Documents: Populism

**“To this sterile and remote region, infested by savage beasts and still more savage men, the women of the New England states, and the women of the cultured East, came with husbands, sons, and brothers to help them build a home…We endured hardships, and dangers: hours of loneliness, fear and sorrow…We toiled in the field; we helped our loved ones to make the prairie blossom…Yet, after all our years of toil and deprivation, dingers and hardships, our homes are being taken from us by an infamous system of mortgage foreclosure….How did it happen? The government, siding with Wall Street, broke its contract with the people...we shall not have a government of the people by capitalists, but a government of the people, by the people.”**

**Mary Elizabeth Lease speech to Women’s Christian Temperance Union in 1890**

**“The merchant at the corner store is as much a businessman as the merchant of New York.  The farmer who goes forth in the morning and toils all day…is as much a businessman as the man who  [works on Wall Street}…We come to speak for this broader class of businessmen…WE are fighting in the defense of our homes and our families.  We have petitioned and our petitions have been scorned.  We have entreated, and our entreaties have been disregarded.  We have begged, and they have mocked us.  We beg no longer; we entreat no more; we petition no more.  We defy them! You come to tell us that the great cities are in favor of the gold standard.  I tell you that the great cities rest upon these broad and fertile prairies.**

**William Jennings Bryan speech at the 1896 Democratic National Convention**

1.)    The authors of these speeches would most likely be part of what movement?

a.       Populism

b.      Socialism

c.       Anarchism

d.      Temperance

2.)    Both authors see which of the following as the heart and soul of America?

a.       Cities

b.      Labor Unions

c.       Farmers

d.      Immigrants

3.)    According to both authors, what is the source of problems for many Americans?  You must describe a minimum of 2 sources of problems & use  the documents to support your answer.

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