

# **Progressive Era**

**early 20th century**

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# I. Era of reforms

Problems in society  
caused by

industrialization and  
rapid population growth in  
the cities (urbanization)

# **A. MUCKRAKERS**

- 1. Writers and reporters who tried to expose and draw attention to problems in society**
- 2. Exposed corruption in government & business, unsafe working conditions, unhealthy problems in society**

**3. Often times the  
muckrakers writings  
caused changes such as**

**Legislative action =  
new laws and  
regulations**

# 4. Upton Sinclair

a. He wrote *The Jungle*

**A book describing unsanitary  
conditions**

**in the meatpacking conditions**

**b. Sinclair's book  
led to changes**

**Pure Food and Drug Act**

**Food and Drug  
Administration**

**Inspection of meat packing plants**

# **5. Jane Adams**

**She drew attention to  
tenement houses and  
dangers of fire**

# **6. Jacob Riis**

**His photographs drew  
attention to the poor  
children and unsafe  
tenement houses**

# **B. Populist Progressive Parties**

## **1. Minority or Third Party**

**Major Parties were the  
Democrats and  
Republicans**

**2. Populist Party  
demanded changes  
(anti-big business)**

**a. An 8**

**hour work**

**day**

# **b. Graduated Income Tax**

**A fair tax because it was based on  
a person's ability to pay (make a  
lot pay a lot**

**16th Amendment passed establishing  
an income tax**

# c. Direct election of Senators

Made America more

democratic - less corruption

when people rather than party  
leaders pick the person.

# c. Direct election of Senators (cont)

17th Amendment

passed

**3. Populist Party** did not  
have many people elected  
**BUT** many of their  
reforms were adopted by  
the major parties and  
were eventually passed

### **3. Populist Party (cont)**

**eventually many of their ideas were adopted by the major parties. First the Populists then the Progressives faded away.**

# 4. Other Reforms

# **a. Women's Suffrage Movement**

**Women gained the right to  
vote in 1920 with the 19th  
Amendment**

# **b. Clayton Anti- Trust Act**

**Anti-monopoly and  
pro-union  
legislation**

# **C. Civil Service Reform**

**Another step to try to  
reduce corruption in  
government.**

# **C. Civil Service Reform (cont)**

**Rather than people given jobs  
as political favors, they now  
take a test and the top scorers  
offered the jobs**

**d. Improved working  
and living conditions**

**Legislation passed for  
housing and job safety**

**e. Referendums and initiatives  
give voters more say in  
government and society**

**Voters can directly vote on  
important issues that influence  
them  
they decide directly!**

**e. Populist Party started with farmers, so party still called for coinage of silver (cheaper money)**

f. Also a call for compulsory education - children must attend school

**g. Teddy Roosevelt**

**President during this**

**era and very**

**supportive of reforms.**

**Roosevelt's "Square Deal"**  
**reforms to help consumers.**

**Trustbusting, anti-big  
business and Pure Food  
and Drug Act passed under  
T.R.**

**h. Unfortunately there  
were no significant  
civil rights  
improvements for  
blacks.**

**The End**

