

“Wizards of Oz” -- The Populists and the Progressives

Question:

1. Why do some reform movements succeed and others fail?
2. What was special about the Election of 1896?

Outline:

I. **William Jennings Bryan**

II. Modern-day Reformers?

III. The Populist Party

A. Predecessors: Oliver Hudson Kelley and the Grange, Greenbackers, Farmers' Alliance, etc.

B. Who were the Populists?

1. 1880s-1896
2. Mostly farmers, thus poor/rural
3. Little use for women, people of color
4. Included very few political leaders
5. Big in the West, South, Midwest

C. The Populist Program

1. Subtreasury system, farmer owned grain elevators, regulation of banks and railroads

2. 16:1 Silver and Gold

IV. **The Election of 1896**

A. The Favorite: William McKinley

1. The Republican campaign

B. The Underdog: William Jennings Bryan

1. The Democratic campaign

2. The Cross of Gold

C. The Result

V. **The Most Famous Populist Parable**

VI. The Progressives

A. Who were the Progressives?

1. 1890s-1917
2. Mostly middle class, urban
3. Included women
4. Included many political leaders. Notably

Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt

5. Big in the East, South

B. The Progressive Program

1. Settlement Houses
2. Safer Meat and Food
- 3. Women's Suffrage**

VII. Conclusion



Group	Populists' Solutions	Progressives' Solutions
Women (constrained by gender, per Civic Maternalism)	No position on the issue	Suffrage based on Civic Maternalism, Women's Trade Union Leagues
Workers (doing poorly)	Free and unlimited coinage of silver	Muckraking, Workplace safety laws, Child labor prohibitions (e.g. Keating-Owen Act of 1916)
Political Leaders (wildly corrupt)	Take over the Democratic Party, make it the instrument of the people	Muckraking, Civil Service Reform
Businessmen (abusing their power)	Regulate banks and railroads	Muckraking, Trustbusting, Government oversight (e.g. Hepburn Act of 1906), National Consumers' League, Nat'l Child Labor Committee
Immigrants (doing poorly)	Free and unlimited coinage of silver	Settlement House movement, Housing codes (e.g New York Tenement House Law of 1901)
Native Americans (stuck on reservations)	No position on the issue	Special Education (e.g. Carlisle Indian School)
Farmers (doing poorly)	Subtreasury system, free and unlimited coinage of silver, loans to farmers secured by land, farmer-owned grain elevators	Federally sponsored improvements (e.g. Newlands Act of 1902)