The Progressive Era

The Drive For Reform
1890 to 1917

“Progressives were reformers who attempted to solve problems caused by industry, growth of cities and laissez faire.”
Progressives were:

- White Protestants
- Middle class and native born.
- College Educated Professionals
  - Social workers
  - Scholars
  - Politicians
  - Preachers
  - Teachers
  - Writers
Progressive Presidents

• Theodore Roosevelt
  1901 to 1909

• William Howard Taft
  1909 to 1913

• Woodrow Wilson
  1913 to 1921
Progressive Beliefs

- Move away from laissez faire with government regulating industry
- Make US government responsive to the people (voting)
- Limit power of the political bosses.
- Improve worker’s rights, conditions for poor and immigrants
  - Clean up the cities
- End segregation and Jim Crow
Populists vs Progressives

- Populists---rural
- Progressives---cities

- Populists were poor and uneducated
- Progressives were middle-class and educated.

- Populists were too radical
- Progressives stayed political mainstream.

- Populists failed
- Progressives succeeded
Areas to Reform

Social Justice

Political Democracy

Economic Equality

Conservation
Social Justice

Improve working conditions in industry, regulate unfair business practices, eliminate child labor, help immigrants and the poor.
Political Democracy
Give the government back to the people, get more people voting and end corruption with political machines.
Economic Justice

• Fairness and opportunity in the work world, regulate unfair trusts and bring about changes in labor.

• Demonstrate to the common people that U.S. Government is in charge and not the industrialists.
CONSERVATION

Preserve natural resources and the environment
Journalists and MUCKRAKERS

• Muckrakers were journalists and photographers who exposed the abuses of wealth and power.

• They felt it was their job to write and expose corruption in industry, cities and government.

Progressives exposed corruption but offered no solutions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muckraker</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Results</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Nast</td>
<td>Political Cartoons</td>
<td>Political corruption by NYC's political machine, Tammany Hall, led by Boss Tweed.</td>
<td>Tweed was convicted of embezzlement and died in prison.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Riis</td>
<td><em>How the Other Half Lives</em> (1890)</td>
<td>Living conditions of the urban poor; focused on tenements.</td>
<td>NYC passed building codes to promote safety and health.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>The Bitter Cry of the Children</em></td>
<td>Child labor in the factories and education for children.</td>
<td>Ending child labor and increased enrollment in schooling.</td>
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<td>John Spargo</td>
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<td>Upton Sinclair</td>
<td><em>The Jungle</em> (1906)</td>
<td>Investigated dangerous working conditions and unsanitary procedures in the meat-packing industry.</td>
<td>In 1906 the Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act were passed</td>
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<td>Frank Norris</td>
<td><em>The Octopus</em> (1901)</td>
<td>This fictional book exposed monopolistic railroad practices in California.</td>
<td>In <em>Northern Securities v. U.S.</em> (1904), the holding company controlling railroads in the Northwest was broken up.</td>
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Upton Sinclair's, *The Jungle*, exposed the filthy, unsanitary working conditions and corruption in a meatpacking company in Chicago.
President Roosevelt proposed legislation to clean up the meatpacking industry after reading The Jungle.

- Food and Drug Act
- Meat Inspection Act
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<th>The Charity Organization Movement</th>
<th>The Social Gospel Movement</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Decided who was worthy of help</td>
<td>• Sought to apply the gospel teachings of Christ. Preached salvation through service to poor</td>
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<td>• Wanted immigrants to adopt American, middle-class standards.</td>
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<td>• Offered charity and justice to society’s problems.</td>
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<th>The Settlement Movement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Social welfare reformers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>work to relieve urban poverty</td>
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• Moved into poor communities
• Their *settlement houses* served as community centers and social service agencies.
• **Hull House**, founded by Jane Addams, a model settlement house in Chicago, offered cultural events, classes, childcare, employment assistance, and health-care clinics.
Jane Addams
Settlement House

RUN BY COLLEGE EDUCATED WOMEN

- provide educational, cultural, social services
- send visiting nurses to the sick
- help with personal, job, financial problems
Protecting Children

- Many Progressives fought to end child labor.

- **Florence Kelley** = lawyer, helped form the National Child Labor Committee which formed the U.S. Children’s Bureau in 1912.

- Progressives also fought to better educate children. (John Dewey)
WE ask for justice
WE Want to Go to School
More School, Less Hospital
WE ARE protected by a tariff.
Protecting Industrial Workers

- In the early 1900s, the U.S. had the most industrial accidents in the world.

- March 1911 = Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in NYC. Killed 146 workers.

- Outrage over the fire caused many progressives to fight for safer workplaces, workers compensation laws and 10 hour workdays.
1900 Galveston, TX Hurricane

- Killed more than 8,000.
- Left entire city in ruins
- As a result, the city put in place a new mayor and a five person commission to run the town.
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<tr>
<th>City Commissioner Plan</th>
<th>Cities hired experts in different fields to run a single aspect of city government. For example, the sanitation commissioner would be in charge of garbage and sewage removal.</th>
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<td>City Manager Plan</td>
<td>A professional city manager is hired to run each department of the city and report directly to the city council.</td>
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# Election / State Reforms

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<th><strong>Recall</strong></th>
<th>Allows voters to petition to have an elected representative removed from office.</th>
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<td><strong>Initiative</strong></td>
<td>Allows voters to petition state legislatures in order to consider a bill desired by citizens.</td>
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<td><strong>Referendum</strong></td>
<td>Allows voters to decide if a bill or proposed amendment should be passed.</td>
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<td><strong>Secret Ballot</strong></td>
<td>Privacy at the ballot box ensures that citizens can cast votes without party bosses knowing how they voted.</td>
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<td><strong>Direct Primary</strong></td>
<td>Ensures that voters select candidates to run for office, rather than party bosses.</td>
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Progressive Governors

Hiram Johnson---Governor of Calif.
- Worker’s compensation
- State insurance supported workers injured on the job.

Robert La Follette---Gov. of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Idea = La Follette Plan
- Taxes on incomes and corporations