

# **Homesteaders and Populism**

**1865-1896**

# Clash of Culture



## Reservation System:

Treaties signed between tribes and the US government at Fort Laramie, WY established boundaries for tribal territory

As more settlers moved west in search of gold, silver, and farmland, tribal territory was reduced (p642 in text)

## Warpath:

US Army and Natives clashed many times:

Sitting Bull  
Chief Joseph  
Geronimo

## Reservations:

US government was willing to back up its' claims on the land w/ force

Railroad

Disease/Alcoholism

Buffalo Extermination

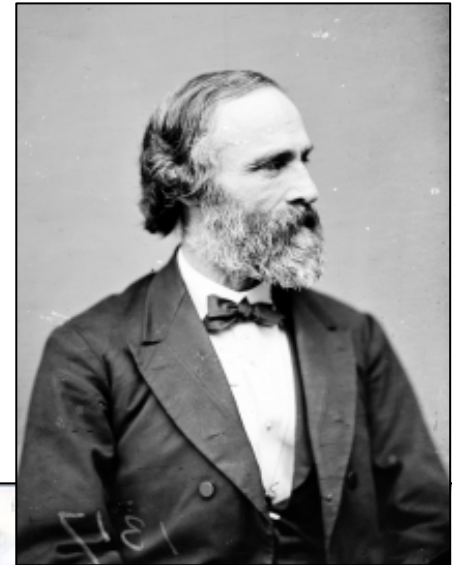
# Dawes Severalty Act

**1887 law passed to reform  
the US government Indian  
Policy**

**Redistributed Indian lands  
to individual families**

**Provided for:  
Citizenship (eventually)  
Education**

**Designed to “Kill the Indian  
and save the man.”**



# Homestead Act (1862)

**Allowed settlers land  
(160 Acres) in the west  
for a small investment**

**“Sodbusters” moved to  
the great plains and  
worked the land  
growing wheat using  
“dry farming” methods**

**New Technology:**

**Barbed Wire**

**Combines**

**Steam-powered machinery**



**Political party developed by unhappy farmers (Grangers)**

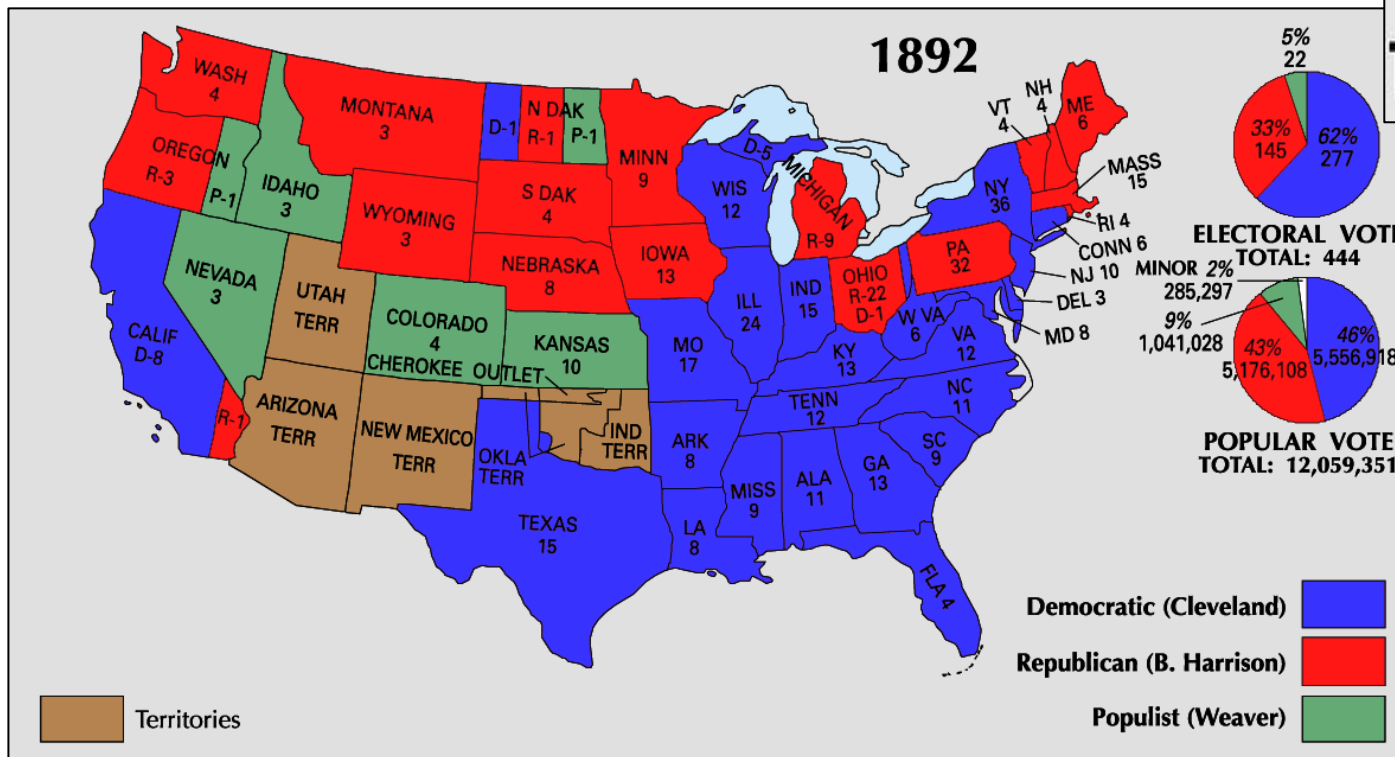
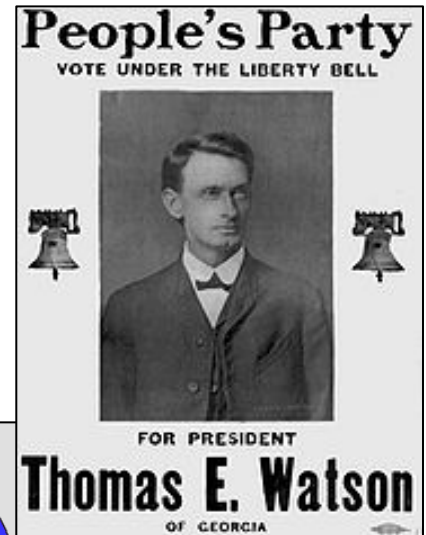
# Populism

**Goals:**

**Nationalizing railroads, telephone, and telegraph system**

**Graduated Income Tax**

**“Free silver”**



# Labor Protests



**Populists hoped to combine their base (Western Farmers) with disenfranchised laborers in the urban centers in the East**

**Coxey's Army:**

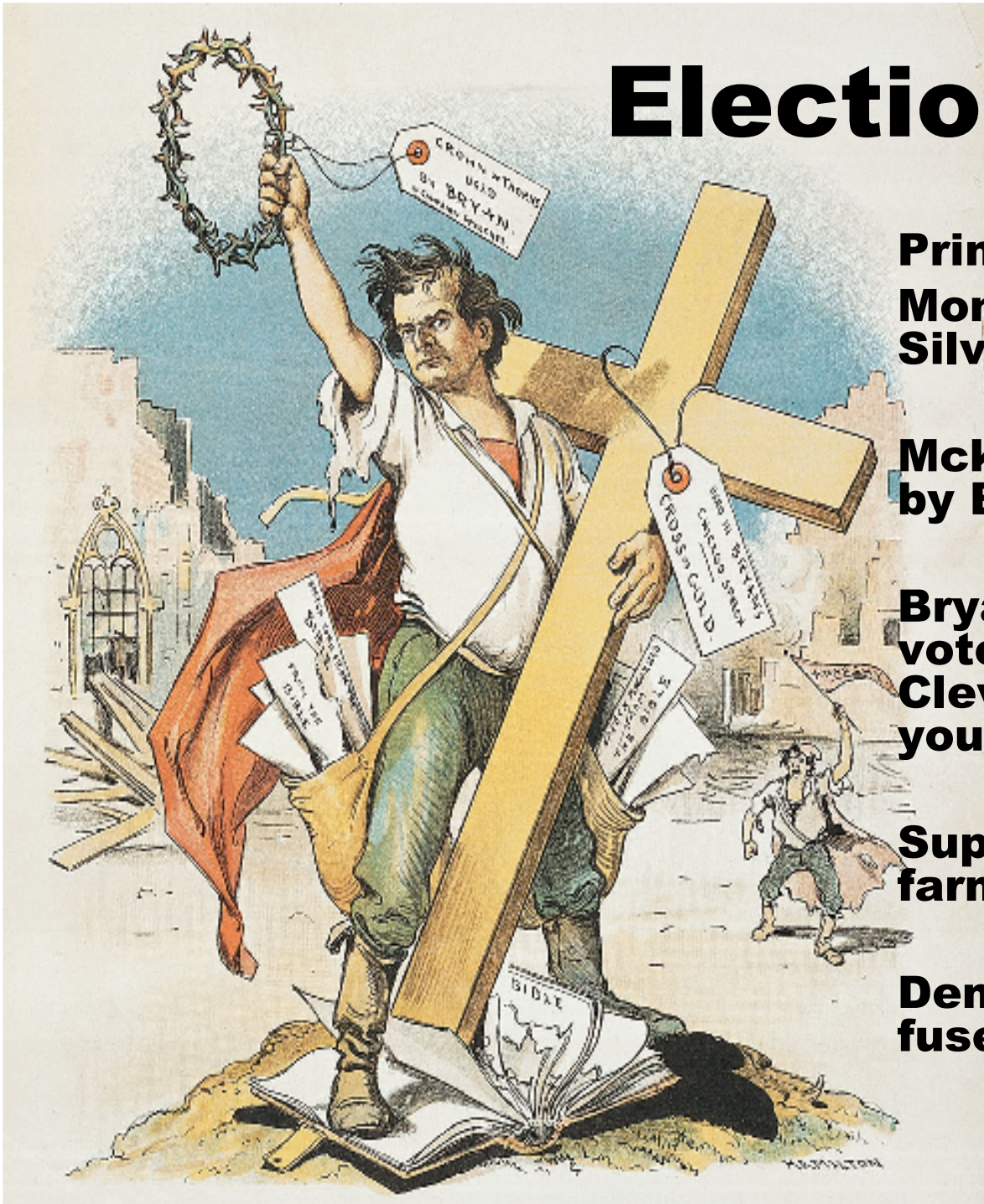
**Army of unemployed laborers marched on DC demanding government work programs**

**Pullman Strike:  
Eugene Debs organized a strike that crippled railway transportation**

**Put down by Federal troops**



# Election of 1896



**Primary Issue:  
Monetary policy (Gold or  
Silver?)**

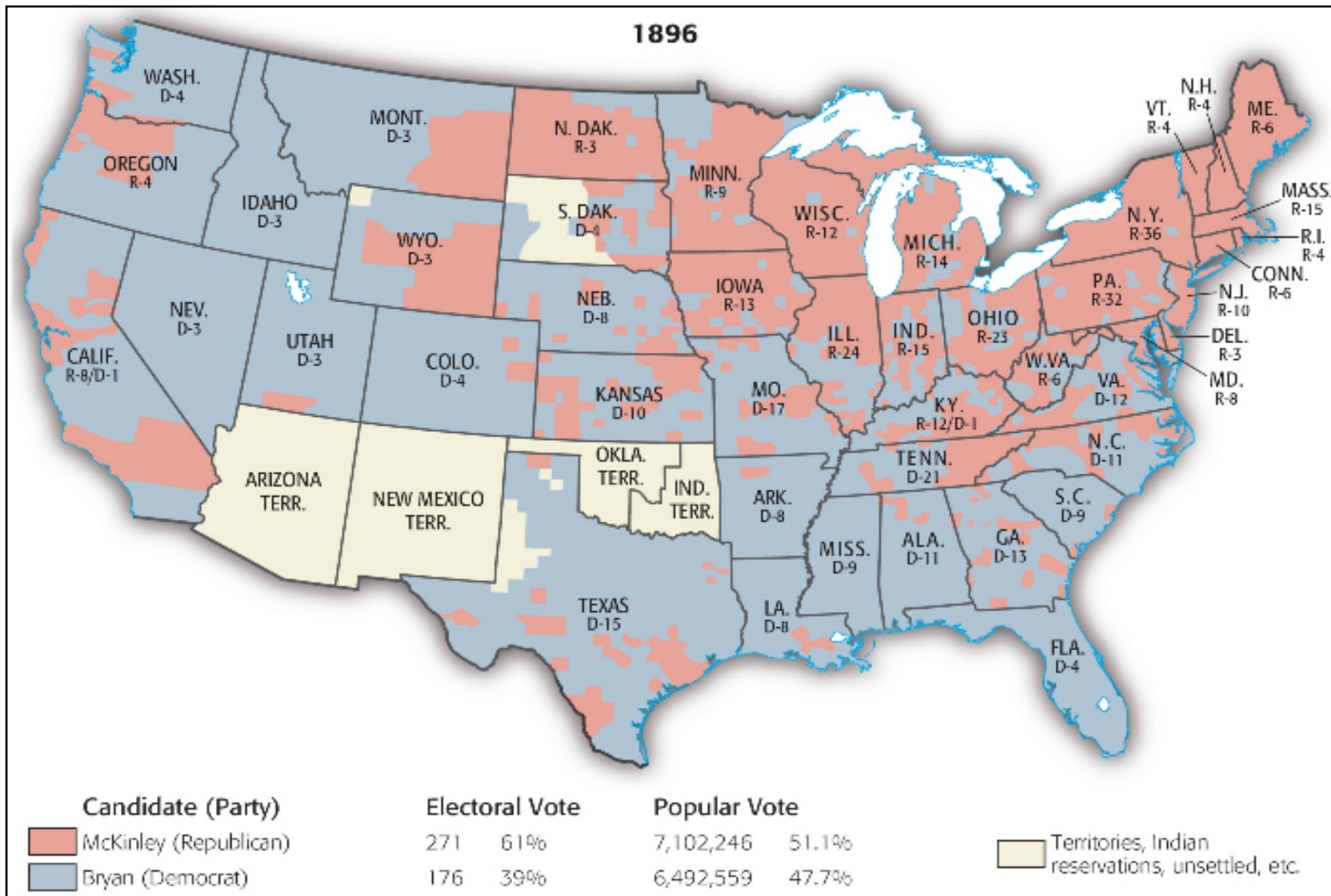
**Mckinley (R) Supported  
by Big Business**

**Bryan (D) Democrats  
voted to drop incumbent  
Cleveland in favor of  
young Populist orator**

**Supported by labor and  
farmers**

**Dems and Populist party  
fused**

# Election of 1896



**Republican Party maintains hold on White House for next 16 years**