Larson, 2020-06-16 The Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the Scopes Trial and the battle over evolution and creation in America's schools In the summer of 1925, the sleepy hamlet of Dayton, Tennessee, became the setting for one of the twentieth century's most contentious courtroom dramas, pitting William Jennings Bryan and the anti-Darwinists against a teacher named John Scopes, represented by Clarence Darrow and the ACLU, in a famous debate over science, religion, and their place in public education. That trial marked the start of a battle that continues to this day—in cities and states throughout the country. Edward Larson's classic *Summer for the Gods* -- winner of the Pulitzer Prize in History -- is the single most authoritative account of this pivotal event. An afterword assesses the state of the battle between creationism and evolution, and points the way to how it might potentially be resolved.

william jennings bryan definition us history: *Money Mischief* Milton Friedman, 1994-03-31 The Nobel Prize-winning economist explains how value is created, and how that affects everything from your paycheck to global markets. In this "lively, enlightening introduction to monetary history" (Kirkus Reviews), one of the leading figures of the Chicago school of economics that rejected the theories of John Maynard Keynes offers a journey through history to illustrate the importance of understanding monetary economics, and how monetary theory can ignite or deepen inflation. With anecdotes revealing the far-reaching consequences of seemingly minor events—for example, how

two obscure Scottish chemists destroyed the presidential prospects of William Jennings Bryan, and how FDR's domestic politics helped communism triumph in China—as well as plain-English explanations of what the monetary system in the United States means for your personal finances and for everyone from the small business owner on Main Street to the banker on Wall Street, *Money Mischief* is an enlightening read from the author of *Capitalism and Freedom* and *Free to Choose*, who was called “the most influential economist of the second half of the twentieth century” by the *Economist*.

william jennings bryan definition us history: Congressional Record United States. Congress, 1968

william jennings bryan definition us history: Life Story of Rasmus B. Anderson Rasmus Björn Anderson, 1915 Rasmus Anderson (1846-1936), the American author, scholar, editor, businessman and diplomat, intertwines his life story with the cultural and institutional history of the Norwegian-American community as a whole. There are eyewitness accounts of tension within American factions and branches of the Lutheran church over such issues as slavery and public education as well as anecdotes about Ole Bull, Knut Hamsun, Björnstjerne Björnson, Robert La Follette, James G. Blaine and various European monarchs and heads of state. Anderson began his life on a farm in Albion, Dane County, Wisconsin. After many efforts to finance and obtain the kind of education he wanted, he pioneered the study and teaching of Scandinavian languages at the University of Wisconsin (1869-1883). Between 1885 and 1889, he served as U.S. minister to Denmark. He eventually prospered as president of the Wisconsin Life Insurance Co., from 1895-1922. In 1874, Anderson attracted widespread attention with his *America Not Discovered By Columbus*. He is remembered for his studies, translations, and retellings of Norse mythology. The more active and public aspects of his life are emphasized in this work.

william jennings bryan definition us history: Coin's Financial School William Hope Harvey, 1894

william jennings bryan definition us history: *The Populist Persuasion* Michael Kazin, 1998-10-29 Traces the history of populism in the United States from the time of Thomas Jefferson to the era of Bill Clinton.

william jennings bryan definition us history: *Almost President* Scott Farris, 2013-05-07 Veteran political journalist Scott Farris tells the stories of legendary presidential also-rans, from Henry Clay to Stephen Douglas, from William Jennings Bryan to Thomas Dewey, and from Adlai Stevenson to Al Gore. He also includes concise profiles of every major candidate nominated for president who never reached the White House but who helped promote the success of American democracy. Farris explains how Barry Goldwater achieved the party realignment that had eluded FDR, how George McGovern paved the way for Barack Obama, and how Ross Perot changed the way all presidential candidates campaign. There is Al Smith, the first Catholic nominee for president; and Adlai Stevenson, the candidate of the eggheads who remains the beau ideal of a liberal statesman. And Farris explores the potential legacies of recent runners-up John Kerry and John McCain. The book also includes compact and evocative portraits of such men as John C. Fremont, the first Republican Party presidential candidate; and General Winfield Scott, whose loss helped guarantee the Union victory in the Civil War. This new edition of *Almost President* brings the work up-to-date with a section that explores the results and ramifications of the 2012 presidential election.

william jennings bryan definition us history: *The American Yawp* Joseph L. Locke, Ben Wright, 2019-01-22 I too am not a bit tamed—I too am untranslatable / I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world.—Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*, *Leaves of Grass* *The American Yawp* is a free, online, collaboratively built American history textbook. Over 300 historians joined together to create the book they wanted for their own students—an accessible, synthetic narrative that reflects the best of recent historical scholarship and provides a jumping-off point for discussions in the U.S. history classroom and beyond. Long before Whitman and long after, Americans have sung something collectively amid the deafening roar of their many individual voices. The *Yawp* highlights the dynamism and conflict inherent in the history of the United States, while also looking for the

common threads that help us make sense of the past. Without losing sight of politics and power, *The American Yawp* incorporates transnational perspectives, integrates diverse voices, recovers narratives of resistance, and explores the complex process of cultural creation. It looks for America in crowded slave cabins, bustling markets, congested tenements, and marbled halls. It navigates between maternity wards, prisons, streets, bars, and boardrooms. The fully peer-reviewed edition of *The American Yawp* will be available in two print volumes designed for the U.S. history survey. Volume I begins with the indigenous people who called the Americas home before chronicling the collision of Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans. *The American Yawp* traces the development of colonial society in the context of the larger Atlantic World and investigates the origins and ruptures of slavery, the American Revolution, and the new nation's development and rebirth through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Rather than asserting a fixed narrative of American progress, *The American Yawp* gives students a starting point for asking their own questions about how the past informs the problems and opportunities that we confront today.

william jennings bryan definition us history: The Paranoid Style in American Politics

Richard Hofstadter, 2008-06-10 This timely reissue of Richard Hofstadter's classic work on the fringe groups that influence American electoral politics offers an invaluable perspective on contemporary domestic affairs. In *The Paranoid Style in American Politics*, acclaimed historian Richard Hofstadter examines the competing forces in American political discourse and how fringe groups can influence — and derail — the larger agendas of a political party. He investigates the politics of the irrational, shedding light on how the behavior of individuals can seem out of proportion with actual political issues, and how such behavior impacts larger groups. With such other classic essays as “Free Silver and the Mind of ‘Coin’ Harvey” and “What Happened to the Antitrust Movement?”, *The Paranoid Style in American Politics* remains both a seminal text of political history and a vital analysis of the ways in which political groups function in the United States.

william jennings bryan definition us history: Toward Combined Arms Warfare Jonathan Mallory House, 1985

william jennings bryan definition us history: A Civic Biology, Presented in Problems George

W. Hunter, 2022-11-21 *A Civic Biology, Presented in Problems* is a reprint of an early 20th-century biology text reflecting the main assumptions of the eugenics movement, which was on the rise at the time of publishing. The book is famous for starting the Scopes trial, commonly referred to as the Scopes Monkey Trial, an American legal case in which a high school teacher, John T. Scopes, was accused of teaching human evolution. The teacher was called to court for reading his students certain passages from *Civic Biology*.

william jennings bryan definition us history: The Prince of Peace William Jennings Bryan, 1914

william jennings bryan definition us history: Fray Julia Bryan-Wilson, 2021-02 In 1974, women in a feminist consciousness-raising group in Eugene, Oregon, formed a mock organization called the Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society. Emblazoning its logo onto t-shirts, the group wryly envisioned female collective textile making as a practice that could upend conventions, threaten state structures, and wreak political havoc. Elaborating on this example as a prehistory to the more recent phenomenon of “craftivism”—the politics and social practices associated with handmaking—Fray explores textiles and their role at the forefront of debates about process, materiality, gender, and race in times of economic upheaval. Closely examining how amateurs and fine artists in the United States and Chile turned to sewing, braiding, knotting, and quilting amid the rise of global manufacturing, Julia Bryan-Wilson argues that textiles unravel the high/low divide and urges us to think flexibly about what the politics of textiles might be. Her case studies from the 1970s through the 1990s—including the improvised costumes of the theater troupe the Cockettes, the braided rag rugs of US artist Harmony Hammond, the thread-based sculptures of Chilean artist Cecilia Vicuña, the small hand-sewn tapestries depicting Pinochet’s torture, and the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt—are often taken as evidence of the inherently progressive nature of

handcrafted textiles. Fray, however, shows that such methods are recruited to often ambivalent ends, leaving textiles very much “in the fray” of debates about feminized labor, protest cultures, and queer identities; the malleability of cloth and fiber means that textiles can be activated, or stretched, in many ideological directions. The first contemporary art history book to discuss both fine art and amateur registers of handmaking at such an expansive scale, Fray unveils crucial insights into how textiles inhabit the broad space between artistic and political poles—high and low, untrained and highly skilled, conformist and disobedient, craft and art.

william jennings bryan definition us history: **William Jennings Bryan** Harvey Ellsworth Newbranch, 1900

william jennings bryan definition us history: The Menace of Darwinism William Jennings Bryan, 1922

william jennings bryan definition us history: Oklahoma Populism Worth Robert Miller, 1987
This is the first full-length study of the People's party in Oklahoma, closely examines the origins, character, accomplishments, and demise of the party that, even more than the Socialist party, constituted a major electoral force in Oklahoma's early history. The author's extensive research provide the basis for lively and detailed accounts of territorial politics and local debates on major national issues of the day. He traces the origins of the Oklahoma People's party to the south-Kansas egalitarian movements of the 1880s and substantiates the Populist's claim that their movement transcended sectionalism (always an important factor in Oklahoma) and posed a major threat to mainstream-party control of the territorial government. -- from Book Jacket

william jennings bryan definition us history: The Condemnation of Blackness Khalil Gibran Muhammad, 2019-07-22 Winner of the John Hope Franklin Prize A Moyers & Company Best Book of the Year “A brilliant work that tells us how directly the past has formed us.” —Darryl Pinckney, New York Review of Books How did we come to think of race as synonymous with crime? A brilliant and deeply disturbing biography of the idea of black criminality in the making of modern urban America, *The Condemnation of Blackness* reveals the influence this pernicious myth, rooted in crime statistics, has had on our society and our sense of self. Black crime statistics have shaped debates about everything from public education to policing to presidential elections, fueling racism and justifying inequality. How was this statistical link between blackness and criminality initially forged? Why was the same link not made for whites? In the age of Black Lives Matter and Donald Trump, under the shadow of Ferguson and Baltimore, no questions could be more urgent. “The role of social-science research in creating the myth of black criminality is the focus of this seminal work...[It] shows how progressive reformers, academics, and policy-makers subscribed to a ‘statistical discourse’ about black crime...one that shifted blame onto black people for their disproportionate incarceration and continues to sustain gross racial disparities in American law enforcement and criminal justice.” —Elizabeth Hinton, *The Nation* “Muhammad identifies two different responses to crime among African-Americans in the post-Civil War years, both of which are still with us: in the South, there was vigilantism; in the North, there was an increased police presence. This was not the case when it came to white European-immigrant groups that were also being demonized for supposedly containing large criminal elements.” —New Yorker

william jennings bryan definition us history: **Speeches of William Jennings Bryan** William Jennings Bryan, 1909

william jennings bryan definition us history: **Progressive Democracy** Herbert David Croly, 1914

william jennings bryan definition us history: **The American Senate** Lindsay Rogers, 1926

william jennings bryan definition us history: **A People's History of the United States** Howard Zinn, 2003-02-04 Since its original landmark publication in 1980, *A People's History of the United States* has been chronicling American history from the bottom up, throwing out the official version of history taught in schools -- with its emphasis on great men in high places -- to focus on the street, the home, and the workplace. Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research, *A People's History* is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of -- and

in the words of -- America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, the working poor, and immigrant laborers. As historian Howard Zinn shows, many of our country's greatest battles -- the fights for a fair wage, an eight-hour workday, child-labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights, racial equality -- were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance. Covering Christopher Columbus's arrival through President Clinton's first term, *A People's History of the United States*, which was nominated for the American Book Award in 1981, features insightful analysis of the most important events in our history. Revised, updated, and featuring a new afterword by the author, this special twentieth anniversary edition continues Zinn's important contribution to a complete and balanced understanding of American history.

william jennings bryan definition us history: *How Our Laws are Made* John V. Sullivan, 2007

william jennings bryan definition us history: *Congressional Government* Woodrow Wilson, 1901

william jennings bryan definition us history: *The American Yawp* Joseph L. Locke, Ben Wright, 2019-01-22 I too am not a bit tamed—I too am untranslatable / I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world.—Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*, *Leaves of Grass* *The American Yawp* is a free, online, collaboratively built American history textbook. Over 300 historians joined together to create the book they wanted for their own students—an accessible, synthetic narrative that reflects the best of recent historical scholarship and provides a jumping-off point for discussions in the U.S. history classroom and beyond. Long before Whitman and long after, Americans have sung something collectively amid the deafening roar of their many individual voices. The Yawp highlights the dynamism and conflict inherent in the history of the United States, while also looking for the common threads that help us make sense of the past. Without losing sight of politics and power, *The American Yawp* incorporates transnational perspectives, integrates diverse voices, recovers narratives of resistance, and explores the complex process of cultural creation. It looks for America in crowded slave cabins, bustling markets, congested tenements, and marbled halls. It navigates between maternity wards, prisons, streets, bars, and boardrooms. The fully peer-reviewed edition of *The American Yawp* will be available in two print volumes designed for the U.S. history survey. Volume II opens in the Gilded Age, before moving through the twentieth century as the country reckoned with economic crises, world wars, and social, cultural, and political upheaval at home. Bringing the narrative up to the present, *The American Yawp* enables students to ask their own questions about how the past informs the problems and opportunities we confront today.

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william jennings bryan definition us history: *Maverick Republican in the Old North State* Jeffrey J. Crow, Robert F. Durden, 1999-03-01 Daniel Russell is a good example of what Carl Degler has termed “the other South.” The son of an aristocratic eastern North Carolina family of staunch Whig-Unionists, he entered politics when the Republican party first appeared in the state after the Civil War. For more than forty years thereafter he fought the solid South mentality of the Bourbon Democrats, first as a Radical Republican judge, then as a Greenbacker congressman, and finally as a Republican governor with Populist sympathies—the only chief executive of his party that North Carolina had between Reconstruction and the 1970s. The basic themes of Russell’s political life were racial and economic in nature. As a judge on the state superior court he ruled in the Wilmington opera house case of 1873 that blacks could not be denied accommodations on the account of their race. As a congressman he embraced the cause of currency reform and the regulation of corporate enterprise. Elected governor in 1896 by an uneasy coalition of Populists and Republicans—an alliance that Crow and Durden fully examine—he pushed reforms designed to bring nonresident corporations under stricter state supervision and challenged the ninety-nine-year lease of the state-owned North Carolina Railroad to J.P. Morgan’s Southern Railway Company. The Democrats’ triumphant white-supremacy campaigns of 1898 and 1900 and the resulting disfranchisement of black voters, however, crushed these progressive initiatives, and afterward the

complex and sometimes irascible Russell kept a low profile until his term ended in 1901. His final years were taken up by a famous interstate lawsuit that he initiated to force North Carolina to pay certain Reconstruction debts it had repudiated. The reasons for Russell's political failure while southern Progressives of the period generally succeeded shed much new light on the reform movement in the South between 1890 and 1910. Although the reforms that he took up were no more radical than those called for by his contemporaries, Crow and Durden find in this first full account of his career that "in the last analysis, Russell's unique blend of Old South paternalism toward blacks with New South radicalism concerning currency and railway reform challenged too many taboos of race, class, and party."

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bloodlines: Disney, Reynolds, McDonald, and Krupps.

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william jennings bryan definition us history: The Law of Judicial Precedent Bryan A. Garner, Carlos Tiburcio Bea, Rebecca White Berch, Neil McGill Gorsuch, Harris L Hartz, Nathan L. Hecht, Brett Kavanaugh, Alex Kozinski, Sandra Lea Lynch, William H. Pryor (Jr.), Thomas Morrow Reavley, Jeffrey Stuart Sutton, Diane P. Wood, 2016 The Law of Judicial Precedent is the first hornbook-style treatise on the doctrine of precedent in more than a century. It is the product of 13 distinguished coauthors, 12 of whom are appellate judges whose professional work requires them to deal with precedents daily. Together with their editor and coauthor, Bryan A. Garner, the judges have thoroughly researched and explored the many intricacies of the doctrine as it guides the work of American lawyers and judges. The treatise is organized into nine major topics, comprising 93 blackletter sections that elucidate all the major doctrines relating to how past decisions guide future ones in our common-law system. The authors' goal was to make the book theoretically sound, historically illuminating, and relentlessly practical. The breadth and depth of research involved in producing the book will be immediately apparent to anyone who browses its pages and glances over the footnotes: it would have been all but impossible for any single author to canvass the literature so comprehensively and then distill the concepts so cohesively into a single authoritative volume. More than 2,500 illustrative cases discussed or cited in the text illuminate the points covered in each section and demonstrate the law's development over several centuries. The cases are explained in a clear, commonsense way, making the book accessible to anyone seeking to understand the role of precedents in American law. Never before have so many eminent coauthors produced a single lawbook without signed sections, but instead writing with a single voice. Whether you are a judge, a lawyer, a law student, or even a nonlawyer curious about how our legal system works, you're sure to find enlightening, helpful, and sometimes surprising insights into our system of justice.

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