

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,***



PENGUIN  CLASSICS

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

- ***16th Amendment – Graduated Income Tax***
- ***17th Amendment – Direct Election of Senators***
- ***18th Amendment – Prohibition of Alcohol***
- ***19th 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.