

Industrial Era Reforms

Consider how workers in the late 1800s felt about their treatment and pay. What options did they have to do about the situation? (BRAINSTORM)

I. **Labor union** DEFINE:

- a. _____: a negotiating technique where representatives of the employer and labor union talk until they have reached a mutually satisfactory agreement on wages, benefits, hours, and/or working conditions.

II. Why might someone choose to join a union? (LIST 2 reasons)

III. How successful were unions? NOT VERY.

- a. As times got tougher, unions began to take hold. Faced numerous obstacles like:
- i. Public opinion (most Americans thought employers had the right to hire and fire and equated unions with radical movements)
 - ii. Businesses, banks, and the government supported one-another (kept workers from organizing)
 - iii. Courts supported industry (ordered unions back to work when they went on strike)
 - iv. Workers themselves were often an obstacle (workers often could not speak the same language and most workers were more concerned with keeping their jobs than fighting for better wages and conditions.)
- b. Method of fighting unions
- i. Hired lawyers to fight in court or lobbyists to influence lawmakers (gave money to candidates = bribery)
 - ii. Developed “_____” (a list that is circulated among employers with the names of union organizers or troublemakers. Once on the list, it was almost impossible to be hired.)
 - iii. Made workers pledge not to join a union as a condition of their employment.
 - iv. _____ (management locked out striking workers and brought in “_____” who were workers who cross the picket lines or cheap new hires who took the place of striking workers)

IV. **Progressivism**

- a. favoring or advocating progress, change, improvement, or reform, as opposed to wishing to maintain things as they are
- b. making progress toward better conditions; employing or advocating more enlightened or liberal ideas, new or experimental methods, etc
- c. Progressives looked at the problems that existed in society and tried to fix them.
- d. **What were some of the problems that Progressives felt needed to be addressed or changed in order to move forward?**

Lots of problems to address:

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- e. Progressives were optimistic and truly believed that they could bring about change in the new century.
- f. Most Progressives did NOT support the belief that the poor were weak and unfit and should therefore be left to die (also known as _____.) Instead, they argued that a person's environment could have an impact on their upbringing and situation. Therefore, they believed that by changing the environment, poverty and injustice could be stopped. This was a new idea!
- g. Progressives felt that there were too many needy people and problems to be fixed. It was not enough to rely only on private charities. Progressives therefore argued that the _____ had to become more actively involved in addressing the nation's problems. No more _____.

V. **DEFINE: Muckrakers**

- a. Progressives used muckrakers' writings to inspire and push for reform in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

VI. **Living Conditions**

- a. **Jacob Riis** *How the Other Half Lives* (1890)
- i. As a police reporter for the *New York Tribune*, Jacob Riis wrote about conditions in New York City's Lower East Side.
 - ii. Riis set up an office in Mulberry Bend, a tenement neighborhood across from police headquarters. Each day he traveled through the neighborhood, witnessing firsthand the cramped, dirty quarters and inadequate sanitation.
 - iii. The stories Riis wrote emphasized the _____ of the tenement population. A theme of his writings was that the poor were not immoral by _____, but, rather, were products of the _____ in which they lived.
 - iv. What were his goals?

VII. **Other Efforts to Address Poverty and Urban Issue**

- a. **Charity Organization Societies:** wanted to reform charity by doing what?
- i. Why were they concerned about unregulated and unsupervised relief?
- b. **Purity Crusaders:** opposed vice (drugs, gambling, prostitution, crime) and wanted to rid cities of what? _____
- i. Like what? LIST 1 example.

VIII. **Temperance Movement/Prohibition:** A movement that criticized what? _____

- a. Wanted to abolish or severely limit people's access to alcohol. They pressured the gov't to pass anti-alcohol legislation.
- b. What is the price drinkers pay for their decision to drink? (LIST 3 costs)

IX. **Settlement Houses:** In 1889, a reformer named Jane Addams renovated an abandoned old mansion in a working-class immigrant neighborhood in Chicago and opened Hull House, the nation's first settlement house.

- a. Jane Addams' Goal:

b. Services offered: (LIST 3-4)

c. By 1910, there were more than 400 settlements in the U.S.. Settlements were funded by donations and run by volunteers or low paid workers (get free room and board.)

X. Working Conditions

a. Progressive reformers called the public's attention to poor working conditions and the struggles of labor.

b. **Upton Sinclair's The Jungle** (1904) wanted to expose the exploitation of the poor and oppressed working in the Chicago stockyards, however, his description of contaminated meat caught the public's attention and encouraged an outcry for better regulations in the meat packing industry.

i. Roosevelt ordered a study of meatpacking industry after reading The Jungle and used the report to pressure Congress and meatpackers to accept a bill to regulate the meatpacking industry

1. _____ enforced some federal inspection and mandated sanitary conditions in all companies selling meat across state lines. Meatpackers struck down the provision requiring dating of the meat. Helped to restore public confidence in the meat industry

a. Significance?

ii. Reformers, writers, govt officials used the public outcry around The Jungle to push for legislation to regulate the sale of food & drugs. Many packaged/canned foods contained dangerous chemicals and impurities. Congress passed the _____ to correct some of the worst abuses.