

PROGRESSIVE ERA

1890s-1920

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- ▶ Who were the Progressives?
- ▶ What reforms did they seek?
- ▶ How successful were Progressive Era reforms in the period 1890-1920?

Consider: political change, social change (industrial conditions, urban life, women, prohibition)

***ORIGINS OF
PROGRESSIVE
REFORM***

Progressivism

WHEN? “Progressive Reform Era”



WHO? “Progressives”

urban middle-class: managers & professionals;
women

WHY? Address the problems arising from:

industrialization (big business, labor strife)

urbanization (slums, political machines, corruption)

immigration (ethnic diversity)

inequality & social injustice (women & racism)

Progressivism

WHAT are their goals?

- ▶ **Democracy** - government accountable to the people
- ▶ **Regulation of corporations & monopolies**
- ▶ **Social justice** - workers, poor, minorities
- ▶ **Environmental protection**

HOW?

- ▶ **Government** (laws, regulations, programs)
- ▶ **Efficiency**
value experts, use of scientific study to determine the best solution

Pragmatism - William James, John Dewey (↔ Darwinism)

(cf. scientific management/Taylor)

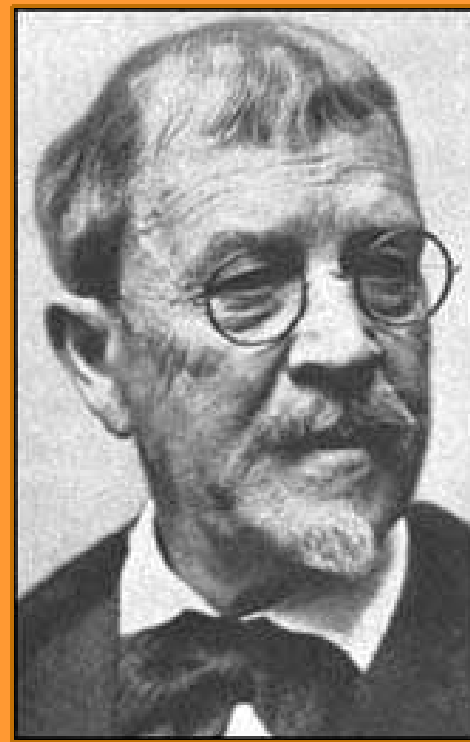
HOW MUCH?????

Origins of Progressivism

- ▶ “Muckrakers”
- ▶ Jacob Riis - *How the Other Half Lives* (1890)
- ▶ Ida Tarbell - “The History of the Standard Oil Co.” (1902)
- ▶ Lincoln Steffens - *The Shame of the Cities* (1904)



Ida Tarbell



Lincoln Steffens

**MUNICIPAL
& STATE
REFORMS**

MUNICIPAL REFORM

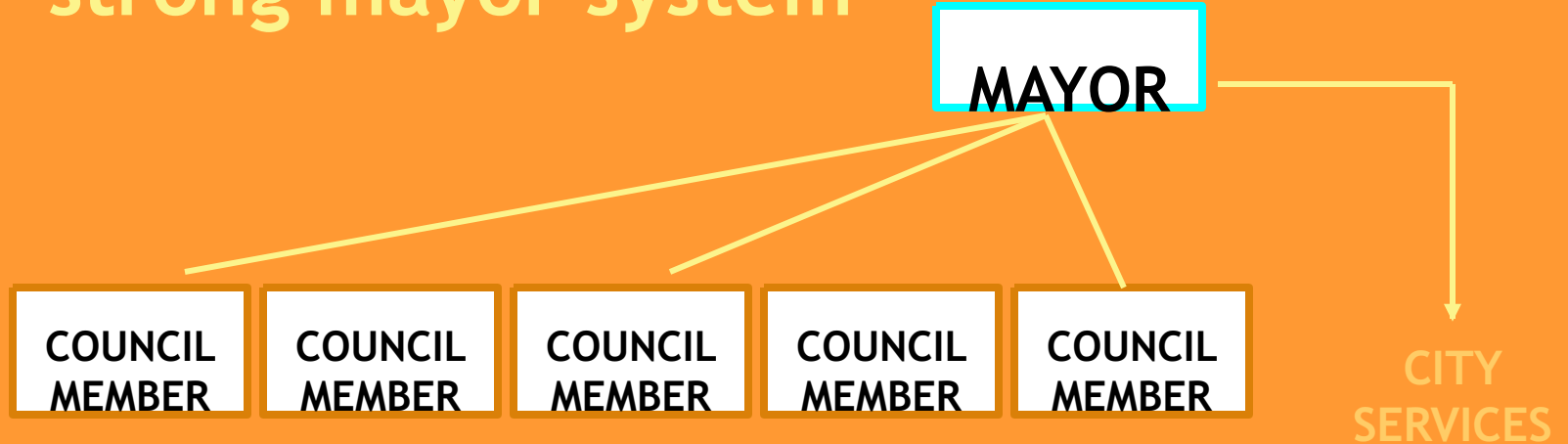
- ▶ **municipal reform**
- ▶ **utilities** - water, gas, electricity, trolleys
- ▶ **council-manager plan** (Dayton, 1913)

Shoe line - Bowery
men with gifts
from ward boss
Tim Sullivan,
February, 1910

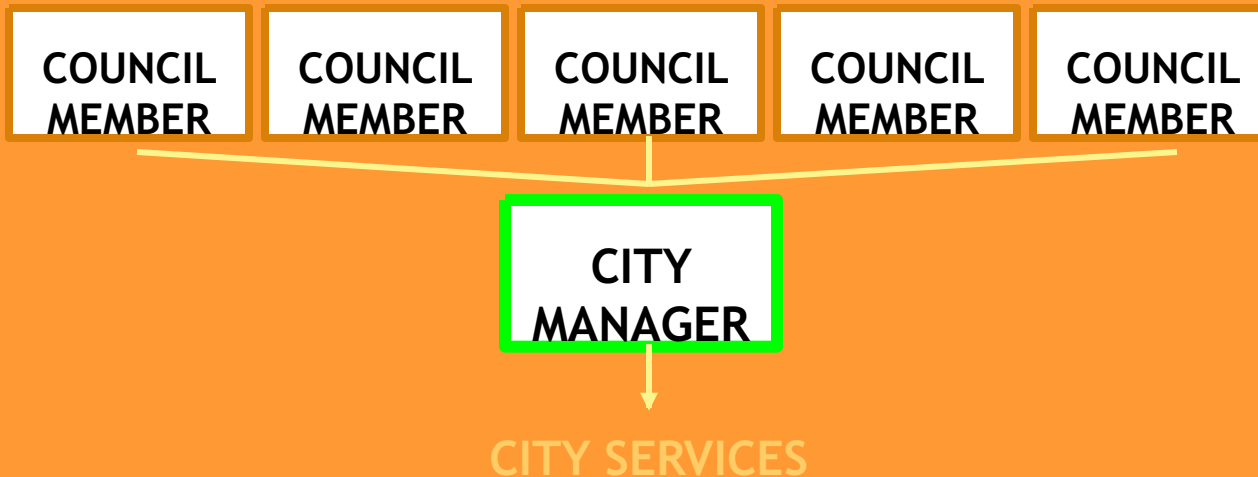


MUNICIPAL REFORM

strong mayor system



council-manager plan (Dayton, 1913)



STATE POLITICAL REFORM

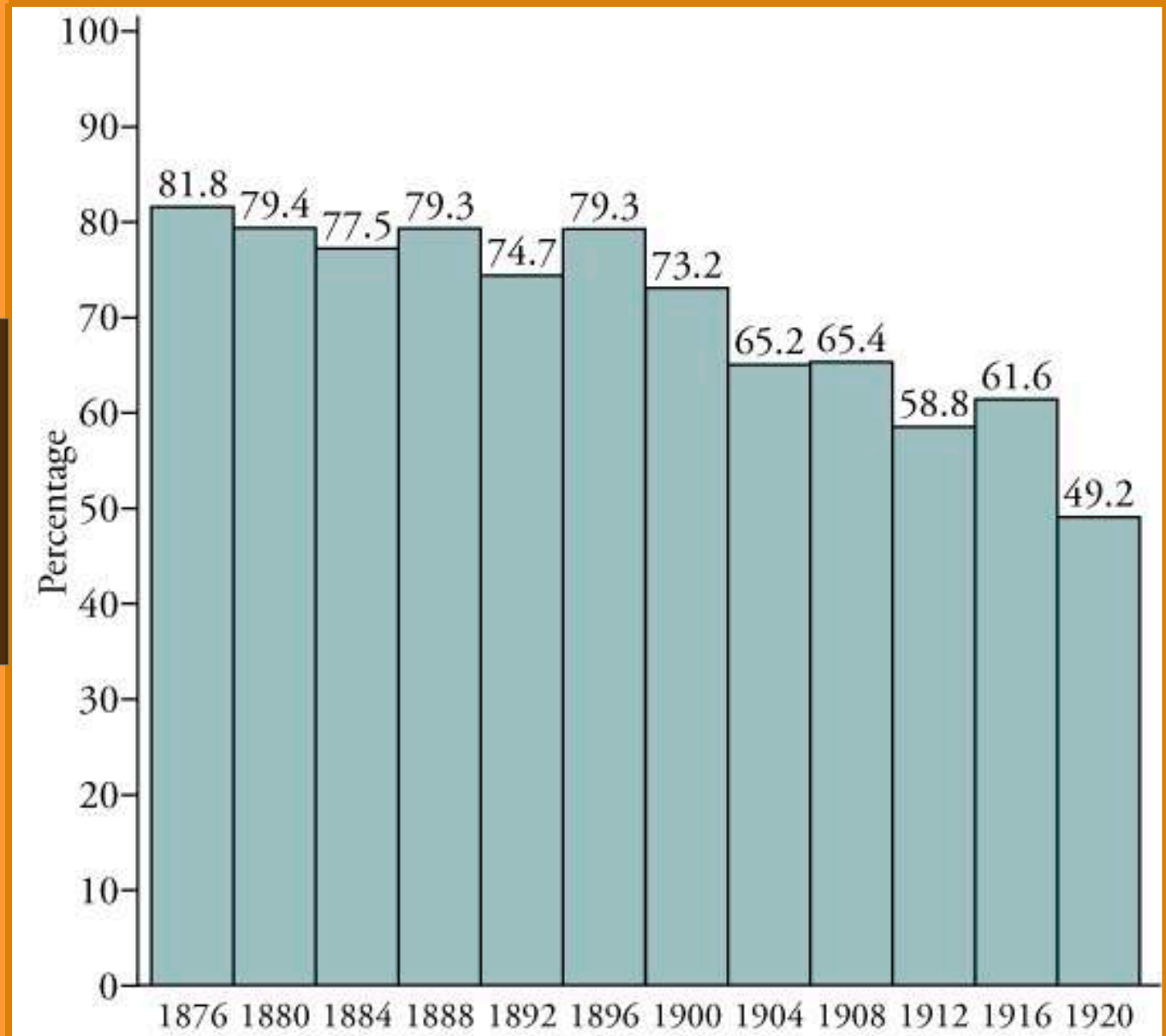
- ▶ secret ballots
- ▶ direct primary
- ▶ Robert M. LaFollette
- ▶ Seventeenth Amendment (1913)
- ▶ initiative
- ▶ referendum
- ▶ recall



Robert M. LaFollette,
Wisconsin Governor 1900-06

STATE POLITICAL REFORM

Voter Participation in Presidential Elections, 1876-1920



STATE SOCIAL REFORMS

- ▶ **professional social workers**
- ▶ **settlement houses** - education, culture, day care
- ▶ **child labor laws**
Enable education & advancement for working class children

STATE SOCIAL REFORMS

▶ workplace & labor reforms

eight-hour work day

improved safety & health conditions in
factories

workers compensation laws

minimum wage laws

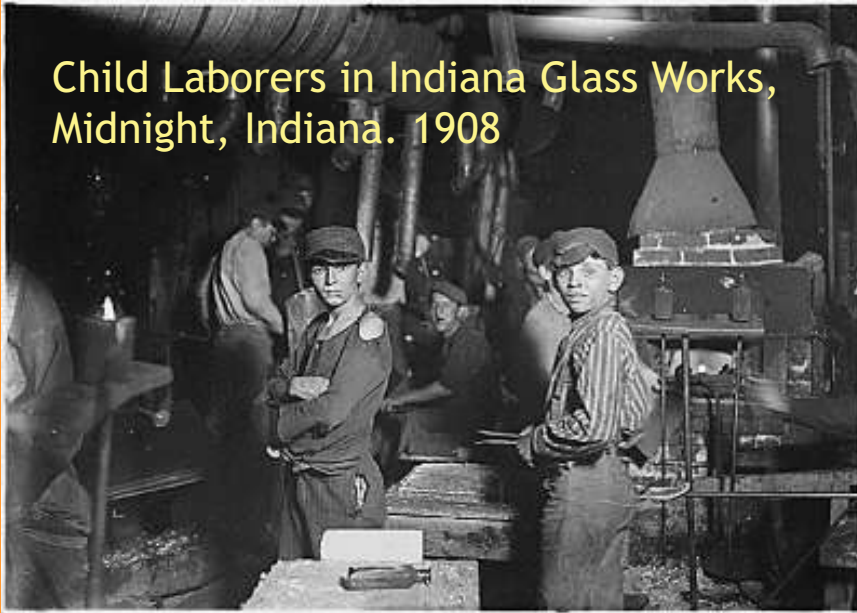
unionization

child labor laws



Triangle Shirtwaist
Factory Fire, 1913

State Social Reform: Child Labor



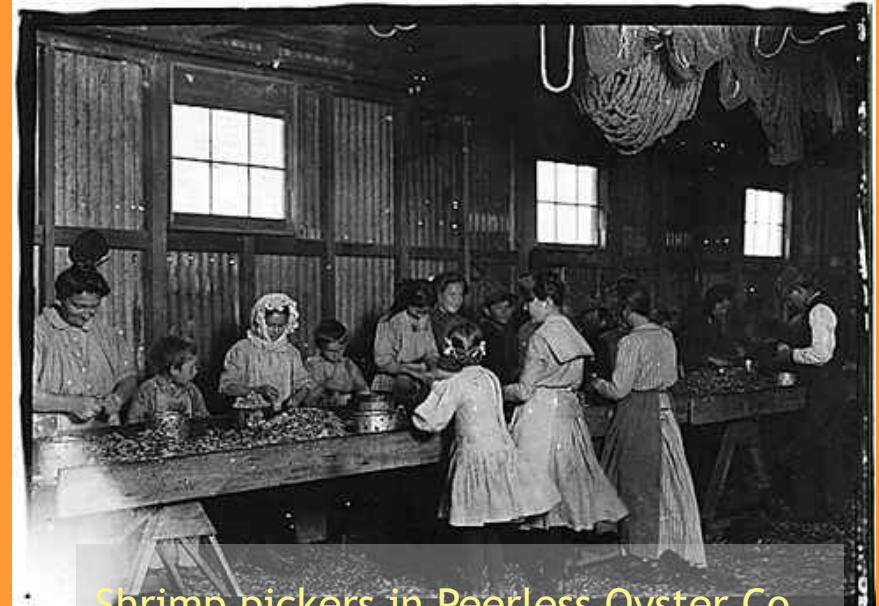
Child Laborers in Indiana Glass Works,
Midnight, Indiana. 1908



"Breaker Boys" Pennsylvania 1911



Child Laborer Newberry S C 1908



Shrimp pickers in Peerless Oyster Co.
Bay St. Louis Miss. March 3, 1911

Settlement Houses

- ▶ Settlement Houses
- ▶ Hull-House - Jane Addams



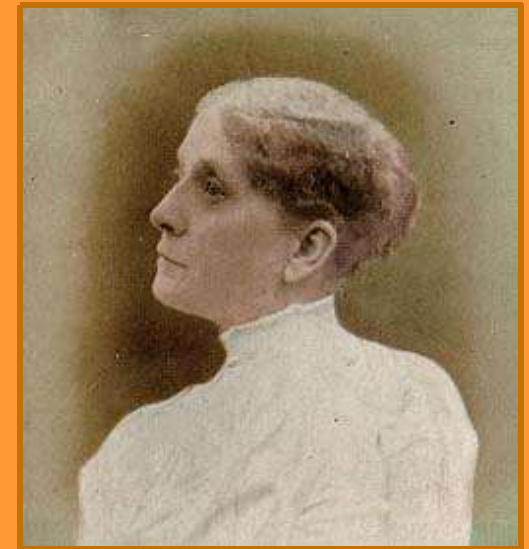
Jane Addams (1905)



Hull-House Complex in 1906

TEMPERANCE

- ▶ Temperance Crusade
- ▶ Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)
- ▶ Anti-Saloon League



Frances Willard (1838-98),
leader of the WCTU

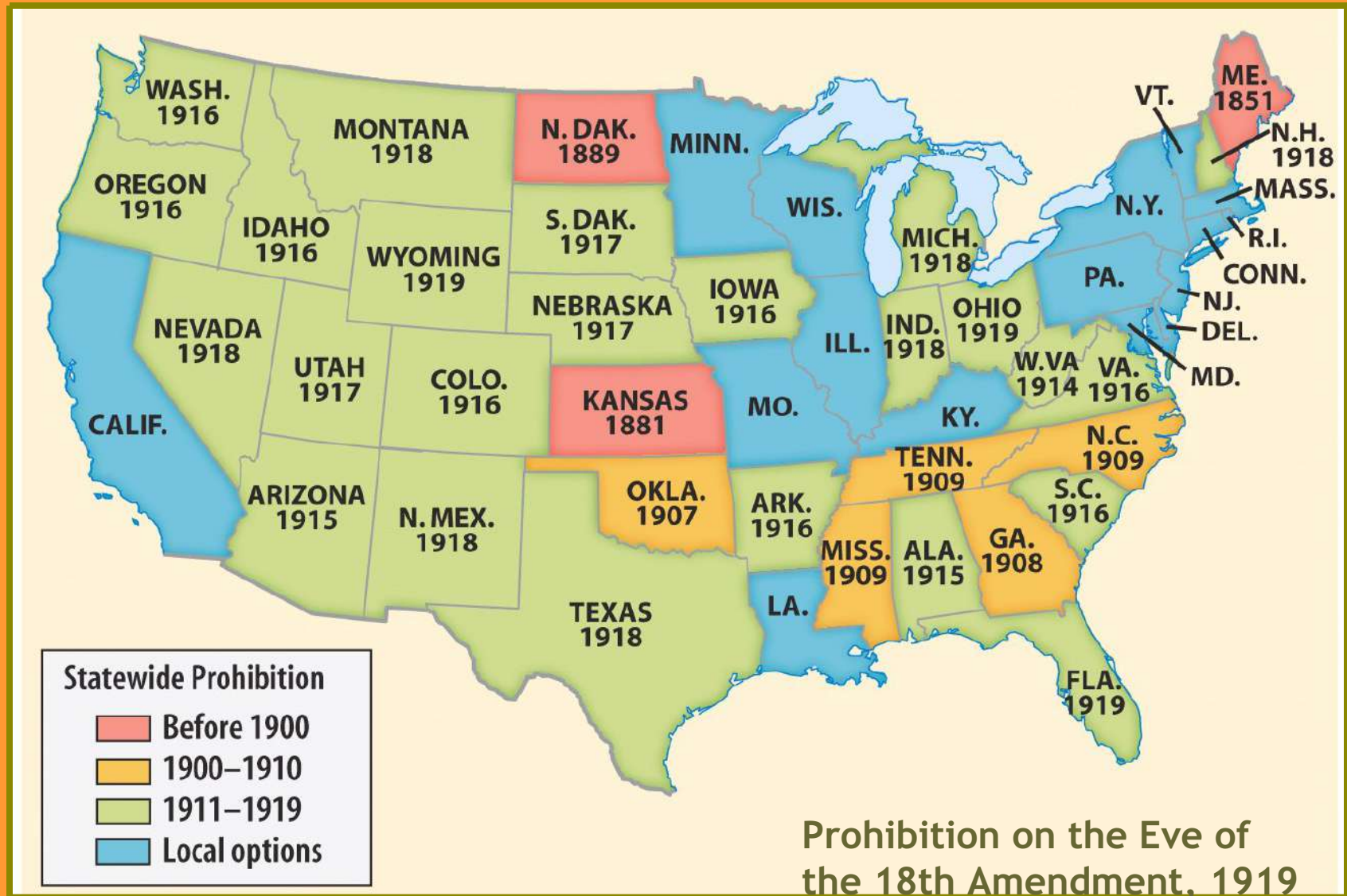


Anti-Saloon League Campaign, Dayton



TEMPERANCE & PROHIBITION

► Eighteenth Amendment



SOCIALISM

▶ **ALTERNATIVES**

SOCIALISM

▶ Socialist Party

▶ Eugene V. Debs

▶ Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or “Wobblies”)



Socialists parade, May Day, 1910



Eugene V. Debs

NATIONAL REFORM

▶ Roosevelt, Taft &
Wilson as Progressive
presidents

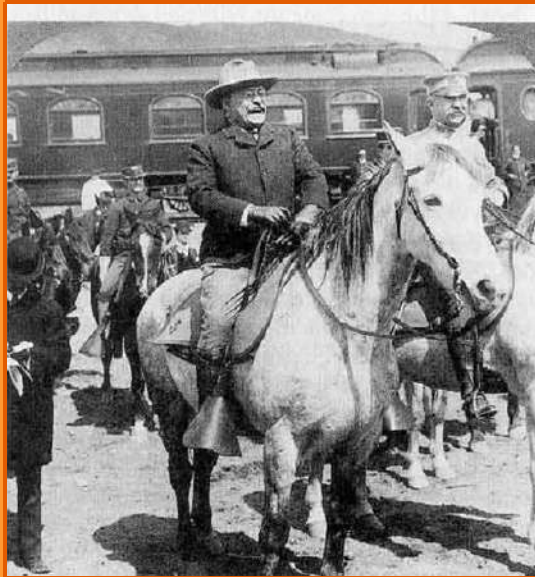
ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How effective were Progressive Era reformers and the federal government in bringing about reform at the national level in the period 1900-1920?

Assassination of President McKinley, *Sept 6, 1901*

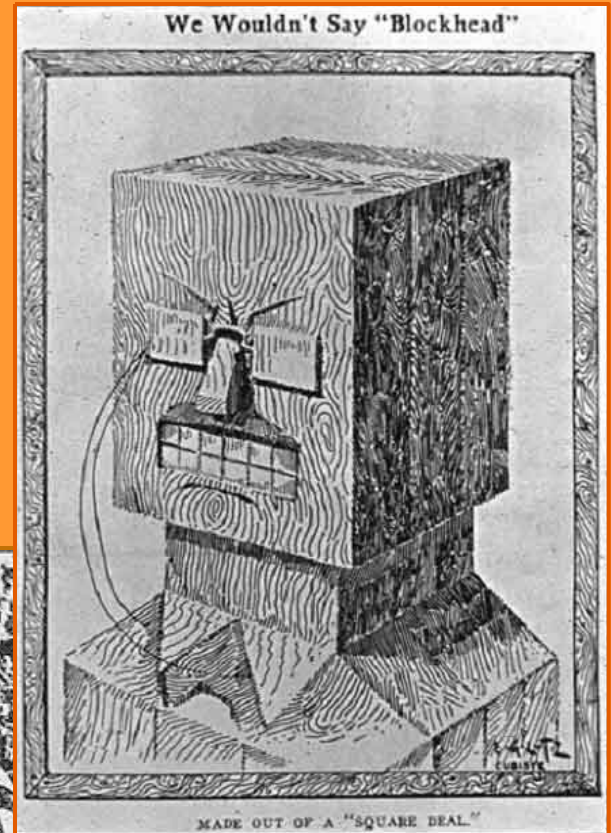


Theodore Roosevelt: the "accidental President" Republican (1901-1909)



Roosevelt's "Square Deal"

- ▶ 1902 Anthracite Coal Miners Strike
- ▶ "Square Deal"



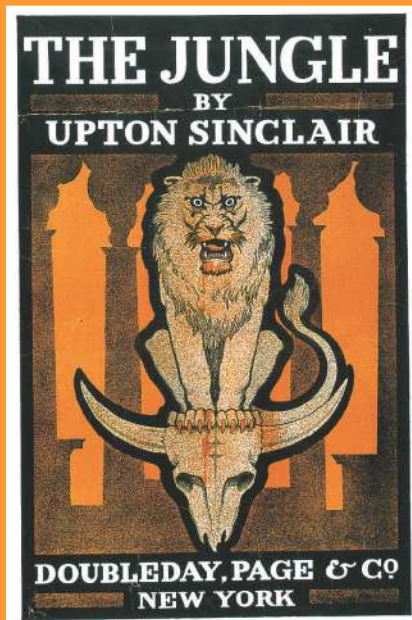
Anthracite miners at Scranton, Pennsylvania, 1900

Roosevelt the “trust-buster”

- ▶ Northern Securities Company (1904)
- ▶ “good trusts” and “bad trusts”
- ▶ Hepburn Railroad Regulation Act (1906)



“ONE SEES HIS FINISH UNLESS GOOD GOVERNMENT RETAKES THE SHIP”



Consumer Protection

- ▶ Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*
- ▶ Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)
- ▶ Meat Inspection Act (1906)



Chicago Meatpacking Workers, 1905



"A nauseating job, but it must be done"

Roosevelt & Conservation

- ▶ Used the Forest Reserve Act of 1891
- ▶ U.S. Forest Service (1906)
- ▶ Gifford Pinchot
- ▶ White House conference on conservation -1908
- ▶ John Muir



Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, 1907



Theodore Roosevelt & John Muir at Yosemite 1906



CONSERVATION: National Parks and Forests



**William
Howard Taft
President 1909-
13
Republican**



Postcard with Taft cartoon





Taft Birthplace today, Mt. Auburn

Taft's Progressive Accomplishments

- ▶ trust-busting
- ▶ forest and oil reserves
- ▶ Sixteenth Amendment

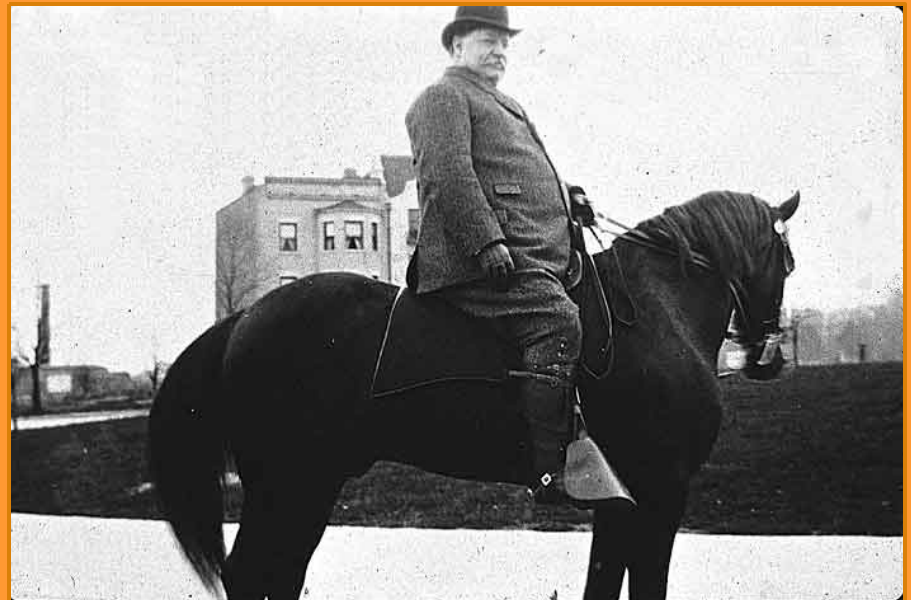
- ▶ BUT: Caused split in Republican Party

Payne-Aldrich Tariff (1909)

Pinchot-Ballinger Controversy

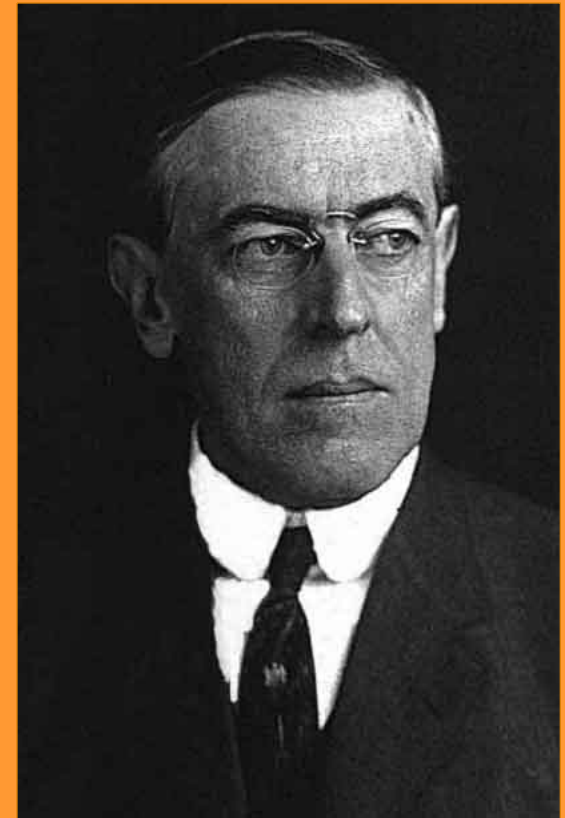
(Taft has) “...completely twisted around the policies I advocated and acted upon.”

-Theodore Roosevelt



Election of 1912

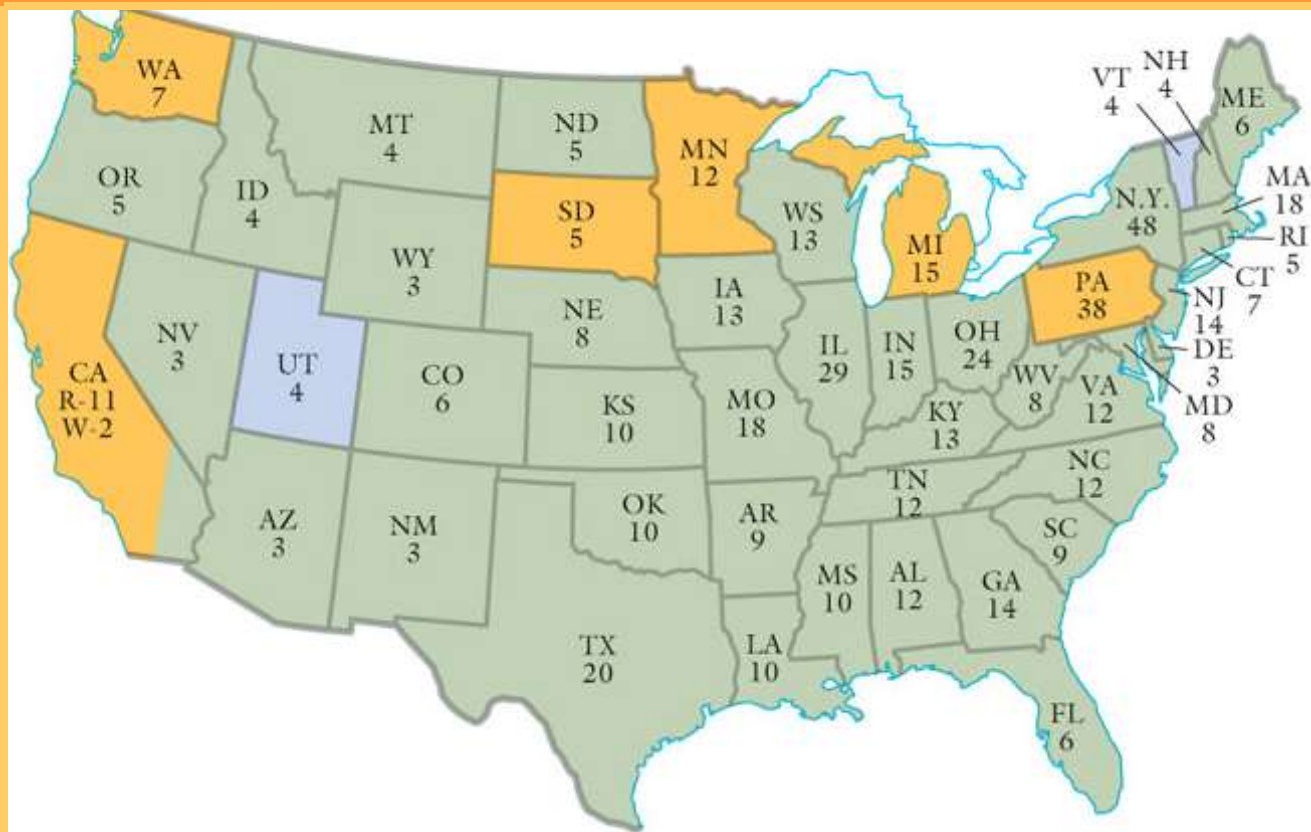
- ▶ Woodrow Wilson
- ▶ Progressive Party
("Bull Moose party")
- ▶ "New Nationalism"
- ▶ significance







Woodrow Wilson



Theodore
Roosevelt
cartoon,
March 1912



1912 Presidential Election

	Electoral Vote		Popular Vote	
	number	%	number	%
 Wilson (Democrat)	435	82.0	6,296,547	42
 Taft (Republican)	8	1.5	3,486,720	23
 Roosevelt (Progressive)	88	16.5	4,118,571	27
 Debs (Socialist)	----	----	900,672	6.0

Wilson

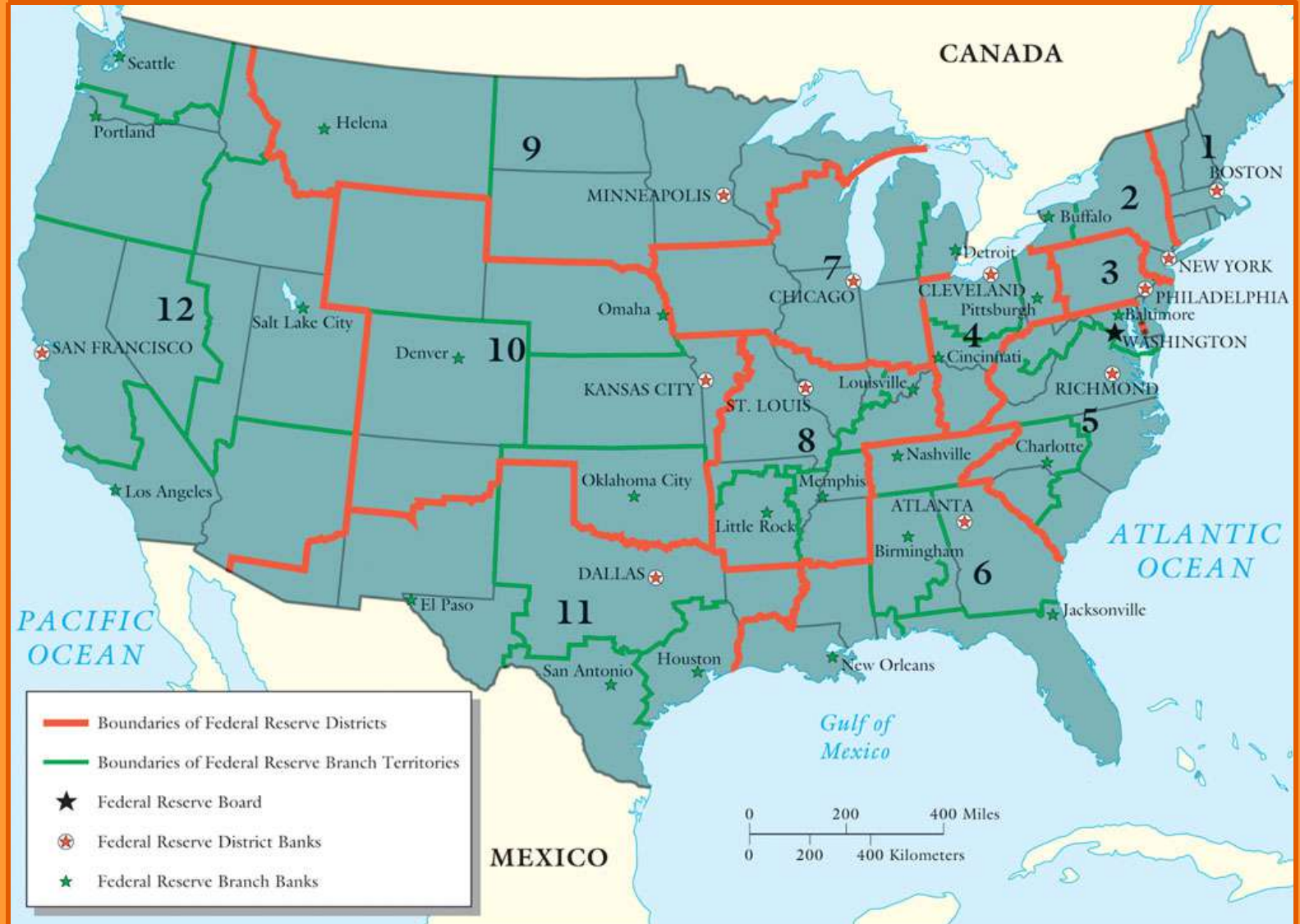
- ▶ Woodrow Wilson
- ▶ “New Freedom”
- ▶ Underwood Simmons Tariff (1913)
- ▶ Sixteenth Amendment (1913)
- ▶ Federal Reserve Act (1913)
- ▶ Federal Trade Commission Act (1914)
- ▶ Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914)
- ▶ Keating-Owen Act (1916)



Wilson at the peak of his power

Federal Reserve System

► Federal Reserve Act



***WOMEN &
SUFFRAGE***

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

To what extent did economic and political developments as well as the assumptions about the nature of women affect the position of American women during the period 1890-1925?

WOMEN

- ▶ “women’s professions”
- ▶ “new woman”
- ▶ clubwomen



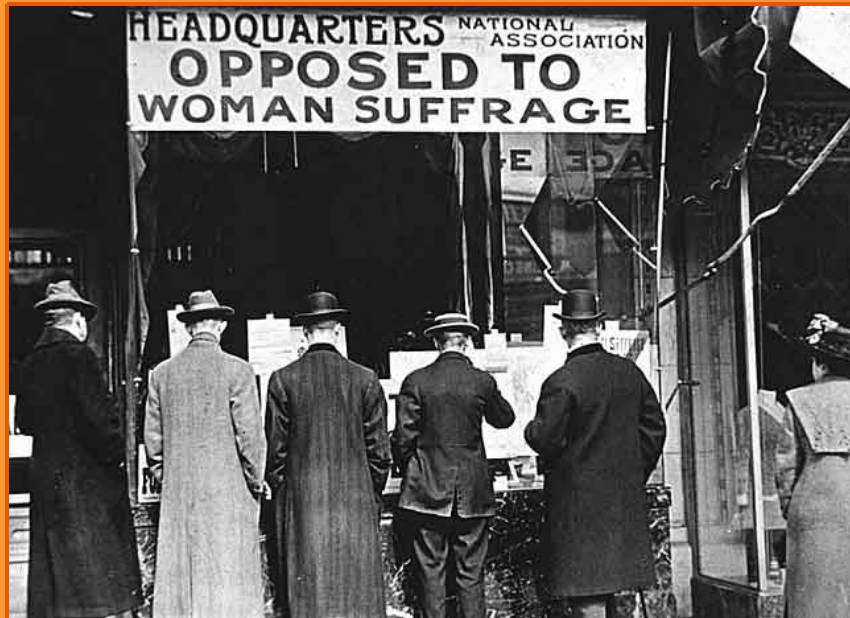
A local club for nurses was formed in New York City in 1894. Here the club members are pictured in their clubhouse reception area. (Photo courtesy of the Women's History and Resource Center, General Federation of Women's Clubs.)



The Women's Club of Madison, Wisconsin conducted classes in food, nutrition, and sewing for recent immigrants. (Photo courtesy of the Women's History and Resource Center, General Federation of Women's Clubs.)

Women's Suffrage

- ▶ National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)
- ▶ Carrie Chapman Catt

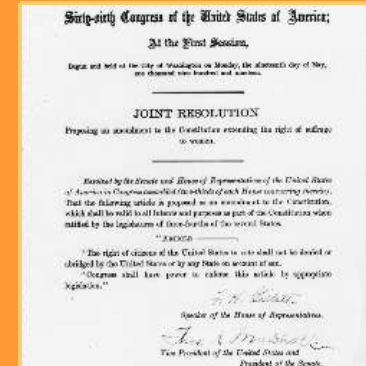


Ohio Woman Suffrage Headquarters, Cleveland, 1912

Women's Suffrage

- ▶ Alice Paul
- ▶ National Woman's Party
- ▶ Nineteenth Amendment
- ▶ Equal Rights Amendment

Suffragette
Banner
1918



19th Amendment

(All: Library of Congress)

***RACE
RELATIONS***

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois offered different strategies for dealing with the problems of poverty and discrimination faced by black Americans at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries. How appropriate were each of these strategies (considering the context in which each was developed)?

African-Americans

- ▶ Booker T. Washington
- ▶ W.E.B. Du Bois
- ▶ Niagara Movement
- ▶ “talented tenth”
- ▶ NAACP



Booker T.
Washington



W.E.B. Du Bois