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CLEP History of the United States II

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Question: 1

What made the election of 1896 different from past elections?

- A. It demonstrated that the popular news media need not be engaged in an election campaign.
- B. It demonstrated the relative unimportance of financial advantages when running a national campaign.
- C. It demonstrated the effectiveness of new campaign tactics
- D. It firmly aligned the Republican Party with the interests of free trade
- E. It showed that a Democrat could be competitive in the Northeast

Answer: C

Explanation:

The use of new campaign tactics is what made the election of 1896 different from past elections. Prior to 1896 it was considered inappropriate for a presidential candidate to appeal directly to voters. Others were supposed to campaign for their candidate. This could be done through speeches, pamphlets, and editorials in newspapers. William Jennings Bryan was relatively unknown and could not count on others to campaign convincingly for him, plus, he didn't have the financial resources to print pamphlets or place editorials in various newspapers around the country. He decided to appeal to the public directly. Bryan traveled more than 18,000 miles and spoke all across the country giving multiple speeches. He gave 500 speeches in 300 days (and spoke 36 times in one day at one of the stops). He reached more than 5,000,000 people with his message. He was only able to raise \$500,000 dollars for his campaign. His opponent, Governor of Ohio, William McKinley was able to raise 3.5 million dollars from big business. McKinley conducted his campaign from his front porch. People were brought to his house from all over the country by train. He held well planned and rehearsed meetings that were then passed on to the press to be printed in newspapers all over the country. Bryan won support from rural farmers, while McKinley attracted the support of big business and urban citizens. Bryan was popular and a good speaker, but was portrayed as a radical, while McKinley was seen as a calm, conservative candidate. McKinley barely won the popular vote, but won by a landslide in the Electoral College.

Question: 2

Which of the following groups would have been disliked by white southerners during reconstruction?

- A. Copperheads and Scalawags
- B. Carpetbaggers and Copperheads
- C. Copperheads and Scalawags
- D. Copperheads and Mugwumps
- E. Carpetbaggers and Scalawags

Answer: E

Explanation:

Carpetbagger was the name southerners gave to northerners who came south after the Civil War. Some of these northerners came south to help freed slaves transition to their new life. They sincerely wanted to help the south rejoin the union and move forward together. However, some of northerners came south in hopes of cheap land, easy profits, and government grants to line their own pockets. Whether they had good or bad motives, any northerner who came south was called a carpetbagger by southerners. Southerners who cooperated with reconstruction efforts and reconstruction governments were branded "scalawags" by their fellow southerners who were bitter for their loss in the Civil War. Some southerners cooperated with the reconstruction efforts from good motives, but some saw it merely as a way to prosper during a time of economic turmoil. Once again, whether their motives were pure or selfish, any southerner who openly cooperated with the reconstruction governments (especially if they helped the recently freed slaves) was considered a scalawag. Copperheads were northern democrats opposed to the Civil War and demanded immediate peace with the South during the Civil War. Mugwumps were Republicans who supported the Democratic candidate during the election of 1884.

Question: 3

During the 1880s, immigrants to the United States came mostly from which pair of nations?

- A. Italy and Poland
- B. Mexico and Cuba
- C. China and Japan
- D. Ireland and Germany
- E. Sweden and France

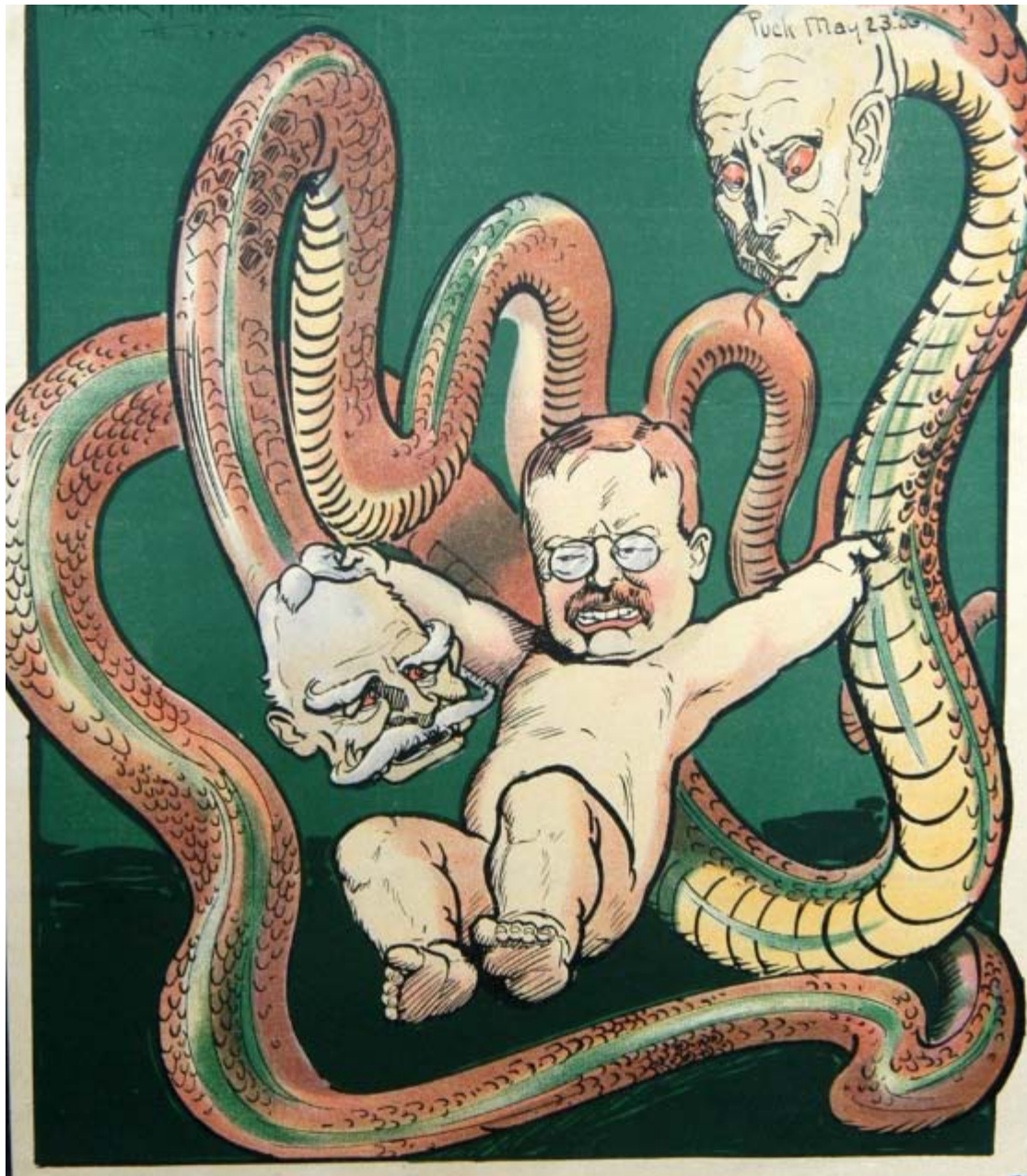
Answer: A

Explanation:

Most "new immigrants" in the 1880s came from southern and eastern Europe, especially Italy and Poland. Swedish and French immigration came before the 1800s. Irish and German immigrants were more prevalent during the early 1800s and Asian immigrants were prevalent in the mid 1800s. Immigration from Latin America was most prevalent in the 1900s.

Question: 4

Consider the 1903 editorial cartoon shown below:



This cartoon depicts Teddy Roosevelt as baby Hercules wrestling snakes with the heads of Senator Nelson Aldrich and J.D. Rockefeller. The snakes represent which corporation that was ordered broken up by the Supreme Court in 1911?

- A. U.S. Steel
- B. General Electric
- C. Northern Securities
- D. American Harvester
- E. Standard Oil

Answer: E

Explanation:

Teddy Roosevelt gained a reputation for his progressive agenda and as a trust buster. Through both vertical and horizontal integration, Standard Oil controlled about 85% of American oil sales by 1904. In 1911 the Supreme Court ruled Standard Oil was an illegal trust under the Sherman Anti-Trust act and was forced to break up into 34 different companies. Most agree that Standard Oil founder J.D. Rockefeller was the richest American ever. Many of the 34 new companies formed from the breakup of Standard oil eventually led to the formation of well known oil companies such as Amoco, Chevron, Exxon, and Mobil.

Question: 5

What was the Teapot Dome scandal?

- A. A scandal during the election of 1884 in which future president Grover Cleveland was rightfully accused of fathering a son out of wedlock.
- B. A scandal during the Grant administration in which government officials diverted tax revenue from the sale of whiskey
- C. A scandal during the Harding administration involving oil companies bribing a cabinet official to lease government oil reserves at very favorable rates
- D. A scandal during the Grant administration in which government officials received kickbacks from a company that was building the transcontinental railroad
- E. A scandal during the Garfield administration in which postal officials were profiting from bidding on the sale of postal routes in the western United States.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Teapot Dome scandal was a major issue during the administration of President Warren Harding. Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall accepted bribes to help oil companies obtain favorable leases on land containing Navy oil reserves, one of which was at Teapot Dome in Wyoming. Albert Fall became the first Cabinet Secretary in American history to be imprisoned due to his role in the scandal. The other choices all describe other scandals from American History. Grant was troubled by both the Whiskey Ring (B) and the Credit Mobilier Scandal (D). Garfield dealt with the Star Route Scandal (E) and Cleveland won the presidential election despite the controversy regarding his illegitimate son.

Question: 6

Which of the following was an effect of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire?

- A. There was a slowing of industrialization because of fear of another disaster
- B. Safety equipment was installed to extinguish fires in multistory buildings
- C. New labor laws were passed in New York to prevent industrial accidents and protect workers
- D. There was increased safety awareness in major American cities
- E. There was less regulation of industry in order to stimulate the economy

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire occurred in a New York City garment factory due to unsafe work conditions. A total of 146 workers died in the fire leading to public outcry and the passage of the country's most extensive workplace safety laws by the state of New York. Frances Perkins, the first woman appointed to a cabinet position, came to prominence through her work advocating for reforms following the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. FDR appointed Perkins Secretary of Labor in 1933.

Question: 7

Justice Brown's Majority Opinion:

"We consider the underlying fallacy of the plaintiff's argument to consist in the assumption that the enforced separation of the two races stamps the colored race with a badge of inferiority... If the civil and political rights of both races be equal, one cannot be inferior to the other civilly or politically. If one race be inferior to the other socially, the Constitution of the United States cannot put them upon the same plane."

Justice Harlan's Dissenting Opinion:

"I am of the opinion that the statute ... is inconsistent with the personal liberties of citizens, white and black, in that State, and hostile to both the spirit and the letter of the Constitution of the United States." The preceding pair of passages comes from which of the following Supreme Court cases?

- A. Loving v. Virginia
- B. Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States
- C. Brown v. Board of Education
- D. Dred Scott v. Sanford
- E. Plessy v. Ferguson

Answer: E

Explanation:

Though each of the cases listed deals with race issues in the United States, the quotes are from Plessy v. Ferguson. In the case, Homer Plessy, who was seven-eighths white, sued after he was arrested for buying a ticket and riding in a "whites only", first class train car. The court ruled against him and established a "separate but equal doctrine" that remained in effect until it was overturned by the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education case.

Question: 8

Prior to writing books like *The Enormous Room*, *Three Soldiers*, and *A Farewell to Arms*, the American authors E. E. Cummings, John Dos Passos, and Ernest Hemingway were inspired by their service as ambulance drivers during which conflict.

- A. The Spanish-American War
- B. World War I
- C. World War II

- D. The Spanish Civil War
- E. The Russian revolution

Answer: B

Explanation:

A number of notable authors served various roles in the military during World War I. Wartime service influenced the production of a number of great works of literature like the three mentioned in the question. Though the other conflicts listed helped to inspire other great literary works, none were as prolific as those inspired by World War I.

Question: 9

After its publication, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* became a sensation for its depiction of what group of poverty stricken Americans?

- A. Tenant Farmers fleeing Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl
- B. Japanese Americans confined to internment camps during World War II
- C. African Americans struggling to survive as sharecroppers in Mississippi
- D. Hispanic Migrant Fruit pickers in California's Salinas Valley
- E. European Immigrant factory workers in Chicago

Answer: A

Explanation:

Steinbeck used notes from a Farm Security Administration worker in California to construct the fictional account of the Joad family who flee Oklahoma during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl to try to find a better life in California. The family's fortunes do not improve when they finally reach California. Steinbeck was lauded for his passionate portrayal of the depths of poverty faced by some Americans during the Great Depression.

Question: 10

Why was the railroad so important in 19th century America?

- A. Railroads were constructed primarily for the military in order to move men and equipment around the country to fight Native Americans and later, Confederates.
- B. Railroads were built primarily to force cattle ranchers to start fencing in their herds instead of grazing them on the open range
- C. Railroads were constructed as a luxury travel option that happened to become useful to industry eventually.
- D. Railroads became a way for dishonest businessmen to confiscate money from the federal government with promises of cheap transcontinental transportation.
- E. Railroads provided reliable, year-round transportation to and through areas unreachable by canals, rivers, and wagons.

Answer: E

Explanation:

Railroads could operate in any weather, year-round. Canals and rivers could not be used in the winter when they were frozen solid. Trains also could operate around the clock, safely. They could travel at night without need to stop except to restock coal and water to power the steam engine. Mules and horses needed to rest and could not traverse mountainous areas easily. Trains were faster than canal barges and steamboats. The railroad opened vast areas in the West for farming, commerce, and tourism. They safely and efficiently moved people, produce, and products all around the interior of America, easily connecting areas that were unreachable by ship, barge, or wagon train.

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