

Shaping Georgia's Future

How leaders, events, and reformers promoted competing New South plans.

SS8H7.a "Identify the ways individuals, groups, and events attempted to shape the New South; include the Bourbon Triumvirate, Henry Grady, International Cotton Expositions, and Tom Watson and the Populists."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline these four exact names wherever they appear: Bourbon Triumvirate, Henry Grady, International Cotton Expositions, and Tom Watson and the Populists. In the margin, number them 1 through 4 and write one or two words that name how each tried to shape the New South.

Competing Plans for Georgia

- ① After Reconstruction, Georgia leaders argued over what the New South should become. The Bourbon Triumvirate, Joseph E. Brown, Alfred H. Colquitt, and John B. Gordon, held major political influence from the 1870s into the 1890s. These conservative Democrats supported low taxes, limited state spending, and policies friendly to railroads and other businesses. They wanted industry to grow, but they also worked to keep Democratic control and preserve the racial order that limited Black Georgians' political power.
- ② Journalist Henry Grady used editorials in the Atlanta Constitution and speeches to sell a different public image of the region. He called for factories, railroads, and investment rather than dependence on cotton alone. Atlanta's International Cotton Expositions in 1881 and 1887 displayed cotton machinery and industrial products to visitors. Grady and exposition supporters hoped these events would persuade investors and manufacturers that Atlanta could become a leading center of the New South and bring new jobs to Georgia.
- ③ Not everyone believed business leaders spoke for ordinary Georgians. Tom Watson and the Populists tried to organize farmers against high railroad rates, tight credit, and political power held by wealthy groups. They called for reforms such as railroad regulation and the free coinage of silver, which they believed would increase the money supply. Watson first sought cooperation between poor white and Black farmers, but racism and Democratic opposition weakened this alliance and limited Populist success.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Bourbon Triumvirate try to shape Georgia's New South? Give two policies or goals from the passage.

2 What message did Henry Grady spread about the New South, and what tools did he use to spread it?

3 How did the International Cotton Expositions attempt to shape the New South? Include the years they were held in Atlanta.

4 What problems did Tom Watson and the Populists want to address, and what weakened their effort?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining which approach was more likely to improve the lives of ordinary Georgians: the business-centered approach supported by the Bourbon Triumvirate, Grady, and exposition supporters, or the Populists' reform approach. Use one detail from the passage and explain your reasoning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline these four exact names wherever they appear: Bourbon Triumvirate, Henry Grady, International Cotton Expositions, and Tom Watson and the Populists. In the margin, number them 1 through 4 and write one or two words that name how each tried to shape the New South. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Bourbon Triumvirate try to shape Georgia's New South? Give two policies or goals from the passage.	They supported low taxes, limited state spending, and business-friendly policies to encourage industry. They also sought to keep Democratic control and preserve a racial order that limited Black political power.
2	What message did Henry Grady spread about the New South, and what tools did he use to spread it?	Grady promoted factories, railroads, investment, and less dependence on cotton. He used editorials in the Atlanta Constitution and speeches.
3	How did the International Cotton Expositions attempt to shape the New South? Include the years they were held in Atlanta.	The Atlanta expositions of 1881 and 1887 displayed cotton machinery and industrial products. Supporters hoped to attract investors and manufacturers to Atlanta.
4	What problems did Tom Watson and the Populists want to address, and what weakened their effort?	They challenged high railroad rates, tight credit, and wealthy groups' political power. Racism and Democratic opposition weakened their alliance and limited Populist success.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Populists' reform approach was more likely to improve the lives of ordinary farmers. They wanted railroad regulation and changes to the money supply, which addressed problems farmers faced. Their effort was limited because racism and Democratic opposition weakened their alliance.

Accept equivalent descriptions of each group's or event's method and intended result when supported by the passage. For the open response, accept either position if it has exactly three sentences, includes an accurate passage detail, and gives a logical explanation.