

Silver and Gold: the Populist Revolt against Industrialism

- I. "The Rectangle of Righteousness?"
 - a) Kansas- republican for 60 years
 - I. Populism; 1880s-1890s
 - a) Primarily farmers
 - b) Midwest- NB, Kansas, TX, OK
 - c) Populist movement= one of the biggest 3rd party movements in history
 - d) Populists wanted: opportunity, fair compensation, trying to reform industrialism
- **Unions → Industrialism was like Populism → Rural Areas****
- II. "Agrarian America"
 - a) before industrialism, America mostly rural
 - b) "Jeffersonian agrarianism" – farmers as ideal citizens; full of virtue
 - i) Grew your own food
 - ii) Made your own clothes
 - iii) Don't rely on others
 - iv) Not corruptible
 - v) Self-sufficient
- **"Those who till the soil are the republic's most virtuous citizens"- Thomas Jefferson****
- IV. Industrialism's Threats to Farmers
 - a) Financial trouble, debt, etc.
 - i) Producing more food with less labor
 - ii) Over-producing
 - iii) Prices bottom out
 - iv) Perpetual debt
 - v) Depression of 1893
 - b) Monopolies – railroads and banks
 - i) Why the crops are selling for nothing

- ii) People blamed them because they didn't know how the system worked
 - iii) RR owners were price gouging
 - iv) Usually only one bank in rural areas
- c) "Status Anxiety"
 - i) Form farmer's alliances (essentially unions, but no strikes)
- V. Forming "Alliances"
 - a) 1867-70 -- Patrons of Husbandry
 - b) 1880s - National Farmers' Alliance
- VI. The National Alliance's Plan - the "Ocala Demands," 1890
 - a) regulate the railroads
 - b) direct election of senators
 - c) no protective tariffs for industry
 - d) the "subtreasury" system
 - i) bank connected to grain elevator
 - ii) all farmers store grain, and grain sold when prices are highest
 - iii) farmers given money by the bank to get by
 - e) free coinage of silver
- VII. 1892-96 - The Populist Party
 - a) 1892 - James B. Weaver runs for President.
 - i) Lost to Grover Cleveland
 - b) 1896 - William Jennings Bryan runs, as Populists combine with Democrats. He loses.
 - c) The demise of Populism