

**Unit 6: Development of an Industrial United States (1870-1920)**  
**Part 9: "Reforms of the Gilded Age"**

**I. Politics in the Gilded Age**

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ stretched from the 1870s through the 1890s. The era got its name from an 1873 novel by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, *The Gilded Age*. The book poked fun at the era's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ corruption.

B. Political power was split between the two major parties. Neither party controlled Congress for more than a term or two, though Republicans held the White House for nearly \_\_\_\_\_ years. Congress had more power than the President.

C. Political Concerns of the Gilded Age:

1. Concerns About the Power of the Rich –

People feared that bankers, industrialists, and other \_\_\_\_\_ men were controlling politics at the expense of the \_\_\_\_\_ good.

2. Worries about Corruption-

Name: _____
Period: _____

Directions: Using images from magazines, create **one** "Whole-Brain" Connector for each section of the notes. No words may be used as connectors, images and pictures only.

People worried about \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ fraud. Reformers blamed much corruption on the \_\_\_\_\_, the practice of rewarding political supporters with government \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Reforming the Spoils System

- A. When a new President took office, supporters would swarm into Washington demanding jobs. The practice of giving jobs to loyal supporters is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Patronage often led to \_\_\_\_\_. Some jobholders simply \_\_\_\_\_ public money. Others were not \_\_\_\_\_ for the jobs they were given.
- C. President \_\_\_\_\_ first tried to reform the system. President \_\_\_\_\_ thought that government jobs should be awarded on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_, or ability, not politics. Garfield's \_\_\_\_\_ in 1880 by a disappointed office seeker led to efforts to reform this system.
- D. In 1883, Congress passed the \_\_\_\_\_. It created \_\_\_\_\_.

the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to conduct  
\_\_\_\_\_ for federal jobs. The  
\_\_\_\_\_ includes all  
federal jobs except elected offices and the  
military.

### III. Regulating Big Business

A. In 1877, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, one of the  
builders of the Central Pacific  
Railroad, had a problem. A bill was  
introduced in Congress that would  
have broken up his control of  
\_\_\_\_\_ routes to California.  
Huntington's solution to the problem  
was to \_\_\_\_\_ members of  
\_\_\_\_\_ to kill the bill.  
The behavior of men like this  
convinced many Americans that big  
\_\_\_\_\_ controlled  
the \_\_\_\_\_. They  
demanded that something be done.

B. To respond to public \_\_\_\_\_,  
the government began to regulate  
\_\_\_\_\_ and other  
\_\_\_\_\_ businesses.

C. The \_\_\_\_\_  
gave the federal government the  
power to regulate \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, or business  
that crossed state lines. Congress  
passed the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
which set up the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(ICC) to oversee the \_\_\_\_\_.  
The act outlawed such practices as  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

D. In 1890, Congress passed the  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, which prohibited  
\_\_\_\_\_ and other businesses  
from limiting \_\_\_\_\_.  
At first, the act was not effective and  
was used as a way to stop  
\_\_\_\_\_ unions. Courts said  
union \_\_\_\_\_ blocked free  
trade and threatened competition.  
Later, courts would use the act to  
stop \_\_\_\_\_.