

The Progressive Era

Chapter 22

Gilded Age Reforms

- “Gilded Age”--falseness beneath a surface coating of gold
- High participation in politics
- Americans concerned about the power of the rich--controlling politics, and corruption (bribery, voter fraud)
- Spoils system: political supporters rewarded with gov’t jobs

- Patronage--giving jobs to followers--led to public money being stolen, people having jobs they didn't have the skills for
- 1883: The Pendleton Act requires Civil Service exams for federal gov't jobs
- Wealthy businessmen would give money to members of Congress so they would vote in ways to benefit them

- 1887: The Interstate Commerce Commission is formed to oversee and regulate railroads--limits power of railroad owners
- 1888: The Sherman Antitrust Act limited the power of businesses to destroy competition