

**The Progressive Era**  
**STAAR Review 4**



# *The Progressive Era*

- In the late 1800s rapid industrialization and unrestricted growth of cities led to major problems.
- Progressive reformers attempted to find a remedy for the social problems industrialization caused.
- Progressive reforms were introduced at the national level by Presidents Teddy Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson.
- In the following lesson you will find out what was done by these Presidents and others to help solve the problems during the Progressive Era of the early 1900s.

# The Agrarian Movement

During the late 1800s, the majority of Americans lived on farms, today less than 2% still live on a farm.

- In the 1870s farmers moved onto the Great Plains, they introduced improved machinery and fertilizers to produce more than ever before.
- Improved technology led to an abundance of crops which then led to a decrease in the price received by the farmers.
- But farming expenses remained, high, the farmers were going broke!



# The Agrarian Movement

The Problems of Farmers: 1870 - 1900

- **Overproduction of crops** - due to improved machinery, fertilizers, and new lands in the Great Plains caused a drop in farmers income.
- **Transportation Costs** – western farmers had to ship their crops to the Eastern markets, railroads took advantage of limited or no competition to charge high rates.
- **Indebtedness** – farmers were in debt from borrowing money to buy new machinery or make improvements.
- **Natural Disasters** – droughts, floods, hail storms, insects might wipe out a entire year's crop.

# The Agrarian Movement

## The Grange Movement

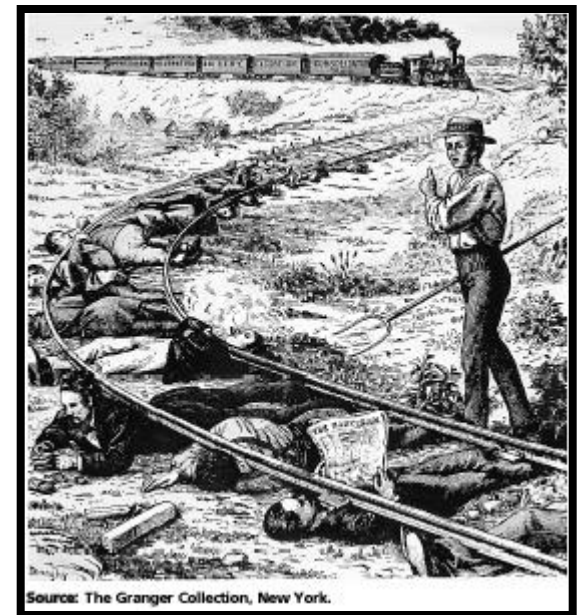
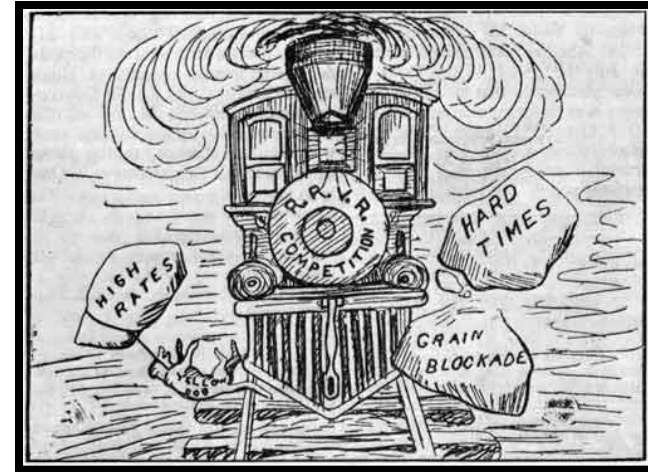
- In 1867, the **Grange Movement** was founded.
- Its original purpose was to serve as a social club for farmers.
- Its aim was to overcome the isolation of the rural farmer and to spread information about new farming techniques.
- Soon the Grange had over a million members who now supported economic and political reforms.



# The Agrarian Movement

## The Impact of the Grange Movement

- Farmers mainly blamed the railroads for their problems.
- Farmers felt they were being overcharged by railroads and grain storage facilities.
- Farmers who belonged to the Grange elected congressmen who promised reforms.
- Midwestern states passed laws regulating the rates railroads and grain storage facilities could charge.



# The Agrarian Movement

## The Granger Laws

- *Munn v. Illinois* (1877), the Supreme Court upheld the right of the states to regulate businesses that affected public interests within the state.
- *Interstate Commerce Act* (1887), prohibited railroads from charging more for short hauls than long hauls over the same route.
- *Interstate Commerce Commission* was created to enforce the new law, it became the first federal government agency to regulate unfair business practices.



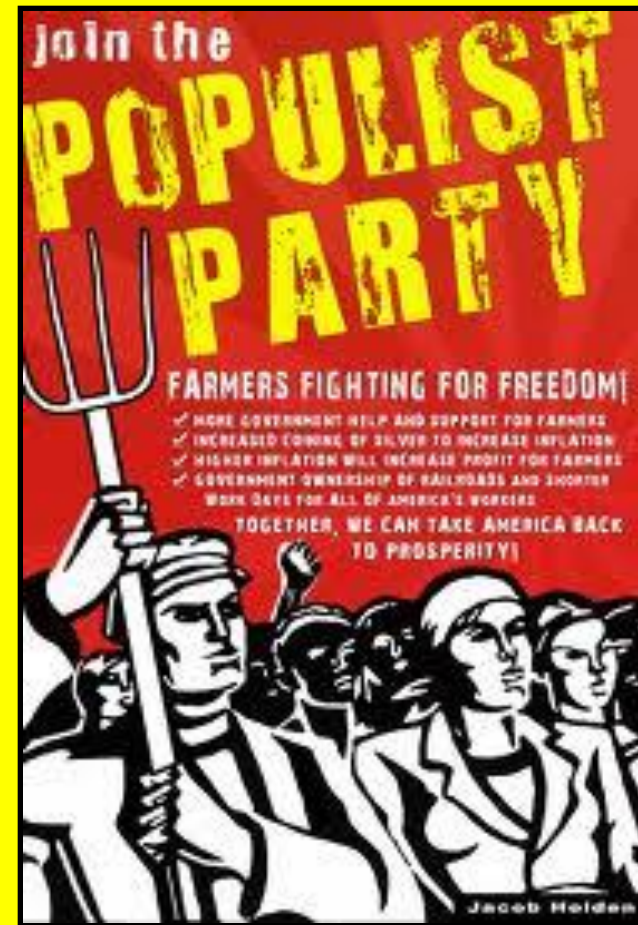
Teddy Roosevelt



# The Populist Party: 1891-1896



- In 1891, a new political party gained support with the 'common man', it was the **Populist Party**.
- The farmers, workers, and miners battled against the rich, bankers and railroad owners.
- For the first time women also played an important role in politics.
- Populists believed that the rich had a stranglehold on government and they **wanted the government to end poverty, injustice, and unfair laws.**



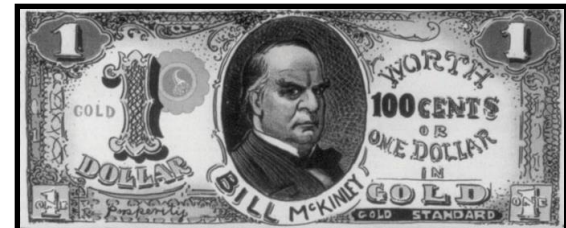
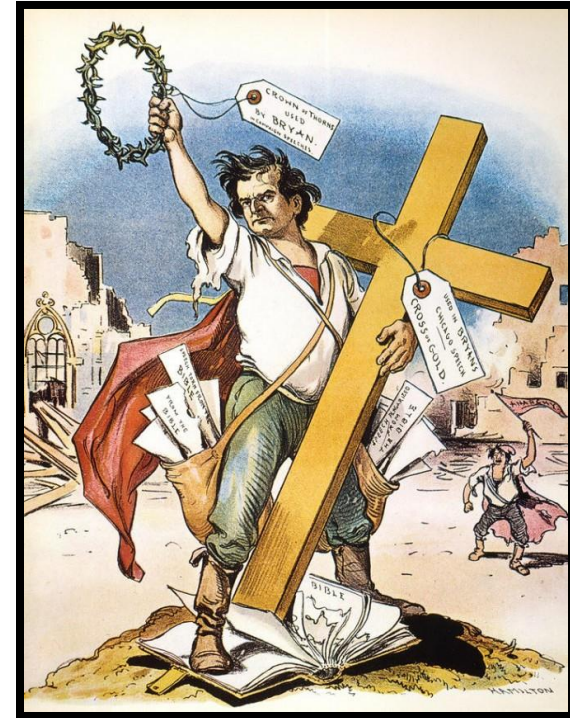


# The Goals of the Populist Party

- **Unlimited Coinage of Silver** – instead of gold coins, make more silver coins, it would help raise farm prices and make loan repayments easier.
- **Term Limits for President** – only a single 4 years term.
- **Direct Election of Senators** – elected by the people of a state not the state legislature. Gave more participation in government.
- **Secret Ballot** – to stop intimidation of voters.
- **Government Ownership of Utilities** – like railroads, telegraph, and telephone companies. (kinda Socialist sounding)
- **Immigration Restrictions** – have quotas (limits) on how many people could come from each country.
- **Graduated Income Tax** – taxes wealthy at a higher rate.
- **Shorter Work Day** – just 8 hours.

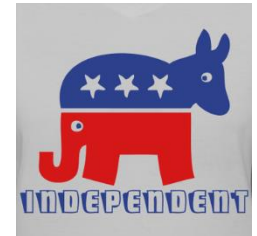
# Populists and Election Campaigns

- ❑ 1892 Election – Populists were successful in electing Senators and their Presidential candidate did well in the election (but he didn't win).
- ❑ 1896 Election – Populists supported **William Jennings Bryan** for President due to his “**Cross of Gold**” speech in which he supported the unlimited coinage of silver, instead of gold
- ❑ 1900 Election – Populists again supported Bryan, but he again lost to William McKinley.



# The Legacy of Populism

- ❑ The Populist party would soon fade away, but it was somewhat successful in its efforts, even though a Populist president was never elected.
- ❑ The Populist Party did leave its mark on American history with the idea of **Third parties**.
- ❑ **Third parties provide an outlet for minorities to voice their grievances or to voice new ideas that the main stream (Democrat & Republican) don't usually support.**
- ❑ Many Populist ideas were later adopted by the larger political parties, like a graduated income tax or direct election of senators.



**REVOLUTION**

# Populism to Progressivism

- Many people believed we were making progress in improving society, but...
- Industrialization and urbanization had caused problems in the American society.
- People could improve society by relying on science and knowledge.
- Government should fix these problems.
- But, Government had become corrupted by big business and political machines.
- To achieve reform, the government itself had to be reformed.

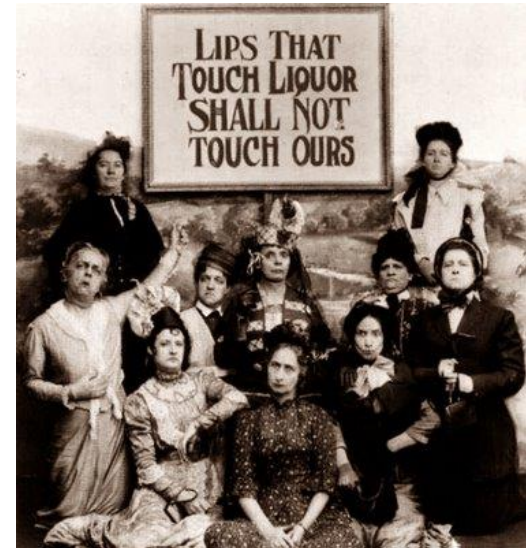
# The Progressive Movement

1890 - 1920

- The Progressive Movement was at its greatest influence from 1900 to the start of World War I.
- Progressives borrowed ideas from the Populists but they were different in many ways.
- Progressives were mainly middle-class city people, instead of the Populist farmers and factory workers.
- Writers, lawyers, ministers, college professors, and even Presidents became the Progressive leaders.

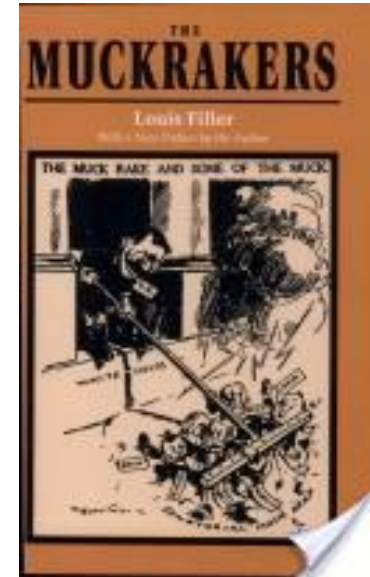
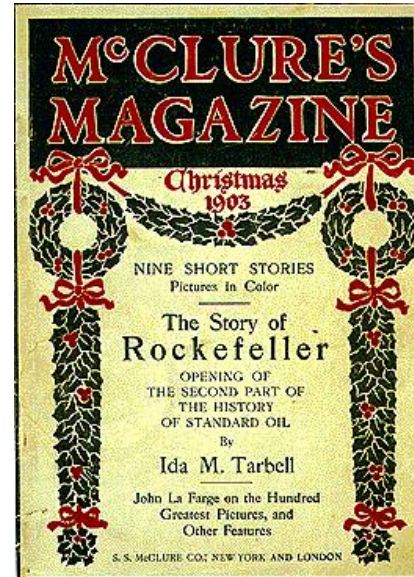
# The Social Gospel Movement

- The Social Gospel Movement started when Protestant ministers began calling for social reforms.
- These reforms included the abolition of child labor and for safer working conditions.
- These people emphasized the duty to help those less fortunate.
- The Social Gospel Movement also strongly supported banning alcoholic beverages. (Would lead to 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment)



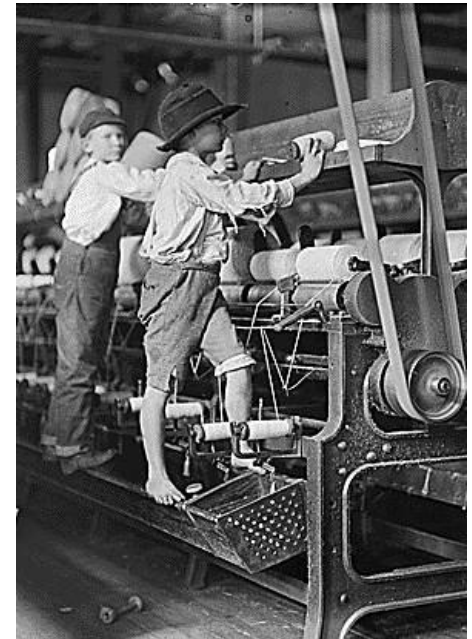
# The Muckrakers

- As the cities continued to expand the newspapers and magazines began to reach a larger audience.
- Investigative reporters, writers, and social scientists exposed the industrial and governmental corruption.
- These writers became known as **Muckrakers**, because they raked up all the muck or the dirt of American life.



# The Muckrakers

- **Muckrakers** examined the rise of industry and the abuses that were often used in the effort to become rich.
- **Muckrakers** examined business practices and the negative effect they had on the consumers and the lives of the very poor.
- **Muckrakers** are often considered to be the first Progressives.





## Muckrakers and Their Influences



- **Upton Sinclair**
- He exposed dangerous working conditions and unsanitary practices in meat packing industry in his book **The Jungle**.

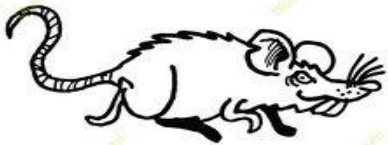
- Government passed the
  - **“Meat Inspection Act”** law that set standards of cleanliness and required federal inspection of meat plants.
  - **“Pure Food & Drug Act”** law that required foods to be pure and accurately labeled.



# Excerpt from “*The Jungle*”

- Upton Sinclair’s book *The Jungle* portrayed the *new industrial* economy as inhumane, destructive, and uncaring.

“The meat would be shoveled into carts, and the man who did the shoveling would not trouble to lift out a rat even when he saw one – there were things that went into the sausage that in comparison with which a poisoned rat was a tidbit. There was no place for the men to wash their hands before they ate their dinner, and so they made a practice of washing them in the water that was ladled into the sausage.



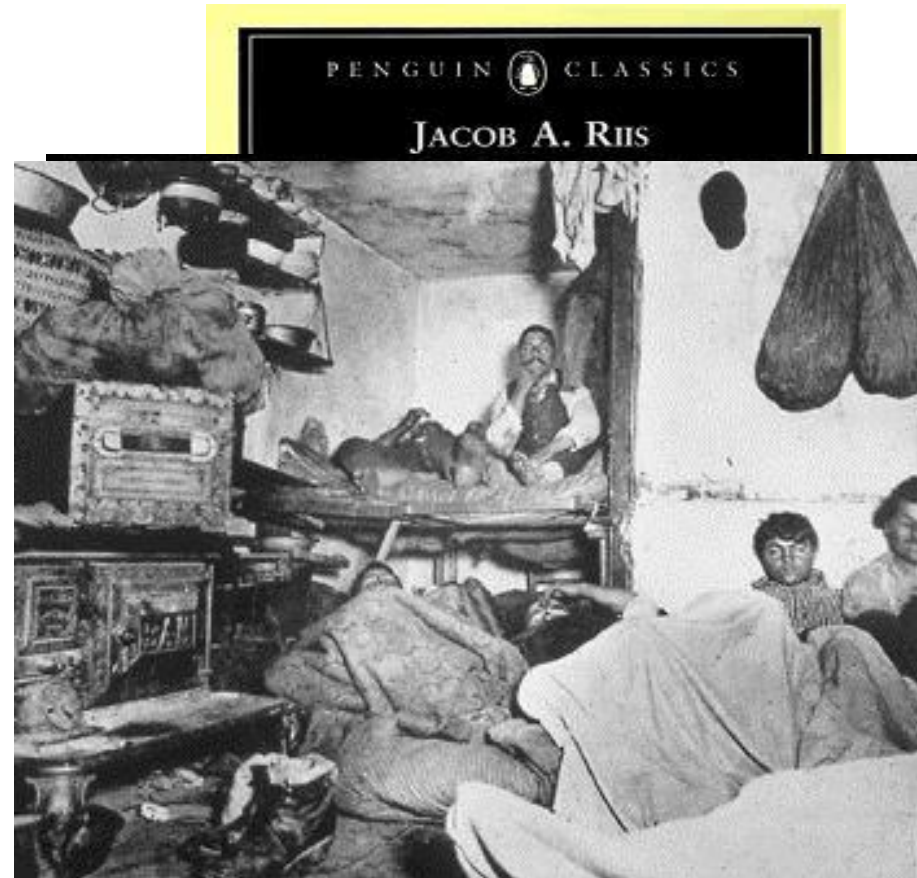
## Muckrakers and Their Influences



### • Jacob Riis

• He exposed the poverty, living conditions, and disease of the urban poor in his book "How the Other Half Lives".

- Problem – the horrible living conditions of the poor in the cities.
- Led to New York City passing building codes to promote safety and health.



## Muckrakers and Their Influences



- Problem – governments had become corrupt with political machines.
- Boss Tweed and other corrupt government officials went to jail for corruption.

## • Thomas Nast

- Political Cartoonist who exposed the corruption of NYC's Tammany Hall led by Boss Tweed.



**Boss Tweed ran NYC's most powerful political machine**

## Muckrakers and Their Influences



### • Ida Tarbell

- exposed Standard Oil's ruthless business tactics of forcing others out of business and thereby creating a monopoly.



- Problem – trusts and monopolies had an unfair advantage among businesses.
- Government passed **Sherman Anti-Trust Act** outlawing monopolies.

## Muckrakers and Their Influences

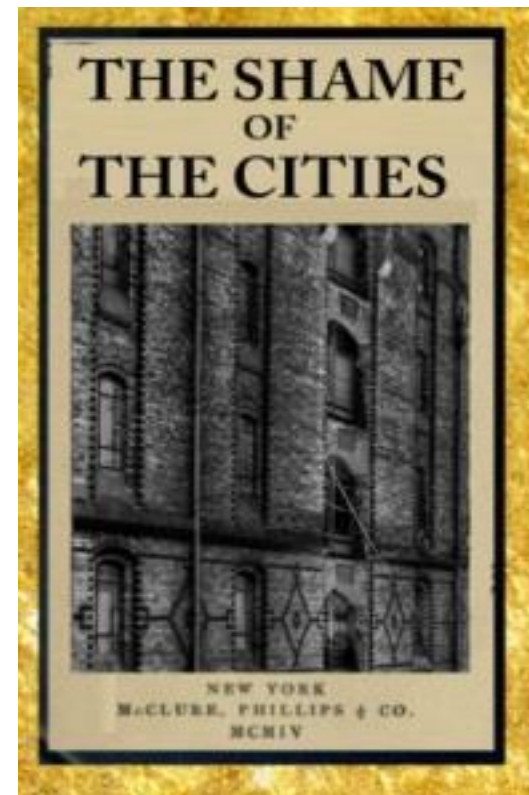


- Problem – city and state leaders were often corrupt, took bribes or broke the law.



### • Lincoln Steffens

- Writer who exposed corruption in city and state governments in his book, "The Shame of the Cities".

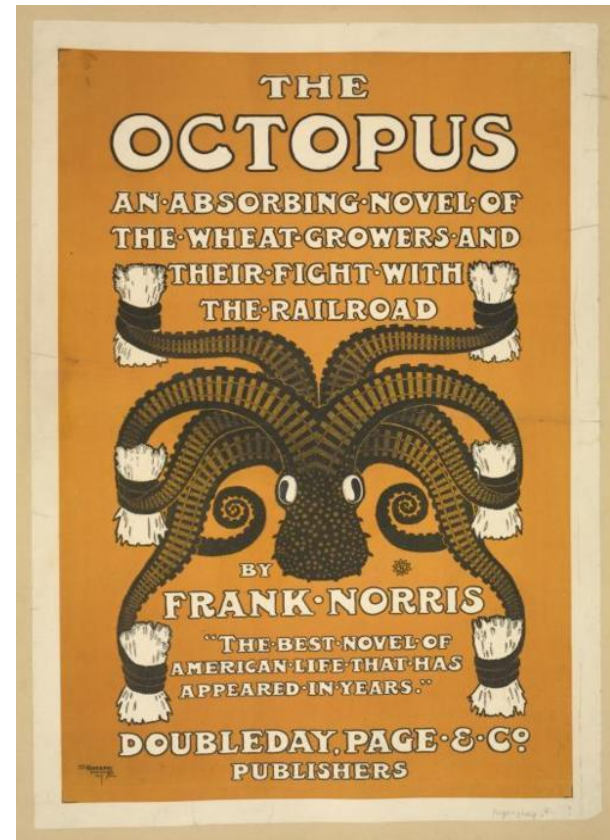


## Muckrakers and Their Influences



- Problem – railroads were charging farmers more than their crops were often worth to ship them to market.

- **Frank Norris**
  - pointed out the stranglehold the railroads had on California farmers in his book **“The Octopus”** .



# Reformers

- Progressives were so upset by the evils that had fallen on the American public thanks to the Industrial Revolution they began demanding reforms.
- Reforms were based on the idea that Society can be made better.
- **Social Reformers** attempted to help solve the problems that faced the American society.
- **Municipal Reformers** focused their attention on solving problems at the city government level.
- **State Government Reformers** to free states from corruption and influence of big business.



# Social Reformers

## Jane Addams

- Founded a settlement house called **Hull House** to **help immigrants and needy** find a place to live, jobs, or get an education.
- Beginning of social services like Youth Shelter, Food Bank, or Roxanne's House



Exterior of Hull-House

# Social Reformers

## W.E.B. DuBois

- Help found the NAACP to help African Americans gain civil rights.
- First African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard.
- W.E.B. felt African Americans should achieve immediate racial equality and supported open protests.
- He often disagreed with another Civil Rights pioneer Booker T.



# Social Reformers

## Booker T. Washington

- Booker agreed with W.E.B. that African Americans should seek their civil rights, but he disagreed on how they should achieve those rights.
- He argued that African Americans should gain equality by focusing on job training, not by demanding.



*"Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work."*

*Booker T. Washington*

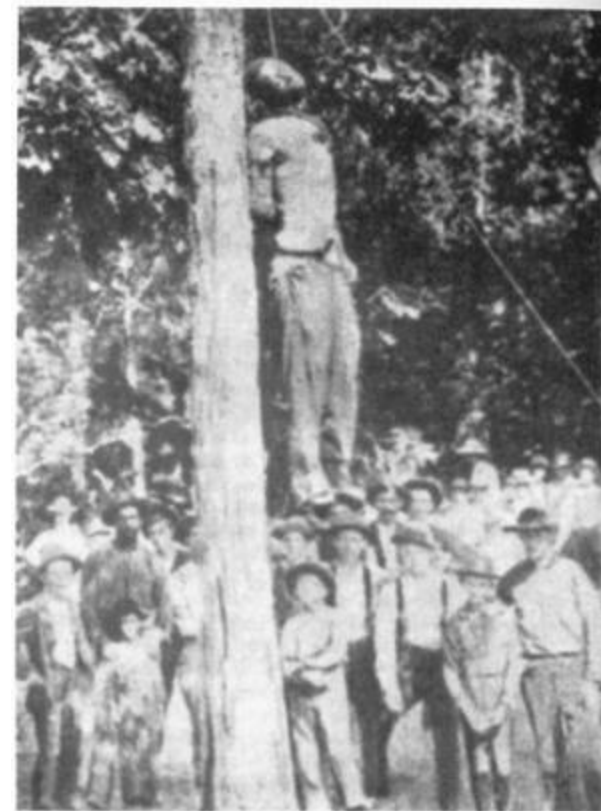
*"Associate yourself with people of good quality, for it is better to be alone than in bad company."*

*Booker T. Washington*

# Social Reformers

## Ida B. Wells

- Lynching (murder by hanging) was a common tactic used to intimidate African Americans, especially in the South.
- After 3 of her friends were wrongfully lynched for crimes they didn't commit, she started a national anti-lynching campaign.



# Social Reformers

## Anti-Defamation League

- Jewish organization opposed to religious prejudice.





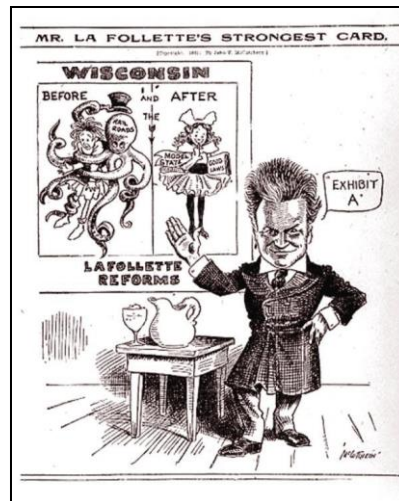
# Municipal Reforms

- Some Progressives focused on the abuses found at the **Municipal**, or city level of government.
- Progressives wanted to limit the control of 'political machines' and get rid of corruption and inefficient government.
- They wanted to replace the 'bosses' & 'machines' with real public servants.
- Reformers wanted to expand city services to deal with overcrowding, fire hazards, and sanitation issues.



# Reforming State Governments

- At the state level, several Progressive governors took steps to limit corruption and the influence of big business.
- **Robert LaFollette** the Progressive governor of Wisconsin's and **Theodore Roosevelt** of New York both took steps to limit the powers of big business within their states.



# Political Reforms

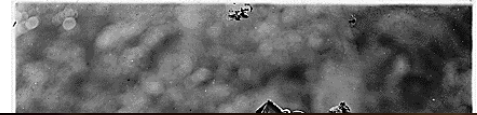
To give people more power, a direct voice in the government, and make it more responsive to the people.  
Progressives passed several laws.

- **Secret Ballot** – to keep people from being intimidated to vote a certain way.
- **Initiative** – voters could introduce bills themselves.
- **Referendum** – voters could force legislators to place a bill on the ballot to be voted on.
- **Recall** – elected officials could be removed from office by voters in a special election.
- **Direct Election of Senators** – 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
Senators are elected by the people of a state.



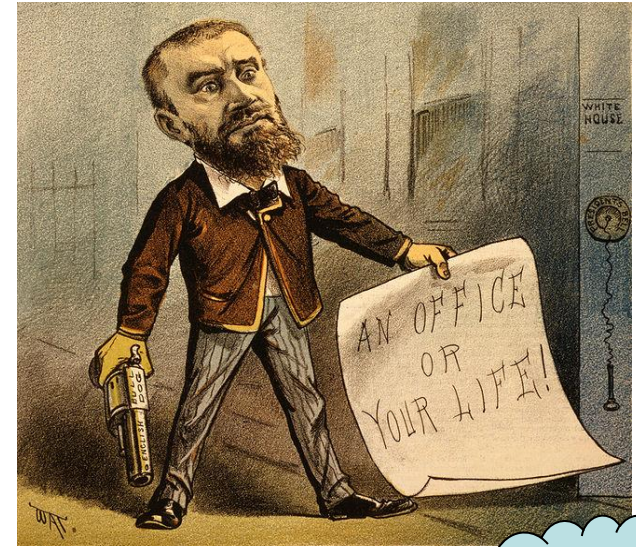
# Social Legislation

- States also passed laws to overcome some of the worst effects of industrialization.
- Abolishing child labor and improving the working conditions in the factories.
- New regulations concerning the construction and safety of urban housing.



# Civil Service Reform

- Much of the corruption in government could be traced to the **'spoils system'**.
- **This gave government jobs as rewards to those who helped get a candidate elected.**
- These people were often not qualified for the job.
- When Pres. Garfield was assassinated by an office-seeker, Congress decided it was time to act.



**Pres. McKinley  
gets cap ped**

# Civil Service Reform

- **Pendleton Act (1883)** passed by Congress created the **Civil Service Commission**.
- **This commission gave exams that selected government appointees based on merit, not on who they knew.**
- **Helped to rid government of corruption and made it more efficient.**



**Spoils System**



**Pendleton Act**



**Civil Service Reform**

# The Progressive Presidents



**Teddy  
Roosevelt**

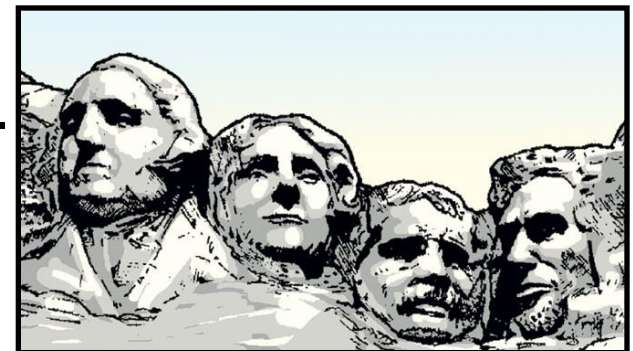
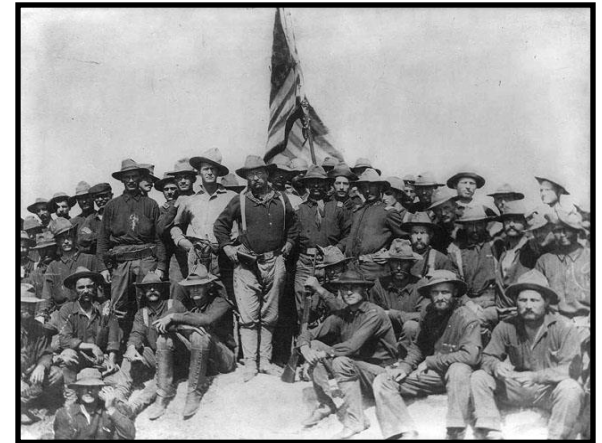
**Woodrow  
Wilson**

**William  
Howard Taft**

# Theodore Roosevelt

1901 – 1909

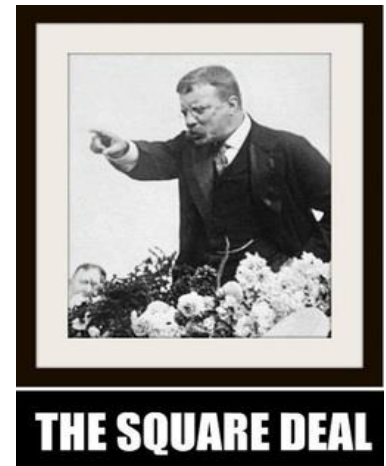
- **Teddy Roosevelt** came from a rich family, but had grown up a sickly child.
- Teddy overcame his illness by being actively involved in sports and hunting.
- His accomplishments included:
  - New York City Police Commissioner
  - Rancher in the Dakotas
  - Officer in the Spanish American War
  - Governor of New York
- He became President with the assassination of Pres. William McKinley.



# Theodore Roosevelt

1901 – 1909

- His economic agenda was called the **Square Deal**.



- Under the Square Deal he launched new laws to protect the consumer's health from false advertising:

- Meat Inspection Act (1906)
- Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)
- Increased powers of the I.C.C. to regulate railroads, telephones, and the telegraph.



A good example of how dangerous drugs were marketed to the public is the fact that Coca-Cola contained excessive amounts of cocaine.

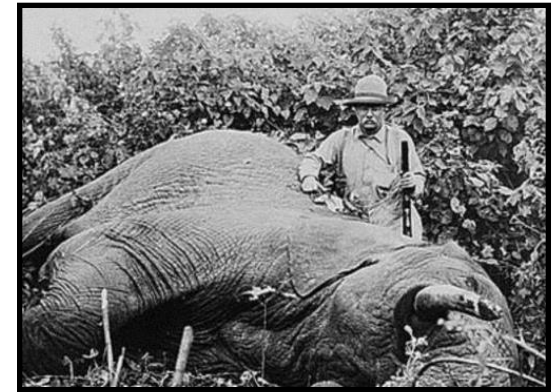
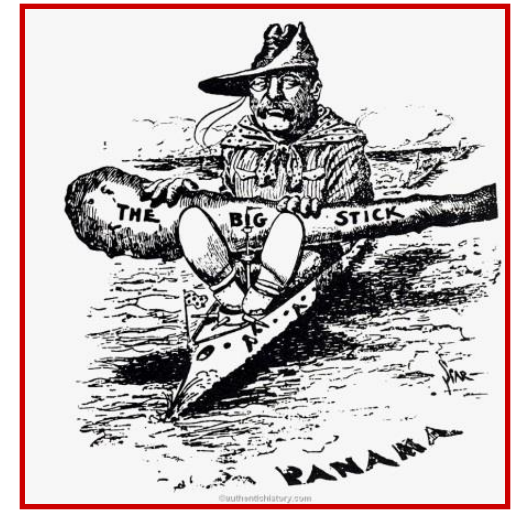
The government finally forced it to change its active ingredient from cocaine to caffeine.



# Theodore Roosevelt

1901 – 1909

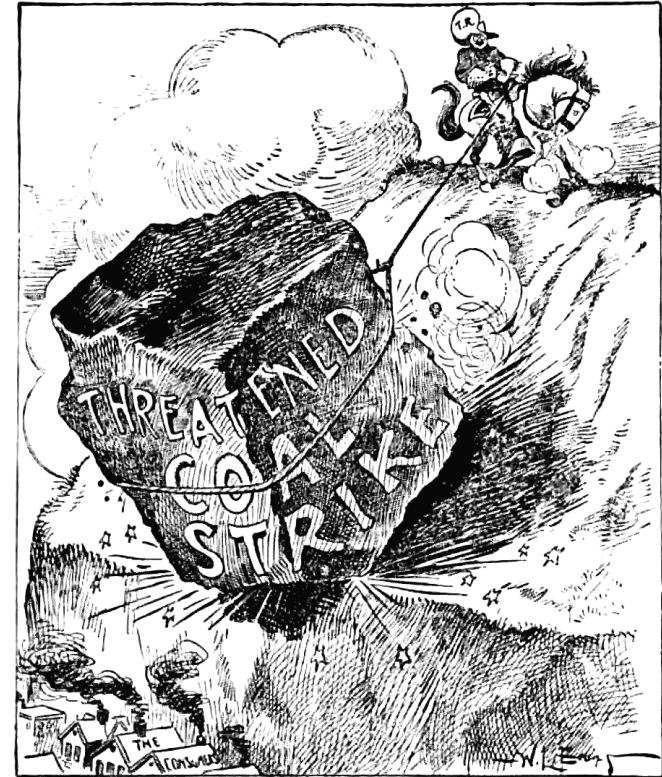
- Roosevelt's motto was:
  - “Speak softly, but carry a big stick”
- He was a big game hunter but, conservation of natural resources was important.
- Roosevelt had stopped the government from selling off public lands and added millions of acres to the national parks and forests to be saved from development.



# Theodore Roosevelt

1901 – 1909

- The Coal Miners Strike (1902) proved he was willing to use the power of the federal government to protect the public interests.
- When the coal miners and the mine owners could not agree on a settlement, a strike looked near.
- Roosevelt stepped in and threatened to use the military to keep the mines running for the good of the nation.
- Problem solved!



A NEW TASK FOR THE ROUGH RIDER  
(In the spring of 1906 a threatened coal strike engaged the attention of the President.)  
From the *Leader* (Cleveland)

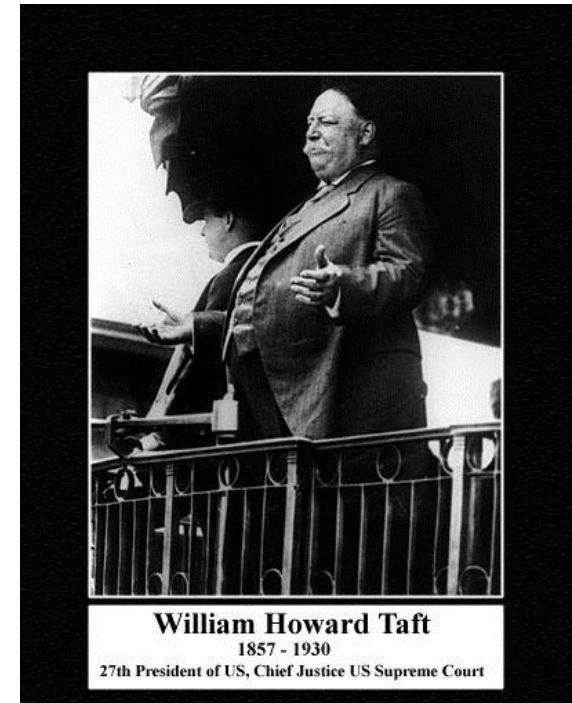


# William Howard Taft

1909 - 1912

## From Teddy to Taft

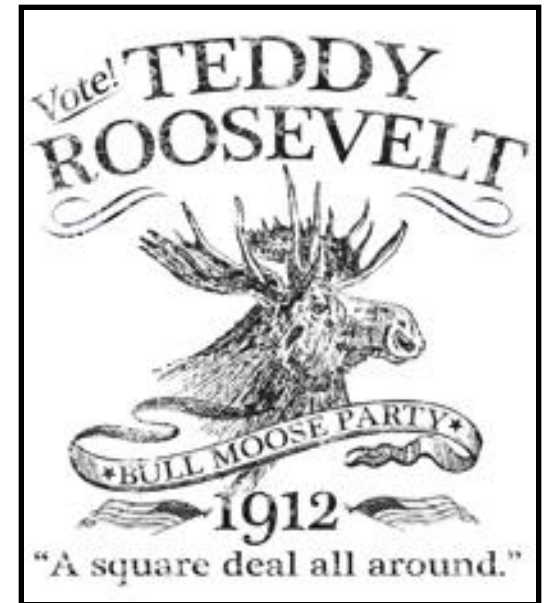
- Roosevelt served two terms as President before he decided not to run for a third time. (no one had ever ran 3 times)
- He supported his Vice-President **William Howard Taft** as the Republican nominee for President.
- Taft won the election of 1908 and continued with Roosevelt's Progressive policies, for a while.



# William Howard Taft

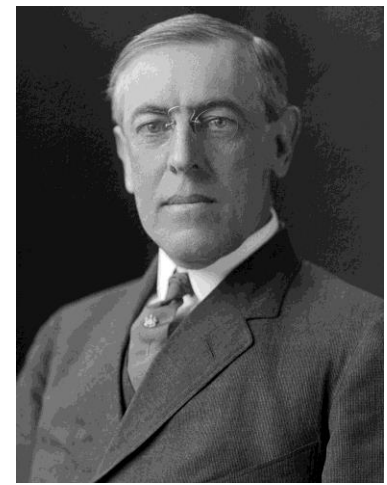
1909 - 1912

- Roosevelt supported Pres. Taft, until Taft began doing things not considered to be a part of the Progressive agenda, Roosevelt became angry at Taft.
- Taft was nominated for President again in 1912, but Teddy decided to run against him.
- Roosevelt started his own third party called the **Bull Moose Party**.
- But, neither Taft nor Roosevelt would win in 1912.

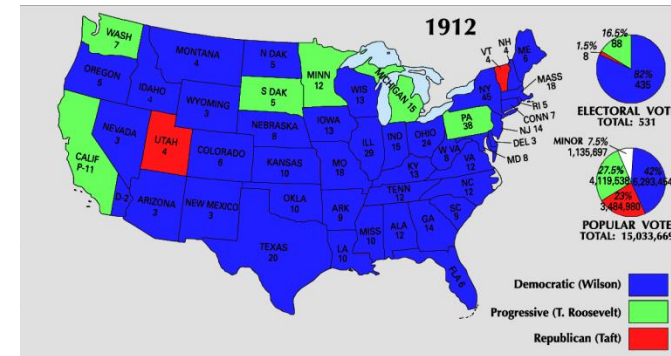


# Woodrow Wilson

1912 - 1916



- The split between Roosevelt and Taft allowed the Democratic nominee **Woodrow Wilson** to win the 1912 Presidential election.
- Wilson's economic agenda was called the "**New Freedom**".
- Pres. Wilson felt like Roosevelt:
  - Big business needed to be tamed
  - Trusts should be broken up
  - Banking system needed fixed
  - Tariffs only benefitted the rich



16th  
Amendment

# Woodrow Wilson's New Freedom Legislation

- Underwood Tariff –
  - A tariff is a tax on imports.
  - Wilson felt tariffs benefitted the rich and he lowered the tariffs.
  - To make up for lost revenue (\$) he introduced America's first income tax.
- Graduated Income Tax –
  - Means that rich taxpayers are taxed at a higher rate
  - 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave Congress power to tax a persons income.



IRS

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

# Woodrow Wilson's New Freedom Legislation



- Federal Reserve Act –
  - Reformed the banking industry.
  - Federal Reserve Bank serves as a bankers bank, where they borrow their money.
  - Fed's control interest rates and the amount of money a bank can loan.
- Antitrust Legislation –
  - Clayton Antitrust Act gave government more power to regulate unfair business practices.
  - Federal Trade Commission protects consumers against unfair business practices by corporations.

# Progressive Era and Labor

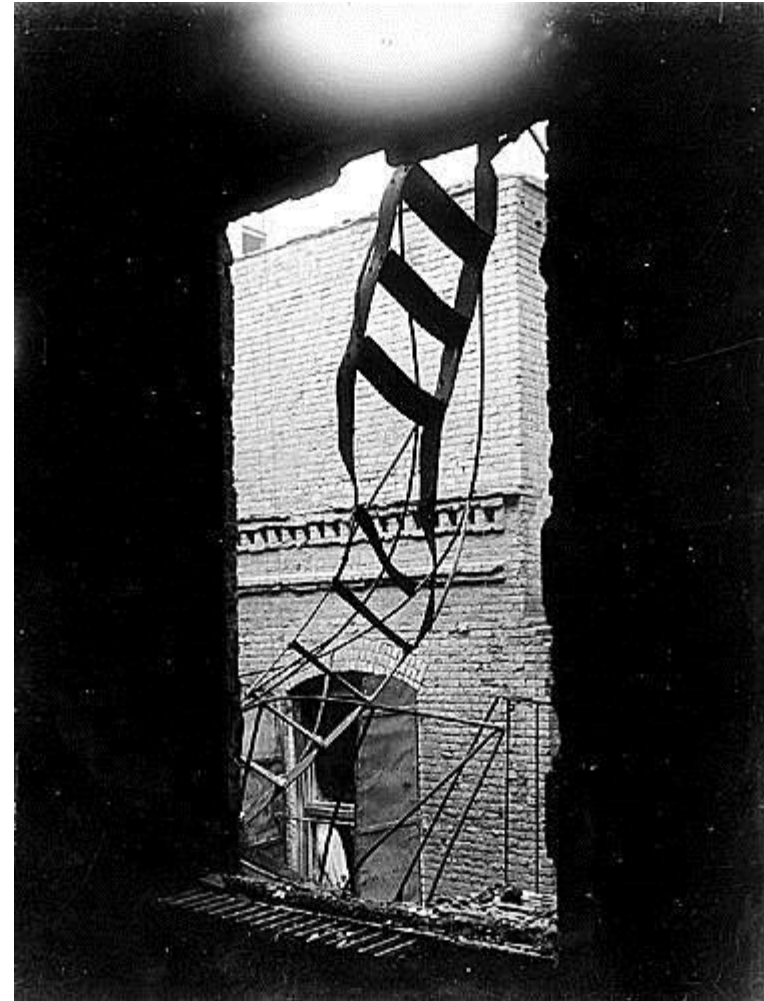
- During the Progressive Era, public attitude towards labor unions began to change.
- The violence that had become associated with the labor unions caused a loss of public support for unions.
- The government often had to use the military against the union protests.
- All this would soon change!



# Progressive Era and Labor

## Triangle Shirtwaist Factory

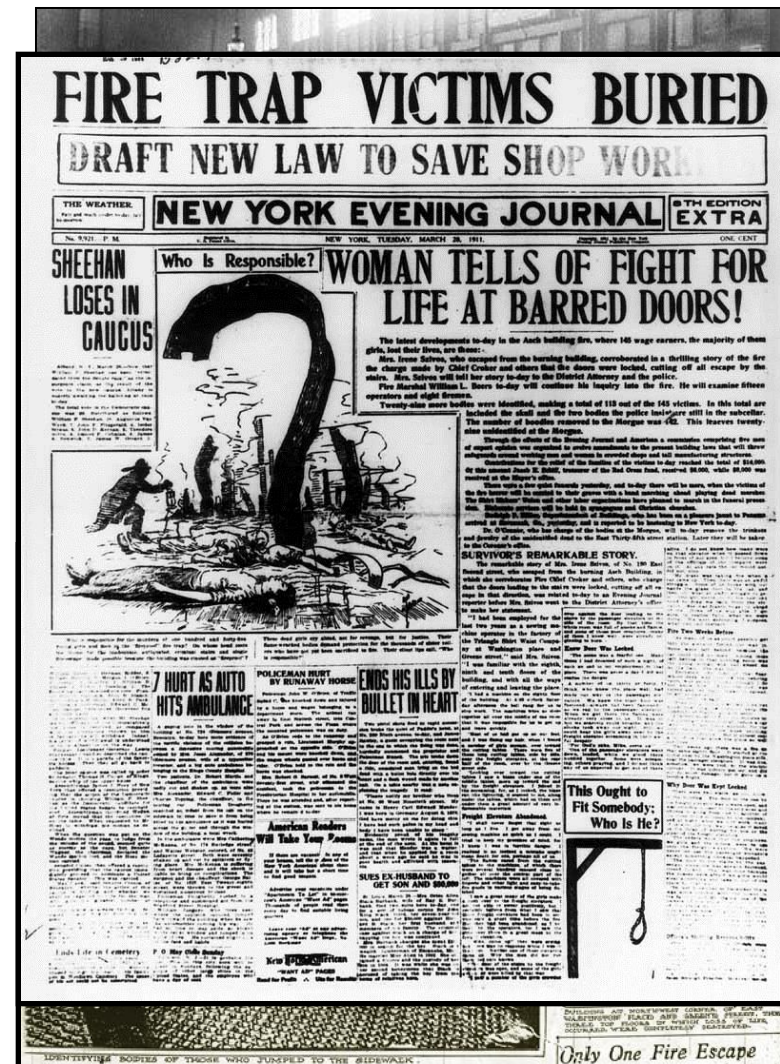
- In 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory caught fire and the public's attention.
- Immigrant women and girls worked on the upper floor in a sweatshop making clothing.
- Fire spread rapidly and to make matters worse:
  - the doors were bolted shut,
  - the sprinkler system failed,
  - the fire escape was faulty.



# Progressive Era and Labor

## Triangle Shirtwaist Factory

- The fire department arrived but not in time to save the girls from either dying in the fire or jumping to their death on the street below.
- In all 146 people died due to conditions in the factory.
- Soon after the tragedy, the Congress would pass laws sympathetic to union and called for safer conditions.





# Effects of Triangle Fire

- Department of Labor (1913) – Congress created a Cabinet post to study the problems of labor & to
  - “promote the welfare of working people and improve their working conditions”.
- Clayton Anti-trust Act (1914) – prevented courts from restricting activities of unions.
- Child Labor Act (1916) – Prohibited sale of goods made by child labor.



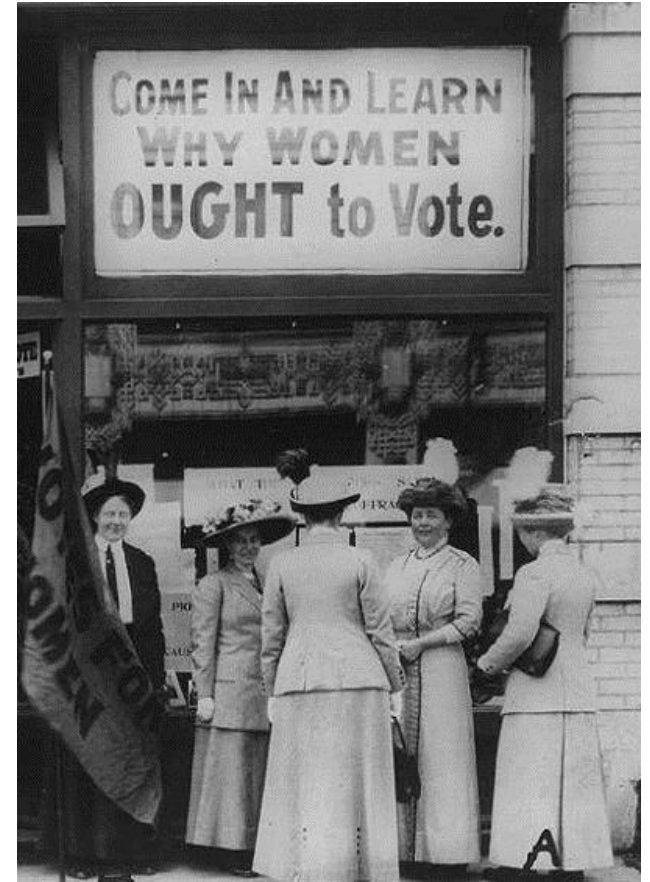
The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 established a minimum wage and limited the age of child laborers to 16 and over, 18 for hazardous occupations.

# Women's Suffrage Movement

- In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the United States was a 'patriarchal' society – men held the positions of authority and women were considered inferior.
- Women lacked the right to vote, to serve on juries, or to hold public office.
- They were excluded from public life and were left in charge of the home and children.
- In most states, once a woman married, she lost control of her property and wages to her husband.

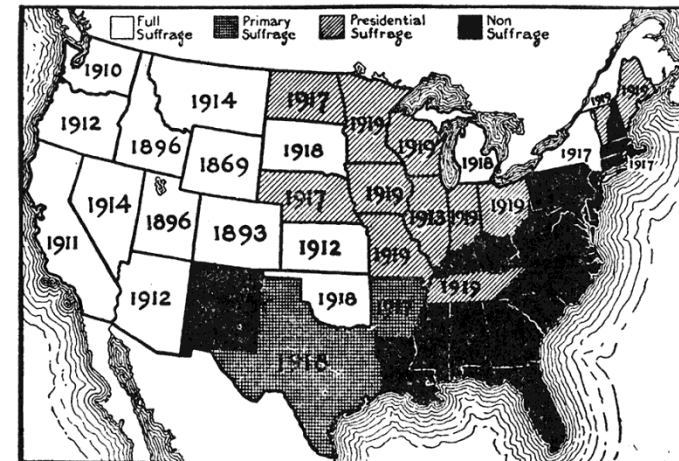
# Women's Suffrage Movement

- By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some women began to organize to gain more rights.
- In 1848, they held a convention at Seneca Falls, New York.
- The convention passed a resolution that paraphrased the Declaration of Independence.
- It proclaimed that women were equal to men and deserved the right to vote, or suffrage.



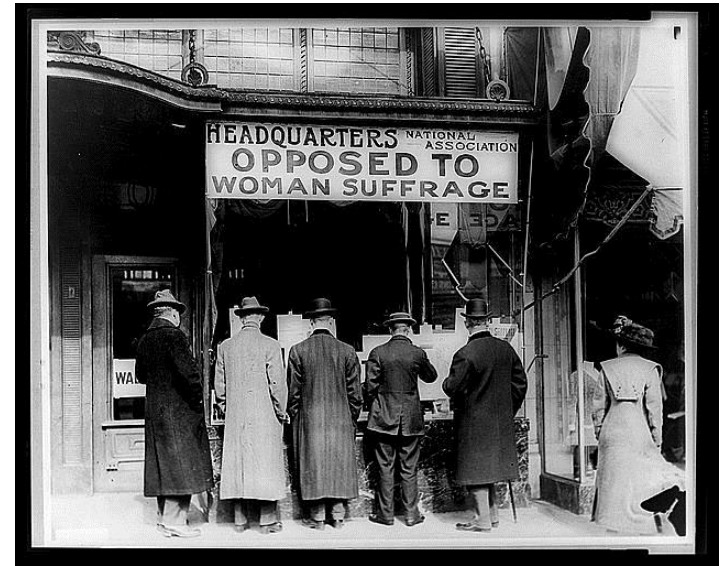
# Susan B. Anthony

- In 1872, **Susan B. Anthony** attempted to vote, exercising her 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment right.
- But, a judge refused to grant her the right to vote.
- In 1874, the Supreme Court ruled that women were citizens, but they couldn't vote, because voting was not a 'privilege' of citizenship.
- The Suffragettes were able to obtain suffrage for women living in the western states.



# Women's Suffrage Movement

- But, Susan was unable to succeed in introducing a constitutional amendment requiring all states to give women suffrage.
- By 1890 several women's suffrage groups joined together to form the National American Women Suffrage Assn.
- This group was led by reformers:
  - **Susan B. Anthony**
  - **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**



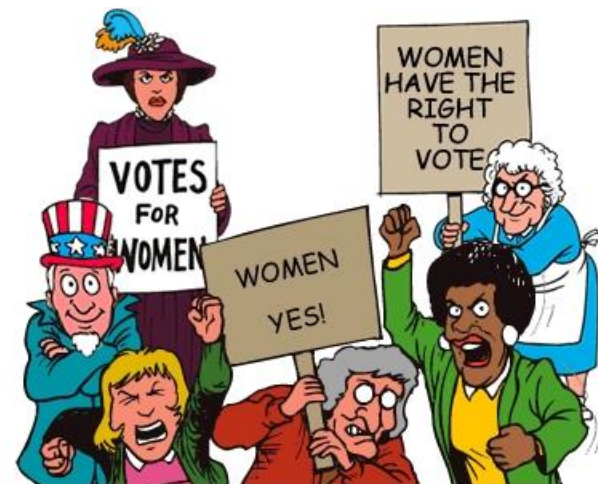
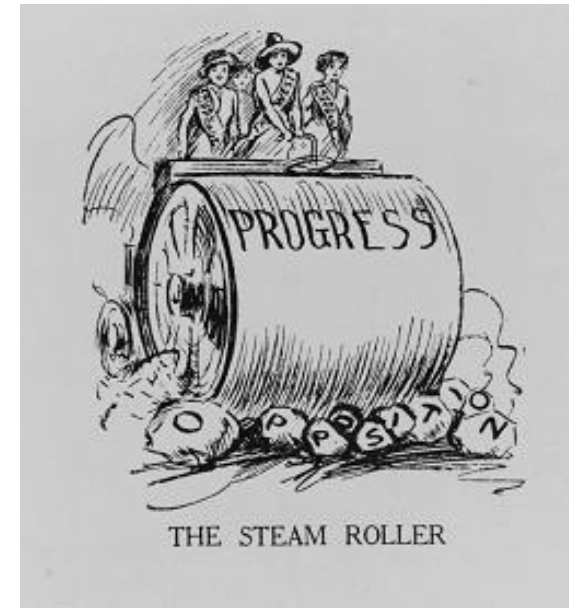
# Nineteenth Amendment

- During World War I, women had taking the place of the fighting man in the work place.
- As women stepped up to meet the challenges of war, it became hard to deny them suffrage.
- As a result of World War I and women's involvement the U.S. Congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment stated that no state could deny a citizen the right to vote based on their sex.



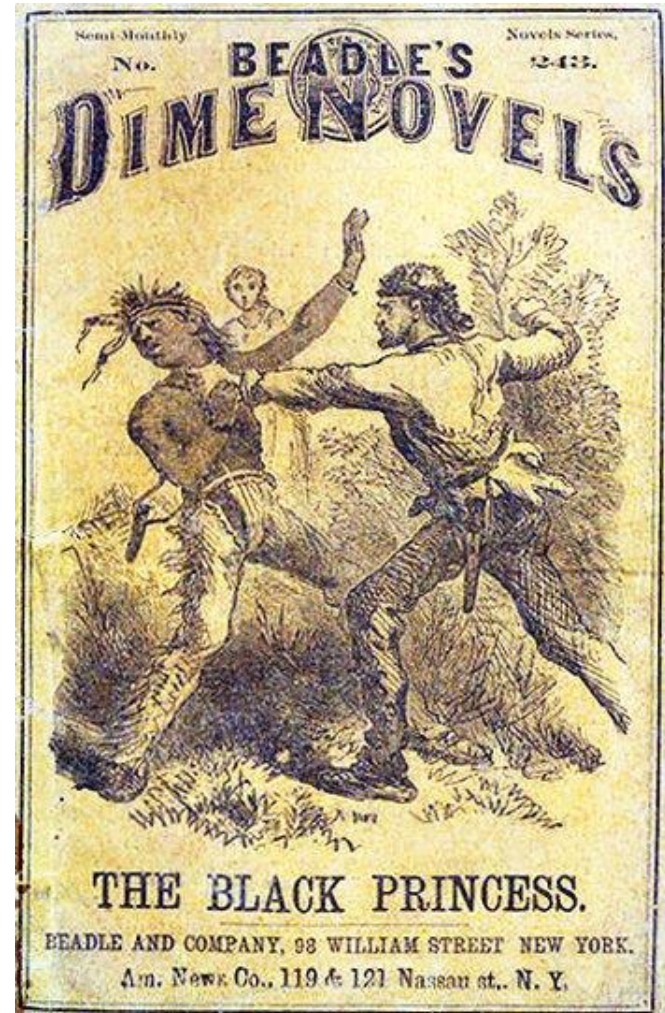
# Impact of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was a step forward in making the USA a true democracy – a system of government by the people.
- It did not lead to dramatic changes in our political system, as women did not sweep men out of public office.
- Even today many women face discrimination and are paid less



# American Literature and Art

- The late 19<sup>th</sup> century was one of the most fertile period of American literature.
- As industrialization increased the U.S. grew, so did the middle class as did their literacy rate.
- Newspapers, magazines, and 'dime' novels created a market for literary works.



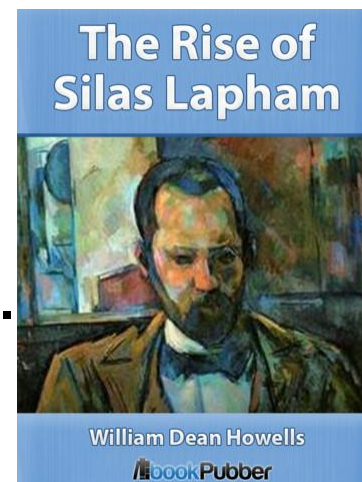
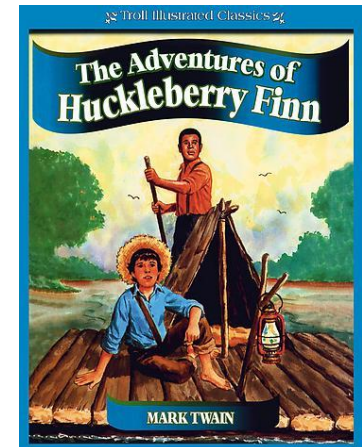


# American Literature and Art

- Improvements in transportation and communications made it easier to travel and to share experiences.
- American writers were strongly influenced by European novelists.
- **Realism** – showing things the way they really were!
- Showed the impact of industrialization and social change on people.
- Realists described life with as much detail as they could.

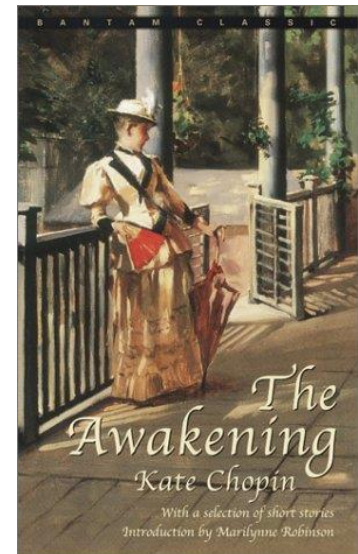
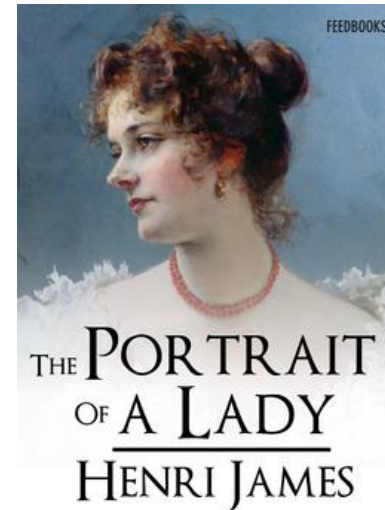
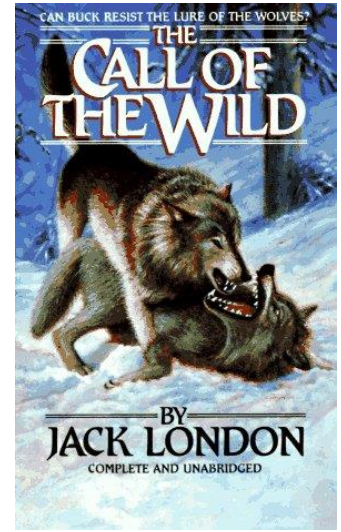
# Writers and Their Literature

- **Horatio Alger** – famous for his ‘Ragged Dick’ novels about a poor boy who improves his life by hard work.
- **Mark Twain** – Civil War era novels discuss slavery and society. Books like Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.
- **William Dean Howells** – magazine editor who describes struggles of the ‘new’ rich to find acceptance in established society.



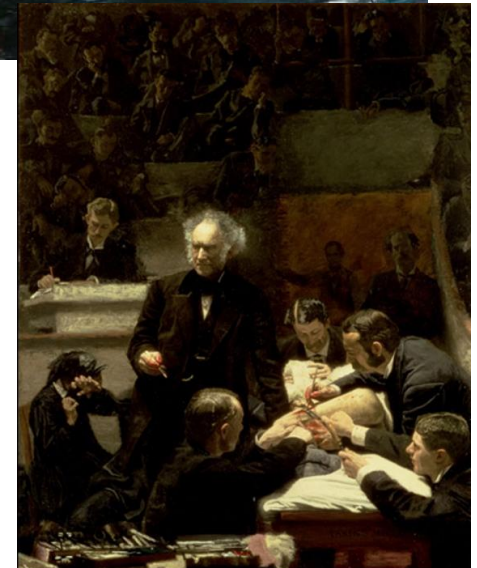
# Writers and Their Literature

- **Jack London** – ‘The Call of the Wild’, deals with conflict between civilization and nature.
- **Henry James** – ‘The Portrait of a Lady’ about the wealthy upper class and difference between America and Europe.
- **Kate Chopin** – scandalous book about love, passion, & suicide.



# Art in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America

- **James McNeil Whistler** – famous for paintings of his mother, ‘Whistler’s Mother’.
- **Winslow Homer** – famous for scenes of the sea, boats, and coastlines.
- **Thomas Eakins** – portraits of the arts, sciences, and medicine



Thomas Eakins, "The Gross Clinic", 1875. Photo: Courtesy of the Philadelphia Museum of Art

# Art in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America

- **Henry Ossawa Tanner** – early African American painter focused on everyday scenes.
- **Frederick Remington** – painted and sculpted cowboys, Indians, and romanticized views of the Western frontier.
- **Charles Russell** - painted and sculpted cowboys, Indians, and romanticized views of the Western frontier.

