

## The American Pageant Chapter 23 Reading Guide

### Vocabulary

“Waving the bloody shirt”  
Tweed Ring  
Credit Mobilier scandal  
Panic of 1873  
Gilded Age  
Patronage  
Compromise of 1877  
Civil Rights Act of 1875  
Sharecropping  
Jim Crow  
Plessy v. Ferguson  
Chinese Exclusion Act  
Pendleton Act  
Homestead Strike  
Grandfather clause

### Reading Questions

1. Why are the Republicans successful in the Election of 1868, and why are the Democrats much less successful?
2. Explain how the Tweed ring operated in New York City.
3. What led to Boss Tweed’s downfall?
4. Explain the two major scandals that led to the tarnishing of the Grant administration in the 1870s.
5. Explain how Horace Greeley ends up getting the Democrat nomination for president in 1872.
6. What causes the Panic of 1873?
7. Explain the difference between how creditors and debtors want the government to respond to the panic.
8. What is the result of the Republican response to the Panic of 1873?
9. The text makes the argument that during the Gilded Age, very little actually separated the two political parties in terms of politics, yet they were extremely competitive with each other. What evidence does the text offer to explain how this fierce competitiveness existed?
10. What is the dispute in the Republican party between the Stalwarts, led by Conkling, and the Half-Breeds, led by Blaine?
11. How is the Hayes-Tilden election of 1876 resolved?
12. What is the Civil Rights Act of 1875, and how does the Supreme Court lessen the impact of that law?
13. Describe the methods used to limit African-American rights following Reconstruction.
14. Explain the Supreme Court’s ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson.
15. How does President Hayes intervene in the disagreement between the railroads and their workers in 1877?
16. Explain the life of the Chinese in the United States in the 1870s and 1880s.
17. How do the Kearneyites respond to the Chinese in California?
18. What does Congress pass in 1882 to deal with the Chinese issue?
19. Explain the Supreme Court’s finding in the case U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark.
20. Who assassinates James Garfield, and why does the assassination take place?
21. Following Garfield’s death, what does Congress, backed by new president Chester Arthur, pass? What is the significance of this legislation?
22. Why is the Election of 1884 one of the most bitter campaigns in American history? Who runs for each political party?
23. What approach to governing was President Cleveland an “apostle of?” What groups support this? Provide examples of how he applied this approach in office.
24. How does President Grover Cleveland propose dealing with the tariff issue in 1887? Why has the tariff become an issue at this point?

25. After Benjamin Harrison defeats Cleveland in the Election of 1888, Thomas B. Reed of Maine becomes the Speaker of the House as the Republicans retake control of the House of Representatives. How does Reed exercise his power in the House? What major laws are passed while Reed is Speaker? (Make sure to understand the terms Billion-Dollar Congress and McKinley Tariff)
26. What is the result of the passage of the McKinley Tariff, and how does this impact the midterm Congressional elections of 1890?
27. Who are the Populists? What is the Populist platform agreed upon in Omaha in 1892?
28. Explain the Homestead Strike.
29. Why is the election of 1892 a one-of-a-kind election in U.S. history?
30. How do white southerners effectively eliminate black suffrage in the South during the 1892 election?
31. Following Cleveland's election in 1892, explain the economic crisis that begins and what it means for the country.
32. Why does the issue of gold become so important for the U.S. Government in 1893-1894? How does the government respond to this crisis?
33. Why is the Wilson-Gorman Tariff in 1894 an embarrassment for Cleveland?