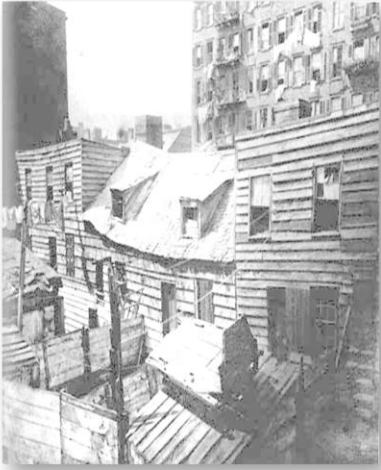
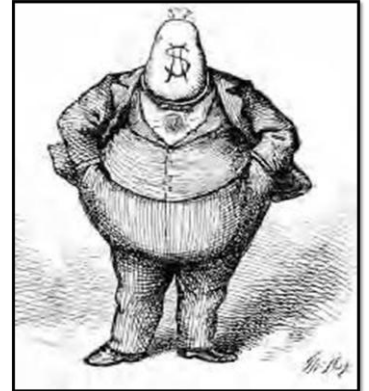


Progressive Era Introduction

The last years of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth saw change in many aspects of American life. Cities were growing, skyscrapers were built, and millions of immigrants were moving into the country. Life in these cities could be difficult; many Americans worked long days in factories or coal mines or on the railroad. While captains of industry like Carnegie and Rockefeller earned hundreds of millions of dollars, the common man was receiving far less. Even as America was becoming the manufacturing capital of the world, there was a large amount of inequality, and a growing need for change.



Cities had grown in the late 1800s and early 1900s. As **specialized industries** like steel in Pittsburgh and meat packing in Chicago, grew so did cities. America workers **moved into cities for jobs**, and **immigrants** came as well, but life in these cities could be difficult. Many factory workers and immigrants lived in **tenements and ghettos** and were unable to earn a real living, AND there was overcrowding. Reformers sought to fix these problems by creating **settlement houses**- as **Jane Addams** did with the **Hull House** - and political machines, that (while incredibly corrupt) offered solutions for many immigrant problems as well.



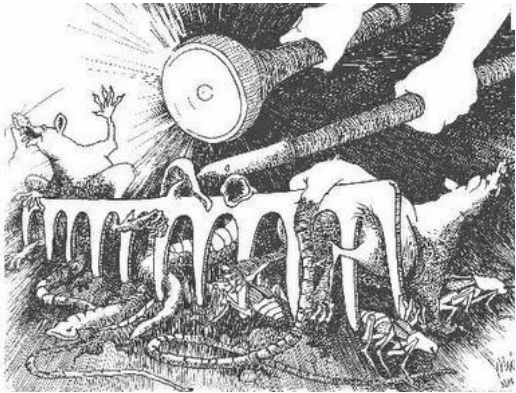
The early twentieth century (early 1900s) saw Americans find solutions to so many of the problems created by industrialization. *There were many problems.* Factories were using **children** to do hard work, and they were making their workers work **long hours**, and paying them **very small wages**. In addition to these, many factories had **unsafe working conditions**, forcing many men and women into crowded rooms with few exits and sometimes no fire escapes.



To solve these problems, **Labor Unions** started rising up in America, like the **American Federation of Labor**. These labor unions fought for rights and fair pay for the members of their union. *The labor unions fought for safer working conditions, less hours working, and more pay.* Sometimes, these Unions would ask their members to stop working until they received what they asked for. These **strikes** would oftentimes help the unions get what they asked for.

One of these strikes was the **Homestead Strike**. Workers at the Carnegie Steel Plant in Homestead, PA struck to receive more fair treatment. The boss at the Steel Plant decided to open the plant with workers who were not in the Union - workers who did not have the same demands for fair treatment and would work. He wanted to make sure that his workers would make it to work without the strikers stopping them that he hired 300 armed guards to protect the workers coming in to work. The guards and the strikers had a showdown in Homestead (Pittsburgh) on July 6, 1892, and battled. Guards and Strikers alike were killed. The Union was blamed for the battle and lost any support it had in America. The strike was roundly defeated. It was a setback for unions for many years.

Soon though, these unions made important strides in garnering better working conditions. They ensured **shorter work days**, **better working conditions**, and **better pay**, but the change was not even close to being finished in America.



This time of great change in the early 1900s was known as the **Progressive Era**. Labor unions were only just beginning. **Muckraker Upton Sinclair's** famous book **The Jungle** shed light on the poor working conditions in the meat packing industry. **Jane Addams** opened the Hull House, one of the first settlement houses to open, and help immigrants in tenements. Labor Unions were providing support for workers, and John Muir was helping to protect the environment and creating Yosemite National Park.

Meanwhile, women were fighting for **suffrage**- the right to vote. Led by **Susan B. Anthony** and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** these women fought for equal voting rights all the way until 1920, when the **19th Amendment** guaranteed equal voting rights for women. In the national election of 1920, women across the country voted for the first time.



During the Progressive Era, President Teddy Roosevelt approved regulations so that monopolies and trusts would have to break up into smaller companies, because monopolies were bad for consumers and other businesses. Robert LaFollette, fought for political reforms that broke up political machines, so that the power in cities shifted from

the political boss back to the people. WEB DuBois started the NAACP during this time period, and Mother Jones helped to end child labor. Elsewhere the **Temperance Movement** was fighting to make the sale and consumption of alcohol illegal in the United State. They were eventually successful as the **18th Amendment** prohibited alcohol in the country.



The early 1900s were a time of great change. The unfair working and living conditions in America were getting better. The manufacturing nation that was becoming America was becoming more equal. Monopolies were breaking up; child labor laws were coming into place. Working conditions were becoming safer, and the gap between the wealthiest and the poorest was shrinking. There was significant change in America, following the period of political machines and Nativism, and America was growing into a global power. We will continue to see in the next few units, how America would grow into that world power.

After reading, answer the questions below.

1. What years make up the 19th century? 20th century?
2. Name 4 problems created by industrialization.
3. Give an example of a labor union from the reading.
4. Where was the Homestead Strike?
5. What important strides were made by labor unions?
6. What is the “time of great change” called?
7. Who opened the Hull House?
8. Define suffrage. Name 2 women involved in the suffrage movement.
9. What does the 19th amendment state?
10. What does the 18th amendment state?