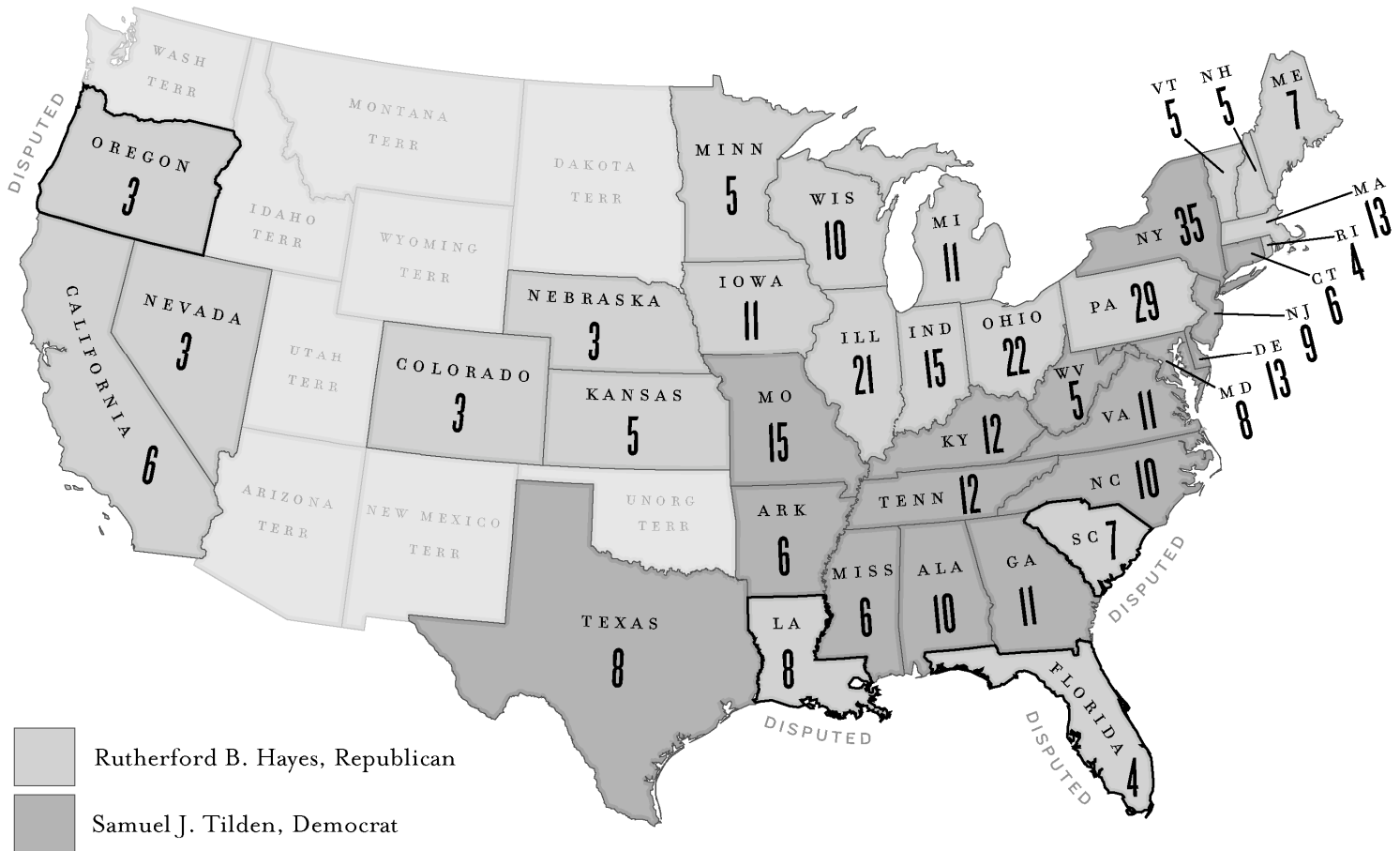


ELECTION *OF* 1876

The 1876 election for the President of the United States ended in a dispute. Democrat Samuel J. Tilden received 184 electoral votes, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes received 165, and 20 electoral votes were uncertain, two different sets of returns being certified. The *Electoral Commission* was formed to settle the result. The disputed results involved 19 electors from **Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina** as well as one from **Oregon**. In those states, the official returns favored the Democrats, but the elections were marked by fraud and threats of violence against Republican voters and the Republican dominated electoral commissions were able to throw out enough votes to allow the Republicans to win those states.

	ELECTORAL VOTE	POPULAR VOTE
Rutherford B. Hayes, Republican	165	4,036,298
Samuel J. Tilden, Democrat	184	4,300,590
Minor		93,895
TOTAL	369	8,430,783



In **Oregon**, the votes were clearly in favor of the Republicans. However, one of the Republican electors was a postmaster. The Democratic governor claimed that the elector was constitutionally disqualified on the grounds of holding a Federal office and therefore substituted a Democratic elector in his place.

In the **Florida, South Carolina** and **Louisiana**, both parties were claiming victory in close elections and charging the other party with vote fraud. Being the party in power in those states, the Republicans had a majority on the returning boards, which would certify the election results. They threw out enough Democratic votes to give the election in their states to Hayes and the Republican gubernatorial candidates.

In **Louisiana** and **South Carolina**, Democrats declared their gubernatorial candidates elected, established rival state administrations, and certified Tilden the winner in their states. In **Florida**, the state supreme court ruled in favor of the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, but let Hayes's margin of victory stand. The new Florida governor promptly appointed a Democratic returning board which announced that Tilden had carried the state.