

Chapter 4 The Progressive Era

Chapter Focus Question: What were the causes and effects of the Progressive Movement?

Section 1: The Drive for Reform

Focus Question: What areas did Progressives think were in need of the greatest reform?

I. Origins of Progressivism

A. Who are they?

its a various group of people with different political, racial, religious, and social backgrounds. They were members of the middle class as well as the working class. They all wanted a better life.

B. Beliefs

industrialization and urbanization created both social and political problems.

C. Strategies

talked to state and local legislatures to make reforms to make life better for the poor.
Used logic and reason to make society work more efficiently
Use modern ideas and scientific management to improve society.

D. What they wanted

get rid of corrupt government, abuses of big business, make the government more responsive to the people's needs, make life better for people. Women' suffrage was a big deal

II. Muckrakers

A. Who are they?

Muckrakers were journalists and other writers who showed what life was really like during the time period. They were called this by Pres. Roosevelt, who thought they were too fascinated with the ugly side of life and were raking out the muck - or the manure from horse stalls.

B. Top Journalists

Lincoln Steffens - wrote for McClure's Magazine. He published the Shame of the Cities that told about Political corruption.

Jacob Riis - a NY photographer for the New York Evening Sun. Took pictures of the Tenement buildings where the urban poor lived. Book called How the Other Half Lives

Ida Tarbell - wrote about Rockefeller and the Standard Oil Company - told about how he would undercut the prices to run others out of business and then raise them up again when there was no competition.

C. Naturalist Novels

Magazines and newspapers weren't the only source of information. Many books were written about the issues as well. Based on how well they sold, showed how interested Americans were in the topics.

Theodore Dreiser - wrote *Sister Carrie* about a small town girl who turned to prostitution to survive in the cities.

Frank Norris - *The Octopus* - wrote about the Southern Pacific Railroad and California

farmers.

Upton Sinclair - wrote *The Jungle* about the stockyards of Chicago and the unsanitary conditions.

Frances Ellen Watkins - wrote *Iola Leory* about the struggles of black Americans.

III. Progressives Reform Society

As a result of the muckrakers stories, support grew for the Progressives.

A. The Social Gospel Movement

created by Wallace Rauschensbusch. The basis of reform is Christianity. If people just followed the Bible's teachings about charity, life would be made better. Many Protestant leaders took up the call, mainly as a way to get new membership in the cities. They encouraged an end to child labor and a shorter workweek. Also wanted more government regulations of trusts.

B. Settlement Houses

These were community centers that provided social services to the urban poor. They helped mothers take care of their children, taught English to immigrants, had nursery schools and kindergartens for working moms and also had cultural programs for adults such as theater, art, and dance. Mostly run by Middle class women, they believed the workers needed to live in the urban areas, not try to fix from a distance.

1. Hull House

One of the most famous settlement houses in Chicago by Jane Addams.

2. YMCA

Young Men's Christian Association. Its main goal was to promote Christian values, but it also offered classes in dance, sports, and English.

C. Protecting Children and Education

One of the leaders in this area was Florence Kelley. She led Illinois to ban child labor and soon other states followed.

1. National Child Labor committee

This was formed in 1902 to encourage the federal government to create the U.S. children's Bureau in 1912. it looked at anything that had to do with the welfare of children.

2. Keating Owens Act

This was passed in 1916, but was determined unconstitutional two years later because it interfered with the states' rights to deal with labor. Finally in 1938, child labor was banned.

3. Education

Many states began to pass laws stating how long children must attend school - 7-14 years for 16 weeks per year. But the debate began to focus on what they were learning not just how long they were in school. In the past it was all the 3Rs -reading, writing, arithmetic. It was about rote memorization. John Dewey encouraged critical thinking so eventually they introduced subjects like history and geography. They still

believed boys and girls should learn different things and also introduced vocational skills such as carpentry for boys and sewing for girls.

D. Helping Industrial Workers

working conditions were horrible. roughly 30,000 died a year on the job while another 1/2 million were injured.

1. Triangle Shirt waist Factory Fire

March 1911, 146 workers were killed when a fire broke out. the women were locked in, there were no fire escapes. Many jumped to their deaths, while others were found burned bent over their sewing machines.

a. Results

As a result, New York began to pass many reform laws. including the fact that doors must remain unlocked during business hours, they must open out, and buildings must have fire escapes. Soon other states adopted similar laws including workman's compensation.

2. *Lochner vs. New York*

Things were looking pretty good, until this case dealt a blow to progressive reforms regarding working hours. This said that the state could not regulate hours of workers because of liberty of contract. Basically saying the workers had the right to not take a job as they new the conditions before entering into the contract.

IV. Reforming Government

A. City governments

a new form of local government was created after a Hurricane hit Galveston Tx in 1900. They replaced the mayor and board of alderman (type of city council) with a 5 person commission. Each person was in charge of a particular aspect of rebuilding. One was chosen to lead the others - but his role was principally one of presiding at meetings and serving in ceremonial capacities. This was very successful and many other cities adopted a commission plan. Some modified it by adding a hired city manager. This ended the control of the political machines.

1. Public utilities

a lot of city governments also purchased the water and power supplies so they would not be charged unfairly high rates.

B. Election rules

Many of these ideas came from the populists.

1. direct primary

This was introduced by Robert La Follette. This allowed citizens to choose who the candidate was going to be.

2. Initiative

gave people the power to put a proposed new law directly on the ballot in the next election by gaining signatures on a petition.

3. Referendum

This allowed the people to approve of a new law created by the legislature

4. recall

allowed the people to remove an official from office

5. 17th Amendment

Direct election of senators - people elected them, not the state senators.

C. Progressive Governors

Many new governors came into power making changes that many soon adopted.

1. La Follette

regulated railroads - forcing them to charge lower rates and pay more taxes. He also improved education, made factories safer, and adopted the direct primary.

2. Hiram Johnson

California - ended the power of the Southern Pacific Railroad in state politics. used the direct primary, initiative, referendum, and recall. Also pushed for conservation of wildlife and water sources.

Section 2 Women Make Progress

Focus Question: How did women of the Progressive Era make progress and win the right to vote?

I. Progressive Women Expand Reforms

women wanted to do more than just be wives, homemakers, and mothers. They got the chance when education opened up to them. They now had more choices.

A. Hardships

Working outside the home was not easy. They had to give their wages to the men in their lives - husbands, fathers, brothers. They worked mostly in textile mills making clothes or even cigars. Most did not have much of an education so they were often cheated out of a good pay.

B. New reforms

working hours was one of the main concerns of the progressives.

1. Muller v. Oregon

this said that working long hours hurt women and their families. Some say this as protecting, but others saw this as another way of keeping women as second class citizens.

2. National Consumers League

this gave special labels to "goods produced under fair, safe, and healthy working conditions. It urged women to buy these products. it backed laws for safer meat inspection, making workplaces safer, and making payments for the unemployed

3. Women's trade union league

combination of working class and upper class to push for federal law that set a minimum wage and an eight hour work day. It also created the first workers strike

fund.

C. Changes to Family Life

wanted to keep mothers and families safe

1. Temperance Movement

this was led by the WCTU - temperance is never drinking alcohol. alcohol led to men spending their money, neglect, and possible abuse. they worked to the 18th amendment.

2. Margaret Sanger

She was a big supporter of women's rights to their own bodies. She wanted birth control to be made available to women so they could make the decision.

3. Ida B. Wells

She was a black teacher that helped form the NACW - National association of colored women. they helped black women strive for success.. it set up day care centers to both protect and educate black children while the mothers worked.

II. Women's Suffrage

A. What is it?

it is simply the right to vote. They thought it was the only way to ensure that the government would protect children, foster education, and support family life if women had a voice.

B. NAWSA

National American women's Suffrage Association. the president was Carrie Chapman Catt. She took over NAWSA in 1900.

1. Strategy

she had a winning plan that called for some to lobby for a national amendment while others were going to work at the state level. She recruited members of various levels of society and ethnicities.

2. NAOWS

there was still opposition - the National Association Opposed to women's suffrage thought it would get in the way of women being a good mother and wife. This slowly faded away.

C. Alice Paul

she was more radical than Catt. She wanted to work with the NAWSA, but her methods were not approved. She formed the National women's party which used public protests including picketing the white house during WWI to get their message across.

D. 19th Amendment

this was eventually passed in 1920. women's support during the War was one reason, but it also got out that Alice Paul, when arrested went on a hunger strike and was force fed. To not look like the government they were fighting in the war, Wilson came out in support of the amendment.