

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

