Progressive Reforms

American History
Chapter 8
Facing a New Order

- Rapid Growth of American Cities 1870-1920
  - Tenements—Substandard Apartments
    - Located in the Inner Cities
    - Attracted Immigrants
  - Suburbs—Areas of Growth Around Cities
    - Mass Transportation (Cable and Trolley Cars, Subways)
  - Urbanization—Rapid Growth of Cities
Urban Growth in the U.S. 1870-1920
Growth of Cities

- Steam Power– Factories
  - Transportation
    - Railroad and Water Transportation
    - St. Louis, Chicago, New York
  - Jobs– Cities Attracted People
  - Immigration
    - 1880-1920– “Flood of Immigrants”
    - 25 Million Immigrants
Immigration and Ancestry

Figure 3. Largest Ancestry: 2000
(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, non-sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Ancestry with largest population in county
- African American
- Aleut/Eskimo
- American
- American Indian
- Dutch
- English
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Irish
- Italian
- Mexican
- Norwegian
- Puerto Rican
- Other

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation. American Factfinder at factfinder.census.gov provides census data and mapping tools.
Immigration 1880-1920

- Northern and Western Europe
  - Before 1890
    - England, Ireland, Germany, Scandinavia
    - Many Spoke English, Most Were Protestant
- Southern and Eastern Europe
  - After 1890
    - Italy, Greece, Poland, Russia
    - Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Jewish
    - Ellis Island 1892– Processing Point
Social Problems

- Immigrants Settled in Cities
  - Low Wages, High Crime Rates
  - Lack of Civil Services
    - Police and Fire Protection
    - Sewage and Sanitation
  - Housing Shortages
  - Racial and Ethnic Prejudice
  - Police Corruption
Social Problems

2 Most Serious Social Problems

1. Poor Housing
   - Small Apartments for Many People
   - No Source of Fresh Air
   - Garbage in the Streets (Rats/Insects/Disease)

2. Political Corruption
   - Political Machines– Political Organization
   - Bribes and Kick-Backs
   - Tammany Hall- New York City
     - George Washington Plunkitt
     - Tenement Fires
     - Votes for Political Favors
Industrial Disorder

Formation of Trusts
- Mergers and Buyouts
  - Reduce Competition
  - Dominate an Industry
- Were Trusts Good or Bad?
  - Lowered the Cost of Production
  - Lowered the Cost to Consumers
  - More Efficient Means of Production
  - Kept Wages Low
  - Threatened the Social Order
  - Drove People to Financial Ruin
A Generation of Reformers

- Progressivism— Reformers Who Sought to Improve Society
- Progressive Era in America 1900-1915
- Jane Addams— Hull House in Chicago
  - Community Center for the Poor
  - Day Nursery for Children of Working Parents
  - Called St. Jane by the People
Progressive Issues

- Trusts and Big Business
- Meat Packing Industry
- Women’s Rights
- Child Labor
- Minority Conditions
- Tenement Houses
- Poverty
- Conservation

- Social Role of the Church
- Consumerism
- Union Movement
- Needs of Labor
- Political Bosses
- Railroad Reform
- Tariff Revisions
- Giant Corporations
Progressive Analysts
Who Were the Progressives?

- New Intellectuals
  - Used Science to Analyze Society & Problems
  - Charles Beard—Historian (Columbia University)
    - Sought to Reform Corrupt Government
  - Lester Ward—Sociologist
    - “Dynamic Sociology” 1883
    - Analyzed Social Problems from a Scientific Standpoint
    - People Should Not Accept Conditions, But Work to Change Them
Government’s Job

- Lester Ward:
  - Tenements—Government Should Pass Laws to Improve Housing
  - Government’s Job to Make Society Better
  - Ward Taught Sociology at Brown University
Angry Writers

- Muckrakers—Writers Who Attacked the Evils of Their Society
  - Ida Tarbell—“History of the Standard Oil Company”
    - Critical of John D. Rockefeller
  - Upton Sinclair—“The Jungle” Meatpacking Industry
    - Led to Federal Food Inspection Laws
  - Lincoln Steffens—“The Shame of the Cities”
    - Corruption and Problems of the Large Cities
  - Ray Stannard Baker—“Following the Color Line”
    - Wrote About Racial Issues—Prejudice and Discrimination
The Muckrakers

- Helen Hunt Jackson— "A Century of Dishonor"
  - Scathing Account of America’s Indian Policies
- Ida Tarbell— 19 Part Investigation of the Standard Oil Company
The Muckrakers

- Ray Stannard Baker— Racial Injustice In America
- Upton Sinclair— "The Jungle"— Meat Packing
Religious Reformers

- **The Social Gospel Movement**— Church’s Role Was to Improve Life on Earth, Not Just Get People to Heaven

- **Walter Rauschenbusch**— Pastor of the Second German Baptist Church in New York
  - Believed Capitalism Produced Ruthless People (Competition)
  - Christians Should Strive to Better Economic & Political Conditions
  - Actively Confronted the Problems of the Urban Poor
Progressive Activists

Concerned Women

Florence Kelley – Campaigned Against Child Labor

- Graduate of Cornell University
- Lived and Worked in Hull House in Chicago
- Children Worked in Dangerous Conditions
  - Tobacco Industry – Nicotine Poisoning
  - Paint Industry – Toxic Arsenic Fumes
  - Clothing Factories – Spinal Problems
- General Secretary of the National Consumers League
  - Boycotts of Good Manufactured With Child Labor
Progressive Activists

- The National Consumers League
  - Supported Settlement Houses
    - Settlement Houses: Provided Education and Social Services to Poor People
    - 1886-1910 – 400 Settlement Houses Were Established
    - Hull House Was the Most Famous Settlement House

- Women also Supported Arts, Education, Health
  - Women Were Politically Active Without The Right to Vote
Progressive Activists

- African American Activists
  - Racism, Unemployment, Inadequate Housing
  - State Laws were Passed to Restrict African Americans
    - Lynching—Hanging By Mobs (1892–230 People)
    - Anti lynching Movement—Ida B Wells
      - Wrote for Several African American Newspapers
      - Launched a National Campaign to Stop Lynching
  - N.A.A.C.P. Established in 1909
  - National Urban League in 1910
Founders of the N.A.A.C.P

W.E.B. Du Bois

Ida B. Wells

Progressive Agendas
Political Reforms

- “Fighting” Robert La Follette—Wisconsin
  - Fought Against Big Businesses that hurt People
- William Allen White—Emporia, Kansas Editor
  - Wrote Against Political Machines
Political Reform: City Government Commissioner System

- **Galveston, Texas**
  - Hurricane in 1900
  - 6,000 Killed
  - Commissioner Form of City Government
  - Each Dept. Head is a Specialist
  - Government Operated Efficiently

Voters Elect

- Police Commissioner
- Fire Commissioner
- Finance Commissioner
- Health & Wellness Commissioner
Political Reform: City Government
Mayor/City Council System

- Voters Elect Mayor & City Council
  - Council or Mayor Appoints Commissioners
  - Council Determines Basic City Policies
  - Commissioners Run Their Departments

- Voters
- Mayor
- City Council
- Police
- Fire
- Public Works
- Finance
- Health Welfare
Political Reform: City Government

City Council/City Manager System

- Voters Elect City Council
- City Council Appoints City Manager
- City Manager Appoints Commissioners

- System Reduced the Power of Political Bosses

Voters

City Council

City Manager

Police Fire Public Works Finance Health Wellness
Wisconsin: Laboratory of Democracy

**Wisconsin Idea**: (Robert La Follette)

- Citizens Directed and Controlled Government
- Elected Governor in 1900
- Attacked Political Bosses
  - **Direct Primary Elections**— People Choose Candidates
  - **Initiative**— Citizens Could Introduce a Bill
  - **Referendum**— Voters can Vote on a Proposed Law
  - **Recall**— Citizens Can Remove an Elected Official
Expanding Voting Rights

- 1848 Women’s Rights Conference (Seneca Falls, New York)
  - 1890 Women Had Won Partial Suffrage in 19 States
  - National American Woman Suffrage Association
    - 13,000 Members by 1893– 75,000 Members by 1910
    - 1912 Women Could Vote in All Elections in 9 Western States
    - 19th Amendment– 1920 Granted the Right to Vote to Women
    - Fewer African Americans Were Allowed to Vote
Economic Reform

- Regulating Big Business
  - Wisconsin: State Railroad Commission
    - Regulate the Rates Charged by Railroads in Wisconsin
    - Railroad Could No Longer Grant Special Privileges
  - Railroad’s Role in Political Campaigns:
    - Money and Transportation
- Other States Formed Commissions to Regulate:
  - Railroads, Electric Power, Gas, Public Utilities
Economic Reform

- Caring for Injured Workers
  - 1914—35,000 Workers Killed on the Job
  - 1914—700,000 Workers Injured on the Job
  - Injured Workers Were Fired

- 1902 Maryland—1st Workers Compensation Law
  - 1916—Workmen’s Compensation Law
    - Federal Law
Economic Reform

Limiting the Workday

- 1900-- 20% of all Workers Were Women
  - 1903 Oregon Passed a Law That Limited Women’s Workday to 10 Hours
  - Law Was Challenged in the Supreme Court
  - *Muller v. Oregon* (Louis Brandeis Defended the Law)
    - Brandeis Brief: Women’s Health Was Effected, thus the Health of the Nation; (Social Interpretation)
  - Court Supported Oregon
Triangle Shirtwaist Fire
March 25, 1911
Social and Moral Reform

- Educating Children
  - 1900– 6,000 High Schools Nationally
  - 1920– 14,000 High Schools Nationally
    - By 1920 Illiteracy in the U.S. Was Only 6%
    - John Dewey– Education Should Shape Social Progress
Social and Moral Reform

- Protecting Women
  - Temperance Movement
    - Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)
    - 1900–300,000 Members
Social and Moral Reform

- Led WCTU 1879-1898
- Campaigned Against Alcohol
- Other Issues:
  - Prison Reform
  - World Peace
  - Voting Rights
  - Health Issues
  - Children’s Issues

- Victories Went from City to State to National Levels