

Source 1

Excerpt from *Populism in the South Revisited: New Interpretations and New Departures*
edited by James M. Bealy

Although the Grant Parish People's Party was a creation of white hill country farmers, local Populists envisioned themselves building a movement of all who labored, regardless of race. Believing that both wealth and virtue derived from the physical production of tangible goods, Populists drew a sharp distinction between those who lived by their own labor and those who lived off the labor of others. Grant Parish Populists, though generally small proprietors who owned their own land, nonetheless numbered themselves among the "laboring class of people" and regularly referred to the Farmers' Alliance as a "labor organization." They drew a contrast between the "tolling millions" and those they termed "class of gentlemen" who, they argued, sat "upon the throne of their majesty, sucking the very life blood of this nation." Believing that all who labored shared common materials interests, they saw no contradiction between calls for interracial solidarity.

Source 2

Excerpt from *Politics and Punishment: The History of the Louisiana State Penal System*
By Mark Thomas Carleton

Among the worst of Bourbon Democratic crimes against the public interest in Louisiana was the willful neglect of state supported institutions, all of which were allowed to languish because of insufficient appropriations for their support. Schools, asylums, and hospitals fell victim to Bourbon Democratic social indifference. The largest group of martyrs to fiscal conservatism in Louisiana were the state's young people, both white and African American. In 1880 Louisiana was the fifth most illiterate state in the nation. By 1890 she had "climbed" to the unenviable status of first, with 20.33 percent of her white and 72.14 percent of her black citizens unable to read or write.

Source 3

MARTIN VITTA, D.L.,
Missyville, 1890.
Editor, Louisiana Populist:
I am sorry that I could not attend the meeting of our Executive Committee, but please pronounced. I will ask a question, why does our party officers think of contesting the election? I do not see any need of it, surely, all of our judges and lawyers are Democrats and they all favor any kind of fraud, therefore I don't consider things to be raised by candidates.

Populist Era

Directions: In each box determine possible reasons for the creation of the Populist Party in Louisiana based on the source. While analyzing the sources answer the following question why did the people of Louisiana feel the need to create a new party called the Populist Party.



Central to the emerging Populist ideology was the sub-treasury plan. Conceived by Macune, the sub-treasury plan would empower the federal government to set up warehouse storage facilities and provide low-interest loans to farmers. The plan would free farmers from crop lien mortgages by allowing them to store crops until prices rose. It would also put more money into circulation. When Louisiana's Democratic congressional delegation unanimously voted against the sub-treasury plan, amid growing evidence of corruption courtesy of the Louisiana Lottery.

In 1893 the nation descended into an economic depression, and the demands for an expanded money supply dramatically increased. In the 1894 congressional elections, Louisiana Populists made a determined effort to capture the Fourth and Fifth District congressional seats. Despite spirited campaigning and amid rampant allegations of fraud, the Populists were defeated, but not discouraged, in each race. Most observers concluded that if a fair election could occur, growing Populist strength in upstate Louisiana and the Florida Parishes would guarantee victory.