

Chapter 13

The Progressive Movement 1890-1919

Day 1

Section 1—The Roots of Progressivism

- Progressivism was a reaction to the poverty of the working class, crime and filth of cities.
- The Progressives had different views on how to fix the problems America had. Many leaders of the Progressive Movement were journalists, social workers, educators, politicians and members of the clergy
- **Muckrakers** were crusading journalists who investigate social conditions and political corruption. Ida Tarbell attacked Standard Oil Co—Upton Sinclair wrote *The Jungle*, exposing the meat packing industry—Lincoln Steffens exposed political corruption.
- **Political Reform** was to make gov't more efficient. Many cities switched from a mayoral system to a city commission.

DIRECT PRIMARY—all party members could vote for a candidate to run in the general election

INITIATIVE—allowed a group of citizens to introduce legislation and require legislature to vote on it

REFERENDUM—allowed proposed legislation to go to the voters for approval

RECALL—voters can demand special election to remove elected officials from office

17TH AMENDMENT—allowed for the direct election of Senators

- **Suffrage Movement**—women's right to vote. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were early leaders. 1920 the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote.
- **Social Welfare**—problems—crime, illiteracy, alcohol abuse, child labor, and health and safety. The most emotional issue was child labor. States eventually established minimum age and maximum hours kids could work and established compulsory education laws.
- **Safety**—factories, coal mines, and railroads were the most dangerous occupations. 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Co. 150 women died trapped inside a fire. Progressives pushed for building codes, fire codes and workers compensation.
- **Temperance Movement**—advocated reducing alcohol consumption. Later successfully pushed for prohibition (banning of alcohol).
- **Regulating Big Business**—people became concerned about trusts, holding companies and giant corporations dominating industry. 1890 the Sherman Anti-trust Act passed to break up big business and restore competition. Gov't agencies were created to control and monitor big business. Some progressives wanted Socialism were the gov't should own and operate industry. Eugene V. Debs was a socialist leader