

The Election of 1896

Republican

- *Monetary Policy* - Republicans supported sound money, opposed any act that would debase the currency, and opposed free coinage of silver unless supported by the international community.
- *Tariffs/Taxes* - Republican supported protective tariffs which would lead to economic independence and American economic development; they encouraged home industry and put the burden of revenue on foreign goods; they held that the current tax system were scattered, unfair, and imperious to the business cycle.

- *Immigration* - The party supported immigration restriction, especially with those who do not speak English, because immigration hurt American workers and pitted them against lower priced labor
- *Trust/monopolies* - Republicans were silent with regard to this issue
- *Territories/statehood* - Republicans supported the earliest possible admission for any territories meeting the requirement

- *Civil service reform* - Republicans claimed that they were the founders of civil service laws and vowed to support any reform
- *Foreign policy* - Republicans supported the right of America to defend its interests against European encroachment and supported actively influencing the restoration of peace and independent in Cuba.
- *Other* - Republicans supported the reestablishment of free homesteads and denounced Democratic control over the federal government; they implied that Grover Cleveland was responsible for the economic depression

Democrats

- *Monetary Policy* - Democrats held that demonetization of silver led to the enrichment of the lending class, heavy taxes, decrease in industry, and the impoverishment of the American people; they called for unlimited free coinage of both gold and silver, making the silver dollar legal tender equal with gold; they believed that all paper currency should be issued from Congress, not by a National Bank.
- *Tariffs/Taxes* - Democrats held that taxes should be used to generate revenue only and should not discriminate about class or sections; they opposed protective tariffs which led to the development of trusts and monopolies

- *Immigration* - Democrats supported immigration restrictions as immigrants created unfair labor competition
- *Trust/monopolies* - Democrats demanded more control over concentration of wealth and stronger enforcement of the Interstate Commerce Act
- *Territories/Statehood* - Democrats supported the admission of new territories legally able to enter the union

- *Civil Service Reform* - Democrats supported merit-based laws and fixed terms that provided equal opportunities for everyone.
- *Foreign Policy* - Democrats supported Cuba's struggle for liberty and independence
- *Other* - Democrats denounced the interference of federal authorities in local affairs, opposed the possibility of a third-term president, resisted centralization, supported the constitutional limits of the federal government, and upheld a commitment to states' rights.