

Omaha Platform, July 4, 1892

Preamble

We meet here as our nation is on the verge of moral, political, and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot-box, the Legislatures, the Congress, and touches even judges.

The people are demoralized; land concentrating in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right to form unions, a standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires.

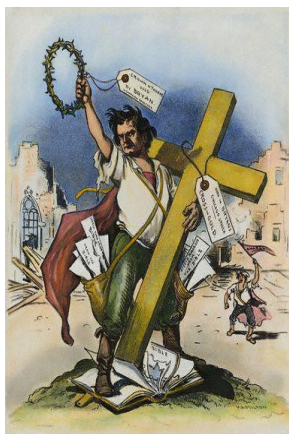
We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder. These two parties are controlled by the rich and big business.

We declare therefore:

1. Labor forces (farmers and industrial workers) are hereby united to lift mankind.
2. Wealth belongs to him who creates it; the interests of rural and urban labor are the same; their enemies are identical.
3. We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations will either own the people or the people will own the railroads; The government must therefore take control of the railroads.
4. We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver.
5. We demand an end to protective tariffs and the implementation of a graduated income tax in which those who earn the most should be taxed at the highest percent.
6. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to give low interest loans.
7. The land belongs to the people. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by foreigners should be taken by the government and held for actual settlers only.
8. We demand an eight hour work day.
9. We demand limits on immigration
10. We demand the adoption of the Australian or secret ballot system; We favor a constitutional amendment providing for the election of Senators of the United States by a direct vote of the people.

Questions:

1. According to the preamble, what problems existed in the U.S. in 1892? Why wouldn't the two major parties be able to address the problems?
2. What policies were intended to help factory workers? What policies were intended to help farmers?
3. How did the Populists seek to expand democracy?



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Planks	Problem being addressed?	Solution to Problem	Is the plank intended to help farmers or factory workers
Preamble		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
1 and 2			
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