

The Progressive Era

Peace



Justice



Prosperity

“Progressivism”

- What is it?
- When is it?
- Who were the Progressives?
- What were their goals?
- What were their methods?
- Successes & failures?
- Consequences?

“Progressivism”

➤ What is it?

- Reform movement
- “Reform” = Positive change

“Progressivism”

➤ When is it?

- 1900 – 1914
- Dawn of a new century
- Industrialization = Modernization
- Modernization = modern problems

Who are the “progressives”?

- “from all walks of life”
- Men and women
- All races & ethnicities
- All religious groups
- All political parties/groups
- Different classes

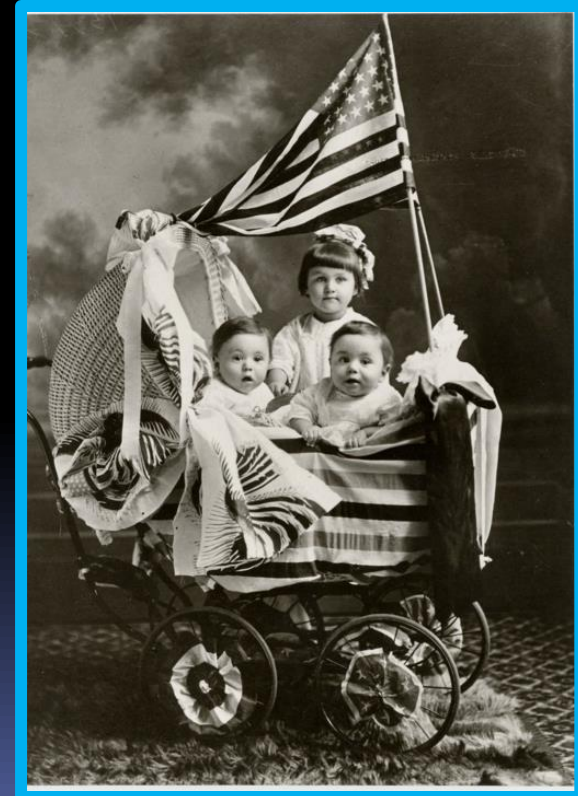
“Broad-based”
Reform Movement

Goals – what did they hope to achieve?

- Positive change
- Improve society
- Curb power of big business
- Curb power of special interests

Goals – what did they hope to achieve?

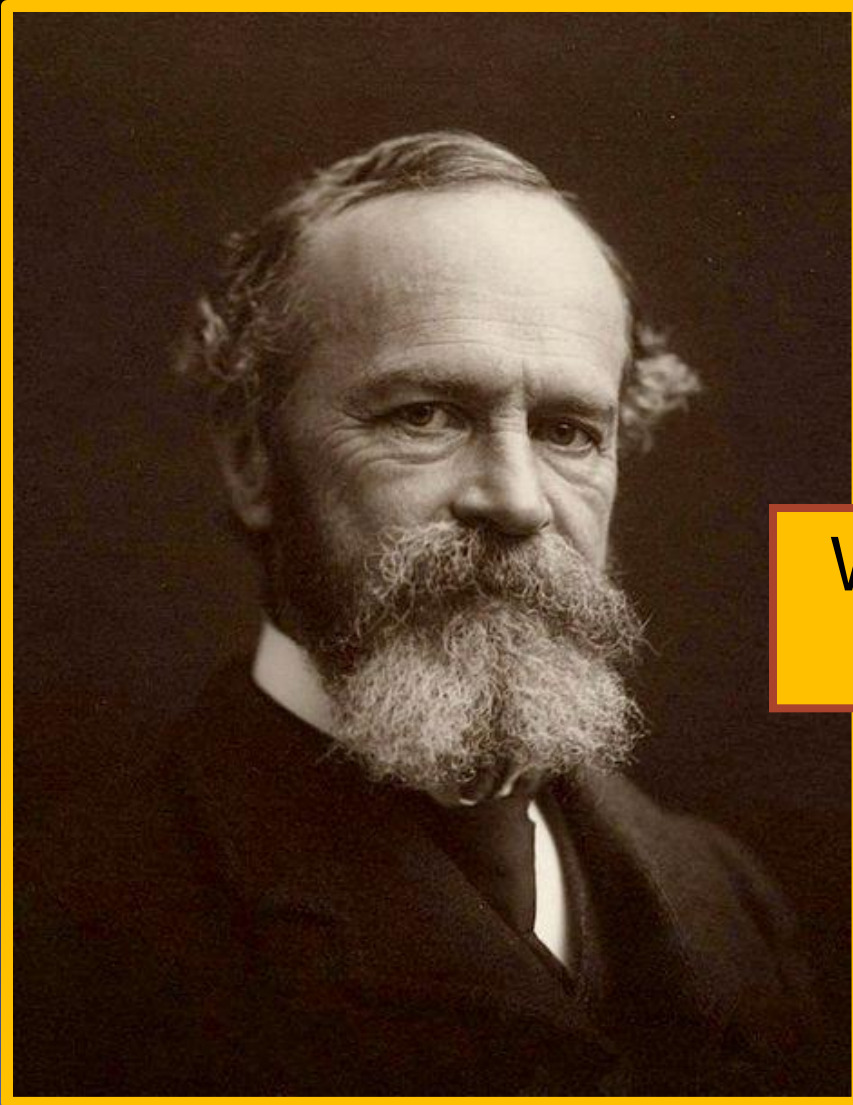
- “level the playing field”
- Make gov’t responsive to people
- Eliminate corruption
- “American exceptionalism”



Methods – HOW are they going to achieve their goals?

- Use science & technology
- Use “collective” action
- Use churches
 - Social Gospel Movement
- Use power of government

➤ Intellectual foundation



William James,
“pragmatism”

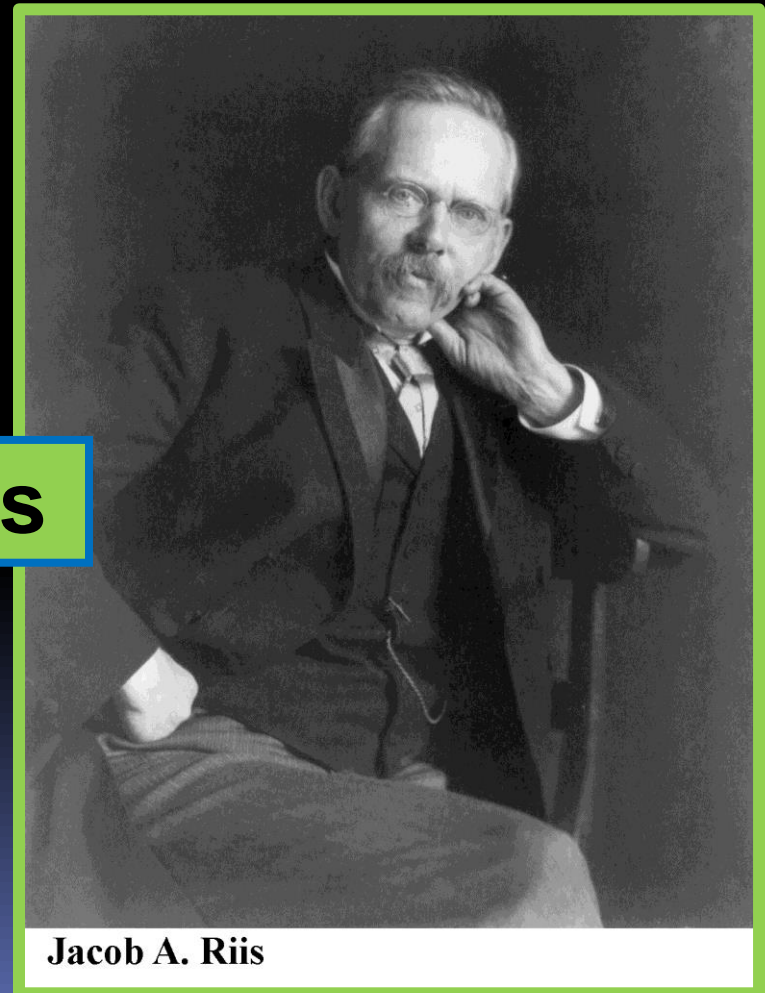
“Pragmatism”

- “practical” application
- Turning theory into action
- Applying solutions to problems of society

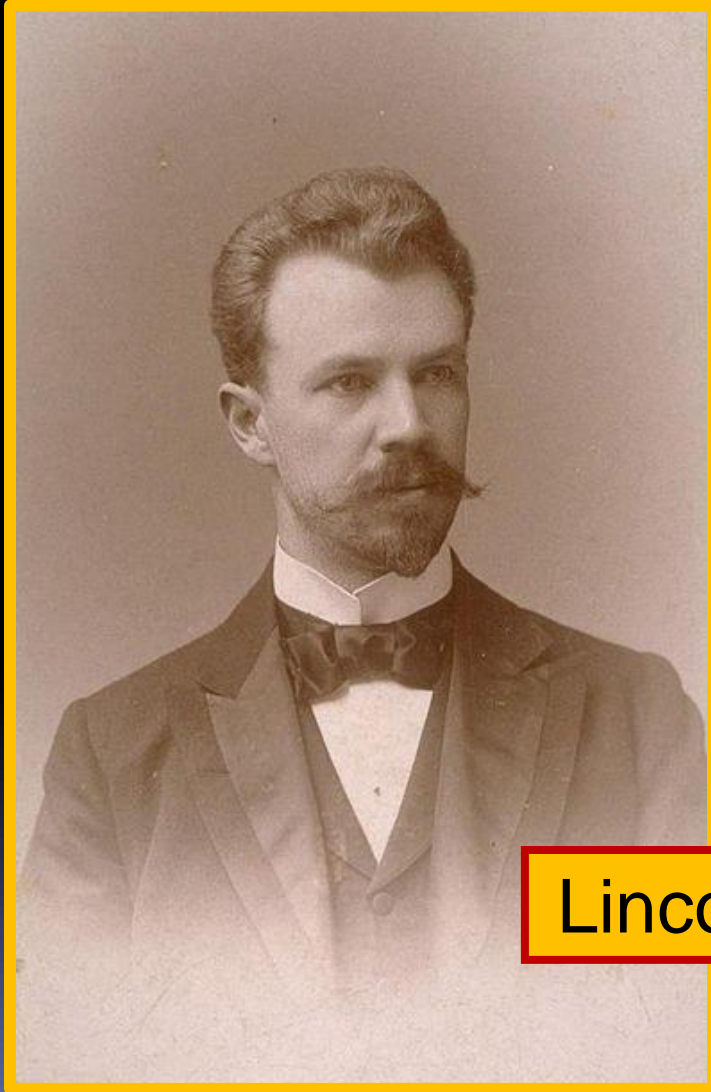
“Muckrakers”

- Investigative journalists

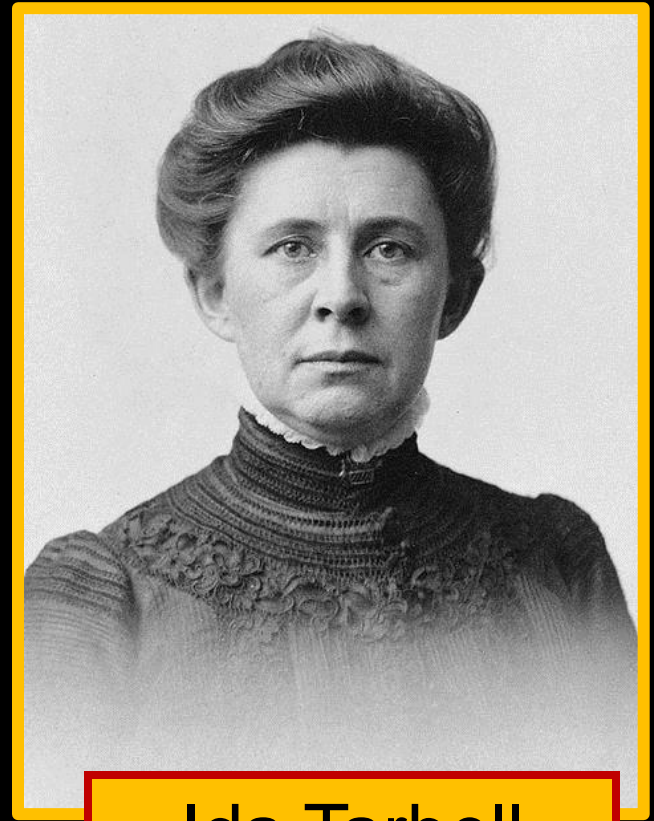
Jacob Riis



“Muckrakers”

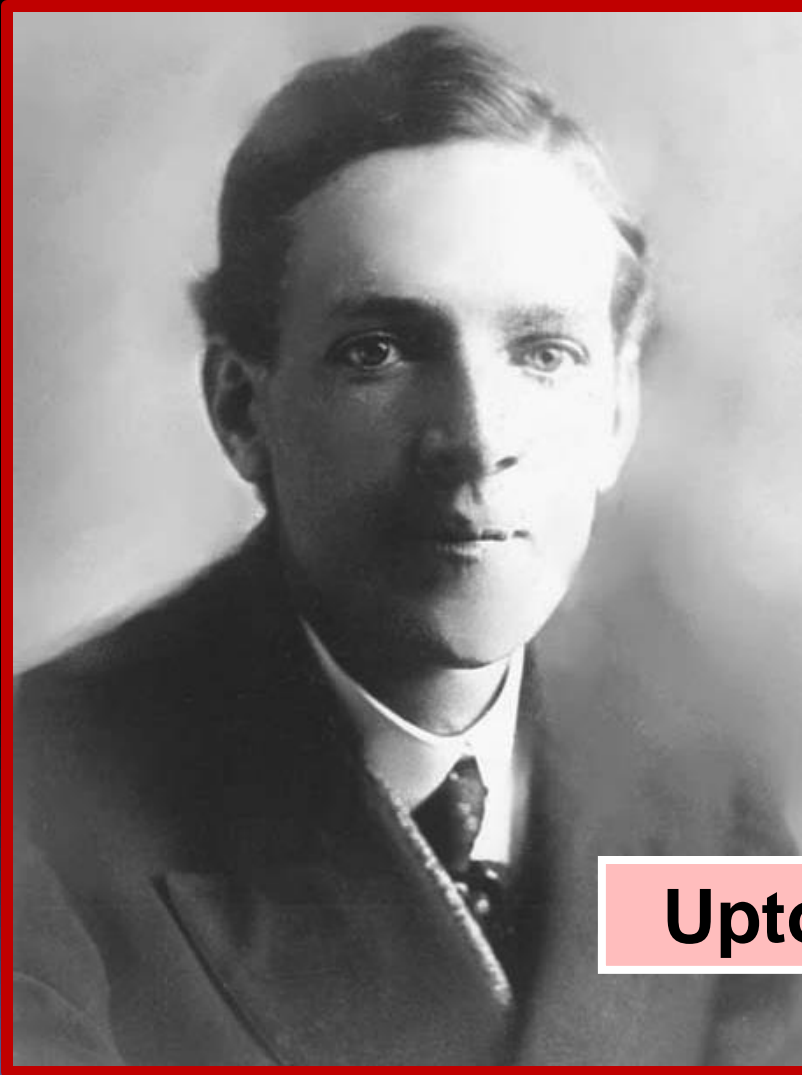


Lincoln Steffens

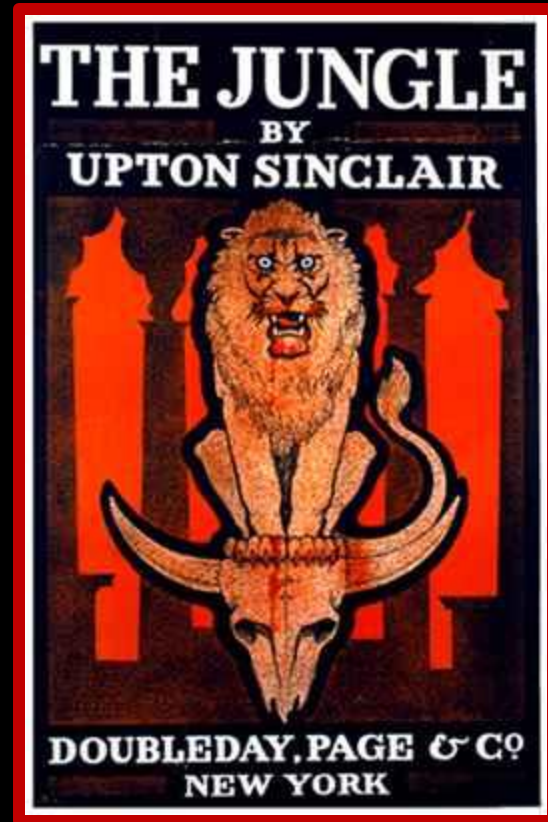


Ida Tarbell

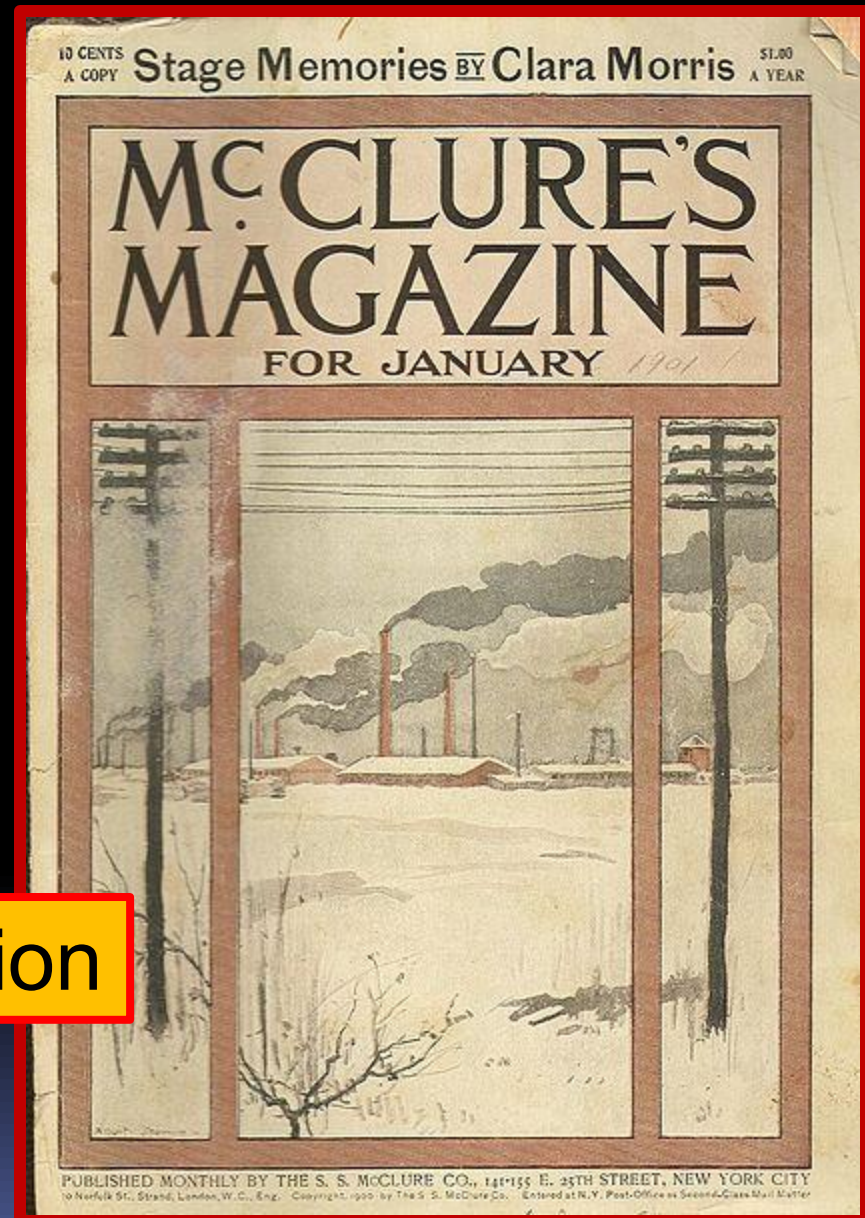
“Muckrakers”



Upton Sinclair



“Muckrakers”



“mass” communication

Progressive Reforms

- Social
- Economic
- Political

Progressive Reforms – Social

➤ Social Justice Movement

- Settlement homes
- Improve housing, services
- Improve working conditions
- Parks, playgrounds

How? Collective Action

- National Conference of Social Work
- General Federation of Women's Clubs
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Schools of Social Work

Social reform - Social Purity Movement



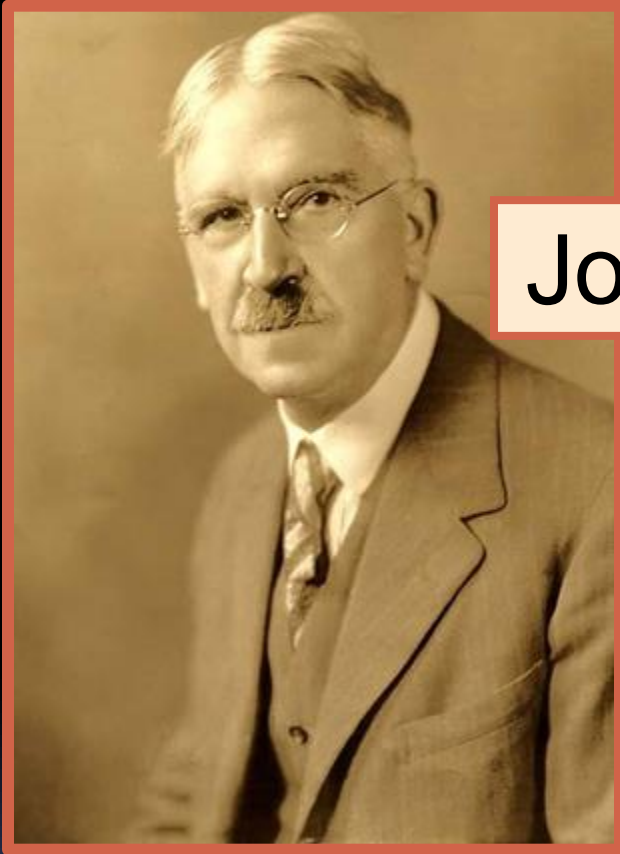
Progressive Reforms – Social

- Improve Mental hospitals & prisons

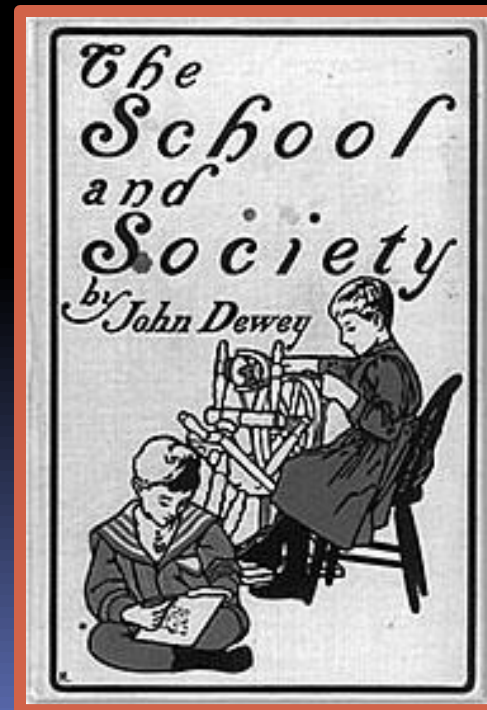


Dorothea Dix

Social Reforms - Education



John Dewey



Social Reforms - Education

➤ Education

- Education for the public good
- Intelligence used for social action
- Scientific techniques - testing

School enrollment

- 1880 7 million
- 1920 23 million

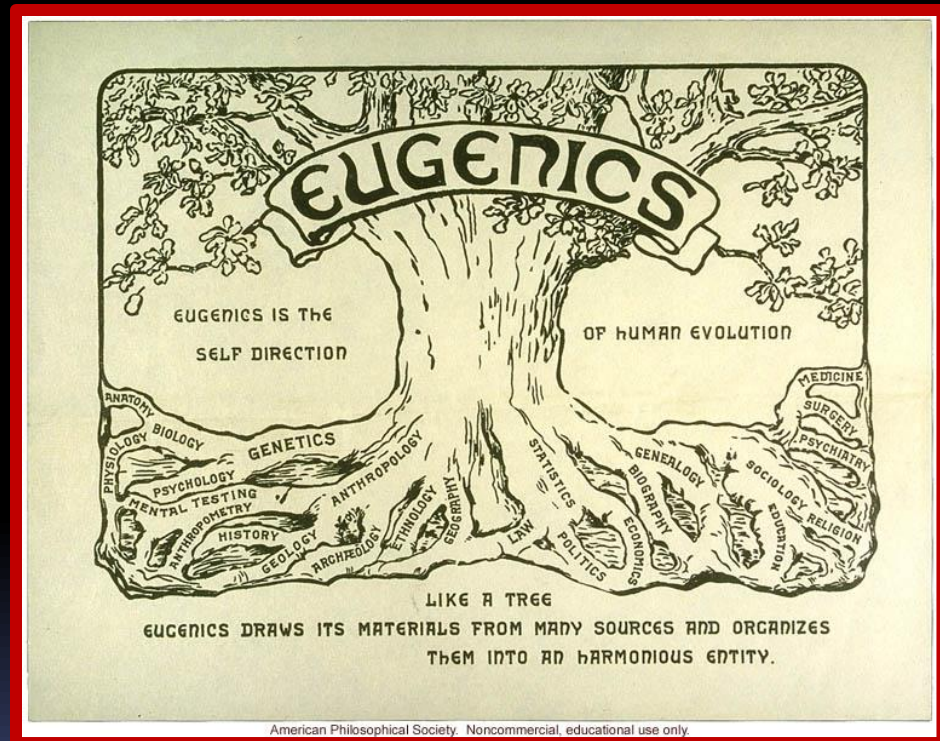
Social Reforms – the “Dark Side”

- Remove “obstacles” to progress
 - Segregation
 - Disfranchisement
 - Lynching
 - Restrict Immigration
 - “Eugenics” – “improving” the human race through “selective breeding”

Eugenics

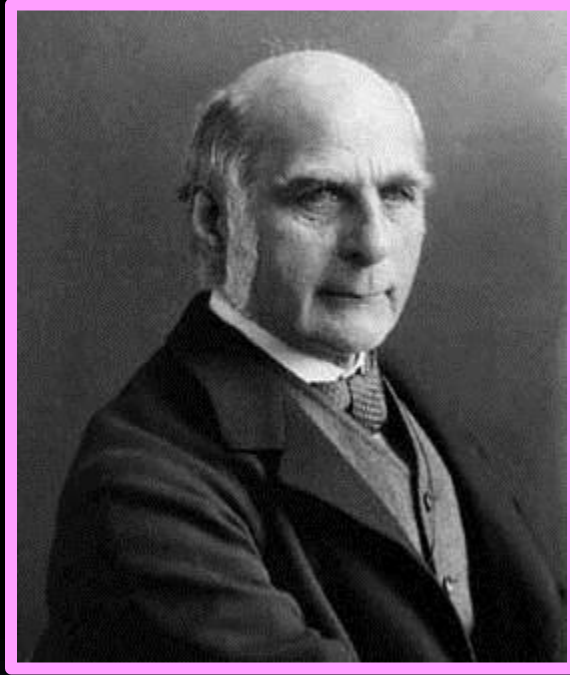
"If we desire a certain type of civilization, we must exterminate the sort of people who do not fit in."

- George Bernard Shaw



“Eugenics is the Self-Direction of Human Evolution”

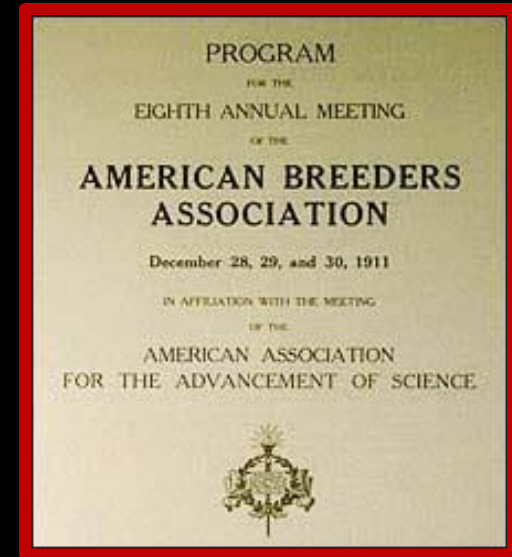
Eugenics Education Society



Francis Galton

Eugenics

➤ American Breeders Association



“to investigate and report on heredity in the human race, and emphasize the value of superior blood and the menace to society of inferior blood.”

Eugenics

➤ Methods

- Segregation (racial and gender)
- Marriage Laws
- [Compulsory] Sterilization laws
- Immigration [Restriction] Laws
- Restrict birth control for middle and upper classes (encourage more children)

Eugenics

- 1937 Poll (*Fortune* magazine)
 - 66% supported sterilization of “mental defectives”
 - 63% supported sterilization of criminals
 - 15% opposed both

EUGENIC CERTIFICATE

THIS GUARANTEES that I have examined the sender of this card and find a perfect PHYSICAL and MENTAL BALANCE and unusually strong EUGENIC LOVE possibilities, well fitted to promote the happiness and future welfare of the race.



310-10.

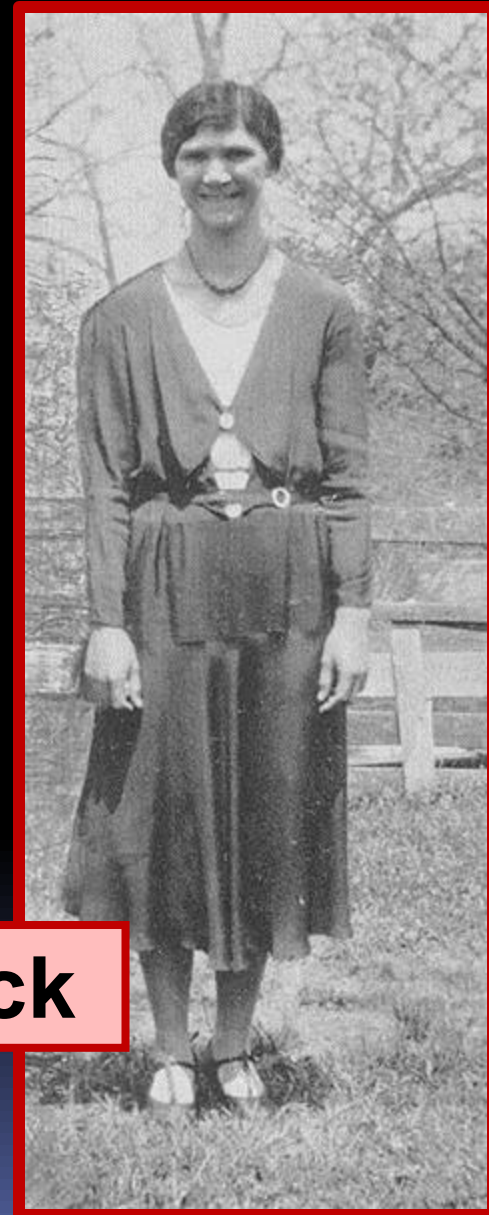
Ima D. Fiske M.D.



Margaret Sanger

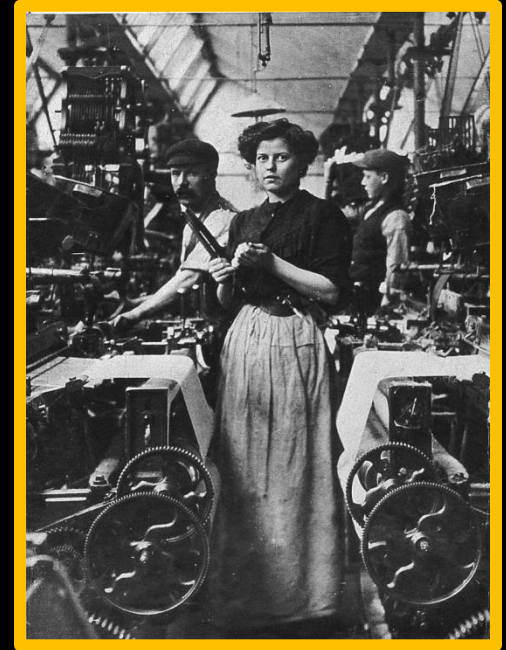


Buck vs. Bell,
U.S. Supreme Court



Carrie Buck

Progressive Reforms in Business & Industry



Progressive Reforms – Business & Industry

- Owners – their goals
- Workers/Management – their goals
- Government's goals

Progressive Reforms – Business & Industry

- Goals - Business owners/management
 - “Modernize” business practices
 - Lower the costs
 - Increase production
 - Maximize profit

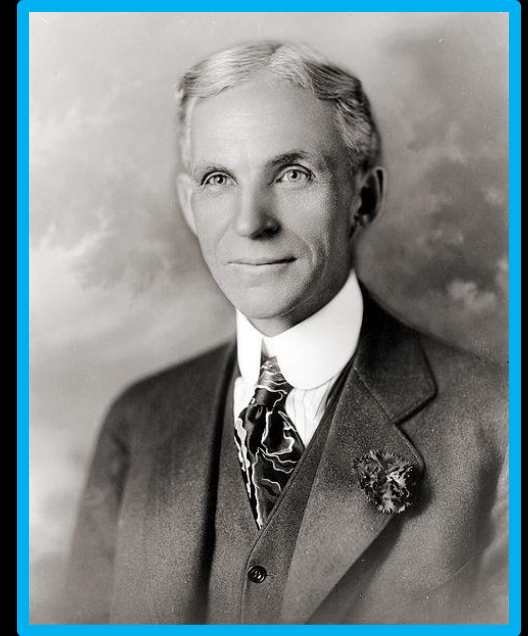
“Scientific Management”



- Efficiency
- “time and motion” studies

Frederick Taylor

“Moving assembly line”



Henry Ford

Model T



Ford Motor Company

- 1908 11,000 sold \$825 each
- 1916 +470,000 \$360 each

Progressive Reforms - Workplace

- Improve working conditions
 - Health & Safety
- Improve hours
 - Children & women
- Improve wages

Triangle Shirtwaist Company, 1911





Photograph by the International Ladies



Progressive Reforms - Workplace

- Improve working conditions
 - Health & Safety
- Improve hours
 - Children & women
- Improve wages

Labor Unions

- American Federation of Labor
- International Workers of the World
 - “Big Bill” Heywood
 - “Wobblies”

“The struggle must go on until the workers of the world...take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system”

Business Reforms

- Anti-trust campaigns

Progressive Reforms - Politics

- Local - Cities
- State
- National

Progressive Reforms - Politics

- Eliminate corruption in the cities
 - New forms of city government
 - Civil service exams
 - Update tax assessments
 - Update voter rolls
 - Enfranchise women

Progressive Reforms

- State-level reforms
 - Regulate railroads
 - Regulate utilities
 - Direct primaries

Progressive Reforms - Political

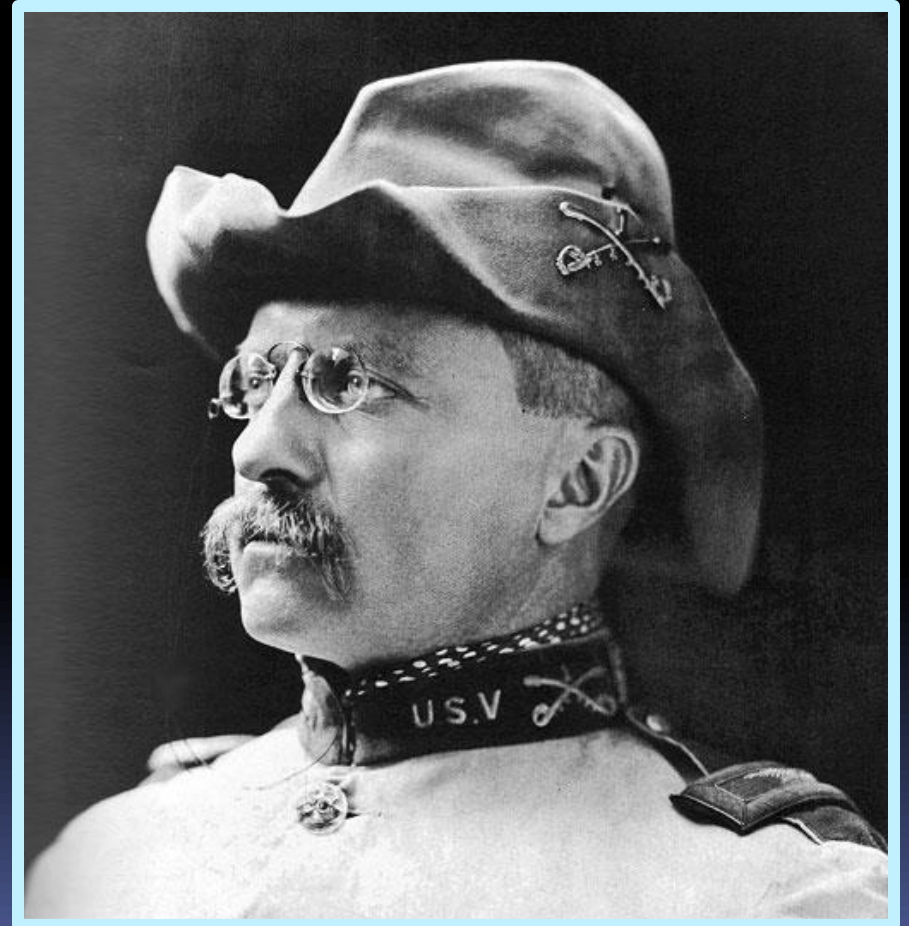
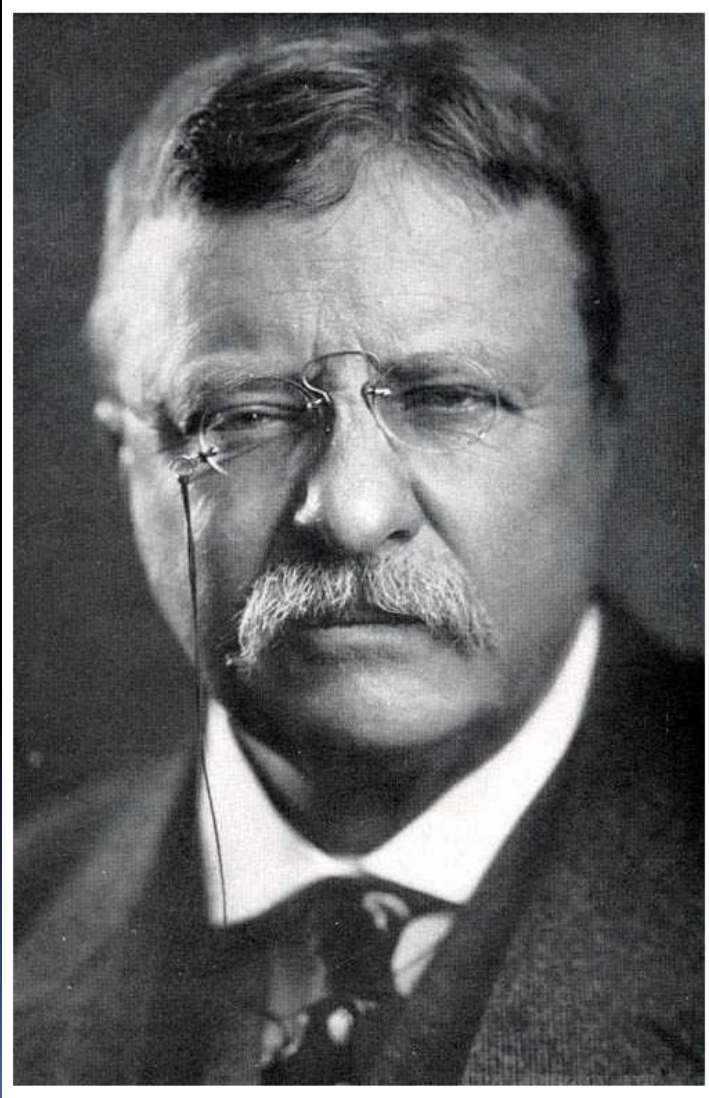
➤ Empowering voters

- **Initiative** – allow voters to propose new laws
- **Referendum** – allow voters to accept or reject laws
- **Recall** – allow voters to remove elected official from office

Progressive Politics at the National Level

- Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt - R
- William Howard Taft - R
- Woodrow Wilson - D

Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt



“Bully pulpit”

- Using the power of his office to effect reforms

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T. Roosevelt: “ Bully! This is a capital present for my Birthed-Day!”
Fat-Cats: “ O! Thrash us no longer, mad Bull Moose!”

“...it is the duty of the President to act upon the theory that he is the steward of the people”



Government as Power broker

- Stop abuses
- Abolish privilege
- Increase individual opportunity
- “level the playing field”

“Square Deal”

- Trust-buster
- Government regulation
- Conservation

Trust-buster (monopolies)

- “good” trusts vs. “bad” trusts
- Northern Securities Company, 1902
- Using the courts

Government regulation of business

➤ Railroads

- Elkins Act
- Hepburn Act

➤ Food industry

- Meat Inspection Act
- Pure Food & Drug Act

Conservation

- U.S. Forest Service
- American Antiquities Act

Support for Eugenics

"I wish very much that the wrong people could be prevented entirely from breeding; and when the evil nature of these people is sufficiently flagrant, this should be done. Criminals should be sterilized and feeble-minded persons forbidden to leave offspring behind them."

On race...

“...the door of opportunity [should not] be shut upon any man, no matter how worthy, purely upon the grounds of race or color. Such an attitude would, according to my contentions, be fundamentally wrong.”

William Howard Taft



Republicans split

- progressive wing
 - Teddy Roosevelt
- conservative wing
 - William Taft

Election of 1912

- Republicans
 - William Howard Taft
- Progressives
 - Teddy Roosevelt
- Democrats
 - Woodrow Wilson
- Socialist party
 - Eugene V. Debs

Thomas “Woodrow” Wilson



“New Freedom”

➤ Banking & currency

- Federal Reserve Act

➤ Business

- Clayton Anti-trust Act
- Underwood Tariff Act
- Federal Trade Commission Act

“New Freedom”

➤ Social reform

- Keating-Owen Act
- Adamson Act
- Woman suffrage