

## The Gilded Age Society & Politics & the Attempt to Reform & the Elections of 1892 and 1896 - Chapter 18

**Caution:** About the textbook, there are errors of fact that will cause you to misunderstand time and how things work. Example: Page 633 “new forms of mass entertainment-movie theaters...circuses” Nope on movie theatres pre 1900 and yep on circuses! They require impossibly different traits in a society. Page 635 “With the advent of movie theatres during the second decade of the twentieth century [that’s 1910s]” Yep!

There are incomplete and varied of perceptions of ordinary people who are farmers and who become part of the political movement called Populism. I will try to show you evidence so you can get a wider view of them and of what can cause reform to fail as a way to learn how for you to *work* in future in dealing with future challenges you may face. The past does not predict the future, but it is stupid not learn what we can learn about the odds of success of particular kinds of actions.

### Overview of Society – With this chapter trying to give you direct access to visuals to help you figure things out

#### 1. Varied changes

- [Snapshot of America in the 1870s-1890s](#) (PDF)
  - Numbers can be helpful on the challenges the people face.—at the beginning of the file
  - Patterns of change in urbanization can help with understanding politics—Use the section **What Is Happening Politically and Demographically?**
  - Patterns of change with the “New Immigration” and the return of Nativism—Use the section **What Is Happening Politically and Demographically?**
- Reminder from Chapter 17: Technical focus creating urban life, altering work in general and women’s work as well (example: typewriter):  
[Study Tool: Chronological Events of the 1887-1893 Era](#)

#### 2. Race and nationality assumed to be one, fake science and real science with the public interested in both.

We will look at Social Darwinism and Its Critics.

FYI: there is also fake science in Chapter 17 about the Native Americans and the African Americans.

#### 3. Looking at the Government and the Farmers Side by Side

- **Without answers for self-testing:** [Comparison of Farmer Events from 1869 through 1893 – and to the End of the 1890s](#)  
**With answers for observing patterns:** [Comparison with Answers](#)  
Purpose: Notice how farmers rise in power and then lose that power
- **Without answers for self-testing:** [Comparison of Governmental Actions from 1883 through the 1890s](#)

**With answers for observing patterns:** [Comparison with Answers](#)

**Purpose:** Look at all the problems faced by workers and by farmers. What is government's goal at this time? Notice the new governmental form of the commission—it will be an issue not just in Unit 2 and 3, but through today

- **The elections of 1892 and 1896**

[Study Tool: Chronological Events of the 1893-1901 Era](#)

**Purpose:** Notice the political upheavals of the 1892 and 1896 election and America's shift to having colonies

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