

Comparing the Goals of the “Populist” and the “Progressives”

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American History

Topic: Post Civil War Growth and Change (The Populist and Progressive Movements)

Time Frame: 1890-1910

Grade Level: 11th

Time Needed: Two 50 Minute Class Periods

Objective: To compare the Populist and Progressive movements and their influence on history

Chapter 5: Section 3 - Farmers and the Populist Movement

Chapter 9: Section 1 - The Origins of Progressivism
Section 2 – Women in Public Life

Concept: Westward Movement - ss.a.1.4.2; ss.b.1.4.4; ssb.2.4.6

Concept: Progressive Movement - ss.c.1.4.4; ss.d.2.4.3.

Student Reading Assignment: This will be done as a homework assignment

- Farmers Unite to Address Common Problems 219-221
- The Rise and Fall of Populism 221-223
- Four Goals of Progressivism 308-309
- Cleaning up Local Government 309-310
- Reform at the State Level 310-312
- Women in the Work Force 313-314.
- Populist Party Platform (Print Out)

THE PLATFORM OF THE POPULIST PARTY

Adopted at St. Louis, July 24th, 1896.

The People's party, assembled in National Convention, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles declared by the founders of the Republic, and also to the fundamental principles of just government as enunciated in the platform of the party in 1892. We recognize that, through the connivance of the present and preceding Administrations, the country has reached a crisis in its national life as predicted in our declaration four years ago, and that prompt and patriotic action is the supreme duty of the hour. We realize that, while we have political independence, our financial and industrial independence is yet to be attained by restoring to our country the constitutional control and exercise of the functions necessary to a people's government, which functions have been basely surrendered by our public servant to corporate monopolies. The influence of European money changers has been more potent in shaping legislation than the voice of the American people. Executive power and patronage have been used to corrupt our Legislatures and defeat the will of the people, and plutocracy has thereby been enthroned upon

the ruins of Democracy. To restore the Government intended by the fathers and for the welfare and prosperity of this and future generations, we demand the establishment of an economic and financial system which shall make us masters of our own affairs and independent of European control by the adoption of the following:

Declaration of Principles.

FIRST. We demand a national money, safe and sound, issued by the General Government only, without the intervention of banks of issue, to be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private; a just, equitable, and efficient means of distribution direct to the people and through the lawful disbursements of the Government.

SECOND. We demand the free and unrestricted coinage of silver and gold at the present ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the consent of foreign nations.

THIRD. We demand the volume of circulating medium be speedily increased to an amount sufficient to meet the demands of the business and population and to restore the just level of prices of labor and production.

FOURTH. We denounce the sale of bonds and the increase of the public interest-bearing debt made by the present Administration as unnecessary and without authority of law, and demand that no more bonds be issued except by specific act of Congress.

FIFTH. We demand such legislation as will prevent the demonetization of the lawful money of the United States by private contract.

SIXTH. We demand that the Government, in payment of its obligations, shall use its option as to the kind of lawful money in which they are to be paid, and we denounce the present and preceding Administrations for surrendering this option to the holders of Government obligations.

SEVENTH. We demand a graduated income tax to the end that aggregated wealth shall bear its just proportion of taxation, and we regard the recent decision of the Supreme Court relative to the Income Tax law as a misinterpretation of the Constitution and an invasion of the rightful powers of Congress over the subject of taxation.

EIGHTH. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the Government for the safe deposit of the savings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

Activity

- The class will be divided into groups to study the goals and programs supported by the Populist and the Progressives.
- The groups will decide in which ways the Populist and Progressives held similar views and in which ways they differed in their goals.
- The groups will discuss whether the two groups were legitimate political parties or were they interest groups trying to accomplish their programs?
- Who were the leaders of the two groups and what roles did they play?
- In what ways did the two groups influence each other or did they?
- Were there some people crossovers between the two groups? Did they participate in each group?

Groups will be assigned a question dealing with the two movements, to discuss and reach a consensus on how they compared with each other. Each of the groups will use a graphic organizer in order to help them to compare the two movements. After the groups have met the class will come together and discuss what they have learned about the two movements. They will also discuss how each of the movements impacted their time period and what lasting influence, if any they had on future generations.