C. Rebuilding a Nation (ca. 1877-ca. 1914)

2. Increasing Influence and Challenges

A: Identify and explain significant issues and components of the Populist movement and their impacts

B: Explain the origins and accomplishments of the Progressive movement
Child labor and unsafe working conditions were major concerns of the Progressive Movement.
Populism and Progressivism

- The goal of both movements was to fight for the interests of common people, like farmers and factory workers, partially by urging the government to act as a “referee” in the economy and enforce rules and regulations.

- Supporters of Progressivism wanted a gradual income tax so that the super-rich carried a greater tax burden.

- They also wanted a government enforced eight hour work day and restrictions on immigration to decrease job competition.
Progressives wanted the government to act like a strict referee in the economy.
The theory behind the gradual income tax is that the rich will carry a heavier burden of the taxes the government collects.
Unsafe Working Conditions

- In the late 1800s and early 1900s, journalists exposed unsafe conditions in factories, tenement houses, and other urban areas.

- These reporters were called muckrakers and also exposed the corruption of political leaders.

- Factory workers, many of whom were women and children, worked long, grueling hours in dangerous conditions and had a poor quality of life.
Muckrakers Expose Urban Problems

- In the late 1800s, Jacob Riis witnessed the slums of New York and published a book about his findings.

- His book, How the Other Half Lives (1890), displayed to the world how poor immigrants struggled and used photography to show the problems vividly.

- Muckrakers were important in exposing how urban areas were struggling with the rapid population growth.
Immigrants who worked in the cities lived in filthy, unsafe conditions. There were virtually no building codes to ensure people lived in safe buildings.
The Four Goals of Progressivism

- 1st: Promote Social Welfare

- 2nd: Advance Moral Improvement

- 3rd: Pursue Economic Reform

- 4th: Increase Efficiency
1st GOAL: Promote Social Welfare

- Progressivism taught that the government and charities should aggressively pursue measures that would help the poor.

- The Social Gospel was a religious movement that taught that Christianity required believers to intervene and help the poor.

- The Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) helped to cultivate community life in urban areas. The Salvation Army fed thousands of poor immigrants and city dwellers.
Florence Kelley pleaded with the government to step in and create rules and regulations to help women and children working in factories.
Child labor continues today overseas.
Jane Addams was a pivotal leader in creating settlement houses. These community centers would help the urban poor and help immigrants learn English.
More on Promoting Social Welfare

- Progressives taught that the government should intervene to help common laborers that worked in dangerous factories by creating regulations and rules for the factories.

- Florence Kelley fought for the passing of the Illinois Factory Act of 1893. This prohibited child labor and limited women’s work hours.

- Jane Addams was a leader in creating settlement houses, community centers that helped the urban poor. These centers taught English to immigrants and helped struggling mothers.
THE

END