

Politics in the gilded age;;  
A new perspective on  
reform (New  
perspectives in American  
history)

Dobson, John M

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# Politics In The Gilded Age A New Perspective On Reform

**Mike Jess**



## **Politics In The Gilded Age A New Perspective On Reform:**

**The Presidencies of Grover Cleveland** Richard E. Welch, 1988 Grover Cleveland who served as both the twenty second and the twenty fourth president of the United States dominated the American political scene from 1884 to 1896 Viewed at one time as a monument of presidential courage Cleveland has over the past generation been dismissed by historians as a Bourbon Democrat the symbol of that wing of the Democratic party devoted to preserving the status quo and protecting the interests of the propertied In this revisionist study Richard Welch takes a fresh look at the Cleveland administrations and discovers a man whose assertive temperament was frequently at odds with his inherited political faith Although pledging public allegiance to a Whiggish version of the presidency Cleveland's aggressive insistence on presidential independence led him to exercise increasing control of the executive branch and then to seek influence over Congress and national legislation Quick to denounce governmental paternalism and the centralization of political power Cleveland nevertheless expanded the authority of the national government as he revised federal land and Indian policies in the West and ordered the army to Chicago during the 1894 Pullman strike For all his fears of constitutional innovation he was neither a champion of big business nor unaware of the problems posed by the post Civil War economic revolution He signed the Interstate commerce Act warned against the growing power of industrial combination advocated voluntary federal arbitration of labor management disputes and fought the monopolization of western lands by railroad and timber corporations Welch places Cleveland's battles on behalf of tariff revision civil service reform and the gold standard within the context of the conundrum of a strong president who usually failed to gain the cooperation of Congress or the Democratic party Cleveland reinvigorated the American presidency and reestablished an equilibrium between the executive and legislative branches of the federal government but by his obdurate enmity to the silverites and the agrarian radicals he helped assure the division and defeat of his party in the election of 1896 Welch demonstrates that Cleveland's achievements and failures as a political leader were attributable to an authoritarian temperament that saw compromise as surrender Two chapters of the book are devoted to Cleveland's diplomacy focusing especially on his response to Hawaiian and Cuban revolutions and the boundary dispute between Venezuela and Great Britain Welch takes issue with the currently popular thesis that U S diplomacy in the last decade of the nineteenth century displayed a concerted governmental effort to solve domestic economic problems by expanding foreign markets in East Asia and Latin America In addition to providing insights into the character of one of our more interesting presidents this reassessment of Grover Cleveland's historical legacy shows clearly that the Cleveland years served as the essential preface to the development of a modern presidency and to the identification for executive power

**The Presidencies of James A. Garfield & Chester A. Arthur** Justus D. Doenecke, 1981 This is the first single volume to focus on the presidencies of both James A Garfield and Chester A Arthur Drawing from a host of studies on the foreign and domestic policies of the nation during the Gilded Age as well as from his own primary research the author presents a

somewhat revisionist look at Garfield and Arthur revisionist in that he gives the reader a renewed appreciation of both men Far from being cynical spoilsmen or naive incompetents individuals whose presidencies provide studies in ineptitude Garfield and Arthur emerge as men of considerable ability While making no claims of greatness Doenecke maintains that each was a significant transitional figure playing a crucial role as the institution of the presidency moved from the weak leadership of Andrew Johnson to the forceful direction of Theodore Roosevelt According to Doenecke Garfield saw the office of chief executive primarily in administrative terms and his great battle was over keeping the power of appointment in his own hands His victory over the Stalwarts enhanced both the power and prestige of the office His knowledge of how government worked was unmatched long before Woodrow Wilson made his mark Garfield was the scholar in politics The diplomacy of Secretary of State James G Blaine comes under critical scrutiny Doenecke evaluates his performance in the Chile Peru War War of the Pacific the Guatemala Mexico dispute the isthmian canal issue Irish American activities in Britain and efforts to secure markets in Korea br Garfield was assassinated less than six months after he entered office he had yet to be tested on major issues of public policy Chester A Arthur was ill prepared to be chief executive was in poor health much of the time while he was in office and was faced with a hopelessly divided party Nevertheless he was one of the nation s great political surprises His administration pioneered in the development of the navy sought foreign markets for American surpluses fostered civil service reform and pressed for a scientific tariff Doenecke devotes one chapter to the spoils system and the background to the Pendleton Act one to Arthur s strategy regarding the South and then offers an in depth analysis of diplomacy during Arthur s tenure During the presidencies of Garfield and Arthur the United States attempted to intervene in a war between Chile and Peru sought to turn Nicaragua into a protectorate supplied leading advisers to Madagascar and Korea and took a major part in the Congo conference of 1884 In examining these activities even while pointing to uncoordinated statecraft and inept diplomacy Doenecke challenges the long held view that from 1881 to 1885 the nation was withdrawn and insular His fresh perspective on the Garfield and Arthur years will be of considerable interest to historians of the Gilded Age

**Politics in the Gilded Age** John M. Dobson, 1974

**Uncertain Victory** James T. Kloppenberg, 1988-03-24 Between 1870 and 1920 two generations of European and American intellectuals created a transatlantic community of philosophical and political discourse Uncertain Victory the first comparative study of ideas and politics in France Germany the U S and Great Britain during these fifty years demonstrates how a number of thinkers from different traditions converged to create the theoretical foundations for new programs of social democracy and progressivism Kloppenberg studies a wide range of pivotal theorists and activists including philosophers such as William James Wilhelm Dilthey and T H Green democratic socialists such as Jean Jaur s Walter Rauschenbusch Eduard Bernstein and Beatrice and Sidney Webb and social theorists such as John Dewey and Max Weber as he establishes the connection between the philosophers challenges to the traditions of empiricism and idealism and the activists opposition to the traditions of laissez faire liberalism and revolutionary socialism By demonstrating

a link between a philosophy of self conscious uncertainty and a politics of continuing democratic experimentation and by highlighting previously unrecognized similarities among a number of prominent 19th and 20th century thinkers Uncertain Victory is sure to spur a reassessment of the relationship between ideas and politics on both sides of the Atlantic

**The Presidency of Benjamin Harrison** Homer Edward Socolofsky, Allan B. Spetter, 1987 Benjamin Harrison was an early proponent of American expansion in the Pacific a key figure in such landmark legislation as the Sherman Anti Trust Act and the McKinley Tariff and one of the Gilded Age s most eloquent speakers Yet he remains one of our most neglected and least understood presidents In this first interpretive study of the Harrison administration the authors illuminate our twenty third president s character and policies and rescue him from the long shadow of his charismatic secretary of state James G Blaine An Ohio native and Indiana lawyer Harrison opened the second century of the American presidency in a rapidly industrializing and expanding nation His inaugural address reflected the nation s optimism The masses of our people are better fed clothed and housed than their fathers were The facilities for popular education have been vastly enlarged and more generally diffused The virtues of courage and patriotism have given proof of their continued presence and increasing power in the hearts and over the lives of our people But the burdens and realities of his office soon imposed themselves upon Harrison The biggest blow came at midterm with the Republicans devastating losses in the 1890 congressional elections In an era of congressional dominance those losses eroded Harrison s position as a legislative advocate at least for domestic issues His impact in foreign affairs was more lasting One of the highlights of this study is its revealing look at Harrison s visionary foreign policy especially toward the Pacific Socolofsky and Spetter convincingly demonstrate that although Harrison s ambition to acquire the Hawaiian Islands was not realized during his presidency his foreign policy was a major step toward American control of Hawaii and American expansion in the Far East

**Engines of Change** Daniel DiSalvo, 2012-04-20 This title provides an account of the role of national intra party factions in American politics Drawing from the last 150 years of American political history DiSalvo explains how factions have shaped the parties ideologies impacted presidential nominations structured patterns of presidential governance and much more

*Mobilizing for Modern War* Paul A. C. Koistinen, 1997 In this volume Koistinen examines war planning and mobilizing in an era of rapid industrialization and reveals how economic mobilization for defense and war is shaped at the national level by the interaction of political economic and military institutions and by increasingly powerful and expensive weaponry

**Internationale Bibliographie der Rezensionen wissenschaftlicher Literatur**, 1978

**The President Shall Nominate** Mitchel A. Sollenberger, 2008 A comprehensive and path breaking study of what happens behind the scenes before presidents publicly announce to the Senate and thus the nation their nominees for federal positions

**The Physical City** Neil L. Shumsky, 2013-12-16 First Published in 1996 Part of a series that brings together more than 200 scholarly articles pertaining to the history and development of urban life in the United States during the past two centuries The physical development of

cities and their infrastructure is considered in Volume 2 which focuses on city planning and its origins in the Rural Cemetery Movement the City Beautiful Movement and the role of business in advocating more rational and efficient urban places Volume 2 also contains articles about essential aspects of the urban infrastructure and the provision of basic services essential for urban survival water sewer and transportation systems **Politics in the Gilded Age** David S. Bushnell, 1972

Social Criticism in California During the Gilded Age Sarah Lee Sharp, 1979 **The Politics of Disintegration** Garland A. Haas, 1994 In 1840 William Henry Harrison a member of the Whig party was elected president of the United States ending the forty year stranglehold Jacksonian Democrats had on the White House and signaling the completion of a national two party system But even before Harrison's inauguration interparty conflicts over slavery had overwhelmed both parties and they had begun to disintegrate By the onset of the Civil War the two party system had become a mere mechanism for carrying out sectional interests After the war the parties struggled to once again become national organizations but instead they found themselves beholden to powerful special interest groups This book examines the social economic and political factors that affected the parties during the sixty year period while delineating the personalities involved and the key campaign issues The Third Electoral System 1853-1892 Paul Kleppner, 1979 Third Electoral System 1853 1892 Parties Voters and Political Cultures **Index to Book Reviews in Historical Periodicals** John W. Brewster, 1973

Reconstructions : New Perspectives on Postbellum America Institute for Southern Studies and Associate Professor of History University of South Carolina Thomas J. Brown Associate Director, 2006-10-16 The pivotal era of Reconstruction has inspired an outstanding historical literature In the half century after W E B DuBois published Black Reconstruction in America 1935 a host of thoughtful and energetic authors helped to dismantle racist stereotypes about the aftermath of emancipation and Union victory in the Civil War The resolution of long running interpretive debates shifted the issues at stake in Reconstruction scholarship but the topic has remained a vital venue for original exploration of the American past In Reconstructions New Perspectives on the Postbellum United States eight rising historians survey the latest generation of work and point to promising directions for future research They show that the field is opening out to address a wider range of adjustments to the experiences and effects of Civil War Increased interest in cultural history now enriches understandings traditionally centered on social and political history Attention to gender has joined a focus on labor as a powerful strategy for analyzing negotiations over private and public authority The contributors suggest that Reconstruction historiography might further thrive by strengthening connections to such subjects as western history legal history and diplomatic history and by redefining the chronological boundaries of the postwar period The essays provide more than a variety of attractive vantage points for fresh examination of a major phase of American history By identifying the most exciting recent approaches to a theme previously studied so ably the collection illuminates the creative process in scholarly historical literature **The Journal of the Great Lakes History Conference** , 1976 Contains papers read at the meetings 1975 **Program of the ...**

**Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association** American Historical Association, American Historical Association. Annual Meeting, 1974 Some programs include also the programs of societies meeting concurrently with the association     The United States Congress in a Partisan Political Nation, 1841-1896 Joel H. Silbey, 1991     **The Democratic Experience** , 1977

## Adopting the Tune of Expression: An Emotional Symphony within **Politics In The Gilded Age A New Perspective On Reform**

In some sort of taken by displays and the ceaseless chatter of quick transmission, the melodic splendor and mental symphony created by the prepared word usually diminish into the back ground, eclipsed by the relentless sound and disruptions that permeate our lives. Nevertheless, situated within the pages of **Politics In The Gilded Age A New Perspective On Reform** a marvelous literary prize brimming with fresh feelings, lies an immersive symphony waiting to be embraced. Constructed by an outstanding composer of language, this interesting masterpiece conducts viewers on a psychological trip, well unraveling the concealed tunes and profound influence resonating within each cautiously constructed phrase. Within the depths with this emotional evaluation, we will discover the book is central harmonies, analyze their enthralling publishing type, and surrender ourselves to the profound resonance that echoes in the depths of readers souls.

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