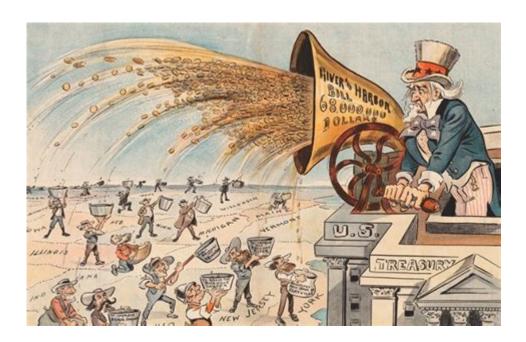
# **Graft Us History Definition**



# **Graft: US History Definition and its Enduring Legacy**

#### Introduction:

The word "graft" evokes images of shadowy deals and backroom bargains. But understanding its historical context within the United States is crucial to comprehending the evolution of American politics, economics, and society. This post delves into the multifaceted definition of graft in US history, exploring its various forms, its impact on different eras, and its lingering influence on contemporary political discourse. We'll move beyond a simple dictionary definition to unpack the nuances of this persistent societal challenge. Prepare to uncover a compelling narrative woven through the fabric of American history.

# What is Graft in US History? A Comprehensive Definition

The term "graft," when applied to US history, refers to the acquisition of money, power, or other forms of advantage through illegal or unethical means, typically involving corruption and abuse of public trust. It's more than just simple bribery; it encompasses a broader spectrum of illicit activities. This can range from petty favors exchanged for political support to large-scale schemes involving embezzlement of public funds, manipulation of contracts, and the exploitation of political office for personal enrichment.

## **Different Forms of Graft Throughout History:**

Patronage and Spoils System: During the 19th century, the spoils system, where political appointments were handed out based on loyalty rather than merit, fueled widespread graft. This created fertile ground for corruption, as officials used their positions to enrich themselves and their allies.

Political Machines: Powerful urban political machines, like Tammany Hall in New York City, thrived on graft. They controlled government contracts, influenced elections through intimidation and fraud, and extracted payments from businesses in exchange for protection or favorable treatment. Corporate Collusion: The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw significant graft involving collusion between corporations and politicians. Railroads, for example, often bribed officials to secure favorable land grants and legislation.

Modern Forms of Graft: While the overt forms of graft associated with political machines have diminished, modern manifestations persist. This includes lobbying abuses, campaign finance scandals, insider trading, and misuse of government funds through opaque contracts and procurement processes.

## The Impact of Graft on American Society

The consequences of graft have been far-reaching and profoundly damaging to American society.

## **Erosion of Public Trust:**

Widespread graft erodes public trust in government institutions and elected officials. When citizens perceive that the system is rigged in favor of the powerful and corrupt, they become disillusioned and less likely to participate in the political process.

### **Inefficient Government:**

Graft diverts resources from essential public services. Money intended for schools, infrastructure, and social programs is instead funneled into the pockets of corrupt officials, leaving taxpayers to shoulder the burden of neglected public needs.

## **Economic Inequality:**

Graft disproportionately harms the most vulnerable members of society. While the wealthy and

politically connected benefit from corrupt schemes, ordinary citizens bear the brunt of increased taxes, reduced public services, and a lack of economic opportunity.

# **Notable Examples of Graft in US History:**

The history of the United States is littered with examples of graft that have shaped political narratives and led to reform efforts. The Tweed Ring scandal in New York City, the Credit Mobilier scandal involving the Union Pacific Railroad, and the Teapot Dome scandal during the Harding administration are just a few prominent examples demonstrating the pervasiveness and consequences of corruption. These cases serve as stark reminders of the potential for abuse of power and the need for transparency and accountability in government.

# **Combating Graft: Reforms and Ongoing Challenges**

Throughout history, various reforms have been implemented to combat graft. The Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act of 1883 aimed to reduce the spoils system by introducing merit-based hiring and promotion in the federal government. However, the fight against graft remains an ongoing challenge. Strengthening campaign finance laws, promoting government transparency, and enforcing stricter ethics regulations are crucial steps in preventing future abuses of power and maintaining public trust.

## **Conclusion:**

The history of graft in the United States is a complex and cautionary tale. Understanding its various forms, its devastating impact on society, and the ongoing efforts to combat it is vital for fostering a more just and equitable society. While progress has been made, vigilance remains crucial to prevent the resurgence of corrupt practices and ensure that public institutions remain accountable to the people they serve. The fight against graft is a continuous process, demanding constant attention and reform.

## **FAQs:**

1. What is the difference between graft and bribery? While bribery is a form of graft, graft

encompasses a wider range of corrupt practices, including embezzlement, fraud, and the misuse of public office for personal gain. Bribery is a specific act within the broader category of graft.

- 2. Are there any specific laws in place to prevent graft today? Yes, numerous laws exist at the federal and state levels aimed at combating corruption. These include laws against bribery, embezzlement, campaign finance violations, and conflicts of interest. The specifics vary by jurisdiction.
- 3. How can citizens help combat graft? Citizens can participate in combating graft by staying informed about political issues, demanding transparency and accountability from elected officials, supporting organizations dedicated to government ethics reform, and reporting suspected instances of corruption to the appropriate authorities.
- 4. How has technology impacted graft? Ironically, technology has both facilitated and complicated efforts to combat graft. While it can make illicit activities easier to conceal, it also offers tools for increased transparency and investigative capabilities, such as data analysis and online whistleblowing platforms.
- 5. What role does the media play in uncovering graft? A free and independent press plays a crucial role in uncovering and exposing graft. Investigative journalism can shine a light on corrupt practices, holding powerful individuals and institutions accountable and prompting public discourse and demand for reform.

graft us history definition: Plunkitt of Tammany Hall William L. Riordon, 1995-11-01 Plunkitt of Tammany Hall A Series of Very Plain Talks on Very Practical Politics William L. Riordan "Nobody thinks of drawin' the distinction between honest graft and dishonest graft." This classic work offers the unblushing, unvarnished wit and wisdom of one of the most fascinating figures ever to play the American political game and win. George Washington Plunkitt rose from impoverished beginnings to become ward boss of the Fifteenth Assembly District in New York, a key player in the powerhouse political team of Tammany Hall, and, not incidentally, a millionaire. In a series of utterly frank talks given at his headquarters (Graziano's bootblack stand outside the New York County Court House), he revealed to a sharp-eared and sympathetic reporter named William L. Riordan the secrets of political success as practiced and perfected by him and fellow Tammany Hall titans. The result is not only a volume that reveals more about our political system than does a shelfful of civics textbooks, but also an irresistible portrait of a man who would feel happily at home playing ball with today's lobbyists and king makers, trading votes for political and financial favors. Doing for twentieth-century America what Machiavelli did for Renaissance Italy, and as entertaining as it is instructive, Plunkitt of Tammany Hall is essential reading for those who prefer twenty-twenty vision to rose-colored glasses in viewing how our government works and why. With an Introduction by Peter Ouinn and a New Afterword

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and for the principles in the plot to bilk the taxpayers: Harding's administration was hamstrung; Americans' confidence in their government plummeted; Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall was indicted, convicted, and incarcerated; and others implicated in the affair suffered similarly dire fates. Stonewalling by members of Harding's circle kept a lid on the story-witnesses developed "faulty" memories or fled the country, and important documents went missing-but contemporary records newly made available to McCartney reveal a shocking, revelatory picture of just how far-reaching the affair was, how high the stakes, and how powerful the conspirators. In giving us a gimlet-eyed but endlessly entertaining portrait of the men and women who made a tempest of Teapot Dome, Laton McCartney again displays his gift for faithfully rendering history with the narrative touch of an accomplished novelist.

graft us history definition: The Gilded Age Mark Twain, Charles Dudley Warner, 1892 graft us history definition: The European Blood and Marrow Transplantation Textbook for Nurses Michelle Kenyon, Aleksandra Babic, 2018-03-14 This book is open access under a CC BY 4.0 license. This textbook, endorsed by the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT), provides adult and paediatric nurses with a full and informative guide covering all aspects of transplant nursing, from basic principles to advanced concepts. It takes the reader on a journey through the history of transplant nursing, including essential and progressive elements to help nurses improve their knowledge and benefit the patient experience, as well as a comprehensive introduction to research and auditing methods. This new volume specifically intended for nurses, complements the ESH-EBMT reference title, a popular educational resource originally developed in 2003 for physicians to accompany an annual training course also serving as an educational tool in its own right. This title is designed to develop the knowledge of nurses in transplantation. It is the first book of its kind specifically targeted at nurses in this specialist field and acknowledges the valuable contribution that nursing makes in this area. This volume presents information that is essential for the education of nurses new to transplantation, while also offering a valuable resource for more experienced nurses who wish to update their knowledge.

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immediately qualify for benefits. In this report, the IOM makes several recommendations for improving SSA's capacity to determine disability benefits more quickly and efficiently using the Listings.

**graft us history definition: Mechanisms of Vascular Disease** Robert Fitridge, M. M. Thompson, 2011 New updated edition first published with Cambridge University Press. This new edition includes 29 chapters on topics as diverse as pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, vascular haemodynamics, haemostasis, thrombophilia and post-amputation pain syndromes.

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last fifteen years, and some were written especially for the volume. Although the editors are political scientists, scholars from all social science disciplines, as well as law, history and communications, are represented among the authors of the approximately sixty selections included in this volume. The first of the book's four parts deals with changing conceptualization and definition in the study of corruption. The second part examines the incidence of corruption in the context of political development and modernization. The third part examines the special vulnerability of some local, national and international systems to corrupt practices. In the final part, perceptions of corruptions are related to scandal and other social control efforts, as well as to studies of the effect and consequences of corruption.

**graft us history definition: Machine Made: Tammany Hall and the Creation of Modern American Politics** Terry Golway, 2014-03-03 "Golway's revisionist take is a useful reminder of the unmatched ingenuity of American politics."—Wall Street Journal History casts Tammany Hall as shorthand for the worst of urban politics: graft and patronage personified by notoriously crooked characters. In his groundbreaking work Machine Made, journalist and historian Terry Golway dismantles these stereotypes, focusing on the many benefits of machine politics for marginalized immigrants. As thousands sought refuge from Ireland's potato famine, the very question of who would be included under the protection of American democracy was at stake. Tammany's transactional politics were at the heart of crucial social reforms—such as child labor laws, workers' compensation, and minimum wages— and Golway demonstrates that American political history cannot be understood without Tammany's profound contribution. Culminating in FDR's New Deal, Machine Made reveals how Tammany Hall "changed the role of government—for the better to millions of disenfranchised recent American arrivals" (New York Observer).

graft us history definition: Southern Scoundrels Jeff Forret, Bruce E. Baker, 2021-04-21 The history of capitalist development in the United States is long, uneven, and overwhelmingly focused on the North. Macroeconomic studies of the South have primarily emphasized the role of the cotton economy in global trading networks. Until now, few in-depth scholarly works have attempted to explain how capitalism in the South took root and functioned in all of its diverse—and duplicitous—forms. Southern Scoundrels explores the lesser-known aspects of the emergence of capitalism in the region: the shady and unscrupulous peddlers, preachers, slave traders, war profiteers, thieves, and marginal men who seized available opportunities to get ahead and, in doing so, left their mark on the southern economy. Eschewing conventional economic theory, this volume features narrative storytelling as engaging and seductive as the cast of shifty characters under examination. Contributors cover the chronological sweep of the nineteenth-century South, from the antebellum era through the tumultuous and chaotic Civil War years, and into Reconstruction and beyond. The geographic scope is equally broad, with essays encompassing the Chesapeake, South Carolina, the Lower Mississippi Valley, Texas, Missouri, and Appalachia. These essays offer a series of social histories on the nineteenth-century southern economy and the changes wrought by capitalist transformation. Tracing that story through the kinds of oily individuals who made it happen, Southern Scoundrels provides fascinating insights into the region's hucksters and its history. Contents Introduction, Jeff Forret and Bruce E. Baker "Preachers and Peddlers: Credit and Belief in the Flush Times," John Lindbeck "A Gentleman and a Scoundrel? Alexander McDonald, Financial Reputation, and Slavery's Capitalism," Alexandra J. Finley "'How Deeply They Weed into the Pockets': Slave Traders, Bank Speculators, and the Anatomy of a Chesapeake Wildcat, 1840-1843," Jeff Forret "Bernard Kendig: Orchestrating Fraud in the Market and the Courtroom," Maria R. Montalvo "William A. Britton v. Benjamin F. Butler: Occupied New Orleans, Confiscation, and the Disruption of the Cotton Trade in Wartime Natchez," Jeff Strickland "Devils at the Doorstep: Confederate Judges, Masters of Sequestration," Rodney J. Steward "'Irresistibly Impelled toward Illegal Appropriation': The Civil War Schemes of William G. Cheeney," Jimmy L. Bryan, Jr. "Das Kapital on Tchoupitoulas Street: The Marketing of Stolen Goods and the Reserve Army of Labor in Reconstruction-Era New Orleans," Bruce E. Baker "The Violent Lives of William Faucett," Elaine S. Frantz "Eureka! Law and Order for Sale in Gilded Age Appalachia," T. R. C. Hutton

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reconstructive surgery of genitourethral problems in male patients. The first section covers all aspects of urethral reconstruction, including the functional anatomy of the urethra, etiology, epidemiology, and demographic differences in urethral pathology. The second section focuses on surgical reconstruction of penile and scrotal anomalies and dysfunctions. Textbook of Male Genitourethral Reconstruction aims to aid the management of male genitourethral reconstruction patients by reviewing the recent advancements in technology and surgical technique. This book is relevant to urologists, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, medical students, and health care professionals working within urology and plastic surgery. Chapter "Tissue Transfer Techniques in the Management of Urethral Stricture Disease: Flaps and Grafts" is available open access under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License via link.springer.com.

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this definitive, international resource. The pivotal concepts, measures, theories, and practices of the field are addressed with an emphasis on comparative criminology and criminal justice. While the primary focus of the work is on American criminology and contemporary criminal justice in the United States, extensive global coverage of other nations' justice systems is included, and the increasing international nature of crime is explored thoroughly. Providing the most up-to-date scholarship in addition to the traditional theories on criminology, the Encyclopedia of Criminology is the essential one-stop reference for students and scholars alike to explore the broad expanse of this multidisciplinary field.

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successor, Robert Gates, said: "We didn't know jack shit about al-Qaeda." The Afghanistan Papers is a "searing indictment of the deceit, blunders, and hubris of senior military and civilian officials" (Tom Bowman, NRP Pentagon Correspondent) that will supercharge a long-overdue reckoning over what went wrong and forever change the way the conflict is remembered.

graft us history definition: Corruption Around the World Mr.Vito Tanzi, 1998-05-01 Corruption is attracting a lot of attention around the world. The paper surveys and discusses issues related to the causes, consequences, and scope of corruption and possible corrective actions. It emphasizes the costs of corruption in terms of economic growth. It also emphasizes that the fight against corruption may not be cheap and cannot be independent from the reform of the state. If certain reforms are not made, corruption is likely to continue to be a problem regardless of actions directly aimed at curtailing it.

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physicians and advanced practice medical providers who care for transplant patients, and also residents, fellows, and other trainees.

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