

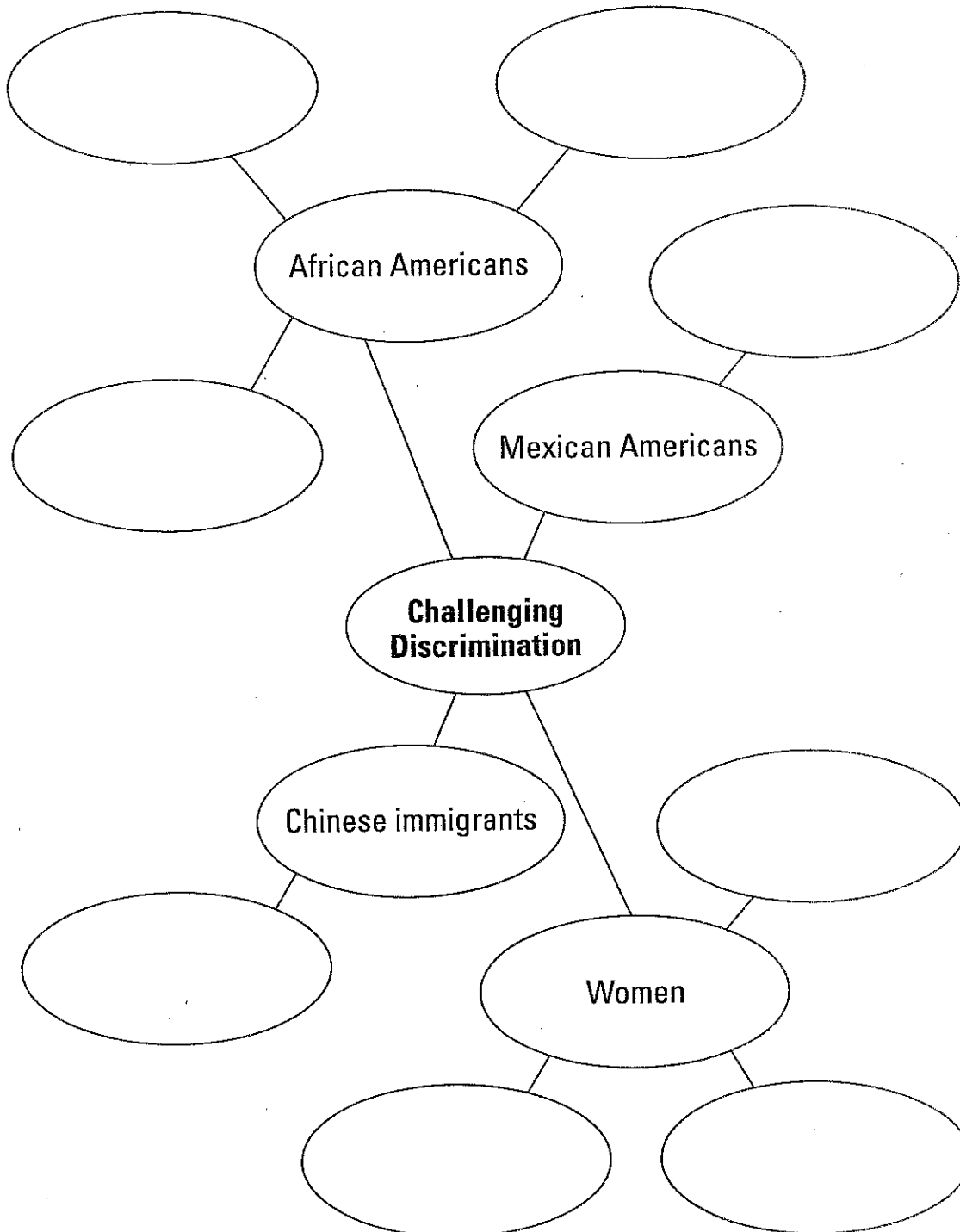
CHAPTER
7
SECTION 1

Note Taking Study Guide

SEGREGATION AND SOCIAL TENSIONS

Focus Question: How were the civil rights of certain groups in America undermined during the years after Reconstruction?

Record the ways in which different groups challenged Reconstruction.



CHAPTER
7
SECTION 1

Section Summary

SEGREGATION AND SOCIAL TENSIONS

After federal troops were removed from the South, southern states enacted Jim Crow laws that segregated blacks and whites. There were Jim Crow railroad cars, cemeteries, and restaurants, among other things. The Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson* declared these laws constitutional as long as states maintained "separate but equal" facilities. In reality, facilities were rarely equal.

Southern states exploited a number of African Americans by passing restrictive measures that disqualified many of them as voters. They enacted a poll tax, requiring voters to pay a tax to vote. Voters also had to pass literacy tests.

Even during the darkest days of Jim Crow, African Americans refused to accept their status as second-class citizens. They established black newspapers, women's clubs, fraternal organizations, schools and colleges, and political associations with the goal of securing their freedom. Former slave **Ida B. Wells** published the newspaper *Free Speech*. She wrote articles condemning the treatment of blacks and criticizing lynching. **Booker T. Washington** argued that African Americans needed to accommodate themselves to segregation, build up economic resources, and establish reputations as hardworking and honest citizens. **W.E.B. Du Bois** criticized Washington and argued that blacks should demand full and immediate equality.

Chinese immigrants also faced racial prejudice. Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, prohibiting Chinese laborers from entering the country. Chinese migrants turned to the federal courts. In 1898, the Supreme Court ruled that individuals of Chinese descent who were born in America could not be stripped of their citizenship.

Mexican Americans also struggled against discrimination. Despite guaranteed property rights, many Mexicans lost their lands after the Mexican-American War because they were unable to prove ownership. In the late 1880s and early 1890s, **Las Gorras Blancas** (the White Caps) fought back by engaging in guerrilla warfare against the railroads and large ranchers.

Women continued to fight for the right to vote, to own property, and to receive an education. Although women failed to gain the vote, the number of women attending college jumped dramatically.

Review Questions

1. Describe actions southern states took to limit the rights of African Americans.

2. How did African Americans respond to segregation?

READING CHECK

What act prohibited Chinese workers from entering the United States?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *exploited* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle any words or phrases in the surrounding sentences that help you figure out what *exploited* means.

READING SKILL

Summarize Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois had different responses to discrimination. Describe those responses.

CHAPTER
7
SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Focus Question: Why did the political structure change during the Gilded Age?

As you read, describe the issues that dominated national politics in the 1870s and 1880s.

<p>I. Politics and Economics</p> <p>A. Political Stalemate</p> <p>B. Corruption in Politics</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>C. _____</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>a. _____</p> <p>b. _____</p>

CHAPTER
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SECTION 2

Section Summary
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Inaction and political corruption characterized politics during the Gilded Age. Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans controlled the White House and both houses of Congress for more than two years in a row, making it difficult to pass new laws. Presidents during this era seemed weak and lacked integrity.

Political parties reached into nearly every ward and precinct in every city. Under the **spoils system**, politicians gave government jobs to loyal party workers without consideration of their qualifications. Government officials could and did use federal contracts to convince people to vote for their candidates.

A number of prominent figures promoted reforming the **civil service system**, a system that includes federal jobs in the executive branch. Under a reformed civil service, government workers would be offered jobs based on their expertise and keep those jobs regardless of which political party won the election. After President James Garfield was assassinated by a citizen who felt cheated out of a job, Vice President Chester Arthur signed the **Pendleton Civil Service Act** in 1883. This act established a civil service commission. The commission wrote an exam that all who sought government employment had to take before being hired. Getting a job was based on how well one did on the exam, not on one's political affiliation and connections.

Two economic issues created a political divide during the Gilded Age: the tariff and the monetary policy. Republicans favored a high tariff, arguing that it would promote job growth and allow American industry to grow. Democrats believed that high tariffs would raise prices and make it harder for American farmers to sell their goods abroad.

Disagreement flared over the **gold standard**, the use of gold as the basis of the nation's currency. Bankers and those in international trade feared that the use of silver for money would undermine the economy. Farmers argued that the rejection of silver money would lead to declining prices and financial ruin. Congress passed the Coinage Act of 1873, which ended the minting of silver coins, but after protest, it authorized minting of silver dollars.

Review Questions

1. How did the spoils system create government corruption?

2. Discuss how the civil service system was reformed after the assassination of President Garfield.

READING CHECK

What is the term for the use of gold as a nation's currency?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *integrity* mean in the underlined sentence? The word "weak" earlier in the sentence has a negative meaning. Use this clue to help you figure out the meaning of *integrity*.

READING SKILL

Identify Main Ideas Discuss two economic issues that were important to politics during the Gilded Age.

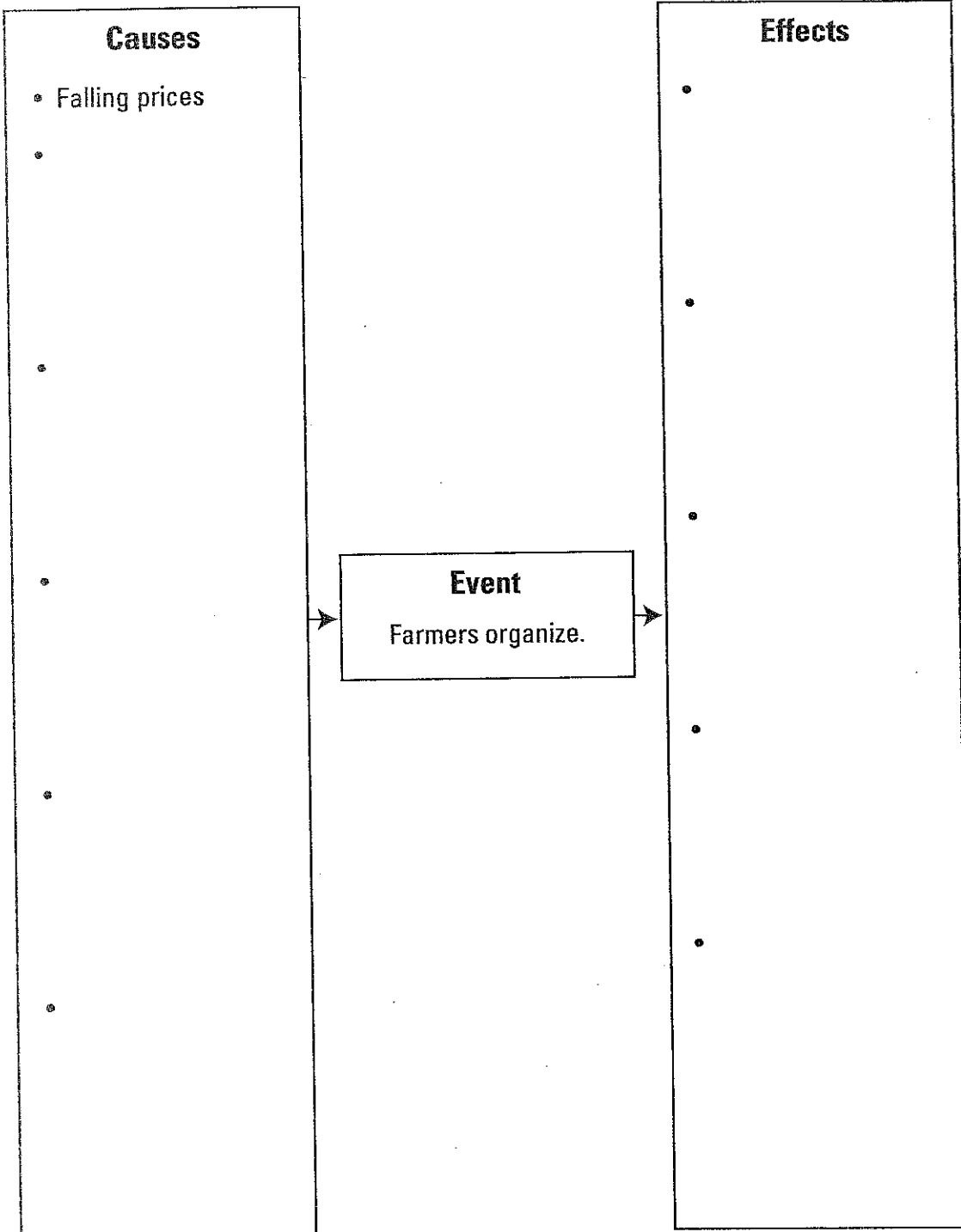
CHAPTER
7
SECTION 3

Note Taking Study Guide

FARMERS AND POPULISM

Focus Question: What led to the rise of the Populist movement, and what effect did it have?

As you read, list the reasons that farmers in the South and West felt the need to organize and the effects of their effort.



CHAPTER
7
SECTION 3

Section Summary

FARMERS AND POPULISM

Between 1870 and 1895, farm prices fell sharply. At the same time, the cost of doing business increased. Many farmers mortgaged their farms to survive. Farmers blamed big business, especially the railroads and banks, for their problems. They believed that railroads charged whatever rates they wanted and that banks set interest rates too high.

In 1867, **Oliver H. Kelley**, a Minnesota farmer and businessman, organized the **Grange**, an organization of farmers that grew to nearly a million members. It was one of a network of organizations created to solve farmers' problems. The Grange provided education and called for the regulation of railroad and grain elevator rates. Grangers also prompted the federal government to establish the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) to oversee interstate transportation.

Farmers' Alliances took up the call for reform in the late 1870s. They formed cooperatives to collectively sell crops and called on the federal government to establish "sub-treasuries," or postal banks, to provide farmers with low-interest loans.

The spread of the Farmers' Alliances culminated with the creation of the **Populist Party**, or People's Party, in 1892. The party grew rapidly, putting pressure on the two major political parties to consider their demands. They called for the coinage of silver, or "free silver," to fight low prices. To combat high costs, they demanded government ownership of railroads. In the 1892 election, the Populists elected several governors and senators, and ten congressmen. Their presidential candidate received more than one million votes.

Following this success, Populists were forced to decide whether to nominate their own presidential candidate or to endorse Democratic Party nominee **William Jennings Bryan** for the 1896 election. They chose to endorse Bryan, who supported many Populist proposals.

Bryan lost the election to Republican candidate **William McKinley**, partly because his emphasis on monetary reform, especially free silver, did not appeal to urban workers. The Populist decision to endorse Bryan weakened the party at the local and state levels. The party never recovered, and by the early 1900s, it had disappeared as a viable alternative to the two major political parties.

Review Questions

1. What did the Populist Party hope to achieve?

2. Describe why the Populist Party waned in the late 1890s.

READING CHECK

What candidate did Populists endorse in the 1896 presidential election?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *network* in the underlined sentence. Eliminate the word from the sentence and read it again. What word might you use in place of *network*? Use this strategy to help you figure out the meaning of *network*.

READING SKILL

Identify Causes and Effects
Describe the problems that led farmers to create groups such as the Grange.
