

The background features a dark blue field with stylized stars and stripes. The stars are light blue and arranged in a circular pattern. The stripes are red and blue, radiating from the center. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

POLITICS IN THE GILDED AGE

**Chapter 4 Section 4
US History Honors**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1

Students will be able to explain the role of political machines and political bosses.

2

Students will be able to describe how some politicians' greed and fraud cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

3

Students will be able to describe the measures taken by presidents Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur to reform the spoils system.

4

Students will be able to explain the positions taken by presidents Cleveland, Harrison, and McKinley on the tariff issue.

POLITICS IN WASHINGTON

What motivated jobs in the federal government in the late 1800s?

- The spoils system (this was instituted by Andrew Jackson in the 1820s)

How did the Spoils System work?

- Winning candidates would fire anyone who worked for the previous administration
- Replacing these employees with their supporters
- Rewarding supporters with jobs is also known as patronage!

Why did people think patronage was good?

- Because the loyal supporters would do what the candidate had promised

Did everyone support the idea of patronage? NO!

- After the Civil War, people began to question this system
- Patronage made the government corrupt and inefficient





CIVIL SERVICE REFORMS

Who was the first president to attempt to end patronage?

- Rutherford B. Hayes (1877)
- President Hayes fired anyone who was given a job just for supporting the previous president.

Who replaced these workers?

- REFORMERS!

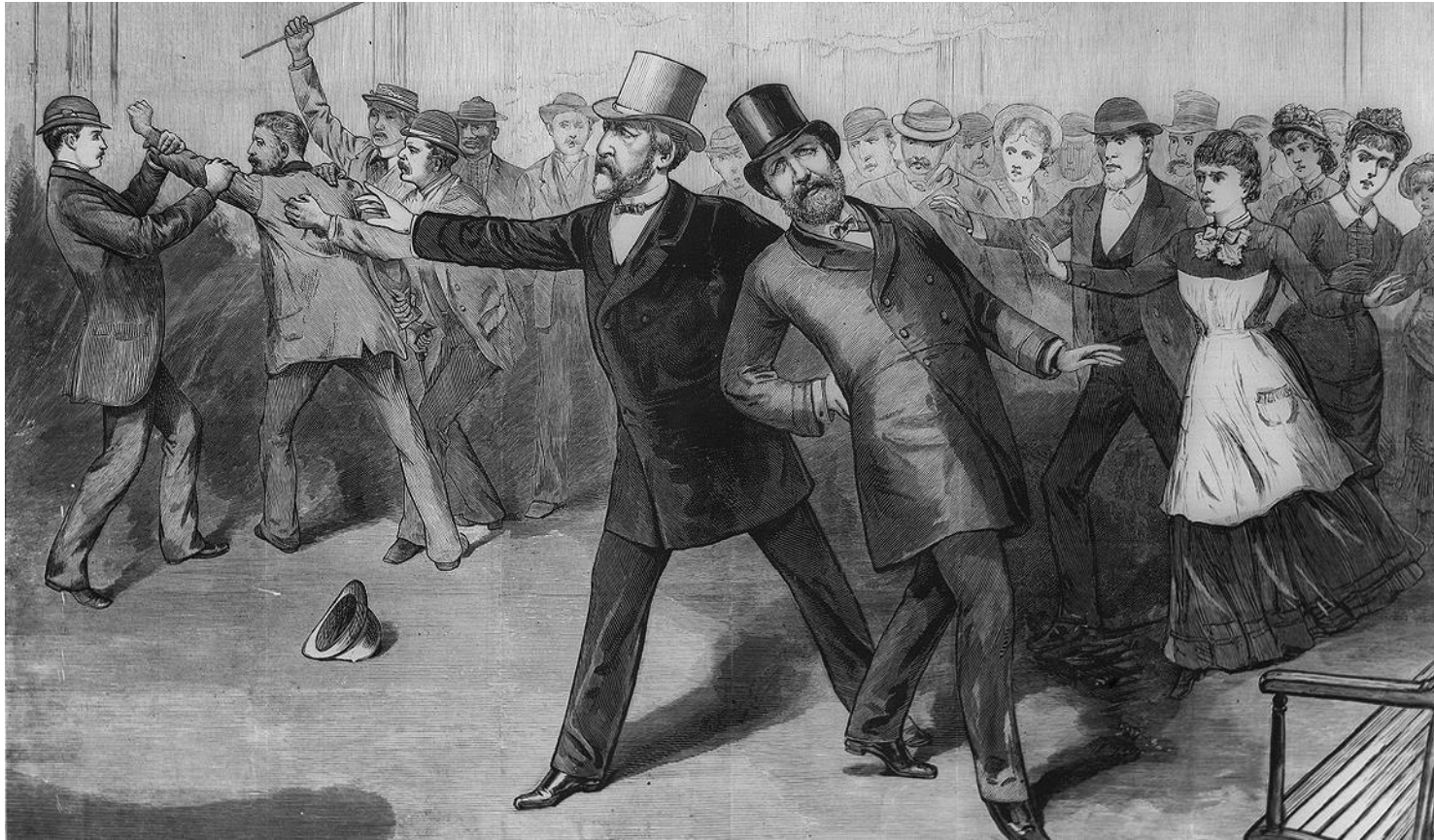
How did this impact future politics?

- This action split the Republican Party:
 - The Stalwarts: who supported patronage
 - The Halfbreeds: who backed some reforms
 - Reformers

Were any reforms passed during his presidency?

- NO! Republicans nominated James Garfield as president in the 1880 election.
- Chester A. Arthur would serve as Vice President
- The Republicans won the 1880 election.





WHAT HAPPENED TO PRESIDENT GARFIELD?

Garfield was assassinated in 1881 – by someone who was not given a government job.

How did this assassination impact the public?

- The public turned against the spoils system

What also occurred as a result of Garfield's death?

- Congress passed the Pendleton Act (1883)
- Government jobs are to be filled through competitive written exams
- Patronage is OUT!

What is this change called?

- Civil Service Reform
- Most government jobs are based on qualifications – not friendship.
- 10% of jobs were based on this by 1883.

THE ELECTION OF 1884

Who were the candidates in this election?

- Democrats: Grover Cleveland
- Republicans: James G. Blaine

What caused friction?

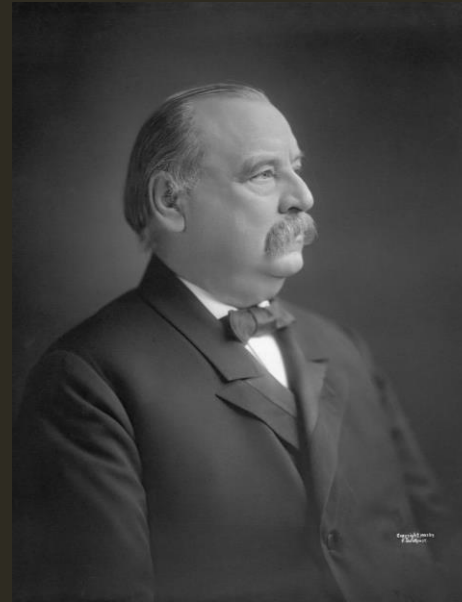
- Blaine was rumored to have accepted bribes as the Speaker of the House.
- Some Republicans supported Cleveland as a result of the rumors.

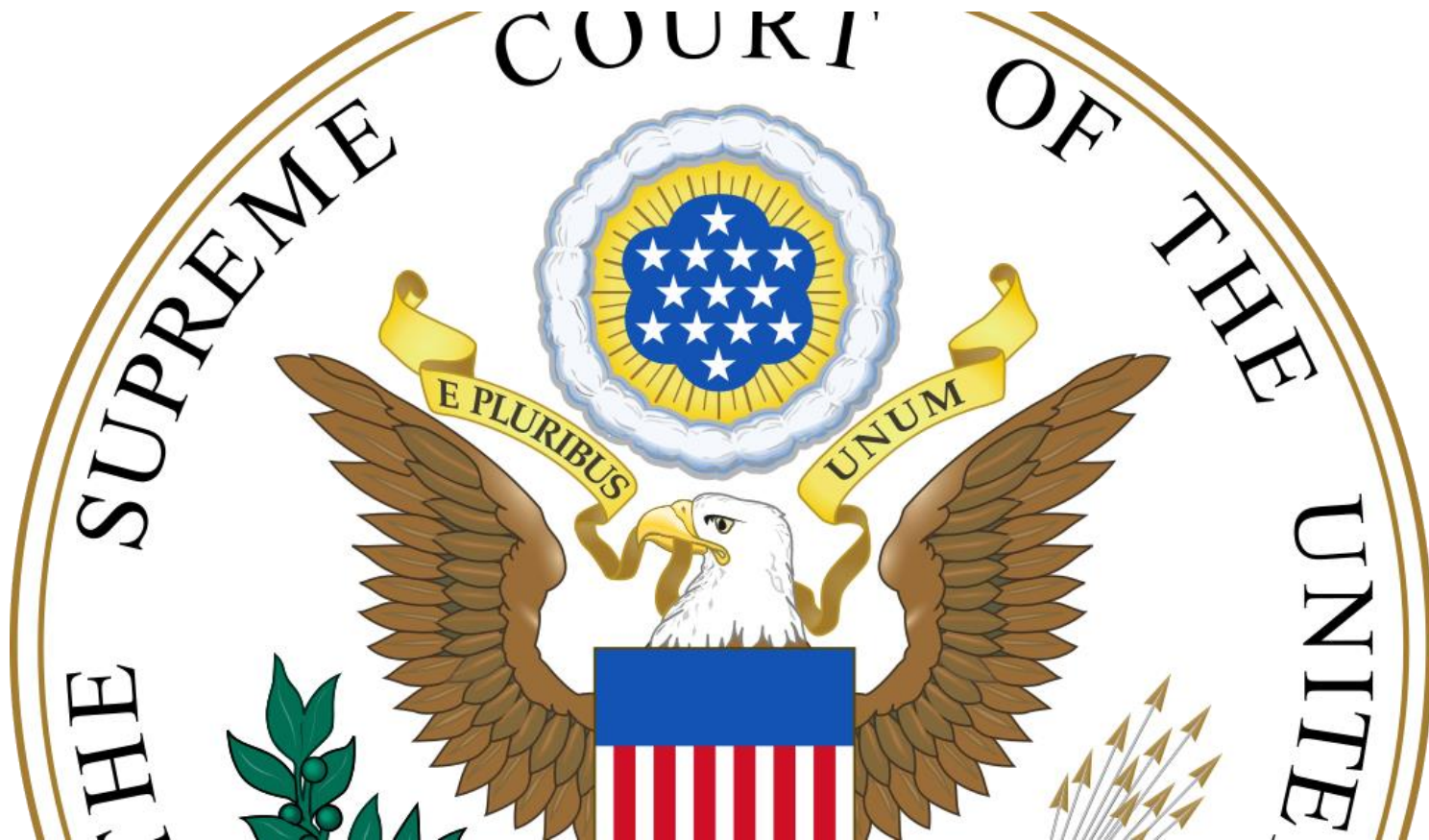
Who won the election?

- Grover Cleveland (although it was close)

What happened during his presidency?

- Cleveland had supporters who also wanted him to practice patronage.
- Cleveland did hire a few friends and increased the Civil Service Reforms (neither side was happy).
- The economy (having issues) replaced the patronage issues during Cleveland's presidency!





DEBATING ECONOMIC POLICY

What caused Americans great concern in the late 1880s?

- Corporate power – Americans feared their price and wage controls
- Americans are concerned about government corruption

What else caused concerns during this period?

- Small businesses and farmers were struggling with railroad rates
- Larger corporations were given lower rates because of the amount of goods being shipped
- Farmers and small businesses were forced to pay much higher rates

Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Railway v. Illinois

- 1886 Supreme Court case
- The federal government (not corporations) set rates for interstate commerce

Interstate Commerce Act

- 1887 Act signed by President Cleveland
- 1st federal law to regulate interstate commerce



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PRESIDENT CLEVELAND & COMMERCE

Limited railroad rates – “reasonable & just”

Made it illegal to charge higher rates for shorter hauls – especially if the shorter trip was part of a longer trip

Created the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)

- 1st independent regulatory system
- Had to sue in court at first – would become more effective
- Rebates and higher rates for short hauls were banned
- Farmers and small businesses received supports
- Shipping costs increased for larger companies – meaning prices of goods increased

1888 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Who were the candidates in this election?

- Democrats: Grover Cleveland
- Republicans: Benjamin Harrison

Who supported the candidates & who won?

- Industrialists supported Harrison.
- This election was CLOSE!
- Harrison LOST the popular vote – WON the electoral vote (this has happened MORE THAN ONCE)!

What were the issues?

- Tariff debates
- Cleveland & the Democrats campaigned against the tariff issues of late 1887.

