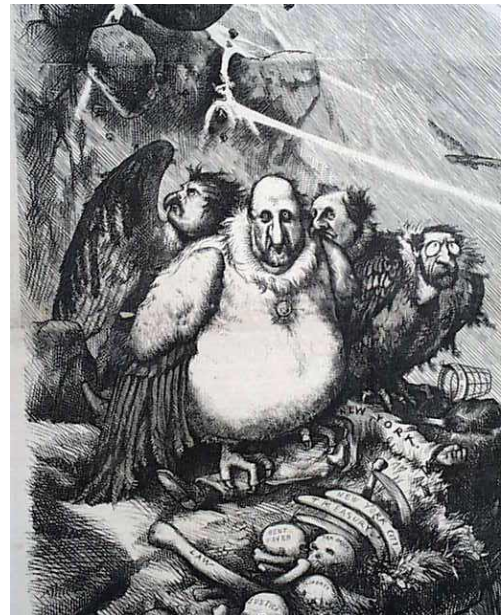


Warm-Up: Thomas Nast



Thomas Nast was an American cartoonist, best known for his attack on the political machine of William M. Tweed in New York City in the 1870s. Many of Nast's most effective cartoons were strong attacks on Tammany Hall, led by "Boss" Tweed. His cartoons were probably one of the main factors in the political machine's downfall.

After the disclosure of some of the financial scandals, Tweed and his gang were hopeful that things would boil down. Nast made sure this would not happen when he drew: "*A Group of Vultures Waiting for the Storm to Blow Over.*" Then followed a barrage of cartoons depicting Tweed and his gang as many thieves.



All of the Tammany Ring were convicted and sent to prison, but Tweed escaped to Spain. He was later recognized, thanks to a Nast cartoon. The cartoon was one Nast drew earlier showing Tweed in prison garb apprehending two small culprits while his crimes went unpunished. The Spanish police interpreted the cartoon to mean that Tweed was wanted for kidnapping and the word "REWARD" caught their eye. Tweed was sent back to the United States and imprisoned.

1. Who was Thomas Nast? How did Nast attack Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall?
2. How did Nast's work contribute to the downfall of Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall?
3. Where did Tweed flee to after his arrest? How did he end up being recaptured?
4. Why do you think that Nast and his work had a greater impact on turning public support for Boss Tweed than news articles and books might have had?