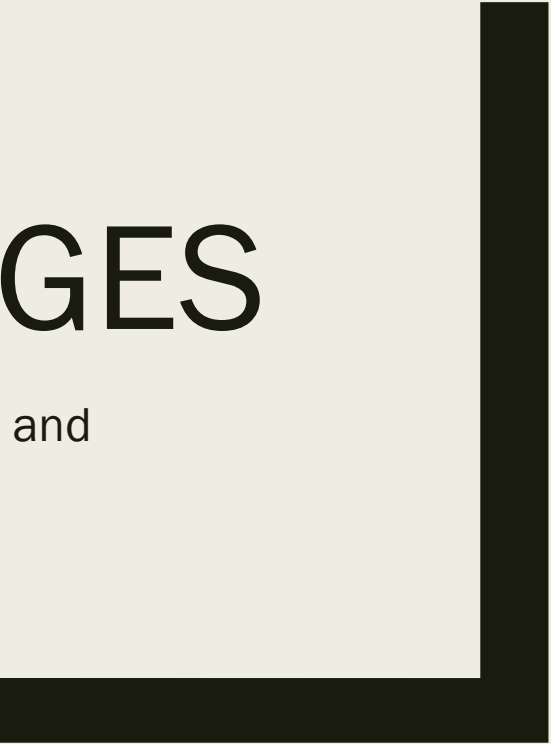




MAKING CHANGES

Progressive Era Strikes, Labor Unions, and
Laws/Amendments

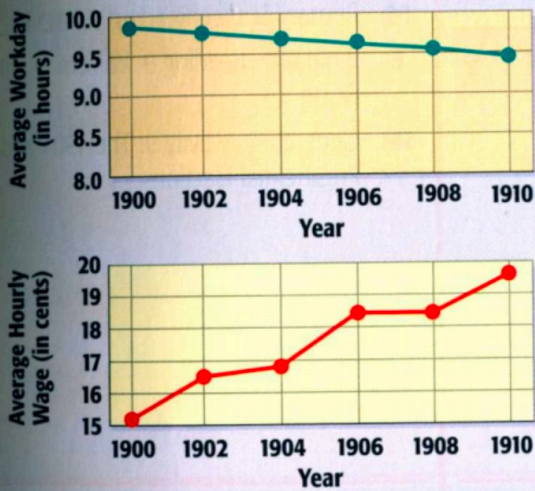


LABOR & STRIKES

Working Things Out for the Workers

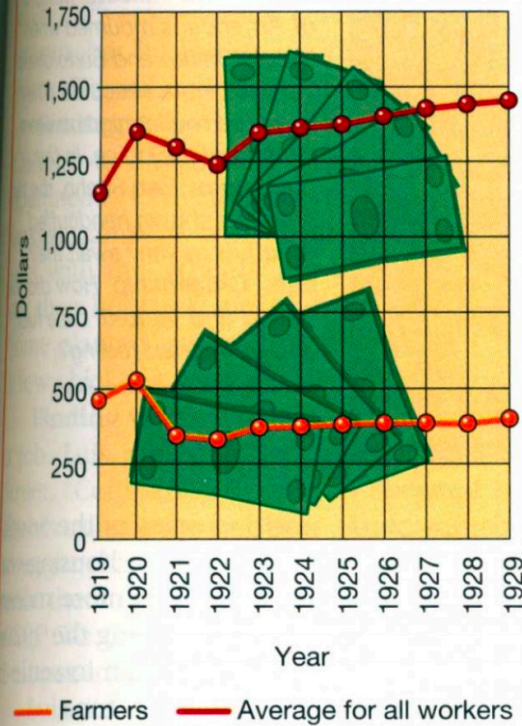


Labor and Wages, 1900–1910



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

Yearly Wages, 1919–1929



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

GRAPH SKILLS On average, farmers earned less than most other workers. As a result, they could not buy many of the new goods that became available in the 1920s. • How far below the average was the yearly wage of farmers in 1920? In 1929?

Unhappy Workers



Many workers believed that the strike was the most powerful weapon they had. Here, striking garment workers demand shorter hours and better working conditions.

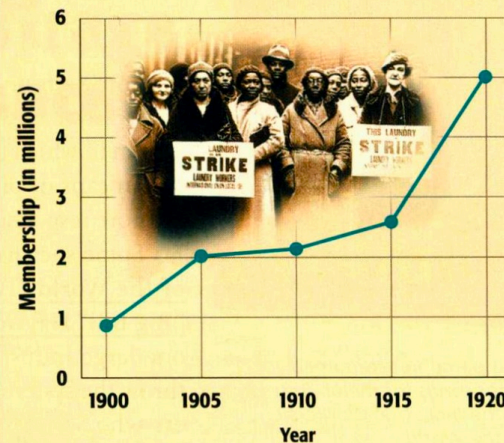
A **union** is a group of workers who join together to bargain with the owners of companies. **Management** represents the owners' interest. The purpose of a union is to give workers greater influence over management. Because groups of workers acting together have more power to win their demands than one individual, printers, stonecutters, machinists, and others had formed craft unions by the 1850s.

The rise of unions came after the **Civil War** (see pp. 59–65). Industries were expanding and needed more workers. There were seventy-nine unions in twenty states in 1863. By 1864, there were 170. The first important national labor federation, or group of unions, was formed in 1866. It was headed by **William H. Sylvis**. The federation favored reforms, such as the eight-hour workday and an end to child labor.

Union →
 “an organized association
 of workers formed to
 protect and further their
 rights and interests; a
 labor union”

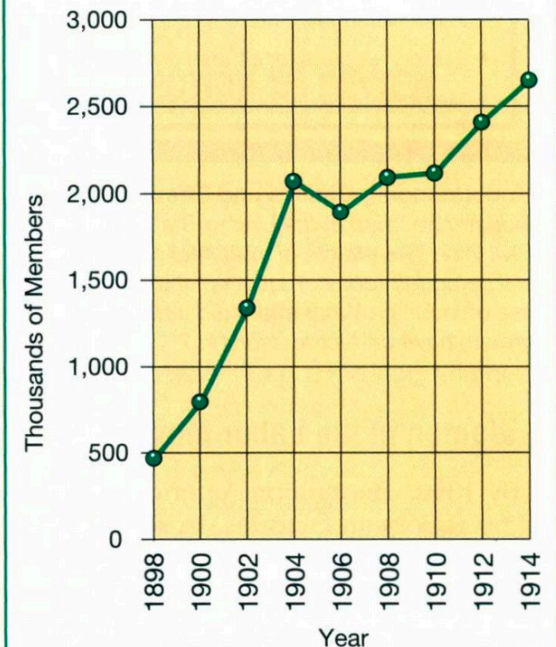
Union Membership

Labor Union Membership, 1900–1920



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

Growing Unions



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

GRAPH SKILLS A growing number of workers joined unions in the late 1800s and early 1900s. By 1904, the AFL alone had one million members. • How much did union membership increase between 1898 and 1914?

EARLY LABOR UNIONS

Knights of Labor Male workers who cut clothing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, formed a union in 1869. Their leader was **Uriah S. Stephens**. He called his organization the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor. Originally a secret organization, it became a national federation in 1879. It was the first to form local units, or assemblies, in different areas for all workers. It had more than 700,000 members in 1886.

American Federation of Labor (AFL) This national labor federation was formed in 1886 in Columbus, Ohio. Its first president was **Samuel Gompers**, leader of the Cigar Makers' Union. The AFL gave the unions the right to organize workers around a specific job or craft. It developed collective bargaining practices and was strengthened when the **National Labor Relations Act** passed in 1935 (see p. 76).

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) The IWW was founded by **Eugene V. Debs, William D. (Big Bill) Haywood, Daniel DeLeon**, and others in 1905. Its members were nicknamed the **Wobblies**. The main purpose of the Wobblies was to overthrow **capitalism** (the system in which individuals, not the government, own most businesses and factories, and workers earn a wage). They favored strikes and other actions over collective bargaining. Other unions opposed the Wobblies, and they eventually broke up.

Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) The CIO was founded in Washington, D.C., in 1935 by **John L. Lewis**, head of the United Mine Workers. Its purpose was to represent all workers of one industry in a single trade union. Before the CIO, one industry, such as steel, might have twenty or more craft unions represented in a single factory. The AFL and the CIO merged in 1955. **George Meany** was named the first president of the combined organizations.

LABOR LEGISLATION

- **Erdman Act (1898):** Provided arbitration and mediation to settle disputes between unions and employers.
- **Adamson Act (1916):** Established an eight-hour day for workers on interstate railroads.
- **National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act of 1935):** Guaranteed workers the right to organize and bargain collectively.
- **Labor-Management Relations Act (Taft-Hartley Act of 1947):** Restricted strikes that endangered the nation's safety, health, or welfare.

Before the twentieth century, few workers injured on the job were able to get compensation from their employers. Courts generally assumed that workers accepted the risks of employment when they took a job, and judges rarely awarded damages unless employers had been clearly negligent. The first federal workers' compensation law was passed in 1882, but it only applied to a few employees in "life-saving" agencies such as the Coast Guard. Speaking in favor of a broader law, Roosevelt noted that it was "a matter of humiliation" that there was no law to aid employees injured in public service, and he argued that "this same broad principle which should apply to the Government should

ultimately be made applicable to all private employers."⁶ In response, Congress passed the first Federal Employers Liability Act in 1906 to protect railroad workers, who had a high rate of injury on the job. Two years later Congress passed a law that covered workers at federal manufacturing sites, arsenals, and Navy yards, as well as employees engaged in hazardous jobs on construction sites. In 1916 Congress passed the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, which extended workers' compensation to all federal employees injured or killed on the job and created a commission to administer claims.

Labor Reform

Theodore Roosevelt became the first president to support workers by intervening in the coal strike of 1902 on behalf of miners.

Reformers also advocated for legislation regulating child labor and workplace safety.

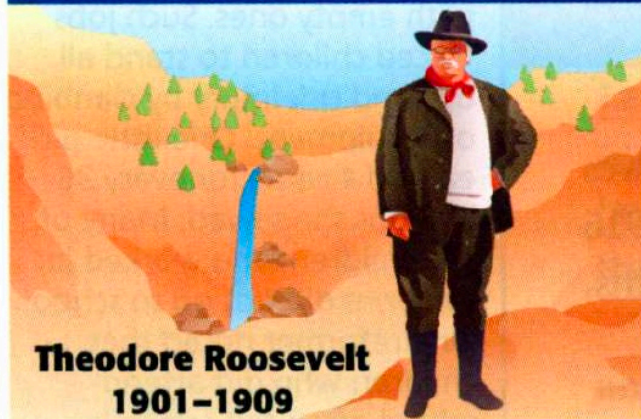
PROGRESSIVE ERA LAWS AND AMENDMENTS

Taking Action



Progressive Presidents & Their Actions

Progressive Presidents

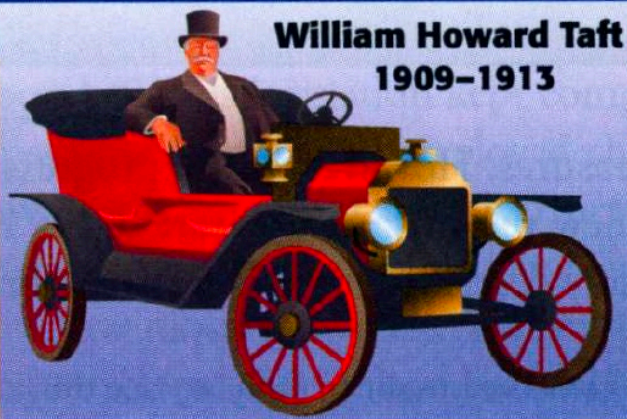


Theodore Roosevelt
1901–1909

Business: broke up some major trusts and supported Pure Food and Drug Act

Labor: helped settle coal miners' strike and proposed the Square Deal

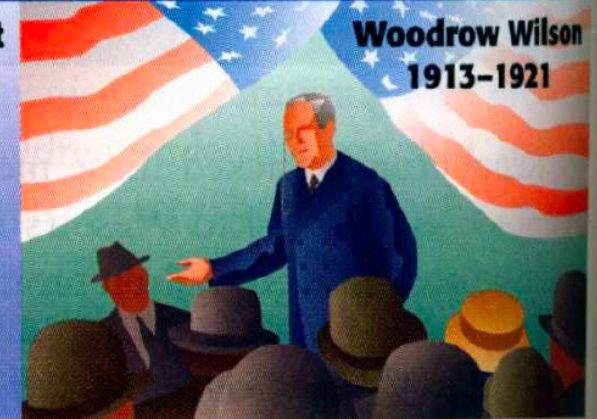
Conservation: placed 150 million acres under control of Forest Service and doubled number of national parks



William Howard Taft
1909–1913

Business: started many antitrust lawsuits and supported Payne-Aldrich Tariff

Conservation: placed additional land in government reserves, became involved in Ballinger-Pinchot controversy



Woodrow Wilson
1913–1921

Business: supported Underwood Tariff Act, Clayton Antitrust Act, and Federal Trade Commission

Labor: supported Adamson Act and Keating-Owen Child Labor Act

Finance: supported Federal Reserve Act, Federal Farm Loan Act, and ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment

Progressive Reforms, 1906–1914

REFORM LAWS	PASSED UNDER PRESIDENT	RESULTS
The Antiquities Act (1906) allowed the president to declare certain areas on federal lands to be protected historic or scientific landmarks.	T. Roosevelt	Roosevelt created national monuments that later became national parks, including the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Later presidents have added to this list.
The Pure Food and Drug Act (1906) prohibited the manufacture, sale, or transportation of mislabeled or contaminated food and drugs sold in interstate commerce.	T. Roosevelt	The law was a breakthrough in public health reform. It also increased Roosevelt's public support.
The Payne-Aldrich Tariff (1909) lowered tariffs on raw materials such as coal, iron, and lumber.	Taft	Progressives opposed the tariff, which left many rates unchanged and raised some others.
The Underwood Tariff Act (1913) reduced tariffs on many goods by almost one third and included the first federal income tax.	Wilson	The public applauded the lower tariff rates, and the income tax became an important source of federal revenue.
The Federal Reserve Act (1913) created a special independent board and system to regulate the banking industry.	Wilson	The Federal Reserve provided stability to the banking industry and now influences the economy by setting key interest rates.
The Clayton Antitrust Act (1914) greatly strengthened laws limiting monopolies and recognized organized labor's right to collective bargaining and to strike.	Wilson	For many years the law was limited by Supreme Court rulings. It is still in effect today.
The Federal Trade Commission Act (1914) created an independent commission to investigate businesses and issue complaints about unfair practices.	Wilson	The Federal Trade Commission investigates business practices and helps enforce laws such as the Clayton Antitrust Act.

Trying to Address Child Labor... But the Supreme Court Rules Otherwise

The Court did not approve all federal labor legislation, however. In 1916 Congress passed the Keating-Owen Child Labor Act, which banned the sale of goods made by children in the United States. The law was aimed at states in the South that had failed to follow the industrial North's lead in outlawing child labor. But the Supreme Court overturned the law in its 1918 ruling in *Hammer v. Dagenhart*. The Court asserted that the issue was not one of interstate commerce but one of labor, and thus a responsibility left to the states. Although the demand for child labor was largely eliminated by the Great Depression of the 1930s, it would not be banned nationwide until the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938. The FLSA also established a minimum wage, a maximum work week of forty-four hours, and overtime pay at one-and-a-half times the normal rate for employees in most manufacturing businesses. In 1941 the Supreme Court upheld the new labor regulations, expressly overturning *Hammer* in its unanimous *United States v. Darby* decision.

16th Amendment → Income Tax

16TH AMENDMENT

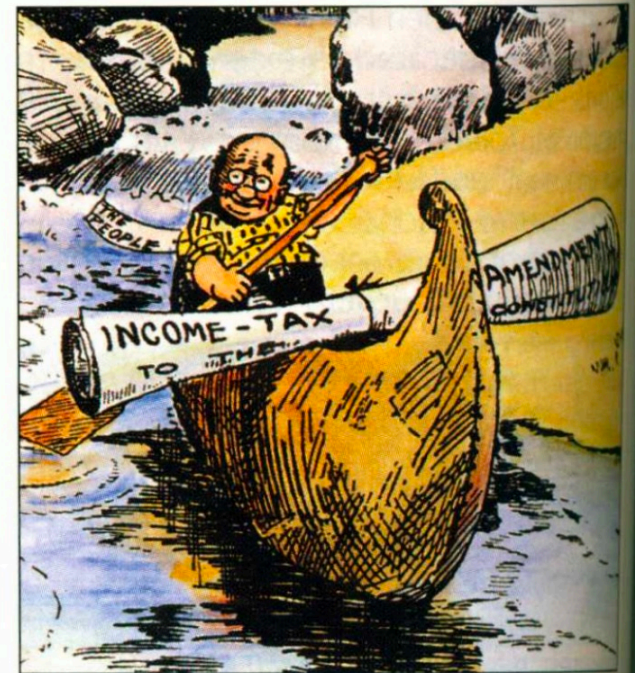
- Income tax (1913)

Congress has the right to tax people's incomes.



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Paying the Tax Collector After the Sixteenth Amendment was ratified, Congress passed an income tax law. People who made more than \$3,000 a year had to pay a tax of 1 percent. This cartoon shows a smooth ride for the amendment after years of debate. **Economics** Why did Progressives favor a graduated income tax?



New Ways the People Can Have a Voice

Initiative	If 5 to 15 percent of all voters sign a petition proposing a new law, that law must appear on the ballot to be approved or rejected by direct popular vote.
Recall	Voters have the power to vote an elected official out of office before his or her term ends.
Referendum	If 5 to 15 percent of all voters sign a petition requesting it, a recently passed law must be placed on the ballot so that voters can either approve or veto it.

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DIRECT ELECTION OF SENATORS

- Before 1913, each state's legislature had chosen its own U.S. senators
- To force senators to be more responsive to the public, progressives pushed for the popular election of senators
- As a result, Congress passed the **17th Amendment** (1913)



The 17th Amendment



- ⌘ Under the Constitution, Senators were elected by individual state legislatures
- ⌘ This Amendment gave citizens the right to elect the Senators that represent their state
- ⌘ Passed in 1912 and ratified in 1913



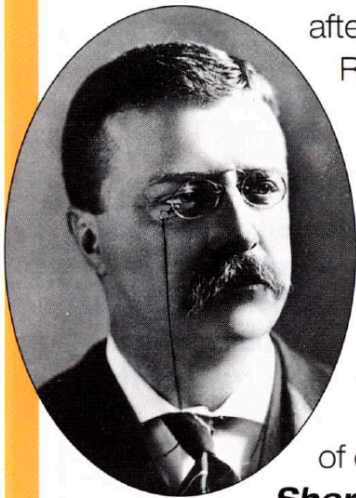
BREAKING UP BIG BUSINESS

Trust-Busting



Trust-Busting

Theodore Roosevelt and Trust Busting



Theodore Roosevelt became the 26th president after **William McKinley** was assassinated in 1901. Roosevelt said that he wanted to give everyone—seller and consumer—a “square deal.” Roosevelt and politicians like him were called **Progressives**. They wanted to give working people some protection against big business. Progressives thought that breaking up the trusts would result in more competition and better prices for average Americans.

In 1902, Roosevelt decided to make an example of one of the trusts. Under a law called the **Sherman Anti-Trust Act**, he sued a railroad trust called the Northern Securities Company. Two years later, the Supreme Court ruled against the trust. Roosevelt’s tough stand against big business made him very popular.

In 1901, Roosevelt coined the expression “Speak softly and carry a big stick.” Against big business, Roosevelt was a man of his word.



Cracking the Whip As President Theodore Roosevelt set out to control “bad trusts.” Here, Roosevelt is shown taming the beef trust, the steel trust, and other powerful trusts. **Economics** Which of Roosevelt’s actions might have inspired this cartoon?