

MR. PRESIDENT  
HOW LONG  
MUST  
WOMEN WAIT  
FOR LIBERTY

# The Progressive Era

Unit 1: The Gilded Age (1870-1920)

# Grassroots Movement

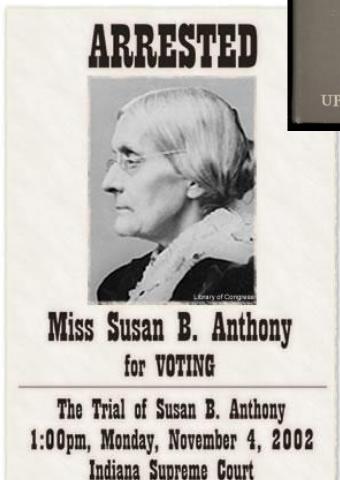
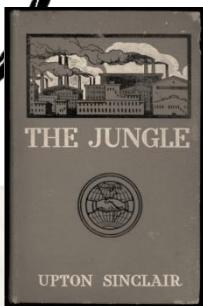
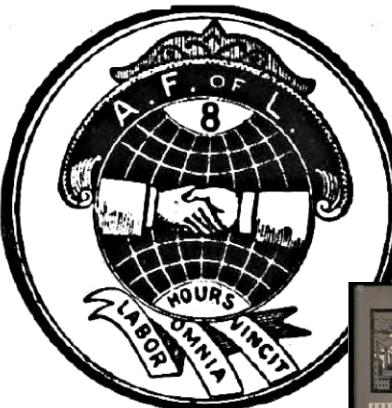
- Protecting social welfare to combat the harsh realities of industrial and urban life
- Promoting morality as a key to improving the lives of the poor
- Reforming the workplace to protect workers and regulating businesses to protect consumers
- Cleaning up corrupt state and local governments, giving citizens more voice in government



"WHAT AFTER ALL  
HAS MAINTAINED THE  
HUMAN RACE ON  
THIS OLD GLOBE DESPITE  
ALL THE CALAMITIES  
OF NATURE AND ALL  
THE TRAGIC FAILINGS  
OF MANKIND, IF NOT FAITH  
IN NEW POSSIBILITIES AND  
COURAGE TO ADVOCATE THEM."

JANE ADDAMS

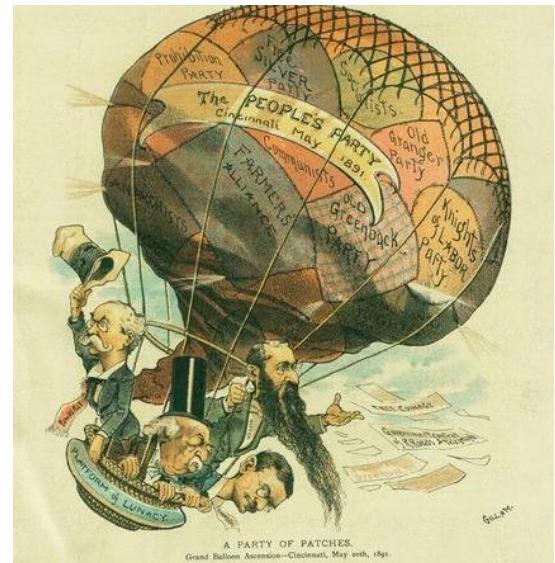
# Leaders and Groups



- Social Gospel and settlement house leaders like Jane Addams
- Prohibition groups like the Women's Christian Temperance Union
- Labor Unions like the American Federation of Labor and the Industrial Workers of the World
- Muckrakers like Upton Sinclair (*The Jungle*) and Jacob Riis (*How the Other Half Lives*)
- Reform mayors and governors like Robert M. La Follette
- Suffragettes like Susan B. Anthony

# Progressivism v. Populism

- Though the Populist movement died out with the loss of William J. Bryan to McKinley, many reform ideas were adopted by the Democratic Party
- The progressive movement was supported by both lower and middle classes, had better organization and leadership
- Reforms are resisted by conservative Republicans, but otherwise adopted by Moderate Republicans and Democrats



# Reforms Achieved

- Citizens gained the ability to propose and approve state or local laws. Through petition, an initiative can be placed on a ballot. The vote to approve the initiative is called a referendum.
- Recall elections gave citizens the ability to petition to force an official to run for re-election before the end of their term
- The 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave citizens direct election of senators. Before this, the selection of U.S. senators belonged to each state legislature.

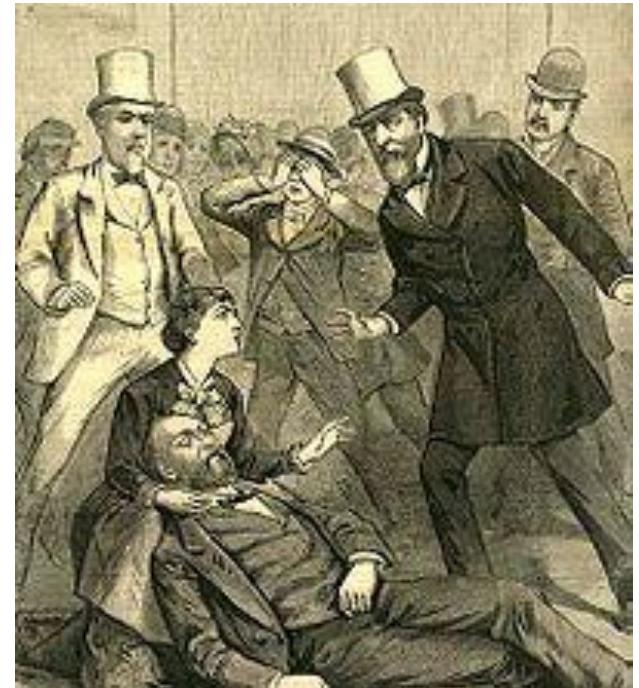
- Most states passed legislation to ban child labor and limit working hours for women to 10 hr/day



- Lead by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, supporters of prohibition succeeded in getting the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed to ban alcohol
- Support for women's suffrage was bolstered by participation on the home front in WWI, 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed when the war was over

# “Progressive” Presidents

- Some Gilded Age Presidents began to support a limited number of reforms
- Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, and Chester A. Arthur supported civil service to replace the patronage system
- Grover Cleveland tried to lower tariffs, but his efforts were blocked by Congress



# Teddy Roosevelt



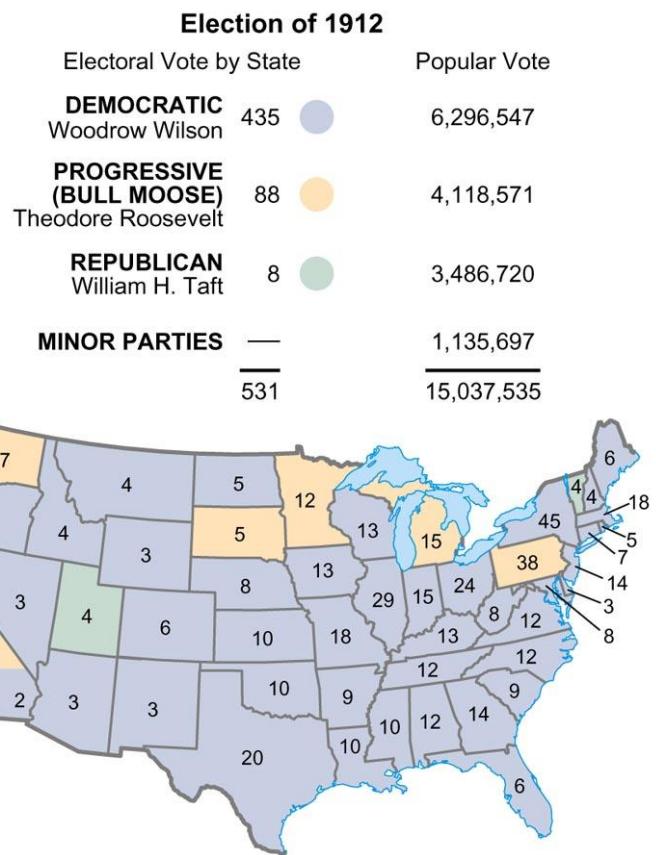
- Teddy Roosevelt used the presidency as a “bully pulpit” to influence the media and legislators to give the people a Square Deal.
- TR used the Sherman Antitrust Act to break up monopolies, mediated the 1902 coal strike, helped increase regulation of railroads, got the Meat Inspection and Pure Food and Drug Acts passed, and advocated for conservation of land and natural resources.

# TR and Taft

- His successor, William H. Taft, was even more aggressive with trustbusting than TR. He busted 90 trusts in four years.
- When Taft failed with tariff and conservation reform, TR decided to run for a third term in the next election.
- The Republican Party chose to keep Taft as the nominee, so TR broke off and formed the “Bull Moose” Progressive Party.



# Election of 1912



- The candidates all represented some degree of progressivism.
- The most progressive was labor leader Eugene V. Debs (Socialist), with TR (Bull Moose) and Woodrow Wilson (Democratic) agreeing on goals but differing on strategies.
- With the Republican Party vote split between Taft and TR, Wilson won easily.

# Woodrow Wilson

- Wilson's New Freedom attacked the "triple wall of privilege": trusts, tariffs, and high finance.
- The Clayton Antitrust Act closed loopholes in the Sherman Act, the FTC was created to act as a watchdog on corporations, tariffs were lowered for the first time since the Civil War, the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment instituted the progressive income tax, and the Federal Reserve System was created to regulate banks and currency.



# Limits on Progressivism

- Virtually no progress was made on Civil Rights during this time
- Labor Unions continued to struggle with legitimacy and fear of socialism
- World War I shifts focus away from domestic issues, protests are viewed as unpatriotic
- During the 1920s, the prohibition experiment failed miserably