

The New South, a Transformed West, and Agrarian Revolt Module Notes:

- New South refers to the South following the end of Reconstruction.
- White southerners used race issue to achieve white unity. Voting for any Republican was seen as voting against white brotherhood. Gerrymandering was used to redraw districts and divide large black populations into smaller sections. Votes were excluded from the final count. Votes were literally bought. Votes were intimidated, via loss of job or physical harm.
- Even with controlling votes, they felt blacks had too much power. Blocked votes through literacy tests and land ownership. Poor whites got out of literacy tests through grandfather clause (If you had someone in your family vote before 1887). Also could get through it via rigged understanding tests.
 - Disenfranchise Movement begins here.
 - Poll taxes were implemented. Usually an average of \$1. Also used whites only primaries, to ensure no black candidates got through.
- Segregation and racial discrimination became a way to enforce racial hierarchy. Plessy v. Ferguson was basis for separate but equal.
 - During the 1890s, South averaged 130 lynchings a year. Considered a big event.
- Three main factors lured people westward during this time period.
 - Cattle kingdom. A chance to make money. Didn't have to walk all the way west, because of the railroad.
 - Farming became dominant. Had to rely on dry farming techniques mostly. Faced debt and threat of having farm taken away.
 - Railroad jobs were secure jobs. You were paid well, unless you were Chinese.
 - Mining frontier lured people west with hopes of gold.
 - Destruction of Native American tribes as people moved further westward.
 - Dawes Act
- Farmers faced many problems during this era.
 - Steeply falling crop prices. Ended up farming more to make more money, which led to mass overproduction. Farmers had to use land and crops to apply for and (sometimes) get loans from the bank to stay afloat.

- This ended badly because the 1880s saw hot summers, cold winters, rainless seasons, and biblical like plagues of insects.
- Populist Party emerged as third political part in the 1890s. Originally began as a Farmers' Alliance in 1876.
 - Wanted legal action against railroads, powerful merchants, and elite in general.
 - Opposed gold standard. Wanted to balance deflation that was killing agricultural industry. Wanted silver standard.
 - Remnants of Knights joined to create a powerful third party.
 - Weaver/Field ticket lost in the election, but got over a million popular votes and got electoral votes from 4 states.
 - Gained six seats in Senate and seven seats in House in 1894.
 - Flexible money system, ability to change amount of money in circulation at any given time. Wanted silver standard. Graduated income taxes. Governmental ownership of railroads. Wanted sub-treasury plan to allow farmers to store crops in warehouses and to get a low interest loan from government. Better labor conditions. Secret ballots. Direct election of US senators. Initiative and referendum (idea that voters could, at state level, pass or repeal laws by popular vote).
- By 1896, Democratic Party had been shaken by the mass exodus to the Populist Party.
 - Republicans nominated William McKinley. Invited entire county to his home so he could talk to them, front porch campaign.
 - Democrats nominated William Jennings Bryan, to everyone's surprise. He was a brilliant orator. Tried to straddle line between the different factions of the Democratic Party.
 - Populist Party also nominated Bryan, but with a different vice president.
 - McKinley won with 7 million+ popular votes and 271 electoral votes.