

Week 2.2- Progressive and Reform

- * The progressive impulse
 - o Waves of labor strikes and crime
 - o Waves of recessions and booms
 - o Americans responded with waves of progression forms
 - o Alcohol reform was big because a lot of conservative felt men had drinking problems
- * Social gospel movement
 - o Conservative progressive
 - o Active Christianity as anecdotes to American suffrage
 - o As Christians americans needed to be social and help
 - o Mostly focused on the poorest people and advocated for parks and better housing
 - o Believe that the law of Christ in every relation to human life
- * Muckrakers
 - o Journalists that wanted to uncover the corruption and problems they saw in society
 - o Tried to publicly shock humanity into change by identifying and exposing our problems
- * The settlement house movement
 - o The growing number of poor homeless people increased after labor strikes and violence
 - o Led by jane adams, settlement house was her movement to help the city
 - o A giant building that had all the amenities people needed.
 - Helped new mothers, dormitories for homeless single women, english classes, library, baby sitting, dance classes, and helped make lives of urban poor people bearable
 - o Many settlement houses were led by women just like jane adams
 - o They all proposed social justice
 - o Hull house offered opportunities for all women!
- * Municipal reform
 - o The “white city” built for the Columbian exposition in Chicago
 - o An exposition was like a big state fair where people got to show off and sell there things, like new technologies and fashion
 - o It was in honor of the Christopher Columbus landing
 - o The idea behind this city started the beautiful city reform

- o He idea of having beautiful cities would bring out peoples best characters and crime and violence would decrease
- o In large cities party bosses had more power over politics than political leaders had
- o They fought for civil exams for people to become politicians to make sure they were qualified
- o Fought to make people who ran cities more competent to do soo
- * Disasters
 - o Hurricane in 1900 off the coast of Texas
 - Killed 6000 residents
 - In the wake of the hurricane local businessmen took over fixing the city which was critical because Texas was a big port
 - Replaced the mayor with a 5 man city commission
 - It was very successful because they divided u all the problems and it all worked out for the better
 - City commission plan is still used today
 - o Earthquake in San Francisco
 - The city was in devastation not only from the earthquake but from the hundreds of raging fire that came to be from it
 - City leaders were comprised of businessmen who set up emergency offices of banks
 - This created better confidence in their city that they had money accessible right way
 - The community of 40 formed to fill the emergency needs of the city
 - Then formed smaller groups to specific areas and they got a chance to build a new city
 - This planning committee was also a successful model and many other cities adopted it as well
 - o Political reform
 - Some believed politics were corrupt in electing people
 - Some believed the law was in the way of change being able to happen
 - Political parties lost a lot of influence and power
 - Age of interests groups were also very important
 - o Robert Lafollette
 - Vowed to never abandon the fight until a government could correctly represent us
 - Felt he could only make changes if he was elected governor
 - Direct state primary for state legislative elections was one of the first things he changed (meant public voted to leader, not party boss)
 - He also created tax law that striped taxed laws from big corporations like the railroad

- Created first income tax, made a minimum wage for women, and made stricter child labor laws
- Science and technology of business were very important to him

o Eugene Debs

- Formed American railway union
- Went to jail and came out a radical social reformer
- Socialism was the best political ideology to break barriers in America
- Socialism-workers should own parts of their labor. It was the governments job to ensure that
- Socialism had enormous appeal because it would give normal people more power and ownership
- He did not win his election

o Theodore Roosevelt-the progressive president

- Was first elected vice president to McKinley but he was assassinated shortly after he gained presidency
- Was a hero of the Spanish American war and governor of new york
- Born into a wealthy politically connected family
- Turned a lot of his focus onto the environment and conservation
- The management of public land was upgraded and he sought out federal support
- He then turned his attention to big business
- He took over 45 monopolies
- He intervened in the mine strike and forced them all to make compromises
- Was a believer in government regulation of businesses
- Hailed the first “trust buster” and tried reducing businesses violating laws
- “square deal” based on ideas that Americans were being treated unfairly
- Began on reforming a number of different industries
 - Monitored food, drugs and safety, public land commission, started the FDA
- Was the most active president we had up until this point
- Taft was his successor and was not progressive and split up the republican party, leaving Roosevelt to have to form his own political party
- Roosevelt formed the progressive party (bullmoose party) after republican part fell apart

o African americans and reforms

- Booker t Washington
 - He argued that blacks best ways to assimilate was by hard work, education, and practical skills
 - Many viewed he had a limited vision and idealized white people
- Dubios