

# What is Progressivism?

From 1900s to 1920, progressives

Democrats, Republicans, & Socialists all found reasons to support progressivism

SO... es of the Gilded Age

Progressive reform began in the late Gilded Age, especially during the Panic of 1893 which exposed serious flaws in the American political, economic, & social fabric

Some histories mark the end of Progressivism in 1917 when the USA entered WWI; others mark the end at 1920 with the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment

& others wanted national reforms



# The Progressive Era

Optimism & belief in progress (“*investigate, educate, & legislate*”)

Social Gospel taught Christians that it was their duty to end poverty & inequality

Looked to the government to help achieve goals

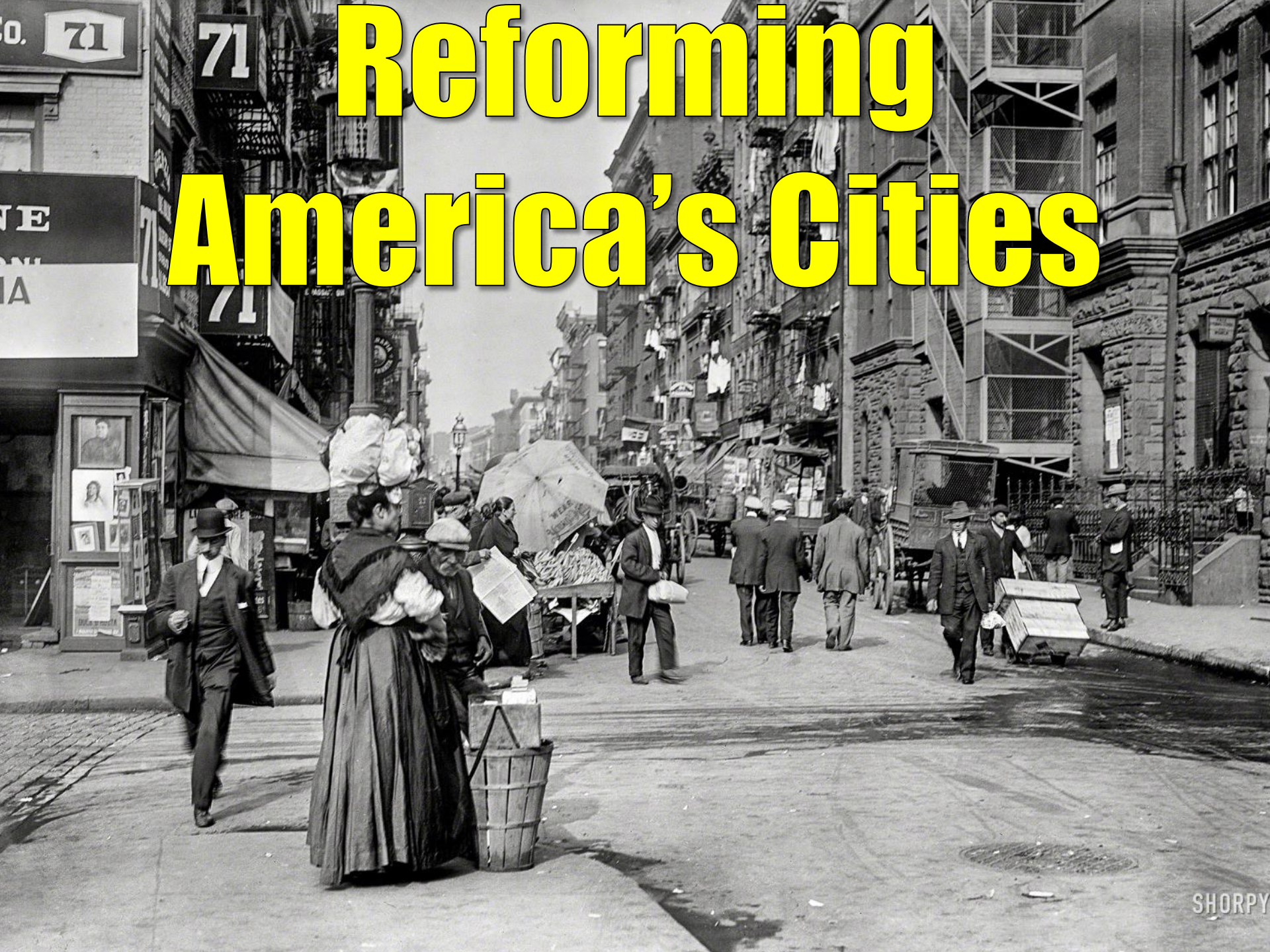
Desire to “humanize” industry & urbanization

## **Progressive Themes**

Their actions impacted the entire nation; not regions like the Populists

Led by educated middle-class “experts” who developed “rational” solutions

# Reforming America's Cities



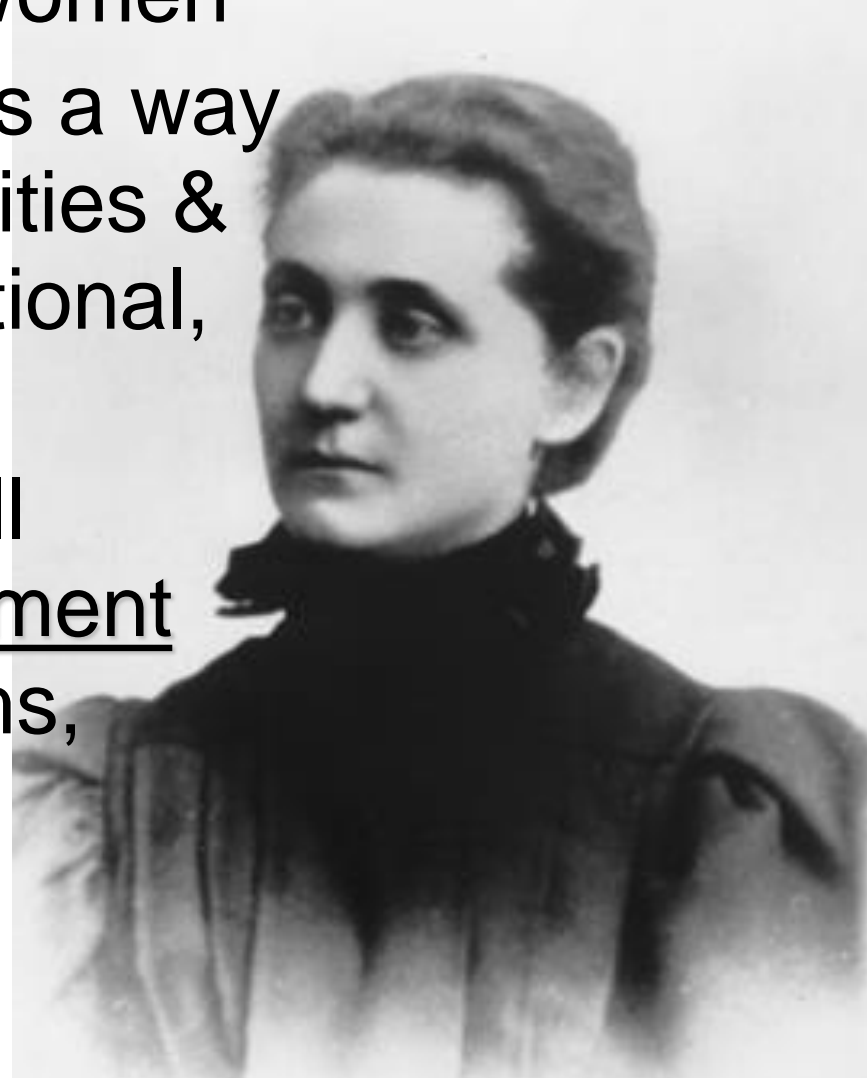
# Reforming America's Cities

- Progressive reform 1<sup>st</sup> began in cities in the 1890s to address factory, tenement, labor problems
- The Social Gospel movement was a new religious philosophy that focused on improving society & saving individual souls



# The Female Dominion

- Some of the 1<sup>st</sup> reformers were educated, middle-class women
- Women found reform was a way to improve their communities & to break out of their traditional, 19<sup>th</sup> century social roles
- Led by Jane Addams' Hull House in Chicago, settlement houses were built in slums, offering health care, baths, & cheap food





0087582 HULL HOUSE: NURSERY.  
Credit: The Granger Collection, New York

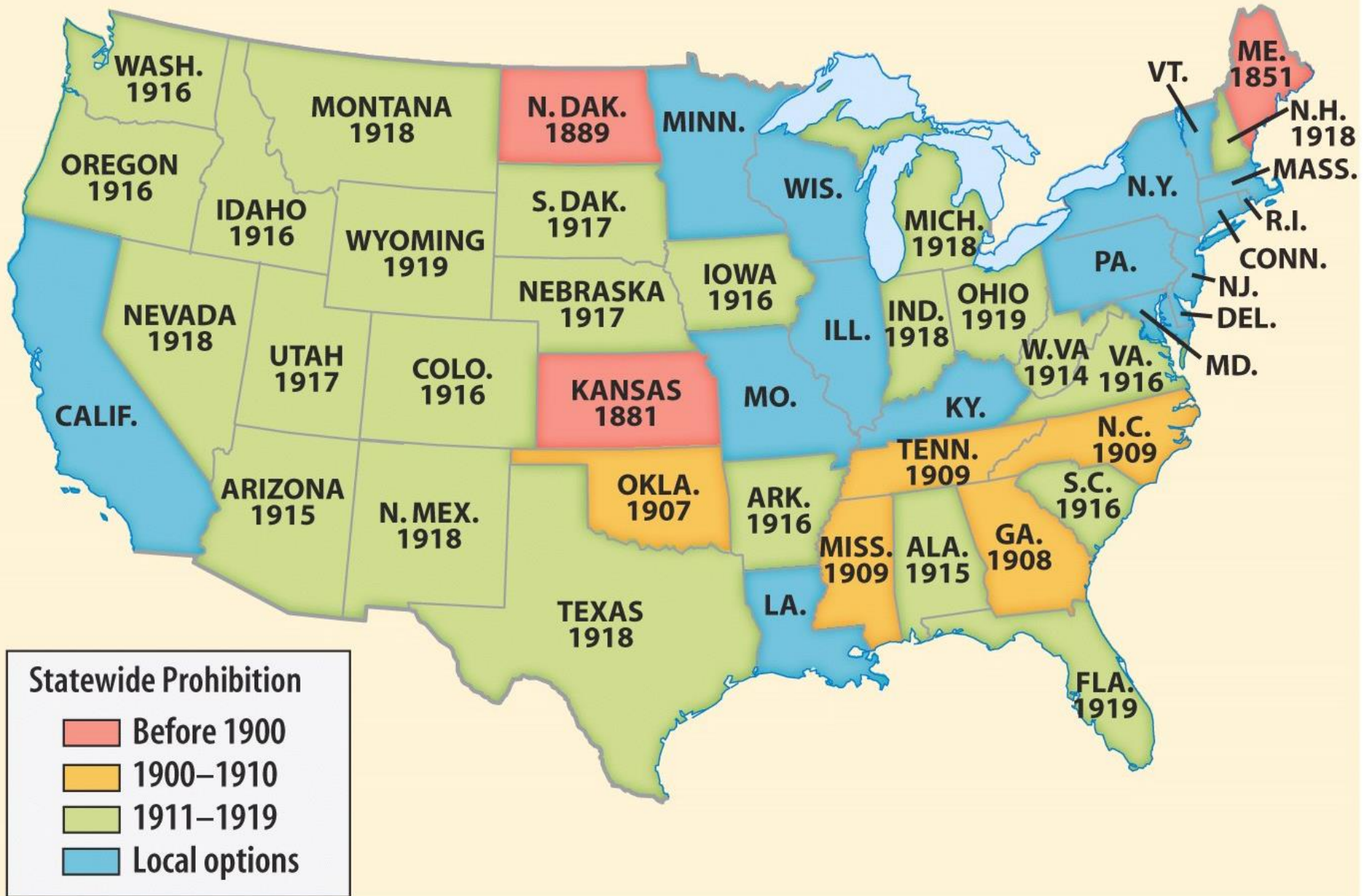
Membership grew  
in the WCTU

- Women helped  
– Prohibition  
alcohol  
outlawed  
18<sup>th</sup> A



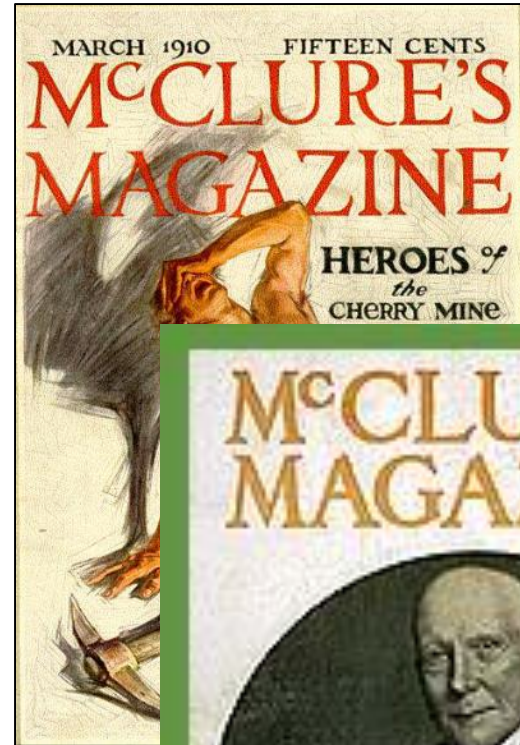


# Prohibition of alcohol in the states prior to 1920



# Muckraking Journalism

- New “muckraking” journalism drew attention to social problems, such as urban poverty, corruption, & big business practices:
  - Magazines like *McClure's* used investigative journalism & photos
  - Jacob Riis' *How the Other Half Lives* (1890) was the 1<sup>st</sup> exposé of urban poverty & slums





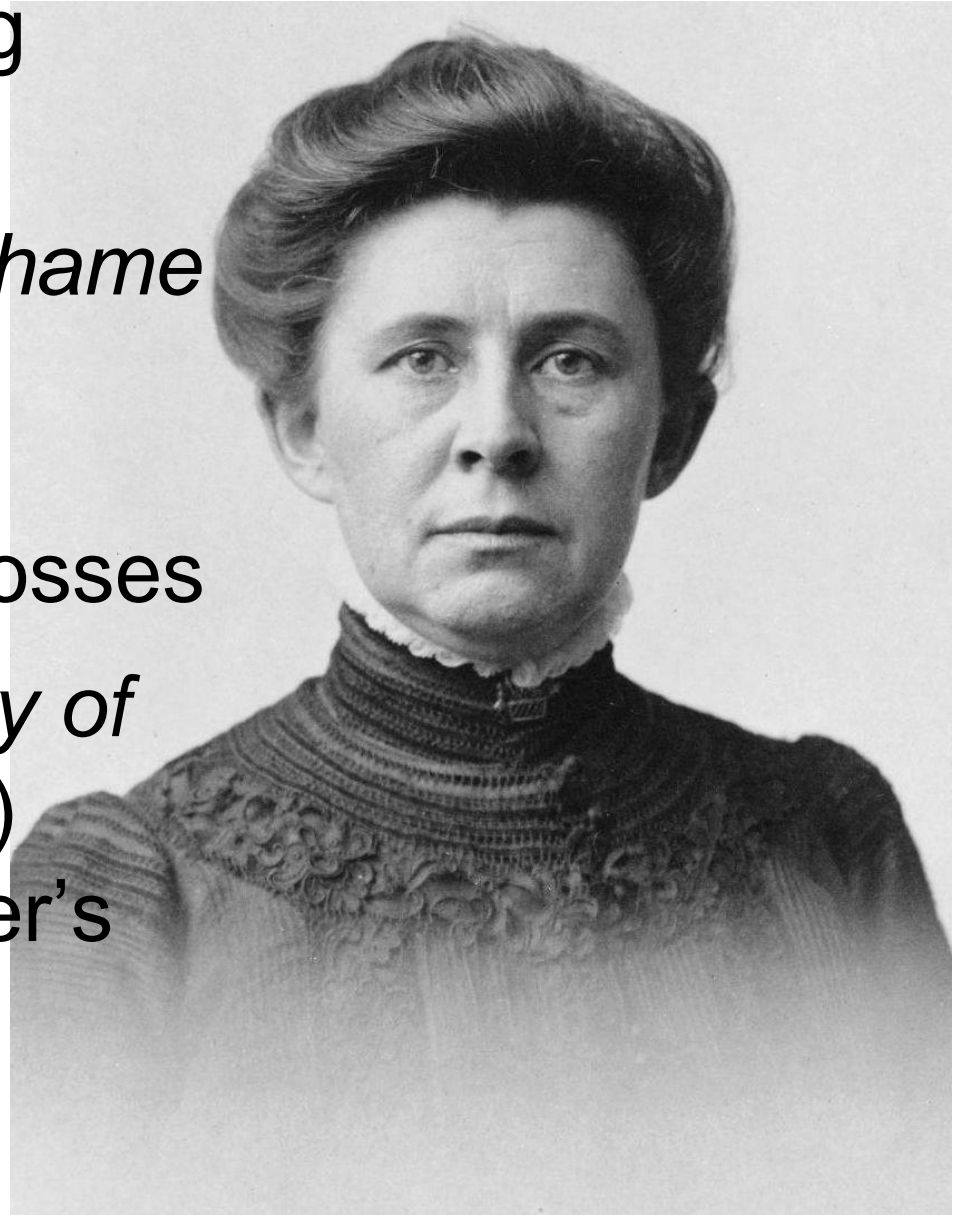
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Lives

# Muckraking Journalism

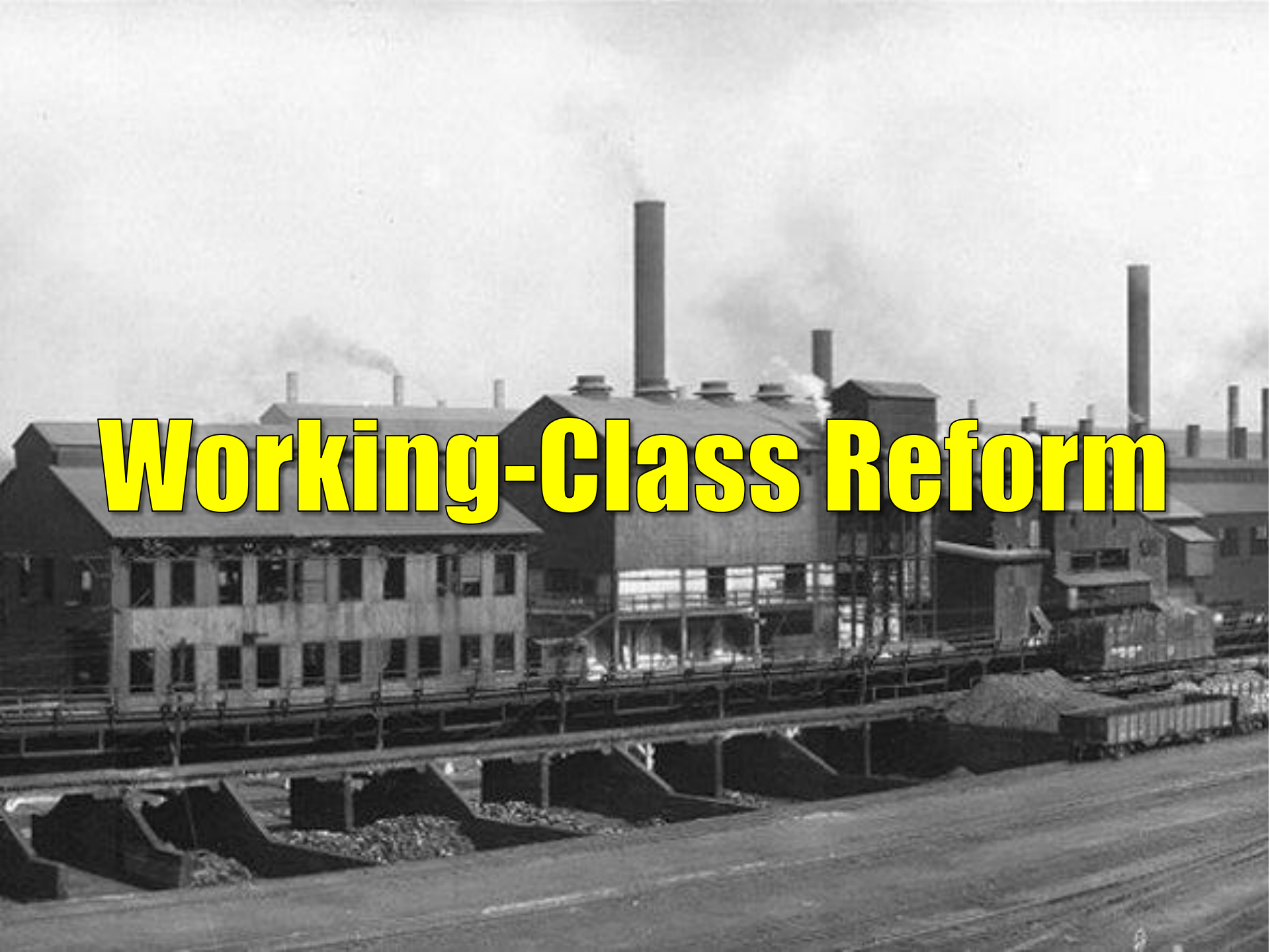
- Other groundbreaking exposés:
  - Lincoln Steffens' *Shame of the Cities* (1902) exposed corrupt political machine bosses
  - Ida Tarbell's *History of Standard Oil* (1904) revealed Rockefeller's ruthless business practices



# Muckraking Journalism

- Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* (1906) led to federal investigation of the meatpacking industry, gov't inspections, & improved sanitation
- Sam H. Adams exposed the dangers of patent medicines which led to the Pure Food & Drug Act requiring listing of ingredients & banned "adulterated" drugs





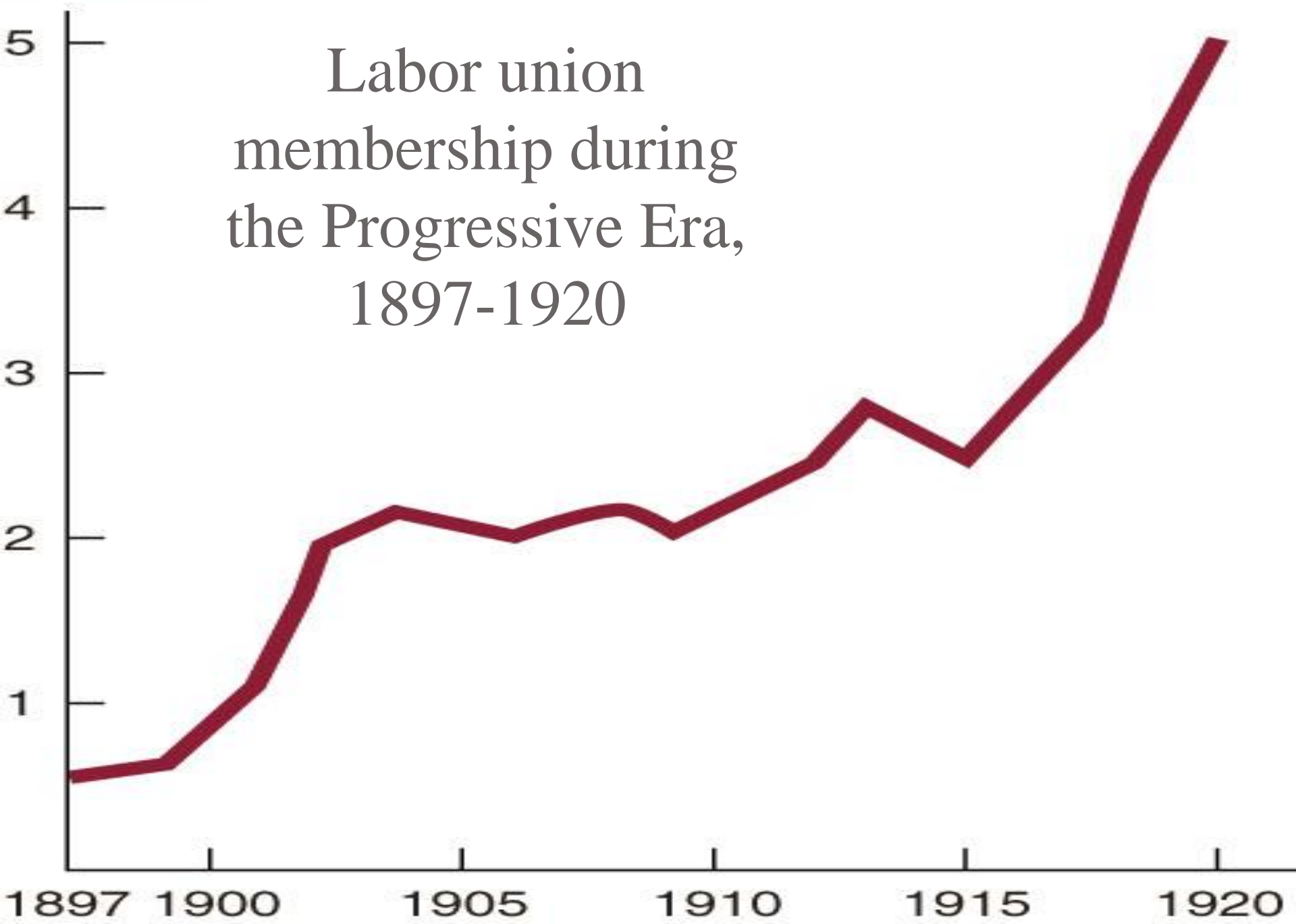
# Working-Class Reform

# Conflict in the Workplace

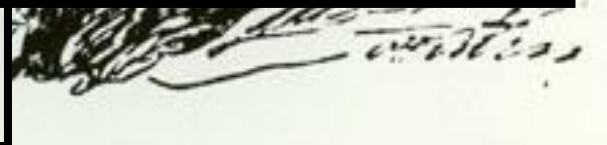
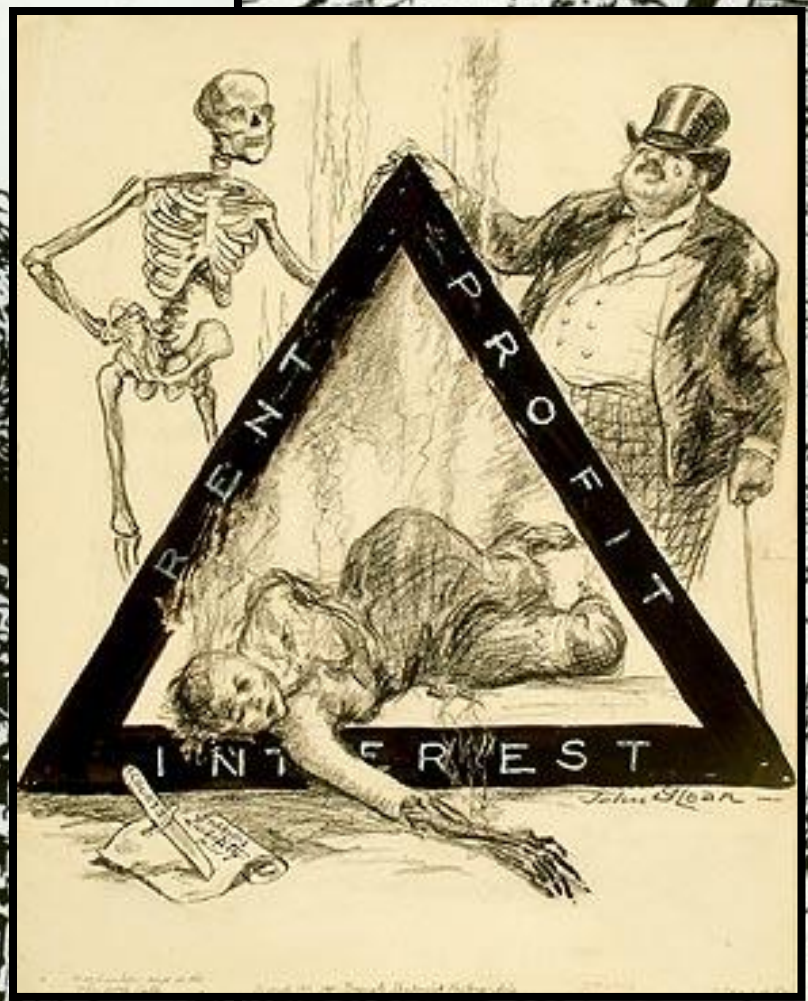
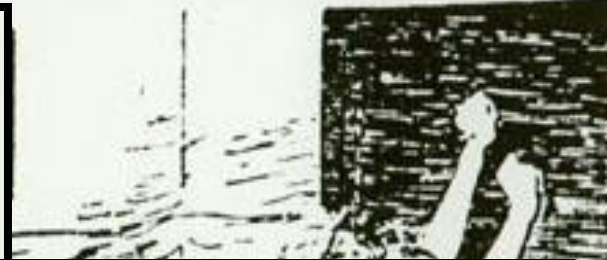
- The new industrial advances like mass production & management sped up production but led to:
  - Long hours, low wages, dangerous settings for workers
  - Labor unrest & strikes
  - Union membership jumped from 4% in 1900 to 13% by 1920
  - Progressive reforms for workers

Millions

Labor union  
membership during  
the Progressive Era,  
1897-1920







# Female & African-American Reform Movements

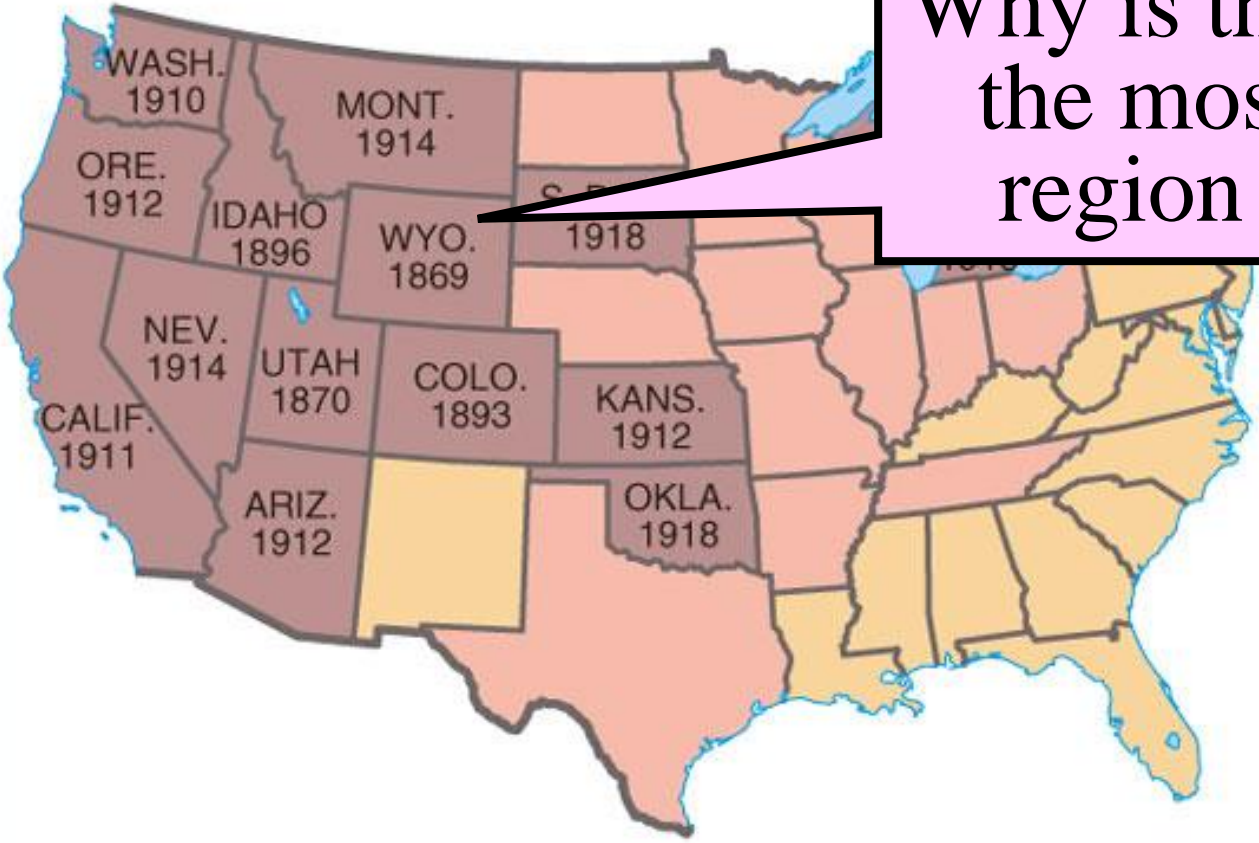


# The Women's Movement

- Successful progressive reforms led by women strengthened calls for women's rights & suffrage:
  - The National Association of Colored Women advocated for the rights of black women
  - The National American Woman Suffrage Association was key in getting the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed in 1920

*“Women’s vote will help cure ills of society”*

Why is the West always the most democratic region in America?



# Women's Suffrage Before 1900



- Equal suffrage with effective date
- Partial woman's suffrage
- No woman's suffrage

To ensure that poor & uneducated whites

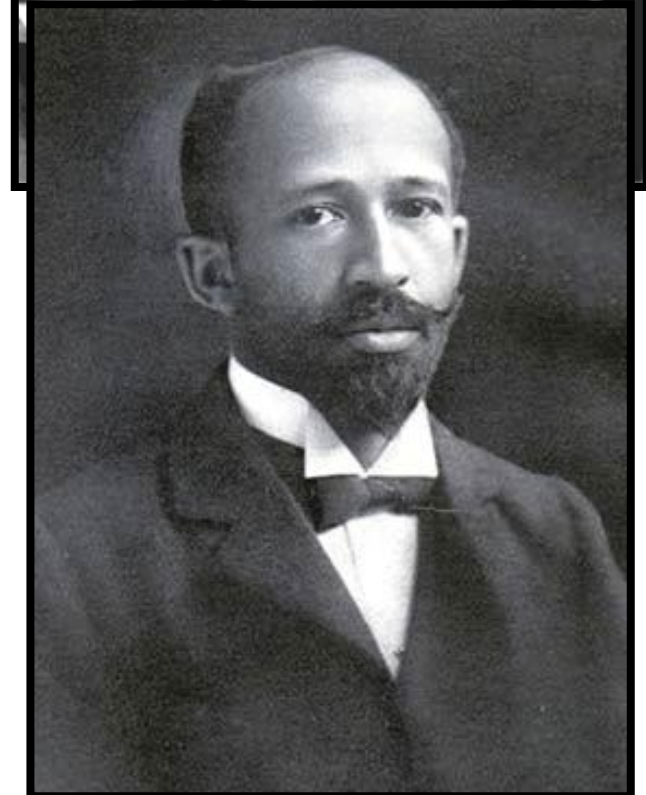
Plessy v Ferguson (1896):

Segregation does not violate the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment & can be used a public policy as long as separate facilities are equal (“*separate but equal*”)

- rural areas, most
- Poll taxes, literacy tests, property qualifications limited black suffrage
- The Plessy v Ferguson (1896) case strengthened Jim Crow laws allowed segregation in public areas (restaurants, hotels, schools)

# African-American Reforms

- Leaders were divided on how to address racial problems
- Booker T Washington stressed black self-improvement
- W.E.B. DuBois was more aggressive
- Called for immediate civil rights, integrated schools, & promotion of the “Talented 10<sup>th</sup>” to be the next generation of black civil rights leaders



# The Niagara Movement & NAACP

- In 1909, National Assoc for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was formed; DuBois was in charge of *The Crisis* publication
- The NAACP had some victories:
  - Guinn v U.S. (1915) ended Oklahoma's grandfather clause
  - Buchanan v Worley (1917) ended KY housing segregation

# Conclusions

- Social progressivism led to successful reforms in American cities by attacking corruption & advocating for the less fortunate
- Urban reformers drew national attention to:
  - The plight of women & African-Americans (with mixed results)
  - The need for reform at the state & national levels