

The Progressive Era

The **Industrial Revolution** brought vast wealth to the masters of industry, referred to by some as “**robber barons**.” It also ushered in changes in technology, inventions and innovation, and an improvement in the standard of living for many in a growing middle class. However, for the large numbers of **unskilled workers**, many of them **immigrants**, the shift from a rural to an **urban industrial** lifestyle meant a life of **poverty, racism, and crime**. Dangerous working conditions and low pay as well as increased competition for jobs left them with few opportunities for improvement. Around the turn of the 20th century, reformers, called **Progressives**, began to address these issues and call for **government action** to provide solutions.

The Problem

Study carefully the images below, and then **identify** and **describe** the problems illustrated by each image. **Analyze** the images by explaining how it illustrates that specific problem.

#1



#2



#1:

#2

#3



#3

#4



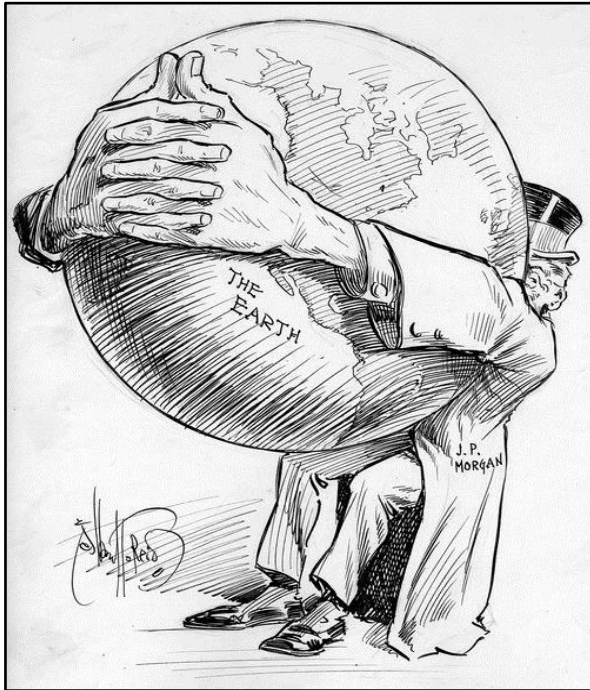
#4

#5



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#6



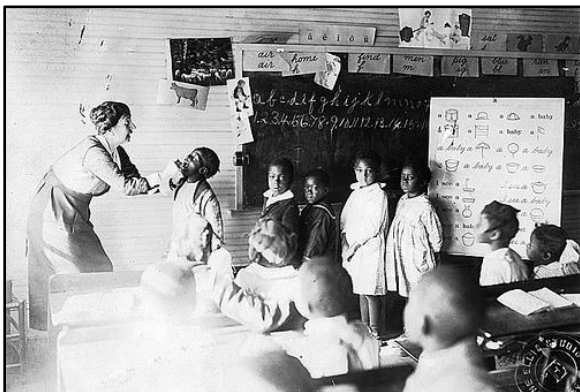
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#8



#8

The Solution

Progressive journalists, known as, **MUCKRAKERS**, began to investigate and record the political corruption, monopolies, and poor living/workings conditions experienced by the working class. As a result, new legislation will be passed to begin to solve these problems.

<i>Investigation</i>	<i>Evidence</i>
<p>Upton Sinclair <i>"I aimed at the public's heart, and by accident I hit it in the stomach."</i> Visit this webpage or go to this web address: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MH4BCiOzx6g then record the evidence of his role as a Muckraker.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the focus of his investigation? 2. What legislation/government action was taken as a result of his actions?
<p>W.E.B. DuBois <i>"To be a poor man is hard, but to be a poor race in a land of dollars is the very bottom of hardships."</i> Visit this webpage or go to this web address: http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/w-e-b-du-bois then record the evidence of his role as a Muckraker.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the focus of his investigation? 2. What legislation/government action was taken as a result of his actions?
<p>Jacob Riis <i>"Long ago it was said that 'one half of the world does not know how the other half lives.' That was true then. It did not know because it did not care. The half that was on top cared little for the struggles, and less for the fate, of those who were underneath, so long as it was able to hold them there and keep its own seat."</i> Visit this webpage or go to this web address: https://www.biography.com/people/jacob-riis then record the evidence of his role as a Muckraker.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the focus of his investigation? 2. What legislation/government action was taken as a result of his actions?

Ida Tarbell

"Rockefeller....did not build Standard oil in the boardrooms of Wall Street Banks. They fought their way to control by rebate...bribe, and blackmail...by ruthless efficiency of organization."

View this [video](#), or go to this web address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MH4BCiOzx6g> then record the evidence of her role as a Muckraker.

1. What was the focus of her investigation?

2. What legislation/government action was taken as a result of her actions?

The Progressive Presidents

Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson were known as the "Progressive Presidents" because of their support for reform legislation that would ultimately change society. View this [comparative Table chart](#) and record the significant legislation passed during each president's administration.

Theodore Roosevelt

"This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in."

What was Roosevelt's domestic policy called?

1. What were the three areas of reform during the T. Roosevelt administration?

2. What programs/legislation was introduced to address problems in each area?

William Howard Taft

"We have a government of limited power under the Constitution, and we have got to work out our problems on the basis of law."

What was Taft's domestic policy called?

1. To what extent did Taft continue the policies of Teddy Roosevelt?

2. What programs/legislation was introduced to address problems in each area?

Woodrow Wilson

"America was established not to create wealth but to realize a vision, to realize an ideal—to discover and maintain liberty among men."

What was Wilson's domestic policy called?

1. How did Wilson's "progressive" policies differ from his two predecessors?

2. What programs/legislation was introduced to address problems in each area?

Synthesis

How did the work of the Progressives change American society? Using evidence from your research, write a short essay (in pen, complete sentences, correct heading) explaining your position.

Enrichment

Political cartoons have often been used to illustrate social, political, or economic problems. Particularly useful during the Progressive Era, they often targeted the wealthy and powerful. Choose one of the following political cartoons and analyze it by answering the questions provided.

#1: [Link](#)



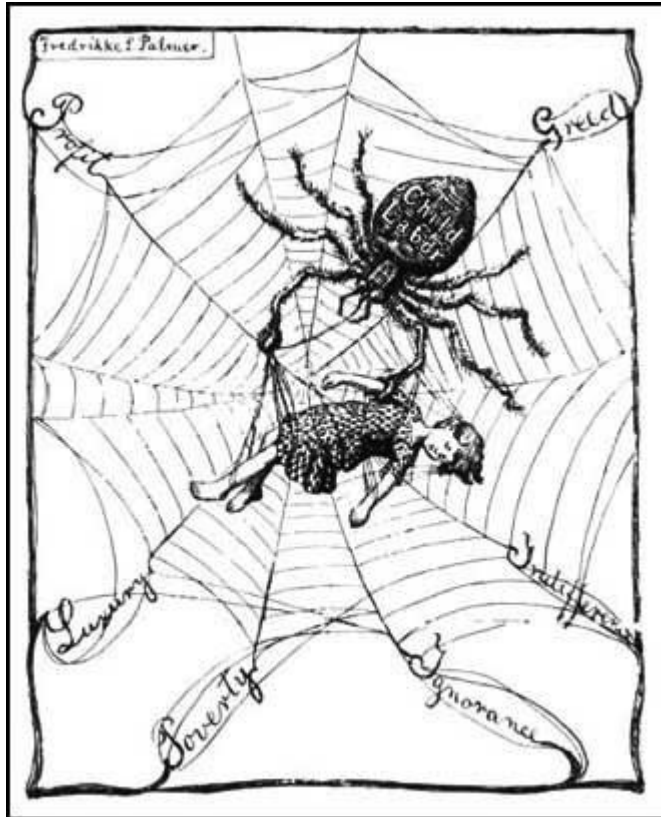
1. What do you see? List the people/objects you recognize in the cartoon.

2. What do you think each person or object represents?

3. What social/political/economic problem does this cartoon address?

4. What is the cartoon's message?

#2: [Link](#)



#3: [Link](#)



#4 [Link](#)

