

# The Progressive Era

Populism and Progressivism

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*Standard 13*

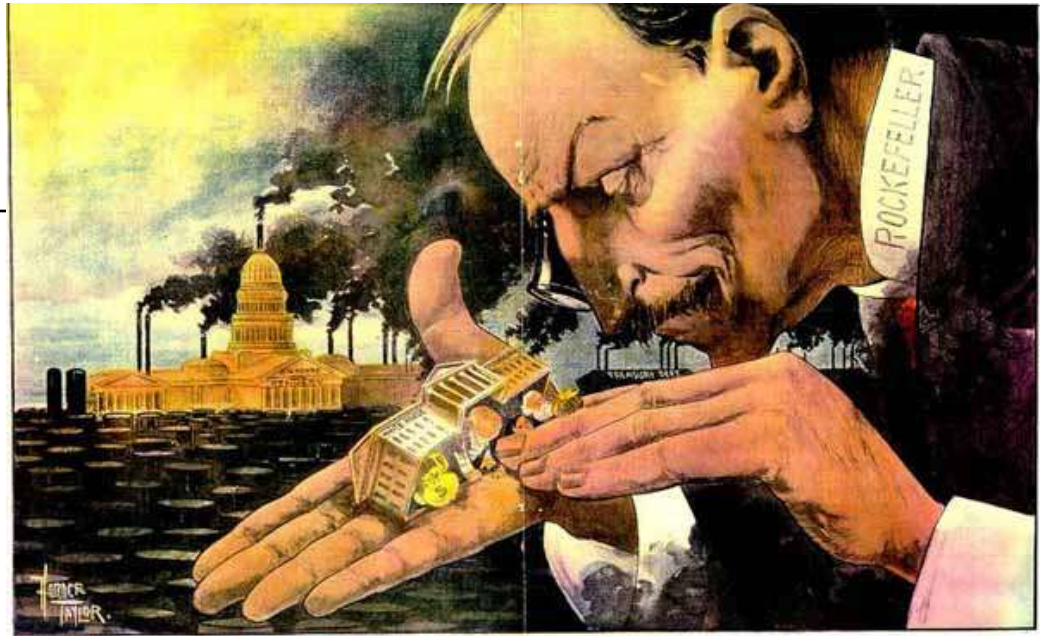
*Evaluate efforts to reform  
American society and politics  
in the Progressive Era.*

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In 1871, political humorist  
& author Mark Twain  
scoffed, “What is the chief  
end of man?—to get rich.  
In what way?—  
dishonestly if we can;  
but if not, by all means  
honestly.”

# The Gilded Age

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THE TRUST GIANT'S POINT OF VIEW.  
"WHAT A FUNNY LITTLE GOVERNMENT!"

- Late 1800s
- Big difference between rich and poor
  - 1890: average laboring family earned \$380 a year
  - Robber Barons = very wealthy, high society
- Bribery, influential campaign contributions and other forms of political corruption ensure that the rich remained rich
- This is why the Progressive Era was needed

# Populism – Political Reform

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- **Definition:** *a political movement that sought to reform government corruption*
- **Populists** formed the People's Party
  - 1892: Nominated James B. Weaver for President
  - 1896: Nominated William Jennings Bryan
- Party dissolved following Bryan's

# Progressivism

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= an urban reform movement similar to efforts of the Populists

⑩ Worked to enact ***business regulation laws***

⑩ Interstate Commerce Act (1887)

⑩ Pendleton Act (1883): sought to end spoils system by creating

a. Describe the influence of muckrakers on affecting change by bringing attention to social problems.

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## Muckrakers

○ Journalists and novelists/writers who attempted to ***expose abuses and corruption*** in businesses, government, and society

- Exposed the “muck” in America

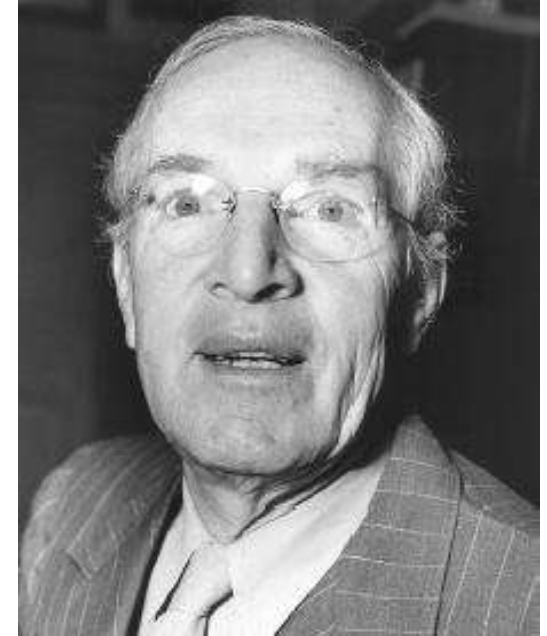
○ Educated public about changes needed in society

a. Describe the influence of muckrakers on affecting change by bringing attention to social problems.

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## Upton Sinclair

- A Muckraker who in 1906 wrote *The Jungle*
- Exposed unsafe and unsanitary working conditions in the *meatpacking industry*
- Readers included President Theodore Roosevelt
- Disgusted citizens - called for changes in the laws



# Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906

- Supported by President Theodore Roosevelt after he read *The Jungle*
- Mandated **safe** and **sanitary** conditions for food preparation and packaging
- Also put regulations on medicines





b. Examine and explain the roles of women in reform movements.

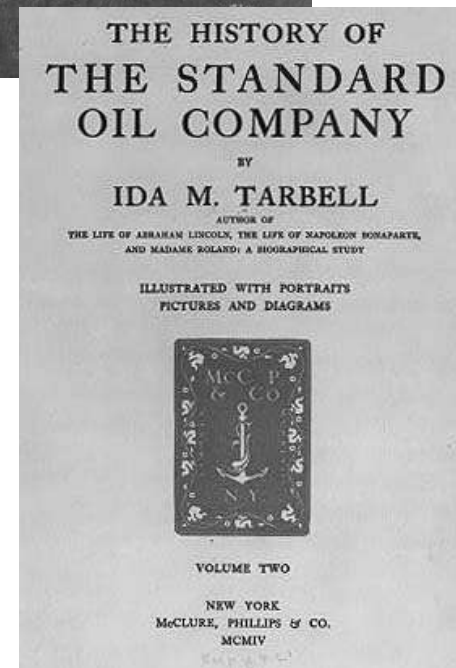
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## Ida Tarbell

○ 1904: published *The History of the Standard Oil Company*

○ Exposed the company's monopoly & corruption

○ Led to a government antitrust suit against the company—the company was then broken up



b. Examine and explain the roles of women in reform movements.

## Hull House

= a settlement house that *helped immigrants and the poor* settle into U.S. culture through recreation, education and social activities (kind of like a community center)



○ Opened in Chicago in

# Women in the Progressive Era

- Played a significant role in progressivism
  - Fought for women's *suffrage* (*right to vote*)
    - 19<sup>th</sup> amendment
    - In response to their help in supporting WWI
  - Increased regulation of child labor
  - Expanded public schooling
  - Established libraries
  - Improved care for mentally ill
  - Improved housing and the poor



c. Connect the decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson* to the expansion of Jim Crow laws and the formation of the NAACP.

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○ **“Jim Crow” laws**

- legal segregation (separation) of the races
- lasts until the 1960s

○ **Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)**

- Supreme Court case that established policy of “*separate but equal*”, which meant segregation was legal.
- Separate facilities for blacks and whites are okay as long as there are facilities for both.
- **NAACP: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**

# Plessy v. Ferguson

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- In 1890, Louisiana passed the Separate Car Act. The act required the separation of blacks and whites on railway cars. Louisiana's **Separate Car Act** was reviewed by the United States Supreme Court in ***Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)***. Its ruling established the principle of ***“separate but equal,”*** Thus, as long as public facilities were equal, races could be separated. The ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson allowed a variety of Jim Crow laws to be enacted that segregated all

D. Describe Progressive legislative actions including empowerment of the voter, labor laws, and the conservation movement.

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- Progressives also worked to reform political process through ***greater citizen participation***
- Encouraged:
  - ***Initiative***: allows individuals to place an issue before voters
  - ***Referendum***: allows voters to accept or reject proposed legislation
  - ***Recall***: a process citizens can use to remove an official from office

D. Describe Progressive legislative actions including empowerment of the voter, labor laws, and the conservation movement.

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## Seventeenth Amendment

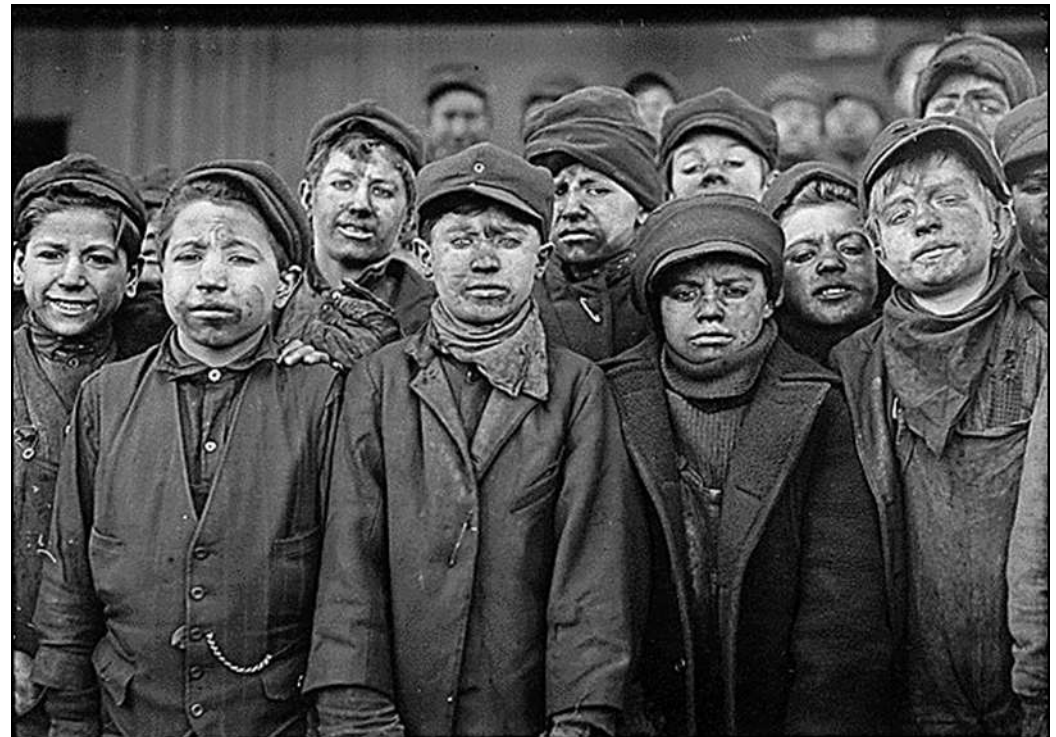
- 1913: 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment ratified
  - Allows for the ***direct election*** of U.S. senators by the people
- Hoped this would make members of Congress more accountable to citizens

*(Prior to 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment, senators were chosen by state legislators)*

# Labor Unions

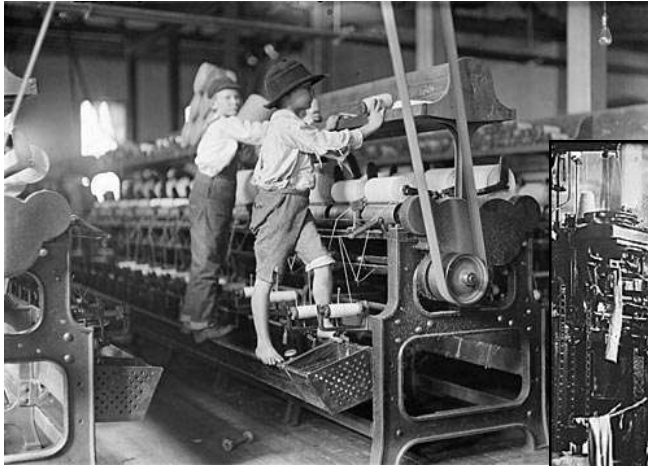
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- Continued to fight for welfare of workers
  - Pushed for
    - 8 hour work days
    - Improved safety in the workplace
    - End to child labor





# Keating-Owen Child Labor Act

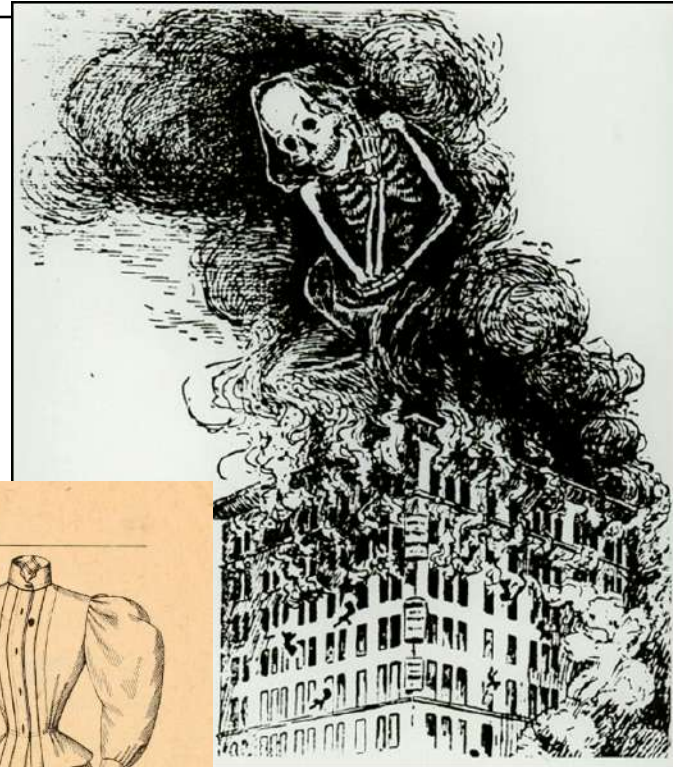


○ 1912: President Woodrow Wilson pushed for laws strengthening labor unions

○ **Keating-Owen Labor Act of 1916**

- Prohibited the sale of products made by children across state lines

# TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY FIRE NYC 1911



<http://vimeo.com/69541895>

# Typical NYC Sweatshop, 1910



# The Triangle Factory after the fire



Dead bodies  
on the  
sidewalk



Scene at the  
Morgue  
(145 Dead)



## REFORM LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE POOR IN CITIES



D. Describe Progressive legislative actions including empowerment of the voter, labor laws, and the conservation movement.

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- **President Theodore Roosevelt** also began a Progressive **conservation movement**, which conserved millions of acres of wilderness lands, particularly in western states.
- His efforts led to the establishment of a national park system that



# Practice Question

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1. In 1906, Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act. Both laws were in response to industry practices exposed by
  - a. Muckrakers
  - b. Political machines
  - c. Corrupt politicians
  - d. Company presidents



# Practice Question

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2. The People's Party was formed by the
- a. Populists
  - b. Progressives
  - c. labor unions
  - d. muckrakers

## Practice Question

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3. The Seventeenth Amendment calls for the election of United States senators by
- a. the people
  - b. state legislators
  - c. only other senators
  - d. registered progressives

## Practice Question

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4. What was granted by ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment?

A. the right of people to elect U.S. senators

B. the right to due process

C. a woman's right to vote

D. the right of workers to form unions

# Practice Question

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5. Jim Crow laws were passed by southern legislatures following Reconstruction. What was the purpose of Jim Crow laws?
- A. to expand the rights of African Americans
  - B. to ensure segregation of African Americans in a southern society
  - C. to force compliance with the 14th and 15th Amendments
  - D. to prohibit southerners from disenfranchising African Americans

# Practice Question

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The United States Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) overturned which principle upheld in the *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) decision?

- A. freedom of speech
- B. separate but equal
- C. clear and present danger
- D. right to petition the government