Who Stole the People’s Money?

AGENDA: POLITICAL MACHINES & POLITICAL CARTOONS

Test Wednesday

Notebook Check Wednesday
Urbanization
Cities grow so fast their gov’t (municipal) can’t keep up with needs of people: Transit, water & sewage systems, sanitation, protection

Political Machines
step in and provide services to immigrants in exchange for votes and money to get their candidates elected

Immigration & Migration
Mass immigration from Europe - looking for jobs and a better life; Many immigrants faced nativism policy that favors native born Americans

Problems Lead to Political Machines
Mass immigration from Europe - looking for jobs and a better life; Many immigrants faced nativism policy that favors native born Americans
City governments didn’t provide: jobs, financial aid, protection, sanitation etc.

Cities grow so fast their government can’t keep up with the needs of the people—the **POLITICAL MACHINE** steps in.

Provided services and business help in exchange for votes and money.
Political Machines: organized group that controlled things for a political party

All work together
To elect their
Candidates &
Ensure the success
Of the machine
The City Boss: top man in a political machine

• Got votes & $ for political party in return for providing services or favors

• Controlled city jobs, business licenses, influenced the courts

Examples:

Roscoe Conkling - boss of the NY Republican pol. mach.

William Tweed - boss of the infamous pol. mach.

Tammany Hall
Immigrants and the Political Machine

- Constituents (voters) are often **immigrants**

- Bosses and precinct captains often 1st or 2nd generation immigrants themselves
  
  – Knew the language, culture, and what was needed

Why would the constituents’ immigrant nature be important?

  – Immigrants taken advantage of
  
  – Nativism still existed
Corruption in the Machines

**Fraud:** cheating to win elections

ex: voting more than once

**Graft:** using political influence for personal gain

ex: *Bribes* - businesses offered money to get city contracts
* William M. Tweed was City Boss of Tammany Hall, the Democratic Pol. Mach. in NY

Led ring of corrupt politicians who defrauded New York City 1869-1871
One example: the courthouse scam

Charged taxpayers $13,000,000 for project that cost $3,000,000

Estimated Tweed stole from $30 million to $300 million
Received large fees for interests (*kickbacks) from the Erie Railroad.

Tweed Ring milked the city with false leases, padded bills, false vouchers, unnecessary repairs and over-priced goods.

Eventually indicted on (charged with) 120 counts of fraud and extortion.

*Return of a portion of the money received in a sale or contract often illegal and corrupt in return for special favors.
THE TAMMANY TIGER LOOSE.—“What are you going to do about it?”
Exposed for his corruption by cartoonist and editor, Thomas Nast

- Tweed Ring fell and 1873 Tweed convicted of embezzlement

- Later Tweed was arrested on a civil charge and jailed in NYC, later died there
2. NAST’S LASTING SYMBOLS TO MODERN AMERICA WERE....
UNDER THE THUMB.

The Boss. "Well, what are you going to do about it?"
The “Spoils” System (or *patronage*) in Politics

- The winning party in an election got to hand out these jobs to their supporters
- Government jobs were the “spoils”
- This system is replaced with *civil service*
HOW WAS IT PATRONAGE ENDED

- The law passed by Congress that brought an end to patronage (the spoils system) and led to the creation of the Civil Service Commission was the Pendelton Act.
- Under the Pendleton Act, people now had to Pass a civil service exam to qualify for a government job.
CIVIL SERVICE

• a system by which the most qualified people are hired for gov’t jobs
• system based on a candidates’ performances on an examination (& interview?)

15. A) A system by which the most qualified people are hired for government jobs and
   B) system based on a candidates’ performances on an examination---

Both A and B describe what:

a. Spoils system
b. Patronage
c. Civil Service