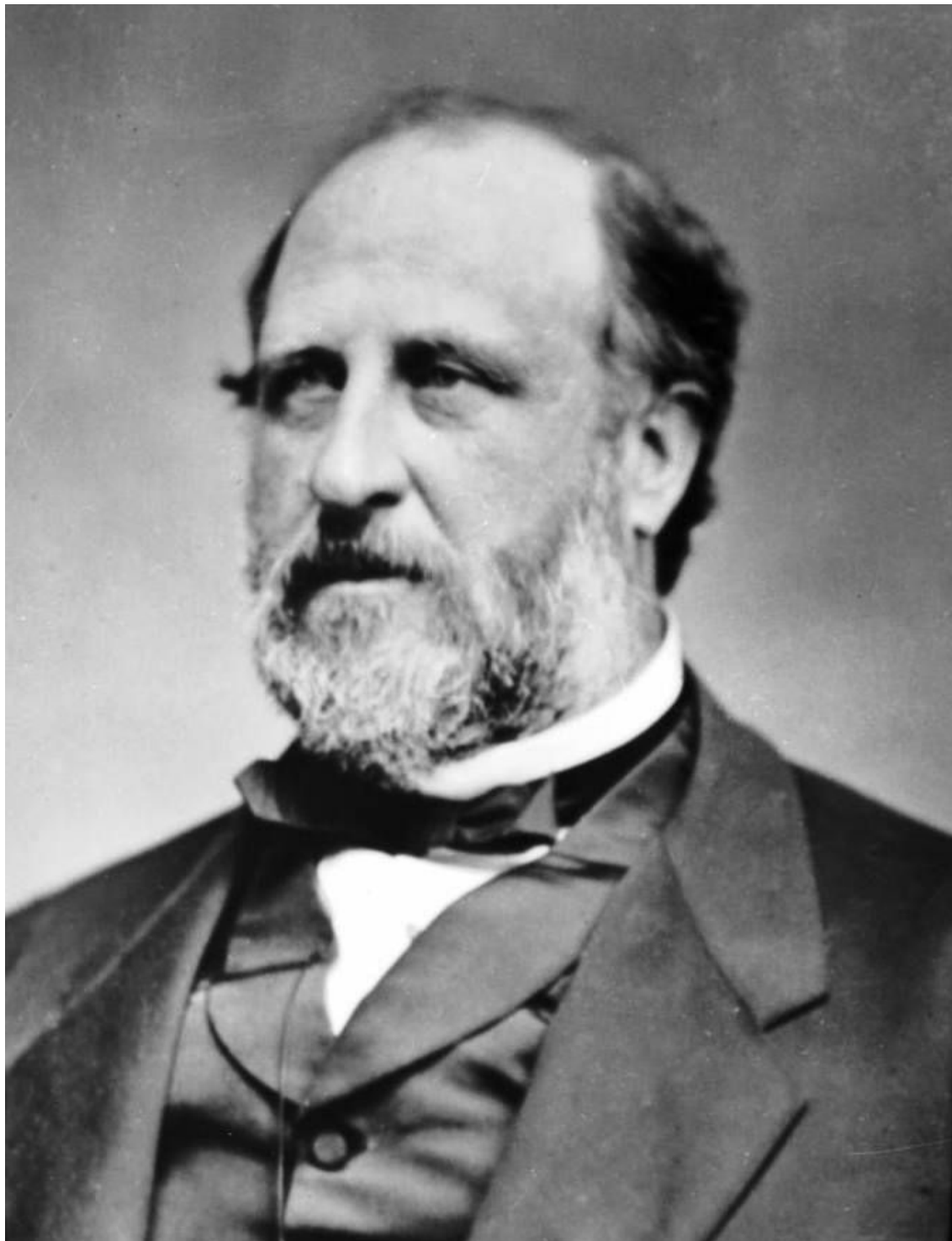


William M. “Boss” Tweed





**The Question:** National industrialization has provoked a large amount of strains in labor relations such as the Haymarket Square Bombing. What should we do to handle this conflict?

**My Life:** (Deliver in a New Yorker accent if you like but talk like a gangster. You're corrupt).

- Call me "Boss." New York City can be a dangerous place if you don't know what you're doing.
- I was born in 1823 and became a member of the New York City council by the time I was 28 years old. From there, I became a giant for New York's Democratic Party.
- I filled the city's most important positions with people loyal to my cause.
- Some people may complain that this is corrupt but I say they need to lighten up.
- **I own New York City, deal with it!**
- Life is tough. You gotta find a racket that protects you. Mine is Tammany Hall.

**My Point of View and Personality:**

- I am a self-made corrupt radical white male. Laws are for poor people.
- I once said, "I don't care who does the electing so long as I get to do the nominating."
- Most people call me "Boss" because I'm a dealmaker and hold loyalty above all else. You could call me a gangster but I don't know what that is.
- All I know is that anything can be accomplished if you pay off the right people. I stole between 20-200 million dollars of taxpayer money to pull off my schemes. (Not even I know how much I stole). Anyway, what's your price?

**My Argument: The best way of handling strains in labor is to...**

**Find a racket like Tammany Hall:**

- In the 1820s, Tammany Hall served the working class. During Andrew Jackson's campaign, it successfully lobbied to give all white men the vote.
- Now that I'm in charge, Tammany Hall works for big businesses. It plugs money (cough, cough, embezzles) where it's supposed to go and "takes care" of the city.
- It's not criminal. Tammany Hall is doing what it always has done. It takes care of the community. If you have a problem, come talk to us and we'll take care of it. Then, when we need help, we call in our favor **from you**. When that happens, you better pay up.

**You also need to give into the corruption:**

- **In Gilded Age America, if you're not involved in a scandal, you're not living right.**
  - The **Credit Mobilier Scandal** was a series of backdoor deals between Union Pacific Railroad and high ranking members of the federal government. The railroad cut deals for politicians in exchange for kickbacks in sales. That scandal nabbed two Vice Presidents and even future President James A. Garfield. That one caused the whole economy to collapse in the Panic of 1873. Oops.
  - Then there was the **Whiskey Ring Scandal** where President Grant (who liked whiskey very much) took bribes from whiskey distillers and in return, the distillers didn't need to pay taxes. **If Presidents do scandals, that makes it okay, right?!**

(SAVE FOR ACT 2)

- (For Debs) You really don't get America; do you, Debs? Money talks and morals walk. You really should take up a racket like mine or you'll land in jail. Oh, wait, SPOILER ALERT, you do end up serving two prison sentences. You literally run your 1920 presidential campaign from your jail cell. My God, man! Live a little.