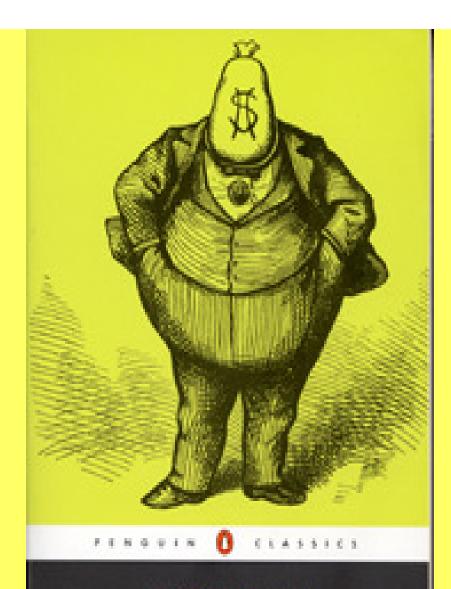
### The Gilded Age

- > Gilded covered in a thin layer of gold.
  - not what it seems.
- > The Gilded Age a book by Mark Twain that made fun of the American society.
- > The period between 1870 and 1890.
- > Gilded = democracy, wealth, progress, inventions, imperialism
- Reality = poverty, corruption, inequality, racism,



MARK TWAIN & CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER

The Gilded Age
A Tale of Today

# The Spoils System

- "To the victor goes the spoils"
- Made popular by Andrew Jackson
- Policy of giving government jobs to supporters of the President is called patronage.
- Anyone who helped expected a job.
- Is this good for America?

# Problems

- Unqualified
- Corruption using position of power for your own personal gain.
- Expected.

# Fixing the Problem

- Pres. Hayes refuses to appoint his supporters in 1877.
- Hayes starts to end the corruption, cleans up a New York customs house.

- Pres. Garfield continues the work of Hayes. Merit or ability are more important than loyalty.
- July 1881 Garfield is assassinated by Charles Guiteau Guiteau was not given a job by Garfield.
- Pres. Arthur (a benefactor of the spoils system) continues Garfield's work.
- 1883 Pendelton Act creates Civil Service Commission – all govt. jobs except elected officials and military are based on a test.

### Progressive Era

- Fix the problems, improve America
  - Gold, not gilded.
- Religion Social Gospel
- · Goals -
  - Help others
  - •People will make the right choice if given the chance more democracy
  - •Govt. should work for the public interest, not special interest.
  - Get involved & work for the future

# More Democracy

- Primary
- Initiative
- Referendum
- Recall
- Women's Suffrage
- Changes in Education

### Constitutional Changes

- 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment Graduated Income Tax
- 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment Direct Election of Senators
- 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment Prohibition of Alcohol
- 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Women's Suffrage

#### Regulating Big Business

- Interstate Commerce Act
  - Congress outlaws pools and rebates, creates agency to oversee interstate business - ICC
- Sherman Anti-trust Act
  - Designed to outlaw monopolies and trusts
  - Used against labor unions
- Both laws were originally weak, overruled in the courts
- Showed the willingness of Congress to fix the problems.