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American Studies
29 September 2010

Politics in the Gilded Age

- I. Emergence of Political Machines
 - A. Political Machine – organized group that controlled activities of political party
 - i. Offered services in exchange for political or financial support
 - ii. Pyramid – workers that voted for the upper city boss
 - B. Role of the Political Boss
 - i. Controlled Jobs and built parks, sewers, gave money to schools, solve problems
 - C. Immigrants and the Machine
 - i. Many of the Bosses were immigrants and knew language and challenges
 - ii. Helped immigrants with citizenship in exchange for votes
- II. Municipal Graft and Scandal
 - A. Election Fraud and Graft
 - i. Graft – illegal use of political influence for personal gain
 - ii. Political machines accepted bribes, illegal activities, and police
 - B. Tweed Ring Scandal
 - i. Took lots of money into his pocket from government projects
 - ii. Thomas Nast publicized him using his cartoon
- III. Civil Service Replaces Patronage
 - A. Patronage Spurs Reforms
 - i. Patronage – giving government jobs to people who had helped a candidate get elected.
 - ii. Civil service jobs should go to the most qualified
 - B. Reforms under Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur
 - i. Hayes investigated corruption but could not pass reforms
 - ii. Garfield, independent became president and Arthur, spoils system VP when no majority
 - iii. Garfield assassinated, Arthur becomes reformer
 - iv. Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883 made government more efficient and honest
- IV. Business Buys Influence
 - A. Harrison, Cleveland, and High Tariffs
 - i. Cleveland first Democrat, tried to lower tariffs, unsuccessful
 - ii. Ran against Harrison, who was funded by corporations, rose tariffs to highest level
 - iii. Cleveland won again, lowered tariffs, but added a federal tax
 - iv. McKinley made tariffs go back up