

gilded age politics crash course us history #26

gilded age politics crash course us history #26 explores the fascinating political landscape of the late nineteenth-century United States. This era, commonly referred to as the Gilded Age, was marked by rapid industrialization, urbanization, and significant shifts in political power. The article delves into the defining features of Gilded Age politics, including the role of political machines, the prevalence of corruption, and the dominance of party politics. It also examines key issues such as civil service reform, economic growth, and the challenges faced by ordinary Americans. By unpacking the main events and figures highlighted in Crash Course US History #26, this article provides a comprehensive overview of how politics during the Gilded Age shaped the nation's trajectory. Whether you are a student, history enthusiast, or someone seeking to understand American political development, this deep dive will clarify the complexities and legacies of Gilded Age politics. Continue reading for a structured breakdown and insightful analysis of this transformative period in US history.

- Overview of the Gilded Age in American Politics
- Defining Features of Gilded Age Politics
- The Role of Political Machines and Party Bosses
- Corruption and Reform Movements
- Key Political Figures and Events Highlighted in Crash Course US History #26
- Lasting Impact of Gilded Age Politics on the United States

Overview of the Gilded Age in American Politics

The Gilded Age, spanning roughly from the 1870s to the early 1900s, represents a period of tremendous change in American society and politics. Following the end of Reconstruction, the United States experienced unprecedented economic growth, technological innovation, and urban expansion. However, beneath the prosperity, significant political and social challenges emerged. The term "Gilded Age" itself, popularized by Mark Twain, suggests a thin veneer of gold masking deeper problems, including political corruption and social inequality. This period saw the rise of influential politicians, the consolidation of party machines, and the increasing influence of big business on government. Understanding Gilded Age politics is crucial for anyone interested in the evolution of American democracy and the factors that shaped modern governance.

Defining Features of Gilded Age Politics

Gilded Age politics was characterized by intense party loyalty, high voter turnout, and the dominance of the Republican and Democratic parties. Political competition was fierce, with both parties seeking to consolidate power through patronage and the spoils system. Issues such as tariffs, currency standards, and civil service reform often divided politicians and voters alike. The era also witnessed a lack of strong executive leadership, as presidents were frequently seen as figureheads while Congress wielded significant authority. Political discourse during this period often revolved around economic policy, industrial regulation, and the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and immigration.

Key Characteristics of Gilded Age Political Culture

- Patronage and the Spoils System
- Machine Politics and Urban Bosses
- High Voter Turnout and Party Loyalty
- Influence of Big Business and Wealthy Donors
- Limited Presidential Power and Congressional Dominance

Major Political Issues of the Era

The Gilded Age was marked by several contentious political issues. The debate over tariffs pitted industrial interests in the North against agricultural interests in the South and West. Monetary policy was another major concern, with battles over the gold standard versus the use of silver to back currency. Civil service reform became a pressing issue as calls grew to end the widespread patronage system and reduce corruption. Labor rights and the regulation of big business also became increasingly important as the nation industrialized.

The Role of Political Machines and Party Bosses

Political machines played a central role in Gilded Age politics, especially in rapidly growing urban centers. These organizations, often led by powerful party bosses, controlled local and state governments through networks of patronage, favors, and sometimes outright bribery. Machines provided services to immigrants and the poor in exchange for votes, creating a cycle of mutual dependence. Tammany Hall in New York City stands out as the most infamous example, with Boss Tweed's operations epitomizing both the benefits and abuses of machine politics.

How Political Machines Operated

- Mobilizing Voters through Patronage and Favors
- Securing Government Contracts for Supporters
- Controlling Local Appointments and Jobs
- Providing Social Services to Immigrant Communities
- Engaging in Election Fraud and Corruption

Impact of Machine Politics on Urban Life

Machine politics brought both positive and negative consequences for urban residents. On one hand, political machines helped integrate immigrants into American society by offering jobs, housing, and assistance. On the other hand, the system fostered corruption, inefficiency, and favoritism, often leading to mismanagement of public resources. The lasting legacy of political machines continues to influence discussions about urban governance and political accountability.

Corruption and Reform Movements

Corruption was rampant during the Gilded Age, with bribery, kickbacks, and cronyism permeating all levels of government. The close ties between business interests and political leaders allowed corporations to secure favorable legislation and evade regulation. Public outcry over scandals—such as the Crédit Mobilier affair and the Whiskey Ring—spurred calls for reform. Reformers advocated for merit-based civil service systems, transparent government practices, and new laws to curb the power of monopolies and trusts.

Notable Scandals and Their Impact

- Crédit Mobilier Scandal: Exposed corruption in railroad financing and congressional bribery.
- Whiskey Ring: Uncovered tax fraud involving government officials and liquor distillers.
- Tweed Ring: Revealed large-scale embezzlement by New York's Tammany Hall political machine.

Civil Service Reform and the Pendleton Act

One of the most significant reform movements of the Gilded Age centered on civil service. The assassination of President James Garfield by a disgruntled office-seeker highlighted the dangers of the patronage system. In response, Congress passed the Pendleton Civil Service Act in 1883, which established merit-based hiring for federal positions. This marked a turning point in American politics, reducing the influence of political machines and promoting professionalization in government service.

Key Political Figures and Events Highlighted in Crash Course US History #26

Crash Course US History #26 shines a spotlight on several influential figures and pivotal events of the Gilded Age. Presidents such as Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, and Grover Cleveland navigated complex political landscapes while addressing issues of reform and patronage. Other notable individuals include party bosses like William "Boss" Tweed and reformers such as Thomas Nast. Major events discussed include the passage of the Pendleton Act, the rise of the Populist movement, and the increasing calls for the regulation of big business.

Presidential Leadership During the Gilded Age

- Rutherford B. Hayes: Advocated for civil service reform and sought to restore integrity to the presidency.
- James Garfield: His assassination underscored the need for reform.
- Chester A. Arthur: Signed the Pendleton Act, moving away from patronage politics.
- Grover Cleveland: Known for his opposition to corruption and support for limited government.

The Populist Movement and Its Influence

The late Gilded Age saw the emergence of the Populist movement, driven by farmers and laborers frustrated with the concentration of wealth and power. Populists advocated for monetary reform, regulation of railroads, and greater political participation. While the movement did not achieve all its goals, it set the stage for future progressive reforms in the early twentieth century.

Lasting Impact of Gilded Age Politics on the United States

The political developments of the Gilded Age left an enduring legacy on the United States. The era highlighted the challenges of balancing economic growth with political accountability and social justice. Many of the reforms initiated during this period laid the groundwork for subsequent regulatory and social policies. The Gilded Age also demonstrated the risks of unchecked political and corporate power, shaping American attitudes toward government, reform, and democracy. Today, the lessons of Gilded Age politics continue to inform debates about corruption, campaign finance, and the role of government in society.

Long-Term Effects on American Political Culture

- Establishment of Civil Service Systems
- Increased Public Awareness of Corruption
- Strengthening of Regulatory Frameworks
- Foundations for the Progressive Era
- Enduring Debates over the Role of Government and Business

Q: What is the Gilded Age and why is it important in US history?

A: The Gilded Age refers to the period from the 1870s to the early 1900s, marked by rapid economic growth, industrialization, and significant political changes. It is important because it shaped modern American politics, highlighted issues of corruption, and led to major reforms.

Q: How did political machines influence Gilded Age politics?

A: Political machines, led by party bosses, controlled local and state governments through patronage and favors. They mobilized voters, especially immigrants, in exchange for jobs and services but often engaged in corruption and election fraud.

Q: What were the main issues debated during the Gilded Age?

A: Key issues included tariffs, monetary policy (gold vs. silver), civil service reform, labor rights, and the regulation of big business. These debates shaped party politics and influenced national policy.

Q: Who were some notable figures in Gilded Age politics?

A: Notable figures include presidents Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, and Grover Cleveland, as well as party bosses like Boss Tweed and reformers such as Thomas Nast.

Q: What was the Pendleton Civil Service Act and why was it significant?

A: The Pendleton Act, passed in 1883, established merit-based hiring for federal jobs, reducing the reliance on patronage and helping to curb corruption in government.

Q: How did corruption manifest in Gilded Age politics?

A: Corruption was widespread, with scandals like the Crédit Mobilier affair and the Whiskey Ring exposing bribery, embezzlement, and fraudulent government contracts.

Q: What role did the Populist movement play during the Gilded Age?

A: The Populist movement arose from farmers and workers demanding reform, advocating for monetary changes, regulation of railroads, and increased political participation, influencing later progressive reforms.

Q: How did Gilded Age politics affect modern American government?

A: The era's reforms, such as the civil service system and increased regulation, laid the foundations for future government accountability and progressive policies.

Q: What is covered in Crash Course US History #26 regarding the Gilded Age?

A: Crash Course US History #26 covers the major political issues, figures, corruption, reform movements, and the influence of political machines during the Gilded Age.

Q: Why is understanding Gilded Age politics relevant today?

A: Understanding Gilded Age politics is relevant because it highlights the lasting impact of political corruption, reform, and the relationship between government and business, informing current debates about democracy and accountability.

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Gilded Age Politics Crash Course US History #26: A Deep Dive into Corruption and Reform

The Gilded Age. A period shimmering with superficial prosperity, yet marred by deep-seated political corruption and stark social inequality. This "crash course" isn't your typical textbook summary. We're diving deep into the murky waters of late 19th-century American politics, exploring the key players, pivotal events, and lasting legacies of this fascinating and often frustrating era. This post will dissect the core issues of Gilded Age politics, offering a comprehensive overview that connects directly to Crash Course US History #26 and expands upon its key takeaways, ensuring you grasp the complexities of this pivotal period in American history.

H2: The Rise of Big Business and its Influence on Politics

The Gilded Age witnessed the unprecedented rise of industrial giants like Carnegie, Rockefeller, and Morgan. These titans of industry wielded immense economic power, which translated directly into political influence. Through lobbying, campaign contributions (often illicit), and the creation of powerful political machines, big business effectively shaped legislation to their advantage. This resulted in policies favoring laissez-faire economics, minimal government regulation, and high tariffs protecting domestic industries.

H3: Political Machines and Patronage: The Spoils System in Action

Tammany Hall, the infamous political machine in New York City, epitomized the corrupt practices of the era. Boss Tweed and his cronies enriched themselves through graft, bribery, and embezzlement. The spoils system, where government positions were awarded based on political loyalty rather than merit, fueled this corruption. This system perpetuated a cycle of favoritism, hindering effective governance and fueling public distrust.

H3: The Rise of Populism: A Response to Inequality

The stark disparities in wealth and power created by industrialization fueled the rise of the Populist movement. Farmers, laborers, and other marginalized groups sought to challenge the dominance of big business and the established political order. Their demands included government regulation of railroads, the free coinage of silver (to combat deflation), and direct election of senators. While the Populist movement ultimately failed to achieve its full agenda, it laid the groundwork for future progressive reforms.

H2: Key Political Figures of the Gilded Age

Understanding the Gilded Age requires understanding its key players. Figures like Grover Cleveland, Chester A. Arthur, and Benjamin Harrison represent the complexities of the era's political landscape. Their presidencies were marked by battles over tariffs, civil service reform, and the growing tension between industrialists and the burgeoning labor movement. Examining their actions and motivations provides crucial context to the political battles of the time.

H2: Progressive Era Reforms: A Reaction to Gilded Age Excesses

The excesses of the Gilded Age ultimately led to the Progressive Era, a period of significant social and political reform. The muckrakers, investigative journalists who exposed corruption and social injustices, played a crucial role in galvanizing public support for change. Progressive reforms included the establishment of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the direct election of senators (17th Amendment), and the introduction of income tax (16th Amendment). These reforms aimed to curb corporate power, improve working conditions, and address social inequalities.

H2: The Lasting Legacy of Gilded Age Politics

The Gilded Age's legacy extends far beyond its chronological boundaries. The issues of economic inequality, corporate influence in politics, and the struggle for social justice continue to resonate in contemporary American society. Understanding the Gilded Age provides a crucial framework for analyzing current political and economic debates. The fight for fair wages, environmental protection, and campaign finance reform all have their roots in the struggles of this period.

Conclusion

The Gilded Age, though often portrayed with a veneer of opulent glamour, was a period of profound political and social turmoil. Understanding its complexities – the rise of big business, the prevalence of political corruption, the emergence of Populism, and the eventual push for Progressive reforms – is essential to comprehending the trajectory of American history. By examining this era's struggles and triumphs, we gain valuable insights into the ongoing challenges of balancing economic growth with social justice and ensuring a fair and equitable political system.

FAQs

1. What was the significance of the Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act? The Pendleton Act marked a significant step towards reforming the spoils system by introducing merit-based appointments to civil service positions, reducing patronage and corruption.
2. How did the Sherman Antitrust Act attempt to regulate big business? The Sherman Antitrust Act aimed to curb the monopolistic practices of large corporations, although its early enforcement was weak and often ineffective.
3. What were the main goals of the Populist Party? The Populists advocated for greater government regulation of railroads, free coinage of silver, direct election of senators, and improved working conditions for farmers and laborers.
4. Who were some prominent muckrakers of the Gilded Age? Ida B. Wells, Upton Sinclair, and Jacob Riis are among the most well-known muckrakers who exposed social injustices and corruption.
5. How did the Gilded Age impact the development of labor unions? The Gilded Age witnessed the rise of powerful labor unions like the Knights of Labor and the American Federation of Labor (AFL), which fought for better wages, working conditions, and the right to organize. The period also saw significant labor unrest, including strikes and violent clashes between workers and management.

Gilded Age Politics Crash Course US History 26: A Deep Dive

The Gilded Age. A period of immense industrial growth, breathtaking innovation, and staggering wealth disparity. But beneath the glittering surface of progress lay a complex and often turbulent political landscape. This blog post serves as your comprehensive guide to understanding Gilded Age politics, specifically referencing Crash Course US History #26, and providing a deeper analysis than the video alone can offer. We'll delve into the key players, the major issues, and the lasting legacy of this pivotal era in American history. Prepare to unlock a richer understanding of the "Gilded Age Politics Crash Course US History 26" than ever before.

H2: The Rise of Big Business and its Political Influence

Crash Course #26 rightly highlights the explosive growth of industry during the Gilded Age. But understanding the politics requires examining how this growth shaped the political landscape. Industrial titans like Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and J.P. Morgan wielded unprecedented economic power, translating directly into political influence. This wasn't overt bribery in all cases, but rather a more subtle manipulation through lobbying, campaign contributions (often indirectly), and the control of information.

H3: The Role of Political Machines

Political machines, like Tammany Hall in New York City, thrived in this environment. They offered essential services to immigrants and the urban poor in exchange for political loyalty, creating a system of patronage and corruption that ran deep. While providing some social safety net, these machines often enriched themselves and their allies at the expense of the public good, demonstrating the intertwined nature of business and politics.

H3: Laissez-Faire Economics and its Consequences

The dominant economic philosophy of the Gilded Age was laissez-faire – minimal government intervention in the economy. This approach, while boosting industrial growth, also led to significant social problems. Unfettered capitalism resulted in monopolies, exploitative labor practices, and massive wealth inequality, creating fertile ground for political unrest and calls for reform.

H2: The Labor Movement and its Political Impact

The burgeoning industrial workforce experienced harsh conditions: long hours, low wages, and dangerous working environments. This sparked the rise of labor unions, organizations like the Knights of Labor and the American Federation of Labor, which fought for better working conditions and wages. Their political actions, including strikes and boycotts, forced the issue onto the national stage, highlighting the growing tension between capital and labor.

H3: The Haymarket Affair and its Legacy

The Haymarket Affair of 1886, a pivotal moment often touched upon in Crash Course #26, demonstrates the volatile relationship between labor and government. The violence and subsequent crackdown on labor organizers significantly impacted the public perception of unions and fueled anxieties about radicalism. This event reveals the underlying political struggles embedded within the economic conflicts of the era.

H2: Political Reform Movements: A Response to Gilded Age Excesses

The excesses of the Gilded Age eventually spurred reform movements. While laissez-faire dominated, growing public outrage about corruption and inequality fueled calls for change. The Populist Party emerged, advocating for policies like government regulation of railroads, income tax, and the free coinage of silver – all aimed at empowering farmers and working people against the powerful industrialists.

H3: The Progressive Era's Roots in the Gilded Age

The Progressive Era, which followed the Gilded Age, didn't emerge in a vacuum. The seeds of

progressive reform were sown during the Gilded Age, as reformers began to grapple with the social and political problems created by rapid industrialization and unchecked capitalism. Understanding the Gilded Age is crucial to understanding the subsequent Progressive Era and its attempts to address the injustices of the previous period.

H2: The Presidency During the Gilded Age: A Time of Limited Federal Power

The presidency during the Gilded Age was relatively weak compared to later eras. Presidents often lacked the tools and the political will to effectively address the growing economic and social problems. The focus tended to be on maintaining the status quo, rather than implementing bold reforms, highlighting the limitations of the political system in responding to the rapid changes of the time.

Conclusion

The Gilded Age, as depicted in Crash Course US History #26 and expanded upon here, was a period of profound contradictions. Unprecedented economic growth coexisted with widespread social inequality and political corruption. Understanding this complex interplay of industrial expansion, political machines, labor movements, and reform efforts is essential to grasping the development of American politics and society. The Gilded Age's legacy continues to shape our understanding of the relationship between wealth, power, and social justice.

FAQs

1. What was the significance of the Sherman Antitrust Act? While seemingly powerful, its initial application was weak, often used against labor unions rather than large corporations. It marked a tentative step towards government regulation of big business but ultimately had limited immediate impact.
2. How did immigration influence Gilded Age politics? The massive influx of immigrants fueled urban growth and the power of political machines, which often catered to their needs while simultaneously exploiting them politically.
3. What role did the media play during the Gilded Age? The rise of mass-circulation newspapers played a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing political debates, often sensationalizing events and fueling partisan divisions.
4. How did the Gilded Age contribute to the rise of the Progressive Movement? The stark

inequalities and political corruption of the Gilded Age fueled widespread public discontent, creating the fertile ground for the Progressive reforms that followed.

5. Were there any significant women's movements during the Gilded Age? Yes, women played a significant role in reform movements, focusing on issues such as suffrage, temperance, and social justice. Their activism laid the groundwork for later feminist movements.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: The Gilded Age Mark Twain, Charles Dudley Warner, 1892

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Gilded Age Cato Charles W. Calhoun, 2014-07-15 Union general, federal judge, presidential contender, and cabinet officer—Walter Q. Gresham of Indiana stands as an enigmatic character in the politics of the Gilded Age, one who never seemed comfortable in the offices he sought. This first scholarly biography not only follows the turns of his career but seeks also to find the roots of his disaffection. Entering politics as a Whig, Gresham shortly turned to help organize the new Republican Party and was a contender for its presidential nomination in the 1880s. But he became popular with labor and with the Populists and closed his political career by serving as secretary of state under Grover Cleveland. In reviewing Gresham's conduct of foreign affairs, Charles W. Calhoun disputes the widely held view that he was an economic expansionist who paved the way for imperialism. Gresham, instead, is seen here as a traditionalist who tried to steer the country away from entanglements abroad. It is this traditionalism that Calhoun finds to be the clue to Gresham's career. Troubled with self-doubt, Gresham, like the Cato of old, sought strength in a return to the republican virtues of the Revolutionary generation. Based on a thorough use of the available resources, this will stand as the definitive biography of an important figure in American political and diplomatic history, and in its portrayal of a man out of step with his times it sheds a different light on the politics of the Gilded Age.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Plunkitt of Tammany Hall William L. Riordan, 1995-11-01 Plunkitt of Tammany Hall A Series of Very Plain Talks on Very Practical Politics William L. Riordan "Nobody thinks of drawin' the distinction between honest graft and dishonest graft." This classic work offers the unblushing, unvarnished wit and wisdom of one of the most fascinating figures ever to play the American political game and win. George Washington Plunkitt rose from impoverished beginnings to become ward boss of the Fifteenth Assembly District in New York, a key player in the powerhouse political team of Tammany Hall, and, not incidentally, a millionaire. In a series of utterly frank talks given at his headquarters (Graziano's bootblack stand outside the New York County Court House), he revealed to a sharp-eared and sympathetic reporter named William L. Riordan the secrets of political success as practiced and perfected by him and fellow Tammany Hall titans. The result is not only a volume that reveals more about our political system than does a shelfful of civics textbooks, but also an irresistible portrait of a man who would feel happily at home playing ball with today's lobbyists and king makers, trading votes for political and financial favors. Doing for twentieth-century America what Machiavelli did for Renaissance Italy, and as entertaining as it is instructive, Plunkitt of Tammany Hall is essential reading for those who prefer twenty-twenty vision to rose-colored glasses in viewing how our government works and why. With an Introduction by Peter Quinn and a New Afterword

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: U.S. History P. Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Sylvie Waskiewicz, Paul Vickery, 2024-09-10 U.S. History is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). U.S. History covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *America's History* James Henretta, Eric Foner, Rebecca Edwards, Robert O. Self, 2018-03-09 America's History for the AP® Course offers a thematic approach paired with skills-oriented pedagogy to help students succeed in the redesigned AP® U.S. History course. Known for its attention to AP® themes and content, the new edition features a nine part structure that closely aligns with the chronology of the AP® U.S. History course, with every chapter and part ending with AP®-style practice questions. With a wealth of supporting resources, America's History for the AP® Course gives teachers and students the tools they need to master the course and achieve success on the AP® exam.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *American Colossus* H. W. Brands, 2011-10-04 From the two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, bestselling historian, and author of *Our First Civil War*: a first-rate narrative history (The New York Times) that brilliantly portrays the emergence, in a remarkably short time, of a recognizably modern America. *American Colossus* captures the decades between the Civil War and the turn of the twentieth century, when a few breathtakingly wealthy businessmen transformed the United States from an agrarian economy to a world power. From the first Pennsylvania oil gushers to the rise of Chicago skyscrapers, this spellbinding narrative shows how men like Morgan, Carnegie, and Rockefeller ushered in a new era of unbridled capitalism. In the end America achieved unimaginable wealth, but not without cost to its traditional democratic values.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Making the Modern American Fiscal State Ajay K. Mehrotra, 2013-09-30 *Making the Modern American Fiscal State* chronicles the rise of the US system of direct and progressive taxation.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *The American Pageant* Thomas Andrew Bailey, David M. Kennedy, 1991 Traces the history of the United States from the arrival of the first Indian people to the present day.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *The Gilded Age* Captivating History, 2020-11-16 If you want to discover the captivating history of the Gilded Age, then keep reading... From a modern perspective, it may seem that the United States was a major powerhouse since its early days. Its present-day economic, military, and cultural strength gives out an aura of everlasting magnificence, possibly even that it was God-given. That's how some may see it, at least. However, the truth is far from it. The American story started hundreds of years ago when it was a lowly European colony, far from the grandeur and magnificence the world associates with it today. Generations worked hard to gradually transform the humble, dependent colonies into bustling independent states, which were united under a single flag. This transformation from a weak and relatively poor dominion into a world-class international power was undoubtedly a long process, yet it achieved its peak in the late 19th century. At that time, the US managed to achieve change in many aspects, from economic and social to political and military. This period of growth has become known as the Gilded Age. In *The Gilded Age: A Captivating Guide to an Era in American History That Overlaps the Reconstruction Era and Coincides with Parts of the Victorian Era in Britain along with the Belle Époque in France*, you will discover topics such as Building the Foundation From Chaos to the Gilded Age Economic Boom and Bust Ups and Downs of Politics and the Government Turbulent Winds of Change in the US The Transformation of Life And much, much more! So if you want to learn more about the Gilded Age, scroll up and click the add to cart button!

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *The Notorious Mrs. Clem* Wendy Gamber, 2016-09 In September 1868, the remains of Jacob and Nancy Jane Young were found lying near the banks of Indiana's White River. Suspicion for both deaths turned to Nancy Clem, a housewife who was also one of Mr. Young's former business partners. Wendy Gamber chronicles the life and times of this charming and persuasive Gilded Age confidence woman, who became famous not only as an accused murderess but also as an itinerant peddler of patent medicine and the supposed originator of the Ponzi scheme.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Modernity At Large Arjun Appadurai, 1996

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *1876* Gore Vidal, 2018-08-22 The third

volume of Gore Vidal's magnificent series of historical novels aimed at demythologizing the American past, 1876 chronicles the political scandals and dark intrigues that rocked the United States in its centennial year. -----Charles Schermerhorn Schuyler, Aaron Burr's unacknowledged son, returns to a flamboyant America after his long, self-imposed European exile. The narrator of Burr has come home to recoup a lost fortune by arranging a suitable marriage for his beautiful daughter, the widowed Princess d'Agrigente, and by ingratiating himself with Samuel Tilden, the favored presidential candidate in the centennial year. With these ambitions and with their own abundant charms, Schuyler and his daughter soon find themselves at the centers of American social and political power at a time when the fading ideals of the young republic were being replaced by the excitement of empire. -----A glorious piece of writing, said Jimmy Breslin in Harper's. Vidal can take history and make it powerful and astonishing. Time concurred: Vidal has no peers at breathing movement and laughter into the historical past. -----With a new Introduction by the author.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Death in the Haymarket James Green, 2007-03-13 On May 4, 1886, a bomb exploded at a Chicago labor rally, wounding dozens of policemen, seven of whom eventually died. A wave of mass hysteria swept the country, leading to a sensational trial, that culminated in four controversial executions, and dealt a blow to the labor movement from which it would take decades to recover. Historian James Green recounts the rise of the first great labor movement in the wake of the Civil War and brings to life an epic twenty-year struggle for the eight-hour workday. Blending a gripping narrative, outsized characters and a panoramic portrait of a major social movement, *Death in the Haymarket* is an important addition to the history of American capitalism and a moving story about the class tensions at the heart of Gilded Age America.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Saving Capitalism Robert B. Reich, 2015-09-29 From the author of *Aftershock* and *The Work of Nations*, his most important book to date—a myth-shattering breakdown of how the economic system that helped make America so strong is now failing us, and what it will take to fix it. Perhaps no one is better acquainted with the intersection of economics and politics than Robert B. Reich, and now he reveals how power and influence have created a new American oligarchy, a shrinking middle class, and the greatest income inequality and wealth disparity in eighty years. He makes clear how centrally problematic our veneration of the “free market” is, and how it has masked the power of moneyed interests to tilt the market to their benefit. Reich exposes the falsehoods that have been bolstered by the corruption of our democracy by huge corporations and the revolving door between Washington and Wall Street: that all workers are paid what they’re “worth,” that a higher minimum wage equals fewer jobs, and that corporations must serve shareholders before employees. He shows that the critical choices ahead are not about the size of government but about who government is for: that we must choose not between a free market and “big” government but between a market organized for broadly based prosperity and one designed to deliver the most gains to the top. Ever the pragmatist, ever the optimist, Reich sees hope for reversing our slide toward inequality and diminished opportunity when we shore up the countervailing power of everyone else. Passionate yet practical, sweeping yet exactly argued, *Saving Capitalism* is a revelatory indictment of our economic status quo and an empowering call to civic action.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Henry George and the Crisis of Inequality Edward O'Donnell, 2015-06-09 America's remarkable explosion of industrial output and national wealth at the end of the nineteenth century was matched by a troubling rise in poverty and worker unrest. As politicians and intellectuals fought over the causes of this crisis, Henry George (1839-1897) published a radical critique of laissez-faire capitalism and its threat to the nation's republican traditions. *Progress and Poverty* (1879), which became a surprise best-seller, offered a provocative solution for preserving these traditions while preventing the amassing of wealth in the hands of the few: a single tax on land values. George's writings and years of social activism almost won him the mayor's seat in New York City in 1886. Though he lost the election, his ideas proved instrumental to shaping a popular progressivism that remains essential to tackling inequality today.

Edward T. O'Donnell's exploration of George's life and times merges labor, ethnic, intellectual, and political history to illuminate the early militant labor movement in New York during the Gilded Age. He locates in George's rise to prominence the beginning of a larger effort by American workers to regain control of the workplace and obtain economic security and opportunity. The Gilded Age was the first but by no means the last era in which Americans confronted the mixed outcomes of modern capitalism. George's accessible, forward-thinking ideas on democracy, equality, and freedom have tremendous value for contemporary debates over the future of unions, corporate power, Wall Street recklessness, government regulation, and political polarization.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Wealth and Democracy Kevin Phillips, 2003-04-08 For more than thirty years, Kevin Phillips' insight into American politics and economics has helped to make history as well as record it. His bestselling books, including *The Emerging Republican Majority* (1969) and *The Politics of Rich and Poor* (1990), have influenced presidential campaigns and changed the way America sees itself. Widely acknowledging Phillips as one of the nation's most perceptive thinkers, reviewers have called him a latter-day Nostradamus and our modern Thomas Paine. Now, in the first major book of its kind since the 1930s, he turns his attention to the United States' history of great wealth and power, a sweeping cavalcade from the American Revolution to what he calls the Second Gilded Age at the turn of the twenty-first century. The Second Gilded Age has been staggering enough in its concentration of wealth to dwarf the original Gilded Age a hundred years earlier. However, the tech crash and then the horrible events of September 11, 2001, pointed out that great riches are as vulnerable as they have ever been. In *Wealth and Democracy*, Kevin Phillips charts the ongoing American saga of great wealth-how it has been accumulated, its shifting sources, and its ups and downs over more than two centuries. He explores how the rich and politically powerful have frequently worked together to create or perpetuate privilege, often at the expense of the national interest and usually at the expense of the middle and lower classes. With intriguing chapters on history and bold analysis of present-day America, Phillips illuminates the dangerous politics that go with excessive concentration of wealth. Profiling wealthy Americans-from Astor to Carnegie and Rockefeller to contemporary wealth holders-Phillips provides fascinating details about the peculiarly American ways of becoming and staying a multimillionaire. He exposes the subtle corruption spawned by a money culture and financial power, evident in economic philosophy, tax favoritism, and selective bailouts in the name of free enterprise, economic stimulus, and national security. Finally, *Wealth and Democracy* turns to the history of Britain and other leading world economic powers to examine the symptoms that signaled their declines-speculative finance, mounting international debt, record wealth, income polarization, and disgruntled politics-signs that we recognize in America at the start of the twenty-first century. In a time of national crisis, Phillips worries that the growing parallels suggest the tide may already be turning for us all.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: 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.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Historical Painting Techniques, Materials, and Studio Practice Arie Wallert, Erma Hermens, Marja Peek, 1995-08-24 Bridging the fields of conservation, art history, and museum curating, this volume contains the principal papers from an international symposium titled Historical Painting Techniques, Materials, and Studio Practice at the University of Leiden in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from June 26 to 29, 1995. The symposium—designed for art historians, conservators, conservation scientists, and museum curators worldwide—was organized by the Department of Art History at the University of Leiden and the Art History Department of the Central Research Laboratory for Objects of Art and Science in Amsterdam. Twenty-five contributors representing museums and conservation institutions throughout the world provide recent research on historical painting techniques, including wall painting and polychrome sculpture. Topics cover the latest art historical research and scientific analyses of original techniques and materials, as well as historical sources, such as medieval treatises and descriptions of painting techniques in historical literature. Chapters include the painting methods of Rembrandt and Vermeer, Dutch 17th-century landscape painting, wall paintings in English churches, Chinese paintings on paper and canvas, and Tibetan thangkas. Color plates and black-and-white photographs illustrate works from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: Everybody Knows Sarah Chayes, 2020-08-06 America is corrupted, and everybody knows it. In this blistering book, Sarah Chayes brings years of experience analysing corruption in the developing world to probing her home country, finding that the model fits too closely for comfort. US kleptocratic networks have bent the main government powers to serve their own interests, not the citizens', with dizzying results--from egregious Supreme Court decisions to the pillaging of the defence budget, public land grabs to Big Pharma's capture of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the repeated financial meltdowns of the past forty years. Chayes places America's acute corruption within a broad historical context, going back to the invention of money itself. She shows that corruption today, far from just acts committed by disreputable individuals to line their pockets, is the standard mode of operation for sophisticated networks crossing political, ideological and national boundaries. Even the Trump administration's venality is more a symptom of a widespread trend than an aberration. When corruption takes hold, the results are devastating: social upheaval, terror and extremism, mass migration and environmental devastation. Searching and unflinching, Everybody Knows helps readers everywhere envision ways to pull in the reins on a rigged system, through individual, collective and political action.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: The Givers David Callahan, 2017 An inside look at the secretive world of elite philanthropists--and how they're quietly wielding ever more power to shape American life in ways both good and bad. While media attention focuses on famous philanthropists such as Bill Gates and Charles Koch, thousands of donors are at work below the radar promoting a wide range of causes. David Callahan charts the rise of these new power players and the ways they are converting the fortunes of a second Gilded Age into influence. He shows how this elite works behind the scenes on education, the environment, science, LGBT rights, and many other issues--with deep impact on government policy. Above all, he shows that the influence of the Givers is only just beginning, as new waves of billionaires like Mark Zuckerberg turn to philanthropy. Based on extensive research and interviews with countless donors and policy experts, this is not a brief for or against the Givers, but a fascinating investigation of a power shift in American society that has implications for us all.

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gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *On Corruption in America* Sarah Chayes, 2020-08-11 From the prizewinning journalist and internationally recognized expert on corruption in government networks throughout the world comes a major work that looks homeward to America, exploring the insidious, dangerous networks of corruption of our past, present, and precarious future. "If you want to save America, this might just be the most important book to read now. —Nancy MacLean, author of *Democracy in Chains* Sarah Chayes writes in her new book, that the United States is showing signs similar to some of the most corrupt countries in the world. Corruption, she argues, is an operating system of sophisticated networks in which government officials, key private-sector interests, and out-and-out criminals interweave. Their main objective: not to serve the public but to maximize returns for network members. In this unflinching exploration of corruption in America, Chayes exposes how corruption has thrived within our borders, from the titans of America's Gilded Age (Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, J. P. Morgan, et al.) to the collapse of the stock market in 1929, the Great Depression, and FDR's New Deal; from Joe Kennedy's years of banking, bootlegging, machine politics, and pursuit of infinite wealth to the deregulation of the Reagan Revolution--undermining this nation's proud middle class and union members. She then brings us up to the present as she shines a light on the Clinton policies of political favors and personal enrichment and documents Trump's hydra-headed network of corruption, which aimed to systematically undo the Constitution and our laws. Ultimately and most importantly, Chayes reveals how corrupt systems are organized, how they enable bad actors to bend the rules so their crimes are covered legally, how they overtly determine the shape of our government, and how they affect all levels of society, especially when the corruption is overlooked and downplayed by the rich and well-educated.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage* Hugh Brewster, 2013-03-26 *Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage* takes us behind the paneled doors of the Titanic's elegant private suites to present compelling, memorable portraits of her most notable passengers. The Titanic has often been called "An exquisite microcosm of the Edwardian era," but until now, her story has not been presented as such. In *Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage*, historian Hugh Brewster seamlessly interweaves personal narratives of the lost liner's most fascinating people with a haunting account of the fateful maiden crossing. Employing scrupulous research and featuring 100 rarely seen photographs, he accurately depicts the ship's brief life and tragic denouement and presents compelling, memorable portraits of her most notable passengers: millionaires John Jacob Astor and Benjamin Guggenheim; President Taft's closest aide, Major Archibald Butt; writer Helen Churchill Candee; the artist Frank Millet; movie actress Dorothy Gibson; the celebrated couturiere Lady Duff Gordon; aristocrat Noelle, the Countess of Rothes; and a host of other travelers. Through them, we gain insight into the arts, politics, culture, and sexual mores of a world both distant and near to our own. And with them, we gather on the Titanic's sloping deck on that cold, starlit night and observe their all-too-human reactions as the disaster unfolds. More than ever, we ask ourselves, "What would we have done?"

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *Hoosiers and the American Story* Madison, James H., Sandweiss, Lee Ann, 2014-10 A supplemental textbook for middle and high school students, *Hoosiers and the American Story* provides intimate views of individuals and places in Indiana set within themes from American history. During the frontier days when Americans battled with and exiled native peoples from the East, Indiana was on the leading edge of America's westward expansion. As waves of immigrants swept across the Appalachians and eastern waterways, Indiana became established as both a crossroads and as a vital part of Middle America. Indiana's stories illuminate the history of American agriculture, wars, industrialization, ethnic conflicts, technological improvements, political battles, transportation networks, economic shifts, social welfare initiatives, and more. In so doing, they elucidate large national issues so that students can

relate personally to the ideas and events that comprise American history. At the same time, the stories shed light on what it means to be a Hoosier, today and in the past.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *The Great Exception* Jefferson Cowie, 2017-04-18 How the New Deal was a unique historical moment and what this reveals about U.S. politics, economics, and culture Where does the New Deal fit in the big picture of American history? What does it mean for us today? What happened to the economic equality it once engendered? In *The Great Exception*, Jefferson Cowie provides new answers to these important questions. In the period between the Great Depression and the 1970s, he argues, the United States government achieved a unique level of equality, using its considerable resources on behalf of working Americans in ways that it had not before and has not since. If there is to be a comparable battle for collective economic rights today, Cowie argues, it needs to build on an understanding of the unique political foundation for the New Deal. Anyone who wants to come to terms with the politics of inequality in the United States will need to read *The Great Exception*.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *The Age of Acquiescence* Steve Fraser, 2015-02-17 A groundbreaking investigation of how and why, from the 18th century to the present day, American resistance to our ruling elites has vanished. From the American Revolution through the Civil Rights movement, Americans have long mobilized against political, social, and economic privilege. Hierarchies based on inheritance, wealth, and political preferment were treated as obnoxious and a threat to democracy. Mass movements envisioned a new world supplanting dog-eat-dog capitalism. But over the last half-century that political will and cultural imagination have vanished. Why? *The Age of Acquiescence* seeks to solve that mystery. Steve Fraser's account of national transformation brilliantly examines the rise of American capitalism, the visionary attempts to protect the democratic commonwealth, and the great surrender to today's delusional fables of freedom and the politics of fear. Effervescent and razorsharp, *The Age of Acquiescence* is provocative and fascinating.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *Nature's New Deal* Neil M. Maher, 2008 Neil M. Maher examines the history of one of Franklin D. Roosevelt's boldest and most successful experiments, the Civilian Conservation Corps, describing it as a turning point both in national politics and in the emergence of modern environmentalism.

gilded age politics crash course us history 26: *How Organizations Develop Activists* Hahrie Han, 2014 Why are some civic associations better than others at getting-and keeping-people involved in activism? Using in-person observations, surveys, and field experiments, this book compares and describes contemporary models for engaging activists to show the effectiveness of one that combine political activism with transformative personal and collective growth.

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Beckert, author of *Empire of Cotton*

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Acclaimed author Patricia O'Toole's "superb" (The New York Times) account of Woodrow Wilson, one of the most high-minded, consequential, and controversial US presidents. A "gripping" (USA TODAY) biography, *The Moralist* is "an essential contribution to presidential history" (Booklist, starred review). "In graceful prose and deep scholarship, Patricia O'Toole casts new light on the presidency of Woodrow Wilson" (Star Tribune, Minneapolis). *The Moralist* shows how Wilson was a progressive who enjoyed unprecedented success in leveling the economic playing field, but he was behind the times on racial equality and women's suffrage. As a Southern boy during the Civil War, he knew the ravages of war, and as president he refused to lead the country into World War I until he was convinced that Germany posed a direct threat to the United States. Once committed, he was an admirable commander-in-chief, yet he also presided over the harshest suppression of political dissent in American history. After the war Wilson became the world's most ardent champion of liberal internationalism—a democratic new world order committed to peace, collective security, and free trade. With Wilson's leadership, the governments at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 founded the League of Nations, a federation of the world's democracies. The creation of the League, Wilson's last great triumph, was quickly followed by two crushing blows: a paralyzing stroke and the rejection of the treaty that would have allowed the United States to join the League. Ultimately, Wilson's liberal internationalism was revived by Franklin D. Roosevelt and it has shaped American foreign relations—for better and worse—ever since. A cautionary tale about the perils of moral vanity and American overreach in foreign affairs, *The Moralist* "does full justice to Wilson's complexities" (The Wall Street Journal).

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2007-02-05 Defying the general belief that American citizenship is in decline, Sanford claims that Generation X is actually taking positions of civic leadership and authority as Baby Boomers retire. By exploring traditional instruments of social capital, civic culture and political science, she attempts to make us understand this maligned generation better.

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