

19. National Politics in the Gilded Age, 1877–1900

- Which of the following is a correct statement about national politics in the Gilded Age?
 - Congress focused on the problems of industrialization and urbanization.
 - The presidents of the era expanded executive powers.
 - The two major parties avoided taking strong positions on the issues.**
 - Republicans held firm control of both Congress and the presidency.
 - Lack of interest in national politics resulted in low voter turnout.
- The issue of patronage was least involved in which of the following?
 - rivalry between the Stalwarts and Halfbreeds
 - the assassination of James A. Garfield
 - the passage of the Pendleton Act
 - the nomination of James B. Weaver as a presidential candidate**
 - the control of New York politics by Roscoe Conkling
- What two issues dominated national politics in the late 19th century?
 - the money supply and the protective tariff**
 - wages and working conditions of factory workers
 - overseas expansion and the growth of the military
 - civil service reform and welfare of the poor
 - pension reform and balancing the federal budget
- In the late 19th century, inflationary monetary policies did NOT appeal to
 - supporters of the Greenback party
 - emerging businesses with large debts
 - cotton farmers
 - founders of the Populist party
 - bankers**
- The Republican billion-dollar Congress did all of the following EXCEPT
 - increase tariff rates
 - increase pensions for Civil War veterans
 - increase the coinage of silver
 - enact an antitrust law
 - enact a law regulating interstate commerce**
- “Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interests of the people. The telegraph and telephone, like the post office system, being a necessity for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interests of the people.”

The passage above is most likely from which of the following?

 - the Interstate Commerce Act
 - Grover Cleveland’s annual message to Congress
 - the platform of the Republican party
 - the platform of the Populist party**
 - the Sherman Antitrust Act
- In the election of 1896, the major issue was
 - the lowering of tariff rates
 - the free and unlimited coinage of silver**
 - the reduction of veterans’ pensions
 - Cleveland’s handling of the Panic of 1893
 - welfare for the unemployed
- All of the following were reasons for the decline of the Populist party EXCEPT
 - racism in the South
 - failure of farmers and industrial workers to unite

- (C) adoption of the silver issue by the Democrats
- (D) waning popularity of Grover Cleveland
- (E) decline of the political power of rural America

Questions 9 and 10 refer to the table:

Political Party Affiliations in Congress, 1881–1901				
Year	House		Senate	
	Major Parties	Minor Parties	Major Parties	Minor Parties
1881–1883	R-147, D-135	11	R-37, D-37	1
1883–1885	D-197, R-118	10	R-38, D-36	2
1885–1887	D-183, R-140	2	R-43, D-34	0
1887–1889	D-169, R-152	4	R-39, D-37	0
1889–1891	R-166, D-159		R-39, D-37	0
1891–1893	D-235, R-88	9	R-47, D-39	2
1893–1895	D-218, R-127	11	D-44, R-38	3
1895–1897	R-244, D-105	7	R-43, D-39	6
1897–1899	R-204, D-113	40	R-47, D-34	7
1899–1901	R-185, D-163	9	R-53, D-26	8

R—Republican D—Democrat

Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

9. Which of the following conclusions is supported by data in the table?
- (A) Democrats dominated both houses of Congress during Cleveland’s two terms in office.
 - (B) The Republicans broke the divided control of Congress in elections of the late 1890s.
 - (C) Minor parties were best represented in Congress during 1880s and declined in the 1890s.
 - (D) Democrats and Republicans were stalemated by their divided control of Congress in the 1880s and 1890s.
 - (E) After the election of 1896, the Populists ceased to be represented in Congress.
10. The data in the table would be *most relevant* in an investigation of which of the following historical topics?
- (A) origins of the Greenback party
 - (B) sectionalism after the Civil War
 - (C) influence of political machines on the Republican party
 - (D) impact of industrialization on the two-party system
 - (E) political dominance in Congress from Garfield to McKinley