

U.S. History

1890-1912

PROGRESSIVE

MOVEMENT

REVIEWED!

THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT

- **WHY:** Industrialization, urbanization, and immigration created significant changes and challenges for the United States.
- **WHAT:** Effort to use government power to regulate and improve society
 - Rejection of laissez faire ideology
 - Not a radical movement- reject ideas such as socialism
 - Saving and improving capitalism
- **WHO:** Many of the Progressive Era reformers were middle class men and women
 - But very diverse group of reformers
 - Protestant church leaders demanding temperance
 - Politicians regulating monopolies / trusts
 - Union leaders addressing workers rights
 - Women demanding right to vote
 - African Americans demanded greater equality
- **Compare to other reform periods:** Age of Jackson, Populist, New Deal

PROMOTING REFORM: MUCKRAKERS

- **Muckrakers:** Attempted to expose problems in American society
 - Named by Theodore Roosevelt
- Important examples
- Ida Tarbell “History of Standard Oil Company” published in McClure’s Magazine (1902)
- Jacob Riis “How the Other Half Lives” exposed the horrors of life in the slums of NY (1890)
- Lincoln Steffens “The Shame of the Cities” (1904) exposed corruption in city politics (political machines)
- Upton Sinclair “The Jungle”

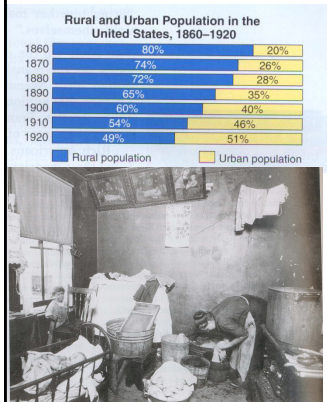


Role of Women in the Progressive Movement

- Women played an important role in the Progressive Movement
 - Broke down the idea of the “separate spheres”
- National Child Labor Committee fought for laws banning child labor
- National Consumers’ League headed by Florence Kelley advocated for the rights of women in the work place, laws against child Labor, etc.
 - Muller v. Oregon (1908) court ruled that laws protecting women workers and restricting women to 10 hour days were constitutional
- Triangle Shirtwaist Fire (1911) led to the death of 146 workers
- Women role in Temperance Movement



URBAN REFORM



- Large number of problems in the cities: 1) urban poverty & slums 2) political corruption 3) alcoholism
- Jane Addams & Florence Kelley (settlement house)
- Demands to take away power from political bosses by taking public utilities out of private companies hands
 - Examples: Place gas lines, water systems, transportation systems, etc. under public control
 - Municipal govt reform such as voters electing heads of city departments (fire, police, sanitation)

STATE REFORM

- Many Progressive governors fought against corporate control of state politics
- Governor Robert La Follette pioneered many reforms in the state of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Idea
 - Regulated public utilities
 - Took on the powerful railroad industry
 - Adopted tax reforms
 - Political reform



POLITICAL REFORM

- Political reformers wanted to increase democracy and reduce the control of trusts
 - Australian or Secret Ballot: allowed voters to mark their choice for office secretly
 - Direct Primary: nomination of candidates placed into the hands of the voters
 - Recall: elected politicians could be removed from office by the voters before their term expired
 - Initiative: voters could introduce laws
 - Referendum: voters could directly vote on a law
- 17th Amendment: rather than the state legislatures, voters would directly vote for U.S. Senators
 - Populist Party advocated for this

Temperance Movement



- Division over the temperance movement
 - “Wet”- against prohibition
 - “Dry”- supporters of prohibition
- Conflict between
 - Protestant Native born vs. Catholic immigrants
 - Rural vs. Urban
- Woman’s Christian Temperance Union: large organization of woman advocating for temperance
- Anti-Saloon League (1895) was leading organization advocating for legal prohibition
- 18th Amendment (1919)

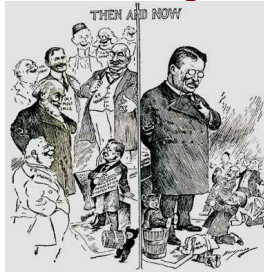
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

- Roosevelt believed in an enlarged role for the President
- Example in change of labor relations:
 - McKinley: Great Railroad Strike of 1877
 - Cleveland: Pullman Strike 1894
 - TR: Coal Miners strike 1902
 - Attempts to mediate the labor dispute
 - Owners wont compromise so TR threatens to take over the mines with federal troops
- Roosevelt proposes a series of Progressive reforms known as the Square Deal (3 c’s)
 1. Corporations: Control of corporations
 2. Consumers: Consumer protection
 3. Conservation: Conservation of the environment & its natural resources



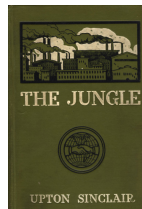
Corporations: Trust Busting

- **Sherman Anti-Trust** was relatively ineffective at reducing the power of corporations / trusts
- Broke up the **Northern Securities Company** (railroad monopoly)
 - Upheld by Supreme Court in 1904
- Roosevelt will be known for "**trust busting**"
- TR distinguished between "good" (efficient & lower prices) and "bad" trusts (hurt consumers & stifled competition)
- TR also sought to increase the power of the **Interstate Commerce Commission**
- **Elkins Act** (1903) increased penalties for rate rebates
- **Hepburn Act** (1906) gave the ICC the power to set maximum rates for railroads

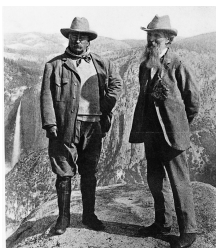


Consumer Protections

- **Relatively few protections for consumers**
- Upon Sinclair's "**The Jungle**" was intended to increase support for socialism and workers rights
 - Public focuses on the unsanitary nature of the meat industry
 - Public pressure for TR to act
- **Meat Inspection Act (1906)** the federal government would regulate and inspect the meat industry
- **Pure Food & Drug Act (1906)**
 - Created **FDA** & protected the public against the manufacture, sale, and transportation of mislabeled foods and drugs



Conservation



- The issue of conservation did not register as a national issue
- **Sierra Club** had been advocating for the environment
- TR used the **Forest Reserve Act** of 1891 to protect 150 million acres of federal land
- **Newlands Reclamation Act** of 1902- money from sale of public lands could be used for irrigation projects in the west
- **Conservation** was Roosevelt's most long lasting domestic achievement
 - Contrast with preservation

TAFT

- Teddy says he will honor the precedent of Washington & not seek a 3rd term in 1908
- William Howard Taft picked
- Continued some of the Progressive policies of TR
 - Broke up more trusts than Roosevelt
 - continued conservationist policies
- Taft's Foreign policy:
 - Taft "Dollar Diplomacy"- encourage biz to invest \$ in areas of strategic concerns to the U.S.
- Election of 1912: TR is back



Write down 3 interesting things from the unit

Write down 2 unanswered questions