Synopsis:
The latter portion of the 19th century became the golden age of POLITICAL CARTOONING in America. Following the Civil War, civil unrest was fought not on battle fields, but on the drawing board so many effective, creative artists. From stories dealing with the Presidential troubles of Rutherford, Garfield and Cleveland to labor disputes and monopolies, the political cartoonist grabbed the attention of their readers/viewers in their newspapers and made them think! Often, the cartoons were more descriptive and expressive than the articles they accompanied.

Thomas Nast, Joseph Keppler, Grant Hamilton, W.A. Rogers - and many more - cartoonists who helped influence and involve the masses. Here are a few examples to consider:

“The MONSTER MONOPOLY”
Artist: UNKNOWN

A visual representation on Standard Oil and how much power and influence it had on society - and all the various aspects of society it manipulated.

ANALYSIS (answer the following as your analyze the cartoon with a historical perspective)

[1] Why is Standard Oil presented as a “Monster”?

[2] According to the cartoon, what areas of American society is the “Monster” involved with?

[3] Conduct your own research on Standard Oil (ONE SOURCE is sufficient - but it must be provided in your analysis - MLA style, as always)

Do you think the cartoon accurately portrays the Standard Oil Company?

Why/why not?

[a better image can be found at: fineartamerica.com/products/standard-oil-granger-art-print.html]
“DECLINED WITH THANKS”
Artist: John S. Pughe

Not all political cartoons were American. This one is from the British magazine, *Puck*, showing President McKinley as a tailor working on a new suit for Uncle Sam. James G. Blaine, and other Anti-Expansionists, offer the U.S. a dose of “Anti-ExpansionPolicy” medicine. The caption reads, “Here, take a dose of this anti-fat and get thin again!” Uncle Sam responds “No Sonny! I never did take any of that stuff, and I’m too old to begin!”

**ANALYSIS** (answer the following as your analyze the cartoon with a historical perspective)

1. How does the cartoonist portray America and why?
2. According to the cartoon, how is President McKinley represented? Why did the artist do this?
3. Conduct your own research on American Expansion during the latter part of the 19th century (ONE SOURCE is sufficient - but it must be provided in your analysis - MLA style, as always)
   
   What is the significance of Joseph Pulitzer and James G. Blaine in this cartoon?

   Do you think the cartoon accurately portrays America’s expansionism?

   Why/why not?

[a better image can be found at: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c7/McKinleyNationalExpansionUncleSamPulitzer.jpg]
“WHERE THE BLAME LIES”  
Artist: Grant E. Hamilton

Here’s an 1891 cartoon, from the magazine *Judge*, showing Uncle Sam being shown recently arriving immigrants to New York. A judge scolds him saying in the caption, “If Immigration was properly Restricted you would no longer be troubled with Anarchy, Socialism, the Mafia and such kindred evils!”

**ANALYSIS** (answer the following as your analyze the cartoon with a historical perspective)

[1] How does the cartoonist portray immigration in 19th century America?

[2] According to the cartoon, how does the artist portray the immigrants?

[3] Conduct your own research on American Expansion during the latter part of the 19th century (ONE SOURCE is sufficient - but it must be provided in your analysis - MLA style, as always)

Do you agree that the cartoonist correctly represents the immigration issues of post-Civil War America?

Do you think a similar cartoon could be drawn today? How would it be different or the same?

[a better image can be found at: http://explorephistory.com/kora/files/1/2/1-2-D2A-25-ExplorePAHistory-a0j8h6-a_349.jpg]