

Chapter 23 EQs

1. What made politics in the Gilded Age extremely popular-with over 80 percent voter participation-yet so often corrupt and unconcerned with issues?
2. What caused the end of the Reconstruction? What did the North and South each gain from the Compromise of 1877?
3. What were the results of the Compromise of 1877 for race relations? How were the political, economic, and social conditions of southern African Americans interrelated?
4. What cause the rise of the "money issue" in American politics? What were the backers of "greenback" and silver money trying to achieve?
5. What were the causes and political results of the rise of agrarian protest in the 1880s and the 1890s? Why were the Populists' attempts to form a coalition of white and black farmers and industrial workers ultimately unsuccessful?
6. White laborers in the West fiercely resisted Chinese immigration, and white farmers in the South turned toward race-baiting rather than forming a populist alliance with black farmers. How and why did racial "trump" the apparent economic self-interests of these lower class white?
7. In what ways did the political conflicts of the Gilded Age still reflect the aftermath of the Civil War and Reconstruction? To what extent did the political leaders of the time address issues of race and sectional conflict, and to what extent did they merely shove them under the rug?
8. Was the apparent failure of the American political system to address the industrial conflicts of the Gilded Age a result of the two parties' poor leadership and narrow self-interest, or was it simply the natural inability of a previously agrarian, local, democratic, nation to face up to a modern, national industrial economy?