

Labor Unions & Organized Labor

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Labor Unions

An effort to
UNITE WORKERS

Key: Strength in Numbers

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Conditions Leading to Organized Labor

1. Low Pay

**Factory owners
wanted to keep wages
low to maximize their
profits**

2. Long Work Days

12 hour days

6 days a week

3. Unsafe Working Conditions

Safety cost money
little concern for the
workers safety

4. Dirty and Unsanitary Conditions

Improvements cost money

Leaders of the Labor Movement

Samuel
Gompers

Eugene
Debs

**Early leaders met with a
great deal of resistance**

From business owners

From the general population

And the government

Power **Power** Power Power Power Power

Power Power Power

Power **Power** Power

Power Power Power Power **Power** Power Power

Power Power Power Power Power **Power**

Power Power Power

Power Power Power Power **Power**

Power Power **Power** Power Power Power Power

Power Power Power

1. Collective Bargaining

**Unions negotiate
with management
as ONE unified
group**

**When management and
the Union negotiate,
they do not agree**

**Government appointed
Mediators or Arbitration
to help solve the dispute**

If all attempts fail then....

If all attempts fail then...

If all attempts fail then....

If all attempts fail then....

If all attempts fail.....

.....THEN.....

2. STRIKE

A strike is the most powerful weapon of a labor union

**Strike shuts down
the plant or business**

**The owners and
stockholder lose money**

But so do the employees!

**At First the Federal
Government did NOT
support labor unions**

**Judges often issued
court injunctions
to END strikes!**

**Workers formed a
picket line to stop
“scabs” from taking
their place in the
factories**

**Strikes are illegal for
certain occupations**

Firemen

Police

Modern

Labor

Unions

**Today the focus of
Unions has changed
from increasing
wages and benefits
to job security**