Solving the social problems of immigration, urbanization and industrialization.

What were the goals of Progressives, and what were their accomplishments?
RECONSTRUCTION THROUGH THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY WAS A TIME OF CONTRADICTIONS FOR MANY AMERICANS.

Agricultural expansion was accomplished through wars against the Plains Indians (First Americans), leading to new federal Indian policies.

Industrial development brought great fortunes to a few and raised the standard of living for millions of Americans, but also brought about the rise of national labor unions and clashes between industry and labor.

Social problems in rural and urban settings gave rise to third-party movements and the beginning of the Progressive Movement.
What were the causes of the Progressive Movement?
CAUSE: EXCESSES OF THE GILDED AGE

- Income disparity
- The Robber Barons
- Corruption
CAUSE: WORKING CONDITIONS FOR LABOR

- Dangerous working conditions
- Child labor
WORKING CONDITIONS FOR LABOR

♦ Long hours, low wages, no job security, no benefits
♦ Company towns took advantage of families keeping them as wage slaves.
♦ Inequality in employment of women

Library of Congress
The Progressive Movement used government to reform problems created by industrialization.

The Progressive Presidents

Theodore Roosevelt’s “Square Deal”;
Emphasized social reform and attacked unfair business practices—conservation was also a priority!
(most closely associated with the movement)

Woodrow Wilson’s “New Freedom”;
Emphasized reform for banking, taxes and business.

William Taft was actually seen as a Progressive failure.
Goals of Progressive Movement

- Government controlled by people
- Guaranteed economic opportunities through government regulation
- Elimination of social injustices
Progressive Accomplishments
In local governments

- New forms to meet needs of increasing urbanization (commission and council manager)
- Attempts to fight corruption and respond to the people’s needs.

Boss Tweed, the target of this Thomas Nast cartoon, was a political machine boss who stole millions of tax dollars in New York.
In state governments
(more power to the people)

- **Referendum**: allowing the people of a state to vote directly on legislation
- **Initiative**: allowing people of a state to propose legislation directly to the assembly
- **Recall**: allowing people of a state to remove an elected official before his term is expired
In elections; limiting corruption

- **Primary elections;** provides for people of a party to decide who will run in elections
- **17th Amendment;** Direct election of U.S. Senators (previously chosen by state legislatures)
- **Secret ballot;** to secure privacy and reduce outside pressures
In child labor

- **Muckraking** literature describing abuses of child labor.
- Muckrakers exposed problems in society by writing news articles and publishing photographs.
- Helped push child labor laws in many states.
Impact of Labor Unions

Labor unions were formed to look demand rights for workers; better pay, fewer hours, safe working conditions, and benefits.
Organizations

♦ **Knights of Labor:** America’s first major union, it accepted all workers—skilled and unskilled.

♦ **American Federation of Labor (Samuel Gompers):** a craft union which only accepted skilled laborers and was more prone to violence.
Organizations

- American Railway Union (Eugene V. Debs) - skilled and unskilled workers in railroad - had a successful but violent strike.

- Industrial Ladies' Garment Workers Union - demanded better conditions in textile industry.

The Industrial Ladies' Garment Workers Union gained more popularity after the tragic fire in 1911. Muckraking journalists helped to expose the dangerous conditions which led to these inhumane deaths.

Photo from National Archives
These strikes were all violent and led to public fear of labor organizations. While many were sympathetic to union causes, they did not like the perceived lawless tendencies.

At Haymarket Square, a strike turned violent as an anarchist threw a bomb at police, who in turn opened fire.
Gains

- Limited work hours
- Regulated work conditions
- Preserved rights of unions to organize
Antitrust laws

- **Sherman Anti-Trust Act**—Prevents any business structure that "restrains trade" (monopolies) - unsuccessful as it was difficult to enforce. (1890)

- **Clayton Anti-Trust Act**—Expands Sherman Anti-Trust Act; outlaws price-fixing; exempts unions from Sherman Act (1914)

“One sees his finish unless good government retakes the ship.” (May, 1899)
Women’s suffrage

- Was a forerunner of modern protest movement
- Benefited from strong leadership (e.g., Susan B. Anthony)
- Encouraged women to enter the labor force during World War I
- Resulted in 19th Amendment to the Constitution

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (seated) and Susan B. Anthony worked to gain the right to vote.
The Progressive Amendments:

- **16th**: A progressive income tax
- **17th**: Direct election of Senators
- **18th**: Banning the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcohol
- **19th**: Granted women the right to vote
Interest in progressive reforms stalled as the United States faced another crisis--World War I.