

Name: _____

The Populist Party

[Lease & Populists](#)-51:55-1:02:50

What changes and issues did farmers face due to industrialization?

Who was Mary Elizabeth Lease?

Why did the Populist feel like they had to abandon the two major parties?

Who was attracted to the Populist Party? Why?

What were the radical and untested ideas of the Populist Party?

According to the Populists and their 1892 Omaha Platform (next page), what were...

Major issues that needed to be addressed	Necessary proposals/reforms

The Populist Party Platform of 1892, also known as the Omaha Platform

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We declare, therefore: *First*. — That the union of the labor forces of the United States this day ... shall be permanent and **perpetual**

Second. — Wealth belongs to him who creates it, and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. “If any will not work, neither shall he eat.” The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

FINANCE. — We demand a national **currency**, safe, sound, and flexible, issued by the general government only and a just, equitable, and efficient means of distribution direct to the people...without the use of banking corporations

- We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16:1
- We demand a **graduated** income tax.
- We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all State and national **revenues** shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.
- We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

TRANSPORTATION — Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity...[and] the telegraph, telephone, like the post-office system, being a necessity for the transmission of news, the government should own and operate these industries in the interest of the people, not in the interests of capitalists.

LAND. — The land, including all the natural sources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for **speculative** purposes, and alien [immigrant] ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens [immigrants] should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

Wall Street owns the country. It is no longer a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, but a government of Wall Street, by Wall Street, and for Wall Street.

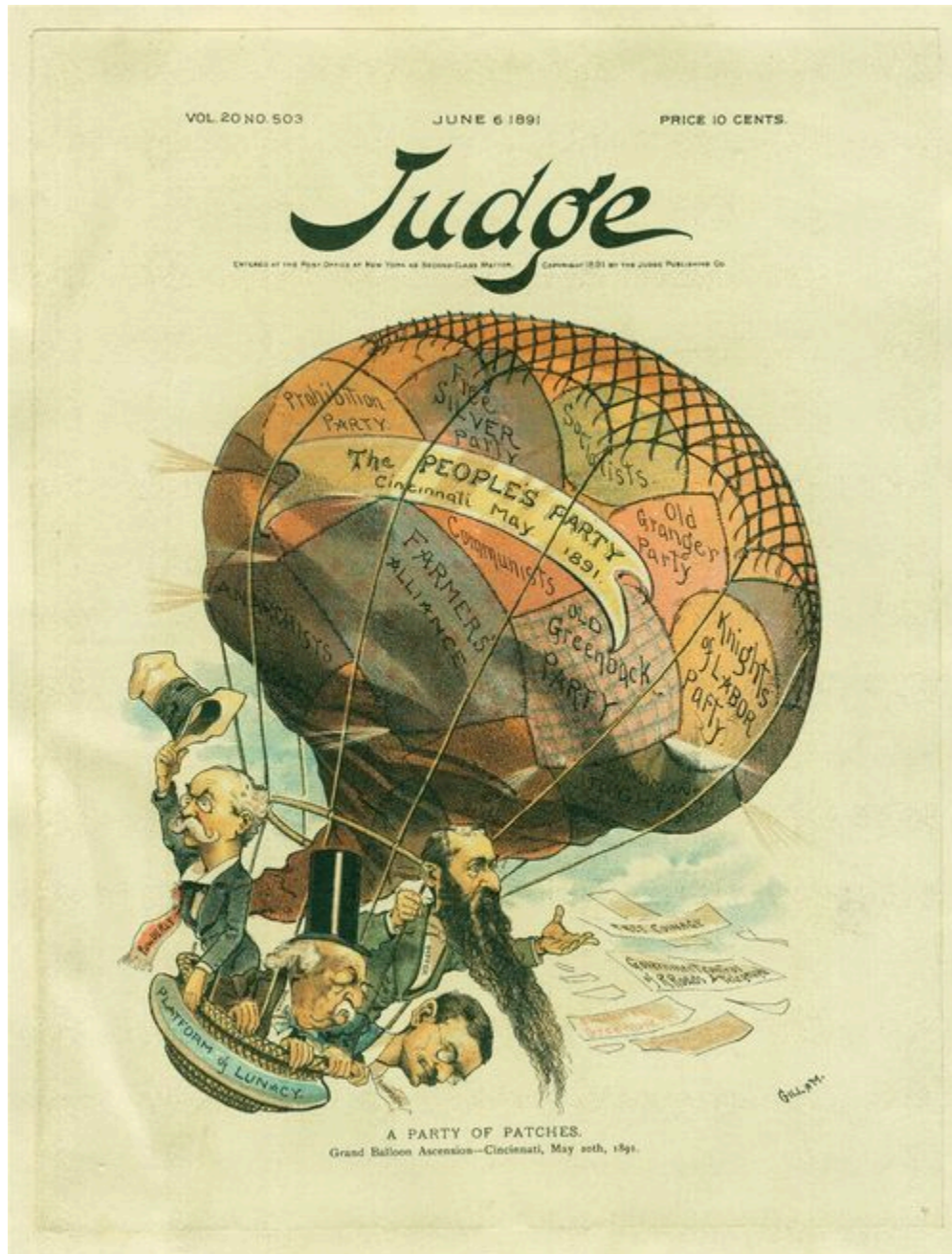
We were told two years ago to go to work and raise a big crop, that was all we needed...Then the politicians said we suffered from overproduction. Overproduction, when 10,000 little children, so statistics tell us, starve to death every year in the United States, and over 100,000 shop-girls in New York are forced to sell their virtue for the bread their **miserly** wages deny them

We want money, land and transportation. We want the abolition of the National Banks, and we want the power to make loans direct from the Government...we will not pay our debts to the loan-shark banks until the Government pays its debts to us...

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|---|--|
| 1. RESOLVED, That we demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections and pledge ourselves to secure it to every legal voter without Federal Intervention, through the adoption by the States of the unperturbed Australian or secret ballot system. | 6. RESOLVED, That we regard the maintenance of a large standing army of mercenaries, known as the Pinkerton system, as a menace to our liberties, and we demand its abolition. . . . |
| 2. RESOLVED, That the revenue derived from a graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation now levied upon the domestic industries of this country. | 7. RESOLVED, That we commend to the favorable consideration of the people and the reform press the legislative system known as the initiative and referendum. |
| 3. RESOLVED, That we pledge our support to fair and liberal pensions to ex-Union soldiers and sailors. | 8. RESOLVED, That we favor a constitutional provision limiting the office of President and Vice-President to one term, and providing for the election of Senators of the United States by a direct vote of the people. |
| 4. RESOLVED, That we condemn the fallacy of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world and crowds out our wage-earners; and we denounce the present ineffective laws against contract labor, and demand the further restriction of undesirable emigration. | 9. RESOLVED, That we oppose any subsidy or national aid to any private corporation for any purpose. |
| 5. RESOLVED, That we cordially sympathize with the efforts of organized workingmen to shorten the hours of labor, and demand a rigid enforcement of the existing eight-hour law on Government work, and ask that a penalty clause be added to the said law. | 10. RESOLVED, That this convention sympathizes with the Knights of Labor and their righteous contest with the tyrannical combine of clothing manufacturers of Rochester, and declare it to be a duty of all who hate tyranny and oppression to refuse to purchase the goods made by the said manufacturers, or to patronize any merchants who sell such goods. |

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“A party of patches,” Judge Magazine 1891

What is the author's point of view and message?

Which of the following groups would be most likely to support the Populist Party?

- a. Sharecroppers
- b. Industrialists
- c. Bankers
- d. Immigrants

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Bryan Nomination & Election of 1896-1:36:20-1:48:50

1. What was the significance of Bryan's Cross of Gold speech?
2. How did the Democratic Party's view of the role of government change?
3. What was McKinley's Republican platform? What gave him an advantage?
4. What were the results of the election of 1896? What did these results indicate about America and the direction in which it was headed?

William Jennings Bryan, Democratic National Convention Speech (1896)

"If the gold standard advocates win, this country will be dominated by the financial harpies [monsters] of Wall Street. I am trying to save the American people from disaster- which will mean the enslavement of the farmers, merchants, manufacturers, and laboring classes to the most merciless and unscrupulous gang of speculators on earth-the money power... You come to us and tell us that the great cities are in favor of the gold standard. I tell you that the great cities rest upon these broad and fertile prairies. Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic. But destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country. If they dare to come out in the open field and defend the gold standard as a good thing, we shall fight them to the uttermost, having behind us the producing masses...having behind us the commercial interests and the laboring interests and all the toiling masses, we shall answer their demands for a gold standard by saying to them, you shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.

1. What does Bryan believe will happen if the US remains on the gold standard? What does he see as the foundation of the US?

2. What groups does Bryan believe oppose the gold standard (and support the Populists) and why?

3. Why do you think Bryan refers to the gold standard as a "cross of gold" and a "crown of thorns?"