

## Chapter 18: The Age of Reform

### "Journal Question"

1. What are the 2 biggest issues facing America today?

- GRAFI

- Most progressives were native born, middle/upper class, and college educated
- "sense of responsibility"

### Women and Progressivism

- Women drawn to movement
- Wanted to influence politics
- More women were going to college
- Desire to earn right to vote

#### Progressive Issues:

1. Workplace hours and safety--wanted 8 hour workday
2. Limit monopolies
3. End child labor
4. Minimum wage
5. Stop corrupt politicians
6. Stop social injustice (help the helpless)



Muckraking: when a member of the media "rakes" up "muck"

- Investigative journalism
- Expose the filth in business, politics, and society
- 1902: Ida Tarbell ran "History of the Standard Oil Company"
- 1906: Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle"



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Journal Question #2

**What does it mean to be PROGRESSIVE? What do you want to do if you are progressive?**

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## Section 2: Reforming the New Industrial World

### Reforming the Workplace

- 1910: avg. man worked 10 hrs/day, 6 days/week, \$1.50/day
- Women and children made less
- Female "**pieceworkers**" could be penalized for working too fast
- Women and children had nobody to help them
- By 1912 most states banned children from working over 10 hour shifts or overnight
- Some states required children to read/write before they could work
- 1938: Fair Labor Standards Act: created 1st minimum wage (40 cents per hour) and banned dangerous child labor

## The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire

- 1911
- NYC
- 500 workers (mostly Jewish & Italian women) in 10 story building
- Fire started in rag bin
- Owners kept doors locked
- 60 workers were jumping from windows
- 140 total workers died
- Angered most Americans
- Led to demand to improve safety for workers

## Progressivism and the Supreme Court

Muller v. Oregon: 1908: SC ruled that workers cannot be forced to work long hours b/c it is unsafe

## Labor Unions

- Labor union: group of workers that fight for rights of workers
  - Closed Shop: a workplace that requires all workers to join a union
  - From 1900-1920: union membership jumped from 1 million to 5 million workers
- American Federation of Labor (AFL)
  - Largest labor union
  - Only allowed skilled workers
- International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)
  - Immigrant women in sewing shops
  - Nov. 1909: "Uprising of 20,000"
    - Got pay raises and reduced hours for women in sewing shops
- Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)
  - Opened up to unskilled workers, African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics
  - Led violent protests against capitalism
  - Supported socialism



## Section 3: Reforming Society

### Reforming City Life

- Progressives wanted to clean up tenements & slums
- A beautiful city makes better citizens (HOW?)
- NY in 1901: **Tenement House Act**
  - New buildings had to have an open courtyard
  - One bathroom for every apartment
- MA in 1908: required all cities with over 10,000 to vote for a park
- Some opposed the idea of public parks for poor--causes crime



Moral Reform: desire to clean up "immoral behavior"

**Prohibition:** ban on making, sale, and transportation of alcohol

- Anti-Saloon League: members spread the word that alcohol was the "parent of crimes and mother of sins"
- Woman's Christian Temperance Union: led national push for "temperance" (act of self-restraint)
- 18th Amendment: proposal to ban sale, making, and transportation of alcohol nationwide
  - Passed in 1919
  - Very unpopular and hard to enforce
  - **Much more to come on this next week**
- Progressives even hit our movie theatres saying movies were too "steamy"--wanted them censored



## Progressivism & Racial Discrimination

- **W.E.B. DuBois:** raised in MA w/ white & black kids
  - Well-educated; 1st black man to become Doctor from Harvard
  - Became a professor
  - Became vocal advocate of civil rights
  - Argued blacks should go to college
    - \$ was the only way to make someone equal
- Helped create **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**
  - Filed lawsuits to help black citizens
- **National Urban League:** created in 1911
  - Helped blacks find better jobs and homes in cities



## Immigrants & Assimilation

- **Americanization:** how we made foreign-born people citizens
  - Assimilation: making outsiders act and look like everyone else (MELTING POT)
  - Taught them English, US history, and Christianity





