

# CONVERSATIONS ON SC HISTORY

## with Dr. Walter Edgar

### Lesson 15: The Era of the Populist

#### Focus Points:

- Election of General Wade Hampton as Governor –1876 contested election
  - Military Occupation ended in SC - 1877
  - “Red Shirt” Campaign
  - Return of “old order”
- Ballot Box Law - 1882
  - Keep illiterates from voting
- Trauma of War
  - Confederate veterans killed (31-35%) and maimed
  - Development of Women’s Roles
    - Teachers
    - Shopkeepers
  - Impoverished by war – all people
- Economic Deprivation of 1880’s and 1890’s
  - Increase in cotton production
    - 3 times as much as 1860
      - Low price of cotton
    - Increase in land erosion
      - Fairfield County – most seriously eroded county in US
  - Need for proactive economic development
    - Led to the election of Benjamin Tillman as Governor 1890
  - Drought
  - Charleston Earthquake – 1886
- Development of two separate SC by racial lines
  - Based on holidays
  - Fraternal, religious, social, and patriotic organizations
- Transportation
  - Railroad system

#### Discussion:

How did the economics of war impact all peoples of South Carolina? What type of government involvement was proposed by Democrats and Republicans? Economic devastation was caused by what important factors in the 1880’s and 1890’s.

#### Readings:

Edgar, South Carolina, A History. pp. 430-452 (optional pp. 407-429).

Paul Horne & Patricia Klien, South Carolina, The History of an American State. pp. 355-375.

## **South Carolina Social Studies Standards:**

**Standard 8-5:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of major social, political, and economic developments that took place in the United States during the second half of the nineteenth century.

**Indicator 8-5.1:** Summarize the political, economic, and social conditions in South Carolina following the end of Reconstruction, including the leadership of Wade Hampton and the so-called Bourbons or Redeemers, agricultural depression and struggling industrial development, the impact of the temperance and suffrage movements, the development of the 1895 constitution, and the evolution of race relations and Jim Crow laws. (H, P, E)

**Indicator 8-5.2:** Compare key aspects of the Populist movement in South Carolina, including the economic and political roots of Populism, the leadership of Benjamin Tillman, conflicts between the Tillmanites and the Conservatives, the founding of land-grant colleges, and the increased racial conflicts and lynching. (H, G, P)

**Indicator 8-5.3:** Summarize the changes that occurred in South Carolina agriculture and industry during the late nineteenth century, including changes in crop production in various regions, and the growth of the textile industry in the Upcountry. (H, G, E)

### **Literacy Elements:**

- J. Demonstrate responsible citizenship within the school community and the local and national communities
- K. Use texts, photographs, and documents to observe and interpret social studies trends and relationships
- O. Consider multiple perspectives of documents and stories