

Progressivism



**MRS. MAJASK
US HISTORY**

America's Growth Leads to Problems

(Background)



- **In 1900**
 - America is the world's greatest industrial power
 - America's Population is 76 Million
 - Over 1/2 of America's population lived in cities
 - Over 1/2 of Americans worked as industrial workers
- **Between 1901-1910**
 - Nearly 9 Million immigrants rush to America
 - 9 out of 10 immigrants settled in the cities and worked an industrial job
- **So what does it matter?**

America's Growth Leads to Problems

(Background)



- More money, more people = More Problems
- Different languages, cultures, governments, likes/dislikes.
- What problems do more people present for cities?

America's Growth Leads to Problems

(Background)



Problems that Cities Faced

1. Lack of “adequate” housing
2. Sanitation (pollution, water, garbage)
3. Crime (Unemployment & Orphans)
4. Fire (Houses packed too tightly)
5. Homelessness and Joblessness
6. Political Corruption



America's Growth Leads to Problems

(Background)



Problems American People Faced

1. Shift from agricultural society to industrial
2. Forced mixing of farmers, A.A., people from Southern and western US come together in cities
3. Rising power of big business (owned 9/10ths of nation's wealth)
4. Widening gap between rich and poor
5. Clashes between union and industry are rising



UPSTAIRS IN BLINDMAN'S ALLEY



LODGERS IN A CROWDED BAYARD STREET
TENEMENT.. "FIVE CENTS A SPOT."

Americans Take Notice



Which groups began to notice?

1. Protestant Church Leaders

- ✦ “Social Gospel” = Salvation through service to the poor

2. African-Americans

- ✦ Trying to escape their history and inequality

3. Union Leaders

- ✦ Trying to get “fearful” workers to join and gain “collective bargaining” power

4. Feminists lobbying for women’s votes



Americans Take Notice



Many groups and Americans come together

- All groups link their reform efforts under the term **PROGRESSIVISM**
- Progressivism= *“Belief that changes in society were badly needed and that government was the proper agency for correcting social and economic ills. Rebuild on current foundations, don’t start over.”*



The four goals of Progressivism



1. Protecting Social Welfare
2. Promoting moral improvement
3. Creating economic reform
4. Fostering Efficiency

Protecting Social Welfare



- Social Welfare Reformers focused on relieving urban problems
 - Formed settlement houses (for women, kids, orphans) and groups
 - YMCA = Sponsored classes, opened libraries, built pools
 - Salvation Army = Fed the poor in soup kitchens, Cared for children in nurseries, and “Slum Brigades” – focused on converting poor to middle class values

Promoting Moral Reform



- Social Welfare Reformers felt living morally was the key
- Prohibition
 - Women started programs to ban alcohol
 - Would enter saloons, work places, and homes to stop it
- Problems
 - Alcoholism was part of many immigrant's culture
 - Saloons served affordable food and were a gathering place

Death Rates



Deaths and Death-rates in 1888 in Baxter and Mulberry Streets, between Park and Bayard Streets.

	POPULATION.			DEATHS.			DEATH-RATE.		
	Five years old and over	Under five years	Total	Five years old and over	Under five years	Total	Five years old and over	Under five years	General
Baxter Street	1,918	315	2,233	26	46	72	13.56	146.02	32.24
Mulberry Street	2,788	629	3,417	44	86	130	15.78	136.70	38.05
Total	4,706	944	5,650	70	132	202	14.87	139.83	35.75

Prohibition



"Yes, it's a noble experiment."

Creating Economic Reform



Due to the Panic of 1893, many reformers felt that government should regulate business (Socialism)

- Felt that “Laissez-Faire” (leaving business alone) was not working
- Muckrakers Rise = journalists write about the corruption and unfair practices of big business and government

Fostering Efficiency



- Some reformers sought to increase the efficiency of American society
 - “Scientific Management Theory” – Focused on improving efficiency in the workplace by making tasks simpler and easier by scientific study. This means that there will be more productive workers.
- Outcome = More goods and services at cheaper prices

Fostering Efficiency



- Ford made three assembly lines in Highland Park, Michigan in 1913.
- The assembly lines were sped up and workers had to keep up
- Outcome = Exhausted workers, workers become machines, higher turn-over rate
- To prevent strikes, Ford gave \$ 5.00 a day. Twice as other industrial jobs. He also gave them 8 hour work days

