

# The Artios Home Companion Series

## Unit 6: Reconstruction, Part Two – 1870s

### Teacher Overview

The year 1877 closed the era of Reconstruction and opened up another epoch in the nation's history. From that year we may say that a new nation was created and new policies adopted. With the North and the South once more welded together and the old questions about slavery and states' rights shelved, the people turned with astonishing energy to settle other problems. The keynote of this movement was expansion. Expansion in commerce and expansion in territory. This movement and the accompanying issues and challenges were dealt with during the administration of Presidents Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, and Cleveland.



1870 print celebrating the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment in February 1870, and the post-Civil War political empowerment of African Americans

### Reading and Assignments

In this unit, students will:

- Complete three lessons in which they will learn about **the administrations of Presidents Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, and Cleveland**, journaling as they read.
- Define vocabulary words.

- Conduct research on **one topic of your choice** from the lists of key people and events in this unit.
- Instead of discussion questions, this unit will be focusing on note taking skills in a bullet point outline format. Directions are listed in each lesson.
- Explore the following website:
  - Creating and Using Outlines  
<http://elc.uark.edu/qwc/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/02-Outlines.pdf>
- Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

## Key People, Places, and Events

President Ulysses S. Grant  
 The Union Pacific Railroad  
 The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
 The Ku-Klux Klan  
 Force Bills  
 Military Authority in the South  
 The Treaty of Washington  
 The Geneva Award  
 The Campaign of 1872  
 The First Civil Service Reform Bill  
 Demonetization of Silver  
 Custer's Massacre  
 Amnesty Bill of 1872  
 President Rutherford B. Hayes  
 President Hayes's Southern Policy  
 Civil Service Reform  
 Resumption of Specie Payment  
 The Bland-Allison Bill

Colorado admitted to the Union  
 The presidential election of 1880  
 President James Abram Garfield  
 The Blaine and Conkling Political Quarrel  
 Assassination of Garfield  
 President Chester Alan Arthur  
 The Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883  
 Acts against Immigration  
 The presidential campaign of 1884  
 President Grover Cleveland  
 The Spoils System  
 Private Pension Bills  
 Presidential Succession Bill  
 Interstate Commerce Act  
 Fishery Questions  
 The Tariff  
 Campaign of 1888

## Vocabulary

**Lesson 1:**  
*none*

**Lesson 2:**  
 usurper  
 epoch  
 conciliation  
 acrimonious

**Lesson 3:**  
*none*

## Leading Ideas

**Honesty is a character quality to be desired.**

*The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please Him.*  
 — Proverbs 20:23

**The Bible provides the ethics upon which to judge people and nations.**

— Exodus 20:1-17

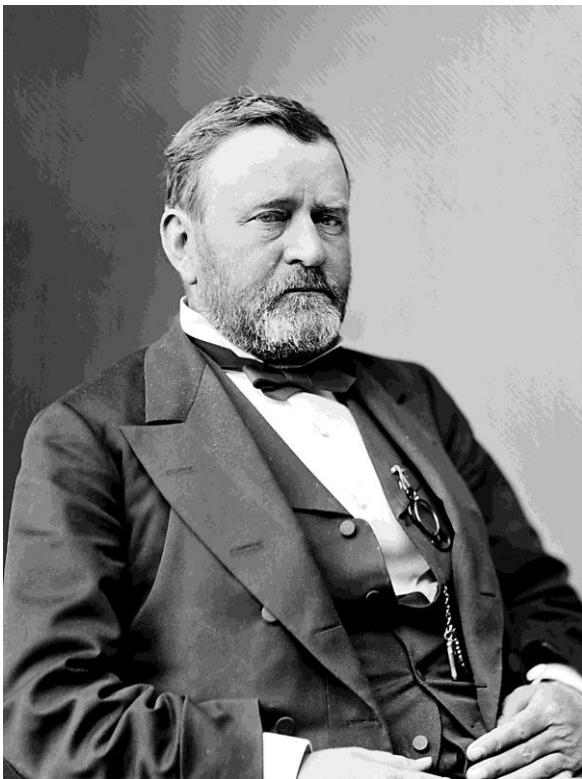
**God is sovereign over the affairs of men.**

*From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.*  
 — Acts 17:26

## Lesson One

### History Overview and Assignments President Grant's Administration

Ulysses S. Grant, eighteenth president of the United States, was the son of an Ohio farmer. In 1839 he was appointed a West Point cadet. On his graduation he was made a second lieutenant, and was soon engaged in the Mexican War with credit to himself. In 1854, after attaining the rank of captain, he retired and went into business in St. Louis until August, 1860, when he removed to Galena, Illinois where he acted as clerk in his father's store. At the beginning of the Civil War he was appointed colonel of volunteers and rose rapidly until he was made lieutenant-general with the command of all the armies in the field, March 2, 1864. In 1868 he was elected president, and again in 1872.



President Grant

#### Reading and Assignments

- Read the article:  
*President Grant's Administration.*
- Under each key event listed below, create a bullet point outline showing the main points given in today's article for each of those topics. (A bullet point outline can be described as an informal outline using indentions or dashes behind which are listed the main points about a specific topic.)
- Explore the following website:
  - Creating and Using Outlines:  
<http://elc.uark.edu/qwc/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/02-Outlines.pdf>
- For additional resources be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com).

#### Key People and Events

President Ulysses S. Grant  
The Union Pacific Railroad  
The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
The Ku-Klux Klan  
Force Bills  
Military Authority in the South  
The Treaty of Washington

The Geneva Award  
The Campaign of 1872  
The First Civil Service Reform Bill  
Demonetization of Silver  
Custer's Massacre  
Amnesty Bill of 1872

Adapted for High School from the book:

## *History of the United States*

by William M. Davidson

### *President Grant's Administration*

#### *Republican: 1869 – 1877*

Ulysses S. Grant, eighteenth president of the United States, was the son of an Ohio farmer. In 1839 he was appointed a West Point cadet. On his graduation he was made a second lieutenant and was soon engaged in the Mexican War with credit to himself. In 1854, after attaining the rank of captain, he retired and went into business in St. Louis until August, 1860, when he removed to Galena, Illinois where he acted as clerk in his father's store. At the beginning of the war he was appointed colonel of volunteers and rose rapidly until he was made lieutenant-general with the command of all the armies in the field, March 2, 1864. In 1868 he was elected president, and again in 1872.

After his retirement Grant made a voyage around the world, which added to his fame both abroad and at home. In 1880 he was a candidate for a third term, but failed to receive the Republican nomination. The latter years of his life were employed in the writing of his "Personal Memoirs," a work creditable to his reputation as a soldier and as an author.

Grant was born at Point Pleasant, Ohio, April 27, 1822, and died July 23, 1885, at Mount McGregor, New York.

#### **The Union Pacific Railroad**

It had long been the opinion of the people of the United States that a railroad should be built to the Pacific coast so that the country might be bound firmly together.

As it was impossible to get anyone to build this road without assistance, the government loaned large sums of money and gave liberal grants of western land to the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific companies for the building of the road. With the help of these grants which the companies sold at a large profit, and by hiring Chinese laborers for low wages, the road was finished in 1869. Great was the rejoicing over the completion of this gigantic task.

#### **The Fifteenth Amendment**

Just before Grant's inauguration, on the 26th of February, 1869, Congress proposed another amendment to the Constitution which declared that the right to vote should "not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." By the addition of this amendment it was expected that the right of the freedman to vote could never be taken away. The ratification of the amendment was then made a condition of the reconstruction of the four southern states, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, and Texas, which were still out of the Union. The amendment was declared in force March 30, 1870.

#### **The Ku-Klux Klan**

Many white people of the South, dissatisfied with the disturbed condition of southern politics under Reconstruction,

sought to defeat the party in power by the organization in 1866 of a secret society known as the Ku-Klux Klan. Its members were bound by oath to obey the orders of their superiors, and an organized attempt was made to prevent the freedman from voting. Superstitious African Americans were terrified by the appearance at night of ghostly figures masked and robed in white, who went groaning and howling about their cabins. Those who could not be scared by this mummery were dragged out of their huts, flogged severely, and sometimes killed. Later the Klan treated white men who assisted freedmen in the same way. Notices to leave the country were sent to such men, with a threat of death if the notice was not obeyed. Many murders resulted; by 1870 the society had established a reign of terror over a great part of the South, with the result that African American voters refrained from going to the polls.

### **Force Bills**

The Ku-Klux became extremely violent in 1870 and 1871. In May, 1870, without knowing who committed the outrages, Congress passed a force bill to carry out the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments. By this law the United States courts were to try all cases of intimidation and bribery of voters, frauds at the ballot box, and all interference with elections or election officers. This was not sufficient, and in April, 1871, a second force bill was passed. Congress had now learned about the Ku-Klux, and this act was aimed against the dreaded society. Severe punishments were to be inflicted upon those who committed the outrages, and the president was allowed to use the Army and Navy to carry out the law. The authorities acted with decisive

energy. Many men were arrested, tried, and sentenced to prison. Under this treatment the Ku-Klux quickly disappeared from view.

### **Reconstruction Completed**

The year 1871 saw the end of unreconstructed states. Virginia was admitted in January, Mississippi in February, Texas in March, 1870; and Georgia in January, 1871. This completed the work of Reconstruction by Congress.

The southern states, however, were not yet left to work out their own problems. Under the force bills the president had the power to keep troops in the South and to interfere in public affairs. As it was believed with only too much reason that the freedmen would not be fairly treated, the rule of the bayonet was still continued. The result was constant turbulence, riots, and at times something like civil war in those states.

### **The Treaty of Washington**

President Grant's first term was largely devoted to the settlement of foreign questions. The most important problems were those involving our relations with England. There were three: the fishery question, the water boundary on the northwest, and the Alabama question or the claim for damages by the United States for the injuries inflicted by Confederate war vessels built in England, the most important of which was the Alabama. Reverdy Johnson, minister to England, had tried to settle these points in 1869, but the treaty he made was so unsatisfactory that it was rejected with indignation, and not a few Americans began to talk excitedly of war with England. In 1870, however, the question was taken up peaceably, and in

1871 England and the United States signed the Treaty of Washington, by which the Americans received satisfaction in regard to fisheries, and the other questions were to be settled by arbitration. The emperor of Germany was selected to decide upon the boundary dispute. The question at issue concerned the line down the straits between Vancouver Island and the mainland. If this boundary line passed through “the channel” to the west of San Juan Island, it would leave that island to America; if it passed through the channel to the east, the island would go to Great Britain. In 1872 the German emperor gave his decision in favor of the United States.

### **The Alabama Claims: The Geneva Award**

The *Alabama* dispute was harder to settle. The American government claimed that as Great Britain had allowed the *Alabama* and other Confederate privateers to be fitted out in her ports, she was responsible for the damage done by these privateers. Great Britain replied that no such rule of international law existed. The matter was left to five arbitrators, one each from Great Britain, the United States, Italy, Brazil and Switzerland. In 1872 the court of arbitration, sitting at Geneva, Switzerland, decided by a vote of four to one that Great Britain was responsible and should pay \$15,500,000 in gold to the United States. The English were much displeased at the result. The verdict of the court was that a neutral nation must observe “due diligence” to prevent its territory from being made the base of armed expeditions against another power, and that the nation failing to use such “due diligence” must pay damages.

### **Cuba: The *Virginius* – 1873**

In 1868 a rebellion broke out on the island of Cuba, and much sympathy was expressed in the United States for the Cubans. President Grant insisted that Americans should take no part in the contest, but many young men stole away to assist the natives, while arms and ammunition were sent from the United States. Naturally the Spaniards were enraged. In October, 1873, the captain of a Spanish man-of-war captured the *Virginius*, a privately-owned American vessel, hauled down the American flag, and proceeded to execute by firing squad the captain and fifty-six of the crew, nine of whom were American citizens. The excuse for all this was that the *Virginius* was perceived as a hostile American threat to Cuba. This was probably true, but the seizing of an American vessel, along with the summary and brutal slaughter of American citizens, drove the country into a frenzy of rage. It required all the president’s tact and firmness to keep off war. He straightaway demanded from Spain a humble apology and money damages. These the Spaniards gave, declaring that they had no intention of insulting the United States in seizing the *Virginius*.

### **The Campaign of 1872**

During Grant’s administration, much corruption in the management of public affairs had come to light. Although the president was thoroughly honest and was known to be opposed to dishonest men and methods, still dissatisfaction with this condition of affairs led many Republicans to break away from their party. Many were displeased, too, with the continued military

control of the South. In 1872 these Republicans, taking the name Liberal Republicans, made a bitter fight against the renomination of General Grant, unjustly insisting that he was the source of all the corruption and misgovernment. When they found that they could not hinder his renomination, they put forward a candidate of their own, selecting Horace Greeley, editor of the New York “Tribune,” a very able but eccentric man. He was a staunch Republican, a bitter enemy of slavery and secession, and the most prominent supporter of a protective tariff. He was supposed to be a strong candidate, since for years the farmers of the country had taken their views of politics from what Greeley had to say in the weekly “Tribune.” His nomination by the Liberal Republicans, therefore, led the Democrats to hope that Grant could be beaten and they too, named Greeley as their candidate. But Greeley had been too violent a Republican to be pleasing to most Democrats. Grant easily won, although the Democrats elected a majority of the representatives to Congress.

### **The First Civil Service Reform Bill**

To check corruption in office and secure good men for the offices, Congress passed in March, 1871 a civil service bill. In accordance with this, the smaller positions in the government service, such as clerkships, were to be given to candidates on their merit, and not because of political favoritism. Unfortunately, Congress was not in earnest in wanting reform. President Grant wished to carry out the measure, but in 1874 Congress refused to vote money for the payment of the civil service board, and the reform perished for the time being.

### **Demonetization of Silver – 1873:**

#### **Inflation Bill – 1874:**

#### **Resumption Act – 1875**

Grant’s second term was filled with financial questions. In 1873 Congress passed a bill making gold the standard of value in the United States, in other words, “demonetizing silver,” an act which later gave rise to much discussion and ill-feeling. In April, 1874, impelled by the belief of many citizens that “plenty of money was a good thing,” Congress passed a bill known as the Inflation Bill, which would increase the paper money of the country enormously. President Grant, who believed that this would be a great evil, vetoed the bill. At this time the country had no gold or silver money in circulation, and, if the bill had been passed, it was unlikely that specie would have come into general circulation for many years. The business people of the country urged that only by having gold or silver could business be put on a sound basis and prices kept from going constantly up and down. A one-dollar bill, measured in gold or silver, would not buy more than 80 or 90 cents worth of goods—thus paper money was not equal to its face value. The financial panic of 1873, in which thousands were ruined, was largely owing to the unsettled state of the finances and the depreciated value of the paper currency. If more paper had been issued, a paper dollar would have been worth still less. Grant’s veto, therefore, was a good one, and made him popular with many who had before disliked him. In order to hinder such bills in the future, a demand was now made that the country should return to gold and silver money, or “resume payments in specie,” as it was called. In consequence, the

Resumption Act was passed in January 1875, which declared that after the first of January, 1879, the United States would pay all its debts in gold and silver, on demand.

### **Trouble with the Sioux: Custer's Massacre – 1876**

In 1874 gold was found in the Black Hills, on the Sioux reservation. The whites poured in and began digging the gold, in spite of the protest of the Native Americans. The government tried to settle the difficulty by moving the Sioux to a new reservation. They objected, and early in 1876, under the lead of "Sitting Bull," began war. The climax came in June, when General George A. Custer with 262 men came upon the Sioux in overwhelming numbers. The Battle of Little Bighorn followed, which became a massacre, every one of Custer's band being killed, fighting desperately to the end. The massacre struck horror in the people of the country. The government poured troops into the disputed territory, the Native Americans were forced to yield, and then affairs were left precisely as before.

### **Amnesty Bill – 1872: Withdrawal of Troops from the South – 1874 to 1877**

In 1872 Congress passed a bill of amnesty pardoning all who took part in the war against the Union, with the exception of about 350 of the most prominent leaders. Federal troops were still used in the South, however, to protect the former slaves and others who wished to see them fairly dealt with in the right to vote and hold office as guaranteed in the Constitution. The presence of these troops provoked constant trouble, riots, and outbreaks. These people of the North were now heartily tired of these difficulties. As President Grant said in 1874,

"The whole public are tired out with these annual autumnal outbreaks in the South, and a great majority now are ready to condemn any interference on the part of the government." Most of the troops were withdrawn during Grant's administration. The Reconstruction government vanished wherever this took place. The election of 1874 was the turning point although there was still interference by the national government due to claims of fraud at the elections. It was not until 1876 that the national government ceased its watchfulness over southern elections. In 1877 President Hayes withdrew the troops entirely. The long struggle had divided the political parties of the South along race lines—a condition most unfortunate for that part of the Union. The Democratic "Solid South" was the result. The former slave's right to vote was not denied, but was rendered of little account by intimidation and other methods.

### **The Credit Mobilier and Other Scandals: The Whiskey Ring**

In 1872 charges against the Union Pacific Railroad were made. It was said that the builders had spent \$9,000,000 to bribe Congressmen. This was proved false in 1873, but many Congressmen were found to have taken stock in the railroad, and then to have voted it generous assistance. This was known as the "Credit Mobilier Scandal," taking its name from the name of a Pennsylvania corporation.

The administration itself was mixed up in two great scandals. The first of these involved the War Department. Secretary Belknap and some of the under officials were accused of selling offices and forcing officers to pay in order to hold their



positions. In 1876 the House voted unanimously to impeach Belknap. He then resigned the secretaryship and escaped all punishment. The Treasury Department was also charged with several frauds. Some of its officials were sold the right to collect taxes, the proceeds to be shared between the buyer and the Treasury officials. In 1874 the acting secretary resigned, as a consequence of the exposure of these frauds. B.H. Bristow of Kentucky became secretary, and immediately found himself face to face with the biggest fraud of all—the “Whiskey Ring.” Internal Revenue officers and distillers of whiskey formed this ring with the purpose of cheating the government out of the revenue tax. By 1875 over \$2,800,000 had thus been stolen. Bristow, with the president’s hearty assistance, fought the ring and broke it down in many places. But president and secretary together were not able to overthrow it completely. In fact, the ring was so strongly supported that in 1876 it forced the secretary out of office. The same corruption was active in many of the city governments of the country, especially in that of New York. Here the infamous “Tweed Ring” plundered right and left. Over \$160,000,000 were stolen. In 1871 the city broke from the clutches of this ring and Tweed, the leader, was arrested, tried, convicted, and some years later died in jail.

### **The Ninth Census – 1870**

The ninth census of the United States showed a total population of 38,558,378—a gain of more than 7,000,000 people, and this, too, in spite of the Civil War. Of this number 4,880,009 were free African Americans. Since 1860 nearly 2,500,000 people had arrived from Europe—about half of them from the British Islands.

### **Campaign of 1876**

Such was the situation the Republicans faced in 1876. The Democrats were consequently very confident. They nominated Samuel J. Tilden, reform governor of New York, as their choice for president. The Republicans named Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio. A third party now appeared in the field, called the Greenback Party. It believed that the Resumption Act was unjust to the laboring man, who, it supposed, would be helped by a paper money not redeemable in specie. The party declared for unlimited greenbacks and nominated Peter Cooper of New York as their candidate for president. After a bitter contest, the campaign ended with no one definitively elected. This result was due to the fact that the boards which counted the votes in Louisiana, Florida, and South Carolina threw out Democratic votes and declared the states Republican. They did this on the ground that the Democrats in these states cheated in the election. In Oregon also there was a dispute as to whether the state had voted for the Democratic or the Republican candidate. If Tilden received only one of all these disputed votes, he would be elected, while Hayes had to get them all. Both parties claimed the election. For a time it looked as if another civil war was about to break out.

### **The Electoral Commission**

At last, however, Congress created a commission to decide the disputed votes. The commission was made up of five senators, five representatives, and five members of the Supreme Court. Out of the fifteen, eight were Republicans, seven Democrats. On every disputed question eight members voted for the Republican

claims and seven for the Democratic. Hayes was declared elected by a vote of 185 in the Electoral College to 184 awarded to Tilden. William A. Wheeler of New York was declared elected vice president.

### **Darwinism**

The writings of naturalist Charles Darwin promoted the notion of “natural selection,” or what is known today as macro-evolution of the species from micro-organisms through a process called “survival of the fittest” (not to be confused with micro-evolution, or adaptation, of species characteristics over time in response to environmental conditions and

changes). This theory opposed the Biblical assertion that God created each animal group to reproduce “after its own kind” and formed the first humans from “the dust of the earth.”

Darwin’s theory of natural selection spurred a tremendous revolution in thinking, giving philosophical justification to all forms of racism. This brought about devastating consequences, such as prevalent English disregard for the plight of starving Irish during the potato famine of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Later on it also gave rise to the concept of racial superiority espoused by the Nazis during World War II.

## Lesson Two

### History Overview and Assignments The Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur Administrations

The year 1877 closed the era of Reconstruction and opened up another epoch in the nation's history. From that year we may say that a new nation was created and new policies adopted. With the North and the South once more welded together and the old questions about slavery and states' rights shelved, the people turned with astonishing energy to settle other problems. The keynote of this movement was expansion. Expansion in commerce and expansion in territory.



President Hayes

#### Key People, Places, and Events

President Rutherford B. Hayes  
President Hayes's Southern Policy  
Civil Service Reform  
Resumption of Specie Payment  
The Bland-Allison Bill  
Colorado admitted to the Union  
The Presidential Election of 1880  
President James Abram Garfield  
The Blaine and Conkling Political Quarrel  
Assassination of Garfield  
President Chester Alan Arthur  
The Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883  
Acts against Immigration  
The Presidential Campaign of 1884

#### Reading and Assignments

- Review the vocabulary, then read the article:  
*The Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur Administrations.*
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Under each key event listed below, create a bullet point outline showing the main points given in today's article for each of those topics. (A bullet point outline can be described as an informal outline using indentions or dashes behind which are listed the main points about a specific topic.)
- Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

#### Vocabulary

usurper

conciliation

epoch

acrimonious

## *History of the United States*

by William M. Davidson

### *The Hayes, Garfield and Arthur Administrations*

#### **Hayes's Administration**

##### ***Republican: 1877-1881***

Rutherford Birchard Hayes, the nineteenth president of the United States, was the son of an Ohio farmer. He was educated in the common schools and at Kenyon College, Ohio. After leaving college, he studied law, was admitted to the bar, and soon proved himself an able lawyer. When the civil war began he enlisted in the Union army as a captain and rose to the rank of brevet major-general. In 1864 he was elected to Congress; in 1868 he became governor of Ohio, entered upon a second term in 1870, and a third in 1876. The same year he was elected president.

Mr. Hayes was an extremely able president, and as brave and honest as he was able. After his presidency he retired to Fremont, Ohio.

Hayes was born in Delaware, Ohio, October 4, 1822, and died in Fremont, that state, January 17, 1893.

#### **The New Nation**

The year 1877 closed the era of Reconstruction and opened up another epoch in the nation's history. From that year we may say that a new nation was created and new policies adopted. With the North and the South once more welded together and the old questions about slavery and states' rights shelved, the people turned with astonishing energy to settle other problems. The keynote of this movement was expansion. Expansion in commerce and expansion in territory—consciously or

unconsciously, these were the guiding motives. Hence it came to pass that legislation dealt with great commercial affairs, tariffs, financial questions, railroads, the creation of new states, the settlement of Alaska, foreign questions, the subject of a canal between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and with securing new territory. The acquisition of this new territory was the inevitable climax of the movement. Events beyond the control of man, made it certain, and similar events determined that the expansion would be to the south and in the extreme east. Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines were added.

#### **The President's Position**

The new president took high ground on all questions which came before him, particularly in regard to civil service and finance—questions which must be settled properly before the future of the nation could be assured. On both of these, Hayes was opposed by a considerable faction within his own party. His "southern policy" still further exasperated this faction. The Democrats meanwhile were his bitter foes, regarding him as a usurper in the presidency on account of the manner of his election. Consequently his administration was one of great difficulty.

#### **Conciliation of the South:**

##### **Hayes's Southern Policy**

Hayes believed that the only hope of healing the wounds created by the Civil War lay in conciliating the South. Statesmen

perceived that this conciliation was necessary; that a divided nation could not possibly attain a great destiny. In making up his Cabinet Hayes held out the “olive branch of peace” by appointing as postmaster-general David M. Key, who was not only a Democrat but a southerner and an ex-Confederate officer. Hayes then consulted a number of southerners, and upon receiving from them a promise to uphold the national laws in the South, he withdrew the troops from South Carolina and Louisiana. As a consequence, for the first time since the war the South was solidly Democratic. Many Republicans bitterly opposed Hayes for bringing this about.

### **Civil Service Reform**

His efforts on behalf of civil service reform were no less unpopular with this class of Republicans. In spite of the refusal of Congress to vote money for the execution of the law, the president bravely attempted to bring about a reform in the Civil Service. He refused to allow senators and representatives to select the federal officers in their states, and instructed the secretaries and other officials to make appointment to office solely for merit. Hayes’s opponents were deeply offended, and the Republicans in the Senate retaliated by refusing to consent to some of his nominations, especially that to the post of collector in New York. Defeated once, the president returned to the charge in 1879. He insisted on the removal of the collector and the naval officer at the port of New York, alleging that they had used their offices “to manage and control political affairs.” The officials denied the charge, and a heated struggle between the president and the Senate followed. The president finally won.

He also removed the postmasters of New York and St. Louis and introduced civil service reform in both places. For these and like services to good government President Hayes deserves the thanks of all honest citizens.

### **Resumption of Specie Payment – 1879**

The act for resuming payments in coin, passed in 1875, was to go into effect January 1, 1879. The law had given rise to much emotion. Popular politicians all through the campaign of 1876 denounced the policy, declaring that resumption was wrong, since it meant the end of inflation. Ceaseless floods of paper money and endless rising and falling of prices were the demands of this class. Many Republicans adopted these notions and wished to give up the plan of resumption. With these Hayes did not agree. Resumption, he said, was honest; it was best for our trade, especially our trade with other countries. Inflation, on the other hand, would destroy our reputation for honesty abroad and would be ruinous to thousands.

In his policy he was strongly supported by his able secretary of the Treasury, John Sherman of Ohio. In preparation for the day of resumption the secretary began to collect coin, and by the sale of bonds procured \$140,000,000 which was to be used in redeeming the greenbacks. Many prophesied that the attempt would be a failure; that when the day of resumption came, everyone would be eager to change his paper into specie, a panic would follow, and thousands would be ruined. Not a word of this came true. On January 1, 1879, the policy of resumption was successfully carried out. The Treasury of the United

States was open to pay coin for the greenbacks of all who came, and scarcely anyone came. When people found that they could have coin for paper they did not want it. All that anyone wished to know, in reference to specie, was that he could have it when he asked for it. From that day the paper money was as good as gold and silver. It had not been so before.

### **The Silver Question:**

#### **The Bland-Allison Bill – 1878**

Even before the paper money problem was settled, a new financial question came up—the silver question. For years silver had been growing less and less valuable, until in 1878 a silver dollar contained only about ninety cents worth of silver. Now a new doctrine arose which held that silver money should be made by law equal to gold, whether it was actually so or not, and that the United States should coin into dollars all silver that was offered to it. The law of 1873 making gold the only standard of value had made this impossible. If now a law passed compelling people to take silver on an equal basis with gold, all debtors would pay their debts in silver and creditors would lose ten cents in every dollar owed to them. As paper had driven coin out of circulation, so silver would drive out gold, and as it continued to reduce in value, prices would frequently go up and down once more, and there would be much loss. Hayes said this was a scheme for cheating. If people wanted a silver dollar to pass as a dollar, a dollar's worth of silver ought to be put into it.

Congress did not agree with the president. It tried a compromise. It would not pass a bill to have all silver coined and to be equal to gold in paying debts. But it did pass a bill ordering the secretary of the

Treasury to buy at least 2,000,000 ounces of silver every month and make silver dollars out of it. This was called the Bland-Allison Bill. The president vetoed it and Congress passed it over his veto in February, 1878. The coinage of silver being limited and the silver not being payable in all debts, the silver dollars become worth as much as gold dollars, and the gold remained in the country.

#### **Colorado Admitted – 1876:**

#### **The Tenth Census – 1880**

Colorado was admitted into the Union as the thirty-eighth state in 1876. Four years later the tenth census of the United States was taken, disclosing the fact that the United States had a total population of 50,155,783. Included in this population were 6,580,793 African Americans, 104,565 Chinese, 148 Japanese, and 66,407 registered Native Americans. During the ten years closing with 1880, nearly 3,000,000 immigrants arrived in the United States—about a million of whom were from the British Islands.

#### **The Presidential Election of 1880**

Hayes had no chance of a renomination, his policy having made him very unpopular. Many Republicans wished to nominate General Grant for a third term. This gave rise to a cry of kingship and alarmed many people with the idea of a life presidency. The third term idea was unpopular, and Grant failed to get the nomination. Instead, James A. Garfield was named. The Democrats nominated General Winfield S. Hancock. Garfield was elected by a vote in the electoral college of 214 votes to 155 cast for Hancock. Chester Alan Arthur was elected vice president.

## **Garfield's and Arthur's Administration**

### **Republican: 1881 – 1885**

James Abram Garfield, twentieth president of the United States, was the son of poor parents. His father died when he was still an infant. As a boy Garfield worked hard for a living, being employed as a mule-driver on a canal. He had already shown exceptional brilliance, learning to read at the age of three. Naturally he desired an education and struggled to attain it. He attended Hiram College in Ohio and afterwards was graduated at Williams College in Massachusetts. He then became a professor in Hiram College, and later its president. Meanwhile he was admitted to the bar. In 1859 he was a senator in the Ohio legislature. When the war began he was made lieutenant-colonel and rose to the rank of major-general. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1863 and remained there until 1880. In that year he was elected United States senator, but before he took his seat he was made president by the Republican Party. Almost immediately after he entered upon his office he was assassinated.

President Garfield was born at Orange, Ohio, November 19, 1831 and died at Elberon, New Jersey, September 19, 1881.

### **The Blaine and Conkling Political Quarrel**

When Garfield became president, he appointed James G. Blaine secretary of state, an act which enraged Senator Roscoe Conkling of New York, who personally disliked Blaine. A struggle followed between the Blaine and Conkling factions of the Republican Party. The president joined himself wholly to the Blaine wing and struck

at the New York senator by appointing Conkling's enemies in New York to the federal offices in that state. In an overwhelming rage, both the New York senators, Conkling and Thomas C. Platt, resigned their seats in the United States Senate. They then carried the fight to the New York legislature, asking for a reelection to the Senate as a blow to the president. They expected an easy success, and as a result a brilliant victory over the president and Secretary Blaine. To their amazement, the New York legislature refused to elect them, and the president was left victor of the field.

### **Assassination of Garfield**

The excitement caused by this political quarrel affected the mind of a half-mad and disappointed office-seeker named Charles Jules Guiteau. This wretched man, on the morning of July 2, shot the president as he stood in the ticket office of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Washington. The president was not killed, however, and the utmost efforts were made to save his life. It was all in vain, and after almost three months of agony, the brave and brilliant statesman passed away. The assassin was tried and executed.

### **Chester Alan Arthur**

Chester Alan Arthur, who on the death of Garfield became the twenty-first president of the United States, was the son of a Vermont clergyman. He was graduated from Union College in the state of New York and in 1853 began the practice of law. In 1871 Grant appointed him collector of the Port of New York, which position he held until 1878. In 1880 he was nominated for vice president by the Republicans. He

became president the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, 1881. After his presidency he retired to New York City.

President Arthur was born in Fairfield, Vermont, October 5, 1830 and died in New York City, November 18, 1886.

### **The Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883**

In spite of the efforts of President Hayes, much corruption still existed in political life. The Star Route frauds in 1881 attracted universal attention to the disgraceful fact. This scandal involved a scheme in which United States postal officials awarded delivery contracts in southern and western areas in exchange for bribes. This, along with the acrimonious fight over the New York legislative offices during Garfield's administration, convinced everyone that an earnest effort should be made to end this wretched state of affairs. In January, 1883, urged forward by the voice of the people, Congress passed the Pendleton Civil Service Act. Under this act, appointments to the civil service are made only after an examination is passed by the applicants for the offices. The president also appoints a civil service commission to see that the law is properly carried out. President Arthur supported the law faithfully, and his example has been followed by succeeding presidents. The result has been excellent, and the principle of civil service reform was introduced into many states and cities as a consequence. Spoils politicians oppose the policy, but this is one of the best reasons why every honest citizen should support it.

### **The Australian Ballot**

Another plan making for purity in politics was the introduction of the

Australian ballot, by which citizens vote secretly for the candidate of their choice. This secret system of voting puts an end to most of the opportunities for bribery and intimidation.

### **Acts Against Immigration**

The United States has received vast benefits from the coming to this country of intelligent foreigners of good habits. After the Civil War, however, the character of immigration became objectionable and crime increased in America. To put an end to this, the Immigration Act of 1882 was passed, dictating that if there should be found on an incoming vessel "any convict, lunatic, idiot, or any person unable to take care of him or herself without becoming a public charge, they shall report the same in writing to the collector of such port, and such person shall not be permitted to land."

In the same year another law shut out Chinese immigrants for ten years. The Chinese came to America first at the time of the gold excitement in California. Later large numbers came to assist in building the Pacific railroads. A constantly increasing stream of Chinese workers poured into the United States. As these immigrants worked for the lowest wages, other laboring men soon found difficulty in getting work. The result was a movement to drive them out. Chinese immigrants were mobbed, beaten, and killed, and a demand came from California and the West for their exclusion from the United States. Hereupon the law known as the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1882.

Soon afterward, the 1885 Alien Contract Labor Law, designed to protect job opportunities for American workers, prohibited employers to import foreigners



under contract or agreement to perform labor in the United States.

### **The Presidential Campaign of 1884**

In 1884 James G. Blaine of Maine, who had played a prominent part in politics as Speaker of the House, and as Garfield's secretary of state, was nominated for president by the Republicans. The Democrats selected Grover Cleveland of New York and took up the cry of reform in government. A strong body of independent Republicans declared against Blaine, and, through their influence in the election, he lost the electoral vote of New York, in which

state the independents were especially numerous. The majority against Blaine was about one thousand votes. Fraud was charged in that state and the vote contested in the Supreme Court of New York. Before the case came to trial, Cleveland was inaugurated and the excitement subsided. The New York Supreme Court afterwards rendered a verdict which in effect declared that the New York electoral vote should have been given to Blaine. But wisely the matter was dropped there. The country did not wish to be disturbed by another contest as threatening as the Hayes and Tilden contest of 1876.

## Lesson Three

### History Overview and Assignments Grover Cleveland

Grover Cleveland, the twenty-second president of the United States, was the son of a Presbyterian clergyman. Born in Caldwell, New Jersey on March 18, 1837, he received a public school education and later taught in the New York Institution for the Blind. In 1859, he became a lawyer; in 1871 he was elected sheriff of Erie County, New York, and in 1881 mayor of Buffalo. He made so excellent a record as a reform mayor of that city that the Democrats in 1882 made him governor of New York. In 1884 he was elected president; in 1888 the Democrats renominated him, but he was defeated by Benjamin Harrison. He then took up the practice of law in New York City. In 1892 he was again elected president.



Portrait of Grover Cleveland

#### Reading and Assignments

- Read the article: *Grover Cleveland*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Under each key event listed below, create a bullet point outline showing the main points given in today's article for each of those topics. (A bullet point outline can be described as an informal outline using indentions or dashes behind which are listed the main points about a specific topic.)
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

#### Key People, Places, and Events

President Grover Cleveland  
The Spoils System  
Private Pension Bills  
Presidential Succession Bill

Interstate Commerce Act  
Fishery Questions  
The Tariff  
Campaign of 1888

## ***History of the United States***

by William M. Davidson

***Grover Cleveland***

### **Cleveland's First Administration**

#### ***Democratic: 1885 – 1889***

Grover Cleveland, the twenty-second president of the United States, was the son of a Presbyterian clergyman. Born in Caldwell, New Jersey on March 18, 1837, he received a public school education and later taught in the New York Institution for the Blind. In 1859 he became a lawyer; in 1871 he was elected sheriff of Erie County, New York, and in 1881 mayor of Buffalo. He made so excellent a record as reform mayor of that city that the Democrats in 1882 made him governor of New York. In 1884 he was elected president; in 1888 the Democrats renominated him, but he was defeated by Benjamin Harrison. He then took up the practice of law in New York City. In 1892 he was again elected president.

After his retirement Mr. Cleveland lived in Princeton, New Jersey where he delivered lectures at Princeton College on national and international affairs.

### **The Return of the Democrats to Power**

Cleveland was the first Democratic president since 1861, and both parties regarded his election as a revolution. The Democrats for the most part expected that a clean sweep would be made in the offices; many Republicans feared the breaking up of the government, some even gloomily predicting that slavery would be reestablished. All these absurd expectations were happily disappointed.

### **Cleveland and the Spoils Systems**

The keenest disappointment, however, was felt by those who had rallied around Cleveland to “turn the rascals out,” in other words to secure government positions for themselves. Cleveland was a reformer, supported by reformers, and he set himself like granite against the spoilsmen. “Gentlemen,” said a southern politician sadly, “I fear there will be some difficulty about the offices.” So there was. The new president would not turn out “the rascals” in anything like the desired numbers.

### **Private Pension Bills**

Cleveland also believed that it was the job of reform to put an end to what he considered excessive pensions. He said men were every year drawing millions of dollars from the government without any just claim whatever; that it was in the interests of the honest veterans that the underserving should not receive pensions. The abuses, he thought, were largely due to the passage of private pension bills by Congress, whereas Congress ought to leave the decision in such matters to the Pension Bureau. He therefore declared war against private pension bills and vetoed many of them. In 1887 he also vetoed the Dependent Pension Bill, which would have given pensions to all poor veterans who had served three months in the Union armies. Cleveland's pension policy met with much opposition in the North, where it was felt that nothing was too good for all honest and worthy Union

veterans who had offered their services and their lives in the defense of their country.

### **Presidential Succession Bill – 1886**

In 1886 Congress passed a bill providing for the succession to the presidency in case both the president and the vice president should die or be unable to exercise the office. Under this law, the secretary of state succeeds the vice president, and then comes the secretary of the Treasury, the secretary of war, and the other Cabinet officers in the order of the creation of the departments. This arrangement makes it impossible that the office of the president should ever be vacant.

### **The Interstate Commerce Act**

The great railroads of the United States possess enormous power over the trade and commerce of the country. If they combined, they could charge what prices they pleased for carrying freight. Again, they may carry one man's goods at a cheaper rate than those of another man, to the ruin of the person against whom they discriminate. In many instances the railroads had done these things. In 1887 an attempt was made to stop such practices by the passage of the Interstate Commerce Act. This forbids railroads to make distinctions in terms for which they will carry freight for different persons, or to combine to fix rates. The law also created a body called the Interstate Commerce Commission to see that the railroads obeyed its provisions.

### **Fishery Questions**

Most of America's early foreign difficulties were with England, since she possessed large colonies on this continent.

During Cleveland's first administration, serious disputes arose over the question of fishery rights. Disagreement came first over the claim of Americans to catch fish along the shores of Canada. The right to fish there had been given us by the Treaty of Washington in 1871. This treaty expired in 1885, and trouble immediately arose. Of course American fishermen could continue their fishing on the high seas, and the dispute related to this question: What are the "high seas"? America said that any part of the sea three miles from the shore was part of the high seas. Great Britain said that this principle was not correct when applied to bays, that the Americans could not fish in the bays on the Canadian coast, no matter how far they were from land. The New England fishermen continued to fish inside the bays, and as a result, England began to seize American vessels found within these waters. For a time it looked as if war was certain, but in 1888 a compromise was reached. Americans were to secure English licenses if they wished to continue fishing within the disputed waters.

Another fishery dispute concerned the taking of seals in Bering Sea. The United States claimed that the whole of the Bering Sea belong to her, and that Englishmen had no right to catch seals anywhere in this sea. This claim, so opposed to the demands in regard to the bays of Newfoundland, was indignantly rejected by England. In 1886, however, the Americans began to seize English sealing vessels in the Bering Sea. After much debate and a great deal of irritation the question was submitted to an international court of arbitration, which decided in 1893 that America was mistaken in claiming this entire sea as her private property.

### **The Tariff**

During the Civil War high tariff rates were imposed upon nearly every article imported to the United States. When the other war taxes were repealed, the tariff was allowed to stand as it was. Thus the nation found itself almost unconsciously committed to a high protective tariff. The Republicans supported this policy and the Democrats opposed it. Nevertheless, the issue was not clearly drawn. In 1880 the question entered into the campaign, but only in a minor degree. In 1883 some reductions were made in rates, but they were of no consequence. In 1887, however,

President Cleveland made the tariff a party issue. His message of that year insisted on lowering the rates and declared for a tariff on revenue. Though such a tariff might give some protection, revenue was aimed at here, not protection.

### **Campaign of 1888**

The presidential election of 1888 was fought largely on the tariff issue, and Benjamin Harrison of Indiana was elected over Cleveland, who had been renominated by the Democrats. Harrison received 233 electoral votes, Cleveland 168. Levi P. Morton was elected vice president.