

## CHAPTER 9

### AGE OF REFORM

The United States has been called the “melting pot of nations” with people from every continent (except Antarctica) choosing to come to this country. Probably more people have come from Europe than from any other continent. The early European settlers came to the United States in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.

Spanish. After Columbus’ voyage in 1492, the Spanish explorers were the first to arrive in what is now the United States. Some of these explorers included Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, who explored Florida and the Texas Gulf Coast (1528-1536); Hernando do Soto, who discovered the Mississippi River (1539-1542); and Francisco Vásquez de Coronado, who explored the Southwest (1540-1542).

French. French explorers and settlers were not far behind the Spanish in coming to the New World. French exploration, led by such men as Samuel de Champlain and Sieur de La Salle, was concentrated in eastern Canada and along the Mississippi River. The French influence remains to this day in such places as Quebec, where French is the principal language, and in southern Louisiana, where the city of New Orleans with its old French quarter and many Creole citizens is located.

English. Most early settlers to the United States were English. With the exception of New York (settled by the Dutch) and New Jersey (founded as a Swedish settlement), the first thirteen colonies were settled by Englishmen (including Scotsmen).

Many Americans are proud to trace their ancestry back to the little band of Pilgrims who crossed the North Atlantic on the Mayflower in 1620. Others may find that their ancestors were among the founders of Massachusetts Bay or Jamestown Colonies. This English background had influenced many features of American life, including culture, laws, and religion.

One of the most obvious English influences in American life is the whole area of language and literature. Although many other languages are spoken in the United States, English with its various dialects, is the all-pervading speech of Americans. The many English dialects found in America have become part of the subject matter for a scholarly discipline: linguistics.

English literature is studied in American schools. The writings of Shakespeare, Dickens, Bunyan, Milton, and other English writers reflect a Biblical influence and are an important part of

American's education. The King James Version of the Bible, an English literary masterpiece as well as a fine translation, has had a wide influence in shaping American thought and language.

The American court system draws heavily upon English common law. Common law has to do with the long history of court decisions to which lawyers refer when arguing their cases and to which judges refer when rendering their decisions. Often a decision is made a certain way because some judge, years before in a similar case, set a precedent for the decision.

English influence can also be observed in American religion. Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and Methodists all have roots that are basically British. Many Baptists may be related historically to great English Separatist Puritans such as John Spilsbury, who formed the first Particular Baptist Church in England, and John Bunyan, who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, a Christian classic. Many American weddings use the wedding service from the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer* or services adapted from it. English church life finds many descendants in American Protestantism.

Because of this great Protestant heritage, the United States has been and remains a Biblically oriented country. The Bible has been so influential, in fact, that the South and the Midwest (especially the region on both sides of the Mississippi River) have come to be known as the "Bible Belt." In these areas many people are fundamental (or evangelical) in their beliefs and hold strongly to the authority of Scripture. Some other parts of the country have not been as strongly influenced by the Bible, but God's Word changes hearts and lives everywhere.

1. The United States has been called the "\_\_\_\_\_."
2. Spanish explorers were the first to arrive in what is now the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. French influence still remains in the city of \_\_\_\_\_ with its old \_\_\_\_\_ quarters.
4. Eleven of the thirteen colonies were settled by \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the all pervading speech of Americans.
6. American court system draws heavily upon English \_\_\_\_\_ law.
7. The South and the Midwest have come to be known as the "\_\_\_\_\_."

## I. IMMIGRATION

### A. European Immigration

1.     Old Immigration. In later years many more Europeans immigrated to America. This immigration, subsequent to the War for Independence, came in various waves from 1840 to 1860 and is often referred to as the Old Immigration. Over four million immigrants came into the United States, mostly from Ireland, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, and France. These immigrants came to work in factories but had the dream of obtaining land on which to farm. Land in Europe had been scarce and not available to everyone; often, only the nobility could own land. However, in the United States, land was abundantly available. In the nineteenth century, so much land was unsettled and available that much of it was given free to those who would settle it.

Many Scandinavians and Irish immigrated to America and worked on the railroad as it expanded westward. The Industrial Revolution also provided new jobs in manufacturing and transportation for immigrants during this period.

2.     New Immigration. The period from the 1880s to World War I was known as the New Immigration. The New Immigration saw people from southern and eastern Europe come to American shores. Some of these people came from Poland and Czechoslovakia, and others came from Italy. The majority of these new immigrants settled in sections of large northeastern cities, such as New York City.

3.     Holocaust Survivors. Just after World War II, America experienced another influx of Europeans. These immigrants were people who had been dispossessed of their homes during Adolph Hitler's occupation of most of Europe. A large number of these displaced people were Jews who were the object of Hitler's mania and attempted extermination. Millions of Jews died during the horrible persecution of the Holocaust, but of those who survived, many came to America in hopes of finding freedom and a new life.

4.     Freedom Fighters. European immigrants from Communist-controlled Eastern Europe began to arrive in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. Among these were the Hungarian "Freedom Fighters" who had attempted a revolt against their Soviet Communist overlords (1956-1957). Though the uprising failed and was squelched by tank-armed Russian troops, many Hungarians did escape to the West and eventually arrived in the United States.

As has always been the case, people continue to immigrate to the United States, bringing with them contributions as well as challenges. Some come seeking opportunities for employment or wealth; others desire education and a better standard of living. Most come because in America

they can enjoy freedom and have opportunities they would not have in their homeland. In coming, they bring social and economic challenges, but overall, immigration contributes to the growth and economy of our nation.

8. Old Immigration refers to the immigration from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (yrs.)
9. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century unsettled land was given \_\_\_\_\_ to those who would settle it.
10. a. New Immigration was the period from the 1800s to \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. The majority of the new immigrants settled in section of large \_\_\_\_\_ cities.
11. After World War II many immigrants from Europe were \_\_\_\_\_.
12. a. Immigrants from communist-controlled \_\_\_\_\_ Europe began to arrive in the United States in the 50s and 60s.  
b. Some were Hungarian “\_\_\_\_\_.”  
c. Some of the “Freedom Fighters” came for jobs, an education or better standard of living, but mostly \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ not found in their homeland.

## B. Black Immigration

Not all immigrants have come to America willingly. When the early English, Dutch, French, and Spanish colonists began to arrive in America, a new version of old business revived. This regrettable business was slavery, and it would last in America until the mid-nineteenth century. The slaves were mostly blacks from Africa and were the only group of immigrants who never freely chose to come to America.

White slave traders sailed to Africa and often bought black slaves from African tribesmen. These tribesmen conquered or captured other African tribesmen and would then sell these captives to enterprising Europeans, making the slave trade a very profitable venture. Slave ships and slave traders were quite barbarous and portray a sad and despicable chapter of American history. Even in advanced civilizations men are always depraved sinners and wicked until they find the Savior and allow His cleansing blood to change their hearts and lives.

1. John Newton. Slave ships were so deplorable that many slaves died on the trip from Africa. The slaves were not treated as human beings but were kept in the hold of the ship, being considered only cargo. The traders themselves were an unsavory lot and the lowest of

mean persons. John Newton began in the slave-trading business as a lowly seaman, slowly moving up the ranks to become a pilot. It was while piloting a slave ship one stormy night that Newton found the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

*As a very young boy, John Newton received instructions of Christian faith from his devout mother, who died just short of his seventh birthday. At age eleven Newton went to sea and there lived a wicked, immoral life, eventually becoming the cruel, ruthless captain of slave ship. During one very perilous storm at sea, when death seemed imminent, he experienced what he later referred to as his "great deliverance." The sea raged and tremendous waves crashed the vessel as Newton cried out, "Lord have mercy on us." Later he was certain it was only God's grace that had miraculously carried him through that harrowing experience. Ever after, he claimed May 10, 1748, as the day of his salvation and acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The words of his great hymn are his testimony, "Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace hath bro't me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home."*

John Newton later left slave trading to further his knowledge of the Word of God and study Greek and Hebrew. He became an evangelical pastor and authored many works, including the beloved hymn “Amazing Grace.” He was no doubt referring to himself and his former disdainful business when he wrote,

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

John Newton’s life and salvation are a testimony to the fact that no sinner is so evil that God will not save him when he calls upon the name of the Lord.

In the United States during this period of history, black slaves were used as farm workers and house servants. Many of them worked on big tobacco, cotton, and rice plantations in the South. Cotton was a big “cash” crop, and after the invention of the cotton gin, owning slaves became even more important to Southerners. Slaves picked the cotton by hand, and the more slaves a plantation owner possessed, the more cotton he could produce and sell – thus increasing his wealth. The controversial issue of slavery was one of the major factors in the American War Between the States.

2. After the War Between the States. After the War Between the States, blacks became free citizens of the United States. More correctly recognized as African Americans, many of these men and women have made outstanding contributions to American life in music, science, sports, politics, education, law, business, and the armed forces.

We recognize the valuable contributions of men like Booker T. Washington, George W. Carver, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Justice Clarence Thomas, and General Colin Powell.

African-American women like Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and Condoleezza Rice have sacrificed much to make America what it is today.

All nationalities have made many contributions to American greatness, and they will continue to do so. Much of America's prominence is due to the fact that it truly is the great "melting pot of nations."

13. a. Slaves were mostly \_\_\_\_\_ from Africa.  
b. They were the only group of immigrants who never \_\_\_\_\_ chose to come to America.
14. Slaves were considered to be \_\_\_\_\_ on the ships coming from Africa.
15. Slaves were used as \_\_\_\_\_ workers and house \_\_\_\_\_.
16. a. The blacks became \_\_\_\_\_ citizens after the War Between the States.  
b. Many of these men & women made outstanding \_\_\_\_\_ to American life.

### C. Non-European Immigration

1. Latin Americans. To some Americans, Spanish is as common a language as English. Many Spanish-speaking Americans, or their forefathers, have emigrated workers on farms or as office and factory workers in cities. In more recent years, the great influx of Hispanic immigrants has grown at such a phenomenal rate that it has brought great challenges to the administrative and educational systems in the states that border Mexico – Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

Not all Hispanics are of Mexican origin; Cubans also speak Spanish. Beginning in the 1960s, many Cubans came to America to escape Fidel Castro's Communist dictatorship. Most of these immigrants were middle-class business and professional people, and thousands of them still live and work in Florida, only ninety miles from their old homeland.

2. American Indians. Probably the first settlers to come from Asia to the Americas were the early Indians. Their ancestors likely began migrating across the Bering Strait sometime shortly after the Noahic Flood and the destruction of the Tower of Babel. While this theory cannot be fully proven, anthropologists do know that Indians lived on the shores of North America long before the first Europeans landed there.

The Indians, more correctly recognized as Native Americans, played a significant role in the early history of United States immigration. This country's later history of how Indians were treated by 'western man' following his "manifest destiny" is a tale of appalling treachery that demonstrates man's human nature to be greedy and covetous. It is important to remember that all people and races are made in the image of God and are to be treated with dignity and respect.

3. Asians. Asians from China and Japan came to our Atlantic and Pacific shores in large numbers from the mid-1800 to about 1890. Many Chinese were involved in the building of the transcontinental railroad, and out of this period of immigration also came the famous Chinatowns of New York City and San Francisco.

17. \_\_\_\_\_ is as common a language as English in America.
18. In the 1960s many \_\_\_\_\_ came to America to escape Fidel Castro's Communist \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Many Chinese were involved in the building of the transcontinental \_\_\_\_\_.

#### D. Jewish Immigration

Throughout the history of the United States, Jews have been welcomed as immigrants. The Jews are God's chosen people and the people of the Old Testament. Although only a minority of Jews know Jesus Christ as their Savior, God still loves them and has promised to bless those who bless the Jews. Much of America's blessing has come because she has blessed and protected the Jews. These sons of Israel have been a blessing to America as their acumen of business and professional life has brought prosperity to this land.

1. The Sephardim. Jewish immigration to this country was accomplished in three distinct migrations. The first group of Jews to arrive in what was to become the United States entered Dutch New Amsterdam in 1654. These were Sephardic Jews from Spain and Portugal who came by way of Recife, Brazil, having fled the terrible Spanish Inquisition. Almost all Jews coming to the United States before 1840 were of this Sephardic origin with a very light sprinkling of Ashkenazic Jews from Germany. These Sephardim mainly settled in New York City and soon composed a very special and wealthy social aristocracy.

2. The Ashkenazim. After the downfall of Napoleon I in 1815, there arose a wave of anti-Semitism that swept across Europe. This anti-Semitism was repeated after the unsuccessful 1848 German revolution. Both of these events produced Jewish migrations to other parts of the world, including the United States. The Jewish population of the early American colonies was about 2,500. By 1880 the Jewish population had grown to 250,000. Most Jews in the United States in 1880 were the Ashkenazic, or German, Jews.

Ashkenazic Jews became merchants, and many built great fortunes and founded a number of America's leading financial houses. One result of the California Gold Rush was the extension of the area of Jewish settlement to the Pacific coast.

3. Polish and Russian Jews. In 1881, following the assassination of Czar Alexander II, the "Age of Pogroms" dawned in Russia and Poland. Thousands of Russian and Polish Jews fled these anti-Semitic persecutions, and many came to the United States. Between 1881 and 1900, 600,000 Russian and Polish Jews arrived on United States soil. These were poorer and less educated Jews who were looked down upon by the earlier Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews. The Russian and Polish Jews settled in New York City and became the dominant group in the garment industry. By 1903 there were 1,500,000 Jews living in the United States. Due in part to World War I and the Russian Revolution, that number doubled by the 1920s. World War II brought even more Jews, and today approximately 6,500,000 Jews make their home in the United States of America.

4. Emma Lazarus. On an island in New York Harbor stands the Statue of Liberty – a gift from France to the United States. The statue is the first sight immigrants see when they come into the harbor. Liberty has held her torch high for all to see and has given many homeless immigrants new hope. On a tablet inside the pedestal of the statue is engraved a sonnet by the American poet Emma Lazarus. Emma Lazarus descended from a Sephardic Jewish family who came to America to escape the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition. Somehow it seems appropriate that Miss Lazarus should be the author of the poem found at the feet of the Statue of Liberty.

The Statue of Liberty, symbol of American freedom, is that of a flaming torch. The outside structure of "Lady Liberty" is a sheeting of pure copper hung on a framework of steel. The noticeable flame of her torch is coated with pure gold leaf. Resting on an eleven-point star foundation, the statue itself is 151 feet (46m) tall, but the pedestal and foundation together tower 305 feet (93m).

The New Colossus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glowes world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

20. Jews have been welcomed as \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the history of the US.
21. a. First group of Jews arrived in \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. The Sephardim mainly settled in \_\_\_\_\_.
22. The Russian and Polish Jews settled in \_\_\_\_\_ and became the dominant group in the \_\_\_\_\_ industry.
23. a. The Statue of Liberty was a gift from \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. It stands on an island in the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Leopold Chon. Leopold Cohn was born in Hungary. Orphaned at the age of seven, Cohn was left to shift for himself. At the age of thirteen, he decided to become a rabbi. Cohn's Biblical and rabbinical studies caused him to become obsessed with the coming of the Messiah. Had the Messiah already come? When was He coming? Was He here on the earth somewhere? Cohn read, studied, and sought the help of other Jewish scholars. The chief rabbi of Hungary once told him in jest, "If you are seeking the Messiah, go to America. You can find anything there." Cohn took the rabbi's remark seriously and sailed to America. While walking the streets of New York City, a Hebrew Christian friend gave Rabbi Cohn a Hebrew New Testament. Cohn opened the Testament and read, "This is a book of the generation of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham." Cohn's joy was unbounded. He read the New Testament from cover to cover. There, in a lonely foreign land, the orthodox Hungarian Jewish rabbi found his Messiah, and Leopold Cohn was born again.

Sometime later, while taking the ferryboat to Brooklyn, Cohn realized that there were thousands of Jews without Christ in New York City and the world. In 1894 Cohn opened, in a

renovated horse stable in Brooklyn, the first Christian mission to the Jews of that city. In that refurbished stable, the American Board of Missions to the Jews was born. Today, the organization is known as Chosen People Ministries and has a worldwide outreach. Thousands of Jews are being won to Christ because of the vision of one rabbi who found his messiah on the street of New York City.

*Ethnic Origins of Some Celebrated Americans*

*ENGLISH*

*Robert Owen – social reformer*  
*Samuel Slater – industrialist*  
*Stephen Offord – pastor*

*SCOTTISH*

*John Paul Jones – War for Independence naval hero*  
*Alexander Graham Bell – inventor of the telephone*  
*Andrew Carnegie – steel magnate, philanthropist*  
*Peter Marshall – Presbyterian pastor, chaplain of the United States Senate*

*IRISH*

*Thomas Dongan – colonial governor of New York*  
*John Barry – War for Independence naval hero*  
*Augustus Saint-Gaudens – sculptor*  
*Victor Herbert – composer*

*SPANISH*

*George Santayana – philosopher, author*  
*José Iturbi – pianist*  
*Salvador Dalí – painter*

*FRENCH*

*Pierre L'Enfant – architect of Washington, D.C.*  
*John James Audubon – naturalist, painter*

*ITALIAN*

*Arturo Toscanini – symphony conductor*  
*Enrico Fermi – atomic physicist*

*DUTCH*

*Hans Kindler – symphony conductor*  
*Edward Bok – author, editor, philanthropist*  
*John Hulskema – writer, educator*

*SCANDINAVIAN*

*John Ericsson – designer of the ironclad Monitor*  
*Knute Rockne – football coach*  
*Jacob Riis – social reformer, author*

*GERMAN*

*John Peter Zenger – journalist*  
*Baron von Steuben – War for Independence hero*  
*Baron de Kalb – War for Independence hero*  
*Thomas Nast – political cartoonist*  
*Wernher von Braun – rocket and missile expert*

*RUSSIAN*

*Igor Stravinsky – composer*  
*Igor Sikorsky – aircraft engineer*  
*Selman A. Waksman – biologist*

*YUGOSLAVIAN*

*Louis Adamic – writer*  
*Michael Pupin – scientist*  
*Mikola Tesla – scientist*

*JEWISH*

*Haym Salomon – financier of the War for Independence*  
*Samuel Gomper – labor leader*  
*Felix Frankfurter – Supreme Court Justice*  
*Albert Einstein – physicist*  
*Jascha Heifetz – violinist*  
*Arthur Rubinstein – pianist*  
*Irving Berlin – composer*  
*Henry Kissinger – Secretary of State*  
*Leopold Cohn – rabbi, Hebrew evangelist*

*AFRICAN AMERICAN*

*Booker T. Washington – educator, author*  
*George Washington Carver – botanist*  
*Charles Richard Drew – pioneer in the development of blood plasma*  
*Frank Yerby – novelist*  
*Marian Anderson – opera singer*  
*Benjamin O. Davis – United States General*  
*J.C. Watts, Jr. – United States congressman*  
*Clarence Thomas – Supreme Court Justice*

*NATIVE AMERICAN*

*Ira Hayes – World War II hero who helped raise the flag on Iwo Jima*  
*Sequoyah – inventor of the Cherokee alphabet*  
*Jim Thorpe – football player*  
*Benjamin Nighthorse Campbell – United States senator*

## II. URBAN PROBLEMS

### A. Urban Growth

1. Social Conditions. History has proven that the world is never the same after a war as it was before that war. The eras bracketing the American War Between the States bears out this observation.

A period of great expansion, growth, movements, and unrest followed the War. Previous to the engagement, most Americans had lived in rural areas on farms or in small villages, but the Industrial Revolution subsequent to the War created an enlarged urban labor market, resulting in a gradual exodus from the farms to the cities. This pattern continued throughout the rest of the century.

Along with this discernible population shift was a corresponding increase in the overall population. From 1860 to 1900, the number of inhabitants in the United States increased from thirty-one million to seventy-six million persons. Immigration accounted for a great deal of that growth because, in that forty-year period, fourteen million aliens entered the United States. Most of these new arrivals concentrated themselves in eastern cities and became part of the steadily growing labor pool of a rapidly developing American industrial complex. This influx of native- and foreign-born city dwellers posed new urban problems of America.

The majority of this postwar urban population were uneducated and unskilled laborers who often became the victims of exploitation. Thrown together in overcrowded slum tenements, typical factory workers were caught in a web of poverty and filth. People were jammed together in old, wooden buildings that did not have proper ventilation, light, heat, or sanitation. The buildings were closely clustered around narrow streets and alleys, giving each family little privacy. The populace were in constant danger of fires, diseases, and crime. Thousands died yearly of epidemics.

The cities were often places of great contrasts. In close proximity to one another were the mansions of the richest and the tenements of the poorest in America. Those who were foreign born often felt the ever-present effects of nativistic reactions. These and other adverse societal conditions raised the urban factory workers' susceptibility to the idealistic propaganda of socialistic and radical "reformers."

2. City Growth. Most American cities were incapable of handling the problems inherent with the increased urban population of the late nineteenth century. While in 1828 New York City employed one night watchman to patrol the streets, watch for fires, and drive away troublemakers, sixteen years later that same metropolitan community found it necessary to hire its

first “day and night police.” By 1870 the majority of America’s greatly expanding cities employed full-time uniformed police forces.

Before the War Between the States, fire protection usually consisted of a voluntary company of citizens. These volunteers pulled the fire engine to the fire and pumped the water by hand. Such loose and undependable methods proved totally inadequate in the growing cities. After 1860 most urban centers hired full-time firemen and used horse-drawn engines. Crowded cities created conditions conducive to the spreading of contagious diseases and uncontrollable, destructive fires. Repeated epidemics and fires swept through many eastern American cities, taking heavy tolls. On November 19, 1872, for instance, a disastrous fire razed sixty acres of downtown Boston, Massachusetts.

3. The Great Chicago Fire. The most devastating conflagration was the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. On Sunday evening, October 8, 1871, in a barn on DeKoven Street, a cow owned by Mrs. Patrick O’Leary supposedly kicked over a lighted kerosene lantern and started a fire in the straw. High winds rapidly spread the blaze from building to building. Because of drought conditions, the tinder-dry wooden structures of Chicago’s northeastern section were quickly engulfed in flames. The following day, October 9, the North Side was also burned to the ground. Firefighters realized that all attempts to halt the progress of the conflagration were hopeless. The city waterworks, private homes, hotels, stores, factories, churches, schools, railroad stations, and bridges were all destroyed. For over twenty-four hours, the blaze raged out of control, and all of central Chicago was a mass of flames. Thousands attempted to flee the raging holocaust, creating chaos and further panic. Myriads of wagons, horses, and fear-stricken people jammed the Randolph Street Bridge over the Chicago River. When the fire finally abated, three and one-third square miles of Chicago were in smoldering ashes. The tally of devastation included 17,450 buildings destroyed, 300 persons killed, and 90,000 left homeless. The total amount of property destroyed was worth nearly 200 million dollars.

24. a. In a renovated horse stable in \_\_\_\_\_, Leopold Cohn started the first Christian mission for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The name of the mission was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Missions.
  - c. It is now known as \_\_\_\_\_.
25. a. Before the War Between the States most Americans lived in rural areas on \_\_\_\_\_ or in small \_\_\_\_\_.

- b. After the War the \_\_\_\_\_ created an enlarged urban labor market.
26. a. The majority of the postwar urban population were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ laborers.  
b. Thrown together in overcrowded slum tenements they were caught in a web of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Due to greatly expanding cities by 1870 most employed full-time uniformed \_\_\_\_\_ forces.
28. a. Before the War, \_\_\_\_\_ protection was usually done by volunteers.  
b. After 1860 most urban centers hired full-time \_\_\_\_\_ and used horse-drawn \_\_\_\_\_.
29. a. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed 17,450 \_\_\_\_\_, 300 persons \_\_\_\_\_, and 90,000 left \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. The total amount of property destroyed was worth almost \_\_\_\_\_ million dollars.

4. D.L. Moody. In II Corinthians 6:2 the Bible records, .... *now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*" The truth of that passage could not be more vividly driven home than by another event took place that ominous Sunday evening of the Chicago Fire. D.L. Moody was preaching to a congregation in downtown Chicago. As he ended he did not press for decisions but said, "I wish you would take this text home with you and ... next Sabbath ... decided what to do with Jesus."

Mr. Moody never saw that audience again, for just a short time later, Chicago was on fire. In regard to the incident, he states, "...I want to tell you of one lesson I learned that night, which I have never forgotten, and that is, when I preach, to press Christ upon the people then and there, and try to bring them to a decision on the spot."

5. H. G. Spafford. One of the families left homeless in the Chicago Fire was that of Horatio Gates Spafford. Although sorrowed by their own losses, the Spaffords, who were Christians, thanked God that they were all safe and went about trying to be of aid to their neighbors. To provide a time of rest and encouragement, Mr. Spafford promised his wife and four daughters a trip to Europe. When the day came to sail to Europe from New York, Mr. Spafford received news of a business development that needed his immediate attention. Not

wanting to disappoint his family, Mr. Spafford persuaded his wife and daughters to continue on with the original plans. He said good-bye to his family and promised to join them on the Continent within a few weeks.

After seeing his family sail away, Mr. Spafford returned to Chicago to take care of business. Then he heard the tragic news – the ship carrying his family sunk in mid-Atlantic. The troubled Mr. Spafford joined the long lines of anxious people at the telegraph office awaited news of loved ones aboard the ill-fated ship. At last, H.G. Spafford received a telegraph message from his wife in England. The telegram contained two dreadful words, “Saved alone.” Mrs. Spafford had been rescued and taken to England, but their little girls had drowned in the sea. The grief-stricken Spafford journeyed to New York and set sail on the next ship to England.

One night in mid-ocean, he was summoned to the captain’s cabin and informed that they were at that moment passing over the spot where his daughters’ bodies rested. Spafford returned to his cabin and spent the remainder of that night in tears, prayers, and great turmoil. Finally, in the early hours of the morning, peace returned to Mr. Spafford’s troubled soul – the peace of Jesus Christ; the peace that passes all understanding. Suddenly the words for a hymn came to his mind, and in just a few moments, H.G. Spafford had written all four stanzas of the now familiar hymn “It Is Well with My Soul.” The first stanza especially reflects his feelings at the time.

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

## B. Rise of Unions

1. Labor Conditions. The advent of the Industrial Revolution in America produced labor problems not experienced in previous eras. The factory system took the labors out of their own homes and made them dependent on the factory owners for their livelihood. The average worker was transformed from being an artisan who owned his own tools to being a hired laborer who operated a machine owned by someone else.

The working conditions in some factories were so bad the factories were labeled “sweatshops.” They were crowded, badly lit, poorly ventilated, and unsanitary. The workers, often women and children, were forced to work in such usage conditions that serious and even fatal accidents were extremely common. One in every twenty-six railroad workers were injured and one in nearly every four hundred was killed each year. The employees worked twelve hours a day for six and seven days each week. The average worker received between four hundred and

five hundred dollars per year, which was well below the subsistence level at that time. Over ten million workers lived in abject poverty. When any worker protested these terrible conditions, he simply lost his job. The only answer seemed to lie to the concentrated efforts of collective bargaining, where workers dealt with management in concert rather than on an individual basis.

2.     Early Union Attempts. Even before the 1860s, skilled workers banded together in local craft unions. Those local craft unions were patterned after the craft guilds of the Middle Ages. In 1827 an attempt at forming a broader organization was briefly realized in the Mechanics Union of Trade Association. The Panic of 1837 sent the country into a protracted depression, which in turn caused the demise of most unions. Basically, all attempts at unionization before the War Between the States proved futile. After the War the period of rapid industrial development was paralleled by an increase in labor problems that were equaled by an upsurge of unions.

In 1842 unionism took a giant step forward when the United States Supreme Court declared that, counter to what had been charged, labor unions were lawful and not conspiracies. The growth experienced by the American railroad system during the War Between the States made it easier to transport goods and workers from one state to another, but labor problems became more complicated and local organizations were no longer effective. The first realistic attempt at a national labor organization was begun in 1866 when William H. Sylvis founded the National Labor Union. Sylvis' union, soon boasting 640,000 members, was a curious admixture of several separate unions, plus a variety of reform groups that had little in common with labor. After the Panic of 1873, the National Labor Union was disbanded.

3.     Knights of Labor. Three years after the foundation of the short-lived National Labor Union, the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor was organized by Uriah S. Stephens. The somewhat unwieldy name was later shortened to simply the Knights of Labor. This union welcomed as members "all who labored" except lawyers, bankers, liquor dealers, and professional gamblers.

In the 1880s the leadership of the Knights of Labor passed to Terence V. Powderly. Under Powderly the Knights opted for an eight-hour day and the abolishment of child labor, but they opposed the use of strikes to attain these ends. By 1886 the Knights of Labor had expanded to over 700,000 members, but membership began to decline from that point. In 1890 the membership was down to 100,000, and by 1895 the Knights of Labor had dissolved.

4. B&O Strike. In 1877 workers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad went on strike to protest wage cuts and the practice of blacklisting union members. Railroad workers all across the country went on strike in support of the B&O workers. The widespread strike led to riots, bloodshed, and destruction of railroad property in several eastern cities. President Rutherford B. Hayes called out federal troops to quell the disturbances. The Baltimore and Ohio strike collapsed, but many workers became concerned with labor reform and union membership grew.

5. American Federation of Labor. In 1881 a Jewish businessman from England by the name of Samuel Gompers established the first successful national labor union – the Federation of Organized Labor Unions of the United States and Canada. Five years later the name was changed to the American Federation of Labor. Gompers shunned political crusades and cooperatives. Instead, he emphasized what he called “bread and butter” unionism. In his forty years as president of the AFL, Gompers was practical, moderate, and rejected radicalism. He did not strive for Utopian excesses but merely attempted to shorten the hours, better the conditions, and raise the pay of the American factory worker.

The American Federation of Labor was vastly more successful and its membership was made up of more skilled workers than the Knights of Labor. Gompers also organized the workers into several separate craft unions within the parent AFL. Each particular skill was a minunion of its own. The American Federation of Labor accomplished more things of a constructive nature to better labor conditions than any previous body.

30. a. The Chicago fire left the family of H.G. Spafford \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. His wife and daughters were on a ship that sunk in the \_\_\_\_\_ with only his wife surviving.  
c. On his way to England to be with his wife he wrote the famous song “\_\_\_\_\_.”
31. a. The advent of the \_\_\_\_\_ produced labor problems not experienced before.  
b. The working conditions in some factories were so bad the factories were labeled “\_\_\_\_\_.”
32. Unionism took a giant step forward when the US \_\_\_\_\_ declared that labor unions were lawful.

33. a. The first realistic attempt at a national labor organization was in \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. William Sylvis founded the \_\_\_\_\_.
34. a. The B&O Railroad went on \_\_\_\_\_ to protest wage \_\_\_\_\_ and the practice of blacklisting \_\_\_\_\_ members in 1877.
- b. Railroad workers all across the country went on \_\_\_\_\_ in support of the B&O workers.

6. Garfield's Assassination. In the year that the AFL was founded (1881), other types of reform began as well. One reform movement in particular was the result of a tragedy. In the election 1880, James A. Garfield was a dark-horse candidate, but he won the election. Two warring factions, the "Stalwarts" and the "Half-Breeds," struggled for control of the Republican Party, and after Garfield's election, members of both factions clamored for political appointments. Following the grand tradition of Andrew Jackson, Garfield made his political appointments on the basis of the "spoils system." On July 2, 1881, President Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau, a disappointed office seeker. As Guiteau ran from the scene of his crime, he screamed, "I am a Stalwart and [Chester A.] Arthur is President now." Garfield died on September 19, 1881, six months after his inauguration. Guiteau, who some proposed was demon possessed, was hanged, but the assassination aroused public sentiment against the spoils system. Garfield's successor, Chester A. Arthur, strongly supported the movement for civil-service reform and was instrumental in obtaining the passage of the Pendleton Act of 1883. That piece of legislation established the merit system and did away with the spoils system,

7. Grover Cleveland. From 1861 until 1913, the only Democrat to be elected President was Grover Cleveland. In the election of 1884, the American people opposed the Republican candidate, James G. Blaine of Maine, who was particularly known for corruption. Cleveland, in sharp contrast, was known to be honest and a vigorous reformer. He was also to acquire the name the "veto President" because he vetoed so many of Congress' legislative boondoggles. President Cleveland attempted to regulate interstate commerce, especially in regard to railroad rates. He also tried to lower the tariff, and he opposed monopolies. Cleveland lost the election of 1888 but was sent back to the White House four years later.

### C. Major Labor Disturbances.

1. Haymarket Riot. Early in 1886 the American Federation of Labor began calling for a national eight-hour workday, which they demanded should be realized by May 1. This demand led to general strikes and demonstrations throughout the country. While the national officers of the Knights of Labor refused to cooperate with these strikes, some local chapters joined the demonstrations. Other participants were *anarchists*<sup>1</sup> and socialists, who had set themselves to destroy the “class government.”

In Chicago on May 3, a riot took place at the McCormick Harvester Company when police tangled with strikers. In response, labor leaders and anarchists called for a huge protest meeting the following day in Haymarket Square. Events on May 4, 1886, came to a crisis when, as police marched to disperse the crowd, someone threw a bomb that exploded and killed eight policemen and two others. The police then opened fire on the crowd, and four individuals were killed. For inciting the event, eight anarchists were arrested, tried, and found guilty of murder. Seven of the eight received the death sentence. Of these seven, one committed suicide, four were executed, and two had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. The Haymarket Riot set public opinion against organized labor. Even though the Knights of Labor formally condemned the Haymarket Riot, the public identified the Knights with violence. After 1886 the Knights of Labor slowly declined into oblivion.

2. Homestead Steel Strike. In 1892 the workers at the Carnegie Steel Company in Homestead, Pennsylvania went on strike to protest a cut in wages. The management retaliated by closing down the plant and bringing in three hundred armed Pinkerton agents. On July 6 a pitched gun battle took place between the Pinkertons and the strikers. After several hours of fighting, three Pinkertons and ten strikers were dead, and many more on each side were severely injured. Finally, the Pinkertons were forced to surrender and were roughly escorted out of town. The governor of Pennsylvania responded by sending in eight thousand National Guardsmen, and the Homestead strike was brought to an end.

3. Pullman Strike. During the winter of 1893 and 1894, the country was in the midst of a major depression. In reaction to the adverse economic situation, over 700,000 workers across the country went on strike. The town of Pullman – a company town maintained by the

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<sup>1</sup> anarchist – person who stirs up revolt and seeks to destroy established order.

Pullman Palace Car Company – was located near Chicago. The president and founder of the company, George M. Pullman, had constructed the 600-acre community as a model company town. Pullman, Illinois, contained dwellings, churches, schools, libraries, and parks – all built at company expense. Nearly all Pullman Palace Car company employees were members of one particularly militant union, the American Railway Union, organized by radical Socialist Eugene V. Debs. In the winter of 1893, the Pullman Company reduced wages by twenty-five percent but did not reciprocate with comparable rent reductions in the model town. Those workers who protested the action were immediately fired. In response, members of railroad unions across the country refused to handle Pullman cars, and within a few days thousands of railroad workers in twenty-seven states and territories went on strike. All rail traffic from Chicago to California was halted. The various railroad companies petitioned President Cleveland to send in federal troops. The governor of Illinois protested such action, but Cleveland dispatched 2,000 regular army soldiers to the Chicago area. The federal government further issued an injunction against the strikers. The leaders of the American Railway Union were arrested for interfering with interstate transportation and given a six-month sentence in prison – all without benefit of a jury trial.

35. Samuel Gompers established the first successful national labor union which was named the \_\_\_\_\_.
36. a. President \_\_\_\_\_ was killed by Charles Buiteau in 1881.  
b. Then \_\_\_\_\_ became President.
37. The only Democrat to be elected President from 1861 to 1913 was \_\_\_\_\_.
38. a. The \_\_\_\_\_ took place at the McCormick Harvester Company in Chicago.  
b. The riot set public opinion against \_\_\_\_\_ labor.
39. a. The workers at the \_\_\_\_\_ Company in Homestead, Pennsylvania went on strike to protest a cut in wages in 1892.  
b. This was called the \_\_\_\_\_.  
c. The plant was closed and \_\_\_\_\_ armed Pinkerton agents were sent in.  
d. After some were killed, the governor sent in \_\_\_\_\_ National Guard and the strike ended.
40. a. During the Pullman Strike, railroad \_\_\_\_\_ across the country refused to handle \_\_\_\_\_ cars in support of the strike.  
b. Then railroad workers in 27 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ also went on strike.

- c. Rail traffic from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ was halted.
- d. Without the benefit of a jury trial, leaders of the \_\_\_\_\_ were arrested and given a six month prison sentence for interfering with \_\_\_\_\_ transportation.

### **III. RURAL UNREST**

#### **A. Farmer's Problems**

1. Farm Situation. As with factory workers, farmers found themselves in a new world after the War Between the States. There was a general shift from self-sufficient farming to commercial farming and it became much more costly to farm. Even more discouraging, farm product prices were experiencing a downward trend, which sharply cut into profits; and the giant railroad monopolies, although sanctioned by the government, were charging farmers exorbitant freight rates to ship farm goods to market. Farm equipment was also expensive – the cost often being run up by middlemen. The resulting effect was that most farmers were deeply in debt.

In order to continue farming, many saw no way out but to borrow money. Farmers, however, were considered poor credit risks, and it was often difficult for them to obtain loans. Whenever a farmer was able to secure a loan, he was often charged a high interest rate. Many farmers lost their farms simply because they could not repay their loans.

There were other influencing factors as well. A farmer had no control over floods, early frost, drought, or plagues of insects that might destroy the crops. Even in a good harvest year, overabundance might cause farm prices to drop, again destroying profits. The debt-ridden farmer often lost everything. Beleaguered by these woes, farmers tended to blame big business monopolies, high protective tariffs, and an unstable market.

2. Granger Movement. Each individual farmer could do very little by himself to bring about any serious agrarian reform. Only concerted effort would produce results.

In 1867 Oliver H. Kelley, a clerk in the United States Department of Agriculture, organized the Patrons of Husbandry, or the National Grange. Local chapters of the Patrons of Husbandry were established to attempt to spread agricultural education and provide social fellowship. In the 1870s the Granger Movement became very active in state politics, with farmers banding together to elect Grange members to positions in state governments. In some

Midwestern states, Granger influence was sufficient to see so-called “Granger laws” passed. Granger laws regulated the rates and practices of grain elevators and railroads within the particular state in which the law or laws were passed. These farm victories were, however, very short-lived. In 1886 the United States Supreme Court reviewed the case of *Wabash vs. Illinois* and ruled that railroads were involved only with interstate commerce and were thus not subject to regulation by the states.

The National Grange also attempted to develop cooperatives that would bring about elimination of middlemen. These cooperatives usually failed due to lack of proper financial backing and inexperienced leadership; however, some facets of society did respond positively to farm problems. The establishment of the Montgomery Ward mail order complex was basically in response to the Grangers’ demand for the elimination of the middleman. After 1880 Farmers’ Alliances, which had separate organizations in the North and in the South, essentially replaced the Grangers.

#### B. Greenback and Silver Issues

1. Greenback Movement. During the War Between the States, the United States government had placed in circulation more than 400 million dollars in paper money without specie backing. These unbacked paper bills that were printed on green paper were called “greenbacks.” The term greenbacks became the nomenclature for all paper currency that did not have specie backing. After the War Between the States, the federal government began recalling this unbacked money, and the overall money supply became scarce. The farming community protested this recalling of greenbacks, claiming that it was causing a downward spiral of farm prices and profits.

The two major political-economic issues following the War Between the States centered around questions of tariffs and currency. The federal government wanted high tariffs as a source of revenue. Big business favored high tariffs as a means of raising the prices on imported goods and thus protecting domestic manufacturers from foreign competition. The farmers and the laborers, however, demanded lower (or no) tariffs, so that natural competition (*laissez faire*) would lower the prices of American manufactured goods. Oddly enough, this was the only principle of free trade that the agrarian crusade favored. In all other aspects, they strongly opposed *laissez faire* and loudly demanded the government’s interference in business, because they believed the federal government had a primary responsibility for the economic well-being of the people. However, trusting in the government puts people in a very vulnerable position.

The currency issue centered around the question of “hard” versus “soft” money. One way to keep money stable is to base it on a gold standard, which employs gold as the measure of the money’s value. In other words the American dollar should be worth “X” amount of gold. With this system, money fluctuates in value only as much as the price of gold fluctuates. Bankers and businessmen wanted a stable (unchanging) currency, or “hard” money. Farmers, on the other hand, wanted cheap currency, or “soft” money. The agrarian population demanded that the United States government inflate the currency. This could best be attained if the government would increase the amount of currency in circulation. The farmers wanted the government to print more greenbacks and to increase the coinage of silver. This remedy would cheapen the value of money but would increase farmers’ prices and ease their payments of debts. A man could have in his possession larger amounts of less valuable money, but the amount of his debt would remain fixed at the previous level. Therefore his money would go farther.

2. Bimetallism<sup>2</sup> Farmers and laborers demanded that American currency be backed by both gold and silver. Bimetallism was, in fact, the official United States fiscal policy; however, in practice, the silver standard had been ignored for years. Some purported that adherence to a bimetallic standard would cheapen all money because silver was cheaper and more plentiful than gold. Support for the gold standard versus the bimetallic was basically for ‘hard’ money and business interest. Democrats tended to be in favor of “soft” money and the farmer. Regionally, the South and West were opposed to the industrial interests of the North.

41. a. After the War there was a general shift from \_\_\_\_\_ farming to \_\_\_\_\_ farming.  
b. With product prices \_\_\_\_\_ and shipping costs \_\_\_\_\_ most farmers were deeply in \_\_\_\_\_.
42. a. Patrons of Husbandry/National Grange was established to attempt to spread agricultural \_\_\_\_\_ and provide social \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. It was established in 1867 by \_\_\_\_\_.
43. a. Granger laws regulated the \_\_\_\_\_ and practices of \_\_\_\_\_ elevators and railroads.  
b. These were short-lived when the US Supreme Court ruled \_\_\_\_\_ were not subject to state regulations.

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<sup>2</sup> Bimetallism – use of two kinds of metal as backing for a currency.

44. The establishment of the \_\_\_\_\_ mail order was basically in response to the \_\_\_\_\_ demand for the elimination of the \_\_\_\_\_.
45. Framers' Alliances replaced the \_\_\_\_\_ after 1880.
46. a. During the War more than \_\_\_\_\_ million dollars in paper money was in circulation without specie backing.  
b. These unbacked paper bills were printed on green paper and were called "\_\_\_\_\_."
47. a. One way to keep money stable is to base it on a \_\_\_\_\_ standard.  
b. This employs gold as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the money's value.

### C. Free Silverites<sup>3</sup>

1. The “Crime of ’73.” The United States had set a ratio between silver and gold at 16 to 1. This meant that sixteen ounces of silver equaled one ounce of gold. Because private silversmiths needed silver commercially, they were willing to pay a slightly higher price for silver than was the government. Consequently, the government acquired very little silver for the minting of coins. During the Depression of 1873, the federal government stopped coining silver altogether; and later that year Congress passed the Coinage Act which *demonetized*<sup>4</sup> silver.

Silver advocates immediately labeled the Coinage Act as the “Crime of ’73.” To further complicate matters, new rich deposits of silver were discovered in Nevada and Colorado. The market price of silver dropped, making the government market for silver even more important to those individuals with silver interests. Silver miners and processors joined farmers and laborers in decrying the Coinage Act as the “Crime of ’73.”

For the benefit of all involved, this coalition of silverites demanded that the federal government again mint silver coins at the old ratio of 16 to 1. Farmers naturally supported silver interests because they hoped that greater coinage of silver would increase the money supply; thus cheapening the value of the dollar and helping them with their debts.

2. Specie Resumption Act. In 1875 Congress passed the Specie Resumption Act, which fixed the amount of greenbacks in circulation of 346 million dollars. The act also made greenbacks redeemable in gold, which meant that greenbacks were worth as much as gold-backed currency. The result of this action caused economic deflation and lower prices.

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<sup>3</sup> Silverites – ones who favor the use or establishment of silver as the monetary standard.

<sup>4</sup> demonetize – to stop the use of a particular method as currency backing

Needless to say, the farm element was totally displeased with the Specie Resumption Act. In protest, farmers joined forces with the labor leaders of the newly formed Greenback-Labor Party (1878). Together they demanded the repeal of the Specie Resumption Act and the issuance of more greenbacks. Although the Greenback-Labor Party was extremely short-lived and had little influence, it did represent a working together of the laboring and farming elements and recognition of their common problems.

3. Other Silver Legislation. The clamor for increased government coinage of silver received only limited attention. In 1878 the Bland-Allison Act was passed in an effort to satisfy the silverites. The Bland-Allison Act provided for the government purchase of a certain amount of silver each month. Neither the amount nor the Act was enough for the silverites, so little was accomplished.

Also in 1878, as was mentioned above, labor leaders organized the Greenback-Labor Party, which espoused free coinage of silver, an eight-hour workday, and the restriction of Chinese immigration. Common interests gradually polarized the farmers and laborers into one camp.

In 1890 the Sherman Silver Purchase Act provided for an increase in the amount of silver the government was required to buy. The passage of this act accomplished little more than did the passage of the coinage Act of 1873. By 1890 so much silver was being mined that its value decreased sharply. The redemption (in gold) of silver coins and paper money so seriously reduced the government's gold reserves that many people began to demand that the gold standard be replaced with an all-silver currency.

#### D. Populist Party

1. Farm-Labor Alliance. By 1890 farmers and free silverites had become convinced that both the Republican and Democratic Parties were controlled by Eastern industrialists and bankers. Farmers and free silverites also began to think in terms of forming their own political vehicle, and various Farmers' Alliances, Granges, and free-silver groups had already taken definite steps in that direction. In 1891 members of the Farmers' Alliances and the National Grange met with the Knights of Labor in Cincinnati, Ohio, and formed the People's Party, which became better known as the Populist (Latin *populi* means people) Party. The gradual evolution of farm and labor into a single political unit was complete.

The following year, representatives met in Omaha, Nebraska, to promulgate and adopt a formal Populist Party with the subsequent platform.

- (1) Free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1.
- (2) A graduated income tax
- (3) Government ownership of the telephone, telegraph, and railroad systems
- (4) Use of the secret ballot
- (5) Direct election of United States senators
- (6) An eight-hour workday
- (7) Restrictions on immigration

The final two planks in the Populist platform were what was used to lure labor into their farmer-labor alliance.

2. Election of 1892. In 1892 the Populist Party nominated General James B. Weaver as their standard-bearer. In the Presidential election of that year, Weaver and his party garnered over a million popular votes and twenty-two electoral votes, all from Western states. (In the 1894 Congressional election, the Populist Party would increase its vote-getting strength.) Even though the new party made an impressive showing, former President Grover Cleveland (Democrat) soundly defeated both James Weaver (Populist) and incumbent Benjamin Harrison (Republican). As soon as Cleveland assumed office, however, the country was hit with the Panic of 1893, which resulted in one of the worst depressions in United States history. The depression lasted four years and caused many railroads and businesses to collapse. Unemployment soared, and many people were ruined financially.

President Cleveland blamed the depression and the gold reserve losses on the government's purchases of silver. He secured Congressional repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act and authorized the treasury to obtain gold by the sale of bonds. However, this did not end the silver question, which continued to be hotly debated and became the key issue of both the 1896 and 1900 elections.

48. What does bimetallism mean? \_\_\_\_\_.
49. a. The federal government stopped coining \_\_\_\_\_ during the Depression of 1873.  
b. That same year Congress passed the Coinage Act which demonetized \_\_\_\_\_.  
c. Silver advocates labeled this Act as the “\_\_\_\_\_.”
50. a. In 1878 farmers and labor leaders organized the \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- b. They wanted free coinage of \_\_\_\_\_, an eight hour \_\_\_\_\_ and the restriction of \_\_\_\_\_ immigration.
51. In 1891 the Farmers' Alliances, the National Grange and the Knights of Labor formed the \_\_\_\_\_ Party, better known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Party.
52. a. The US was hit with the Panic of 1893 which resulted in the worst \_\_\_\_\_ in history.  
b. The depression lasted \_\_\_\_\_ years.  
c. Many railroads and businesses \_\_\_\_\_, unemployment \_\_\_\_\_ and many people were \_\_\_\_\_ ruined.

3. Some Populist Celebrities. The Populist Movement attracted an interesting array of diverse individuals to its cause. William Jennings Bryan was a born-again Christian and an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Bryan became the most articulate advocate of “free silver” in the Populist camp, and his gift of oratory won him the titles “The Boy Orator” and “The Silver-Tongued Orator from the Platte.”

Next to Bryan, probably the most influential “guiding light” of the free silver movement was William H. Harvey. Harvey had suffered financial ruin in the Panic of 1893 and blamed all his problems on the gold standard. His contribution to Populism was a book entitled *Coin's Financial School*, which espoused the free silver cause in grossly simplistic terms. Harvey's main character was a young financier named “Coin,” who conducted a series of classroom lectures to groups of prominent businessmen. “Coin” set forth his arguments in, what seemed to free silverites, irrefutable logic. “Coin” Harvey won many disgruntled Americans to the silver side.

In 1894 Ohio Populist Jacob Coxey devised a plan wherein the federal government would issue 500 million dollars in greenbacks to finance public works programs. In order to emphasize the “need” for his plan, Coxey raised an “army” of unemployed workers. “Coxey's Army” marched from Ohio to Washington, D.C., to demand some form of government relief for unemployment. Coxey was arrested for trespassing on the Capitol lawn, and his army dispersed.

4. The “Cross of Gold.” The Presidential election of 1896 was the final effort of the Populist Movement. In the Democratic Convention of that year, the firebrand of Populism, William Jennings Bryan, made his famous “cross of gold” speech, which was greeted with wildly enthusiastic demonstration. Below are excerpts from Bryan's speech.

*We do not come as aggressors. Our war is not a war of conquest; we are fighting in the defense of our homes, our families, and prosperity. We have petitioned, and our petitions have been scorned; we have entreated, and our entreaties have been disregarded; we have begged, and they have mocked when our calamity came. We beg no longer; we entreat no more; we petition no more. We defy them! . . . You come to us and tell us that the great cities rest upon our broad and fertile prairies. Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic; but destroy our farms, and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country. . . . If they dare to come out in the open field and defend the gold standard as a good thing, we will fight them to the uttermost. Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world, supported by the commercial interests, the laboring interests, and the toilers everywhere, we will answer their demand for a gold standard by saying to them: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."*

*William Jennings Bryan*

Bryan received the Presidential nomination of both the Democratic and Populist parties but with a different Vice-Presidential running mate from each party. The confusion caused by having two separate tickets, both headed by Bryan, resulted in the downfall of the Populist Party. Another factor in the eventual demise of this party was the 1896 adoption of Populist causes by the Democrats, which eliminated the need for a third party.

William McKinley, the Republican nominee, was anything but a friend of Populist ideas. McKinley opposed free silver, supported the gold standard, and advocated high tariffs. When McKinley won the election, free silver was defeated once and for all, and the gold standard was formally established. The industrial states of the North and East supported McKinley, while Bryan carried the farmers and miners of the South and West. The separate states were nearly evenly divided between Bryan and McKinley, but the latter received more popular and electoral votes. It appeared the country as a whole had rejected the Populist radicalism; however, nearly all the Populist positions were adopted by the other parties and eventually incorporated into the fabric of the American economic scene.

In 1900 McKinley and Bryan faced each other once more with the same results. On September 6, 1901, just six months into his second term, President McKinley was assassinated by the anarchist Leon Czolgosz. With McKinley's death, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt ushered in a new area of reform in the United States.

53. Name the three men who were advocates of the Populist Party.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_

54. a. Bryan was both the Democratic and Populist parties nominated for \_\_\_\_\_ in the election of 1896.
- b. He had a different \_\_\_\_\_ running mate from each party which caused some confusion for the voters.
55. a. William McKinley was the \_\_\_\_\_ Presidential nominee for the 1896 election.
- b. He opposed \_\_\_\_\_ silver, supported the \_\_\_\_\_ standard and advocated high \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ won the election.
56. McKinley and Bryan faced each other again in the \_\_\_\_\_ election with McKinley winning again.
57. Six months into his second term, President McKinley was assassinated by \_\_\_\_\_.
58. a. \_\_\_\_\_ became President when President McKinley died.
- b. President T. Roosevelt ushered in a new \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the US.