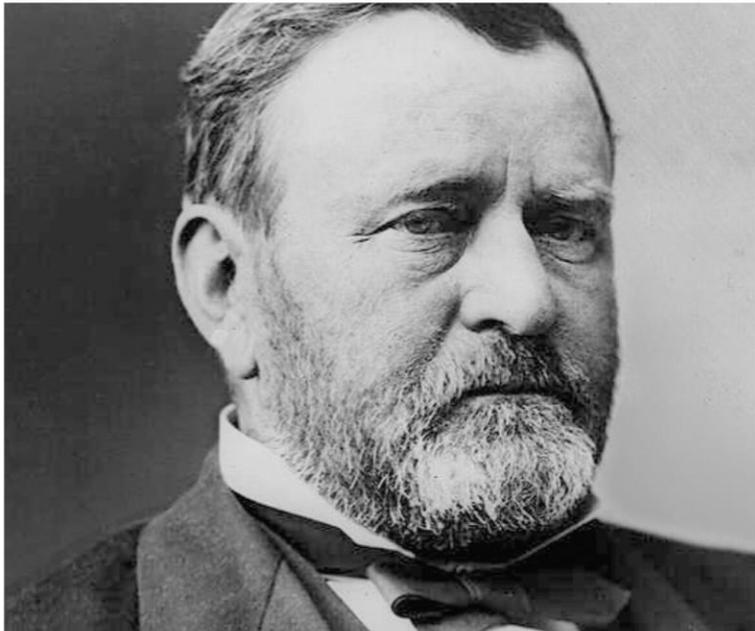


From Reconstruction to the Spanish- American War

PRESIDENCIES FROM THE
END OF THE CIVIL WAR
TO THE END OF THE
19TH CENTURY.

Ulysses S. Grant



EIGHTEENTH
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES
1869–1877

“It was my fortune, or misfortune, to be called to the office of Chief Executive without any previous political training”

Grant fought to protect the rights of African Americans.

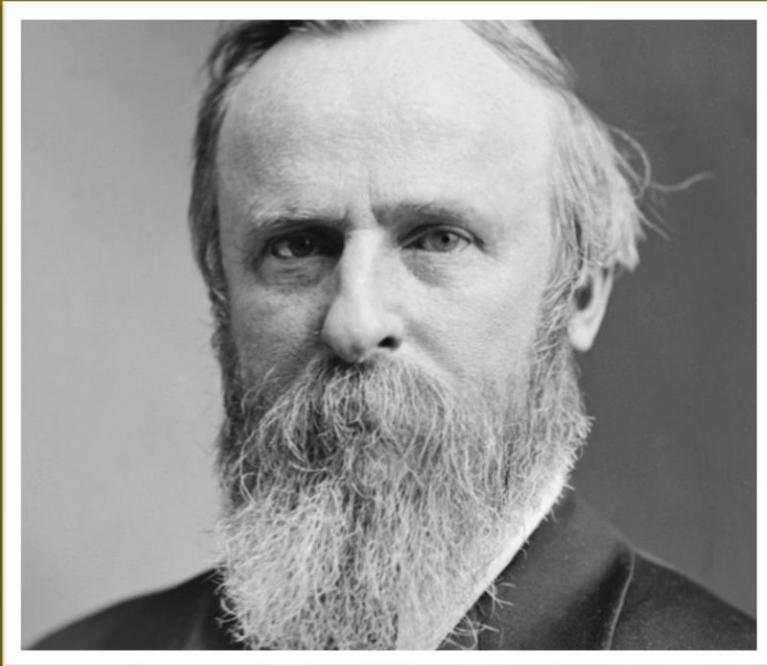
He worked to ensure the passage of the **Fifteenth Amendment** and to make possible for blacks to vote.

His administration was labeled one of the most corrupt in U.S. history, but despite the scandals, Grant was never personally involved with any of them, and his honesty and personal integrity were never questioned.

In Native American policy, civil service reform, and African American rights, he took steps that few had attempted.

He also executed a successful foreign policy and was responsible for improving Anglo-American relations.

Rutherford B. Hayes



NINETEENTH
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES
1877-1881

"For honest merit to succeed amid the tricks and intrigues which are now so lamentably common, I know is difficult; but the honor of success is increased by the obstacles which are to be surmounted."

Hayes oversaw the **end of Reconstruction**, began the efforts that led to **civil service reform**, and attempted to reconcile the divisions left over from the Civil War.

Republicans had promised southern Democrats at least one Cabinet post, **Federal patronage**, subsidies for internal improvements, and withdrawal of troops from Louisiana and South Carolina. Hayes insisted that his appointments must be made on merit, not political considerations.

Hayes pledged protection of the rights of Negroes in the South, but at the same time advocated the restoration of "wise, honest, and peaceful local self-government." This meant the withdrawal of troops. Hayes hoped such conciliatory policies would lead to the building of a "new Republican party" in the South, to which white businessmen and conservatives would rally. Hayes and his Republican successors were persistent in their efforts but could not win over the "solid South."

James Garfield



TWENTIETH
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES
1881

"Be fit for more than the thing you are now doing. Let everyone know that you have a reserve in yourself; that you have more power than you are now using. If you are not too large for the place you occupy, you are too small for it."

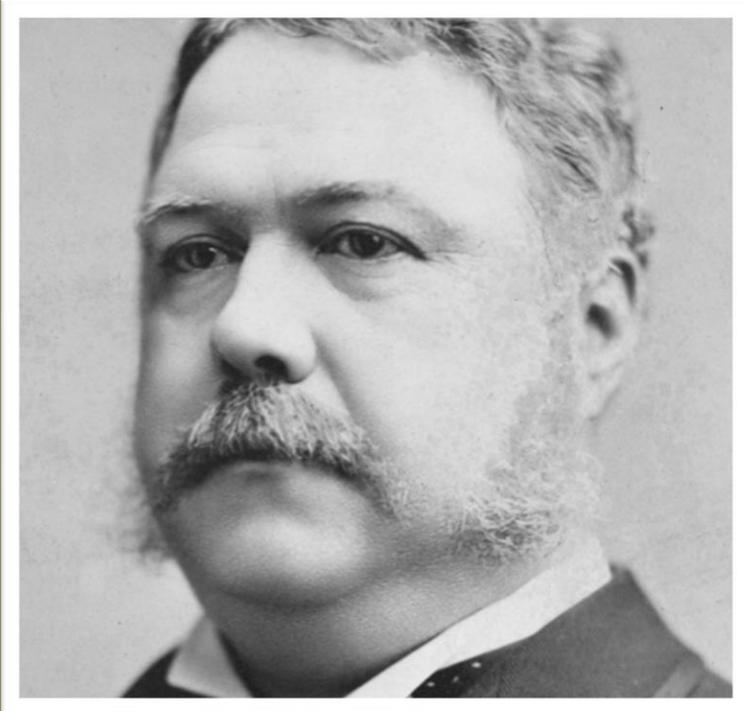
James Garfield was elected as the United States' 20th President in 1881, after nine terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. His Presidency was impactful, but cut short after 200 days when he was assassinated.

As the last of the log cabin Presidents, James A. Garfield attacked political corruption and won back for the Presidency a measure of prestige it had lost during the Reconstruction period.

In foreign affairs, Garfield's Secretary of State invited all American republics to a conference to meet in Washington in 1882. But it never took place. On July 2, 1881, in a Washington railroad station, an attorney who had sought a consular post shot the President.

Mortally wounded, Garfield lay in the White House for weeks. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, tried unsuccessfully to find the bullet with an induction-balance electrical device which he had designed. On September 19, 1881, he died from an infection and internal hemorrhage.

Chester A. Arthur



TWENTYFIRST
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES
1881-1885

"Good ball players make good citizens."

During his brief tenure as Vice President, Arthur stood firmly in his patronage struggle against President Garfield. But when he succeeded to the Presidency, he was eager to prove himself above machine politics.

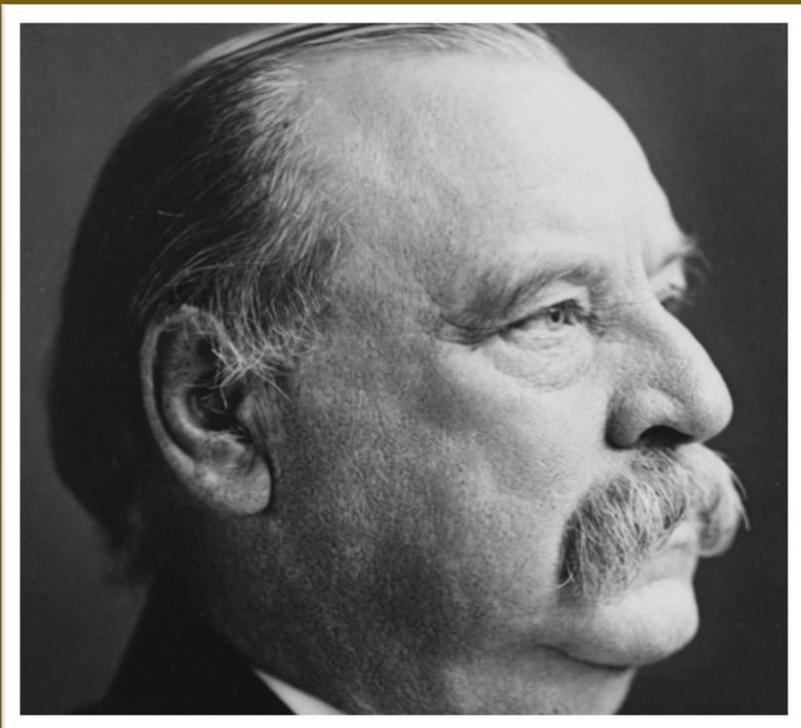
In 1883 Congress passed the **Pendleton Act**, which established a bipartisan **Civil Service Commission**, forbade levying political assessments against officeholders, and provided for a "classified system" that made certain Government positions obtainable only through competitive written examinations. The system protected employees against removal for political reasons.

The Arthur Administration enacted the first general **Federal immigration law**. Arthur approved a measure in 1882 excluding paupers, criminals, and lunatics. Congress suspended Chinese immigration for ten years, later making the restriction permanent.

Arthur demonstrated as President that he was above factions within the Republican Party, if indeed not above the party itself.

Publisher Alexander K. McClure recalled, "*No man ever entered the Presidency so profoundly and widely distrusted, and no one ever retired ... more generally respected.*"

Grover Cleveland



TWENTYSECOND
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES
1885-1889

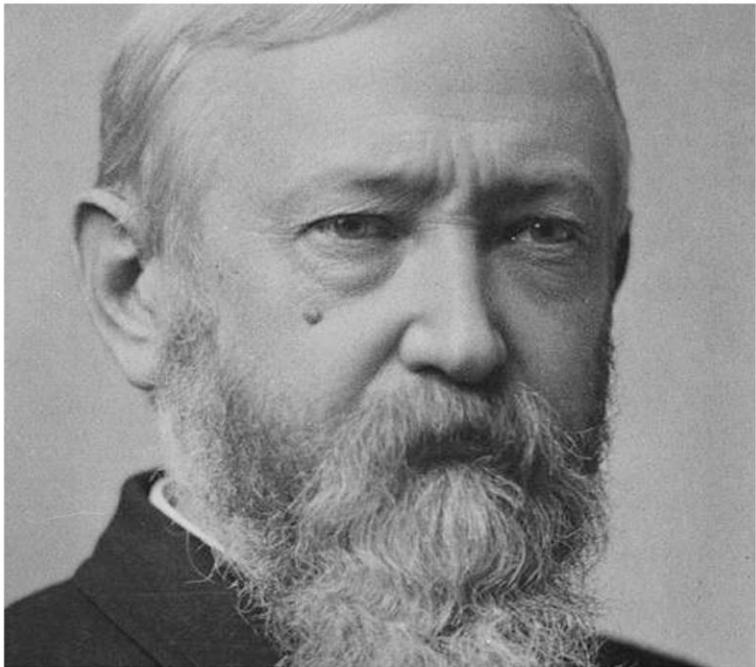
Cleveland is the nation's first Democratic President since James Buchanan, who served prior to the onset of the Civil War.

President Grover Cleveland signed the **Presidential Succession Act**. The act specified that in the absence of a President and vice president, heads of executive departments would succeed to the presidency in the order in which the departments were created, starting with the secretary of state.

Cleveland asserts that labor is a vital element of national prosperity and should be a concern of the federal government. He suggests the creation of a government committee to resolve disputes between labor and capital, making him the first President to do so.

Cleveland vetoes the first of several bills granting military pensions to **Civil War Union veterans** who had appealed to Congress after their claims were rejected by the **Pensions Bureau**.

Benjamin Harrison



TWENTYSECOND
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES
1889 to 1893

*"I pity the man who wants a coat so cheap
that the man or woman who produces the
cloth will starve in the process."*

Harrison set a vigorous foreign policy .The **first Pan American Congress** met in Washington in 1889, establishing an information center which later became the **Pan American Union**.

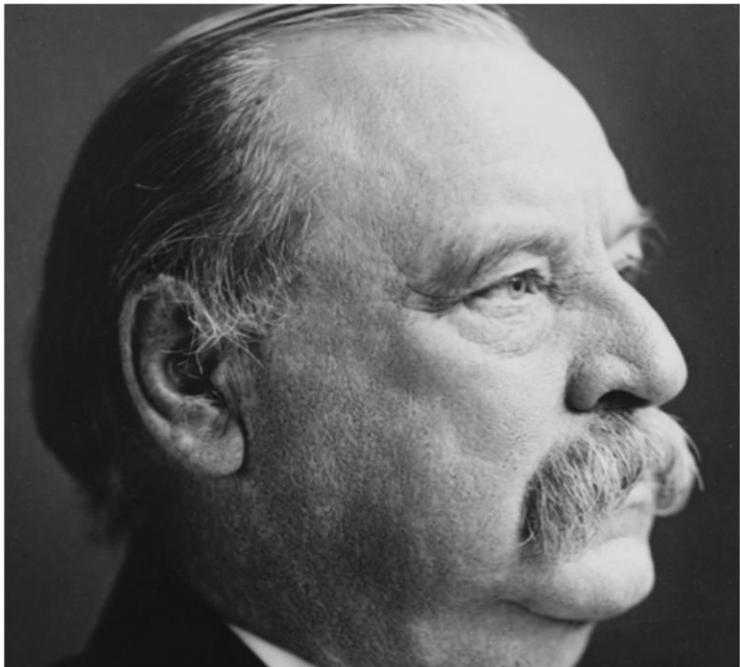
Substantial appropriation bills were signed by Harrison for internal improvements, naval expansion, and subsidies for steamship lines.

President Harrison also signed the **Sherman Anti-Trust Act** "to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies," the first Federal act attempting to regulate trusts.

In domestic policy, the high tariff rates had created a surplus of money in the Treasury. Harrison tried to make the tariff more acceptable by writing in **reciprocity provisions**. To cope with the Treasury surplus, the tariff was removed from imported raw sugar; sugar growers within the United States were given two cents a pound bounty on their production.

At the end of his administration Harrison submitted to the Senate a treaty to annex Hawaii; to his disappointment, President Cleveland later withdrew it.

Grover Cleveland



TWENTYFOURTH
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES
1893-1897

“A truly American sentiment recognizes the dignity of labor and the fact that honor lies in honest toil.”

Cleveland's Congress accept France's gift of the Statue of Liberty. The gift commemorates the alliance between the two countries during the Revolutionary War.

Following complaints about railroad rates and policies, the **Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)** is created to ensure fairness in the management of interstate railroads.

Cleveland signs the **Dawes General Allotment Act**, which divided tribal lands of Native Americans into individual allotments and encouraged the assimilation of Native Americans into American society. Cleveland viewed himself as a protector of the Indians and believed that they would benefit greatly in adopting the norms of American life. The Dawes Act was a disastrous policy that robbed Native Americans of much of their land and did little to improve their way of life.

The **Department of Labor** is established.

President Grover Cleveland signed the **Chinese Exclusion Act**, which restricted Chinese immigration to the United States.

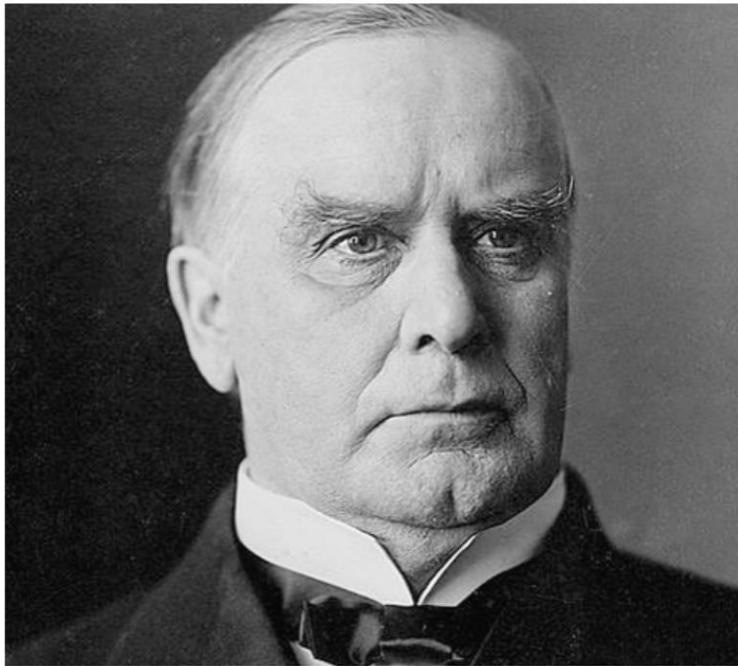
Cleveland signs a bill creating the **Department of Agriculture**. The territories of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington are admitted as states.

Hawaii's provisional government declares the **Republic of Hawaii**. In its constitution, the body includes a provision for possible American annexation. On August 8, the U.S. government recognizes the Republic of Hawaii.

The United States intervenes in a boundary dispute between Venezuela and Britain, eventually invoking the Monroe Doctrine to assert its rights. Britain agrees to arbitration rather than going to war with the United States.

Utah is admitted to the union as the forty-fifth state.

William McKinley



TWENTYFIFTH
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES
1897-1901

*"Our differences are policies; our
agreements, principles."*

Not prosperity, but foreign policy, dominated McKinley's Administration.

The **depression of 1893** and the extreme agitation over silver had almost run its course when he became president. Deferring action on the money question, he called Congress to enact the **highest tariff in history**.

Newspapers and public indignation brought pressure upon the President for war with Spain over the situation in Cuba (**Jingoism**). Unable to restrain Congress or the American people, McKinley delivered his message of neutral intervention in April 1898.

In the 100-day **Spanish- American war**, the United States destroyed the Spanish fleet in Cuba, seized Manila in the Philippines, and occupied Puerto Rico.

In July 7, 1898 President McKinley signs a joint congressional resolution providing for the **annexation of Hawaii**.

He declares his intention to build an inter-oceanic canal through Nicaragua and discusses the merits of fighting the Spanish-American war: "*Military service under a common flag and for a righteous cause has strengthened the national spirit and served to cement more closely than ever the fraternal bonds between every section of the country.*"

During his presidency Secretary of State John Hay issues the **Open Door** notes to Britain, France, Russia, and Japan. Hay calls for broad, multi-lateral access to Chinese markets across foreign spheres of influence as well as for the preservation of the territorial sovereignty of the Chinese Empire.

Britain and the United States sign the **Hay-Pauncefote Treaty** to provide for an isthmian canal in Central America.

President McKinley signs the **Gold Standard Act**, which fixes the standard of value for all money issued or coined by the United States.

Secretary of State **John Hay** issues the **second Open Door Note**, a circular letter outlining American desires to keep China intact in the midst of Western intervention during the Boxer Rebellion.

William McKinley is inaugurated as President for a second term, with Theodore Roosevelt sworn in as vice president. McKinley calls for the **Filipino rebellion** to end "without further bloodshed," wishing that "there be ushered in the reign of peace to be made permanent by a government of liberty under law!"

His second term came to a tragic end in September 1901 when at the Buffalo Pan-American Exposition a deranged anarchist shot him twice. He died eight days later.