Unit II:
Progressive Era
Bias in Writing

• Every person has their own System of Beliefs (SOB).
• Historians are not exempt from this and will always reflect the nature and culture of their society in the history that they write.
• Historian U.B. Phillips (1900) states in his writing that “America is and always has been a white man’s country.” This statement reflects how most people during his time felt. Women, most Natives, and Blacks were omitted from early history books because the men that wrote the history did not consider their contributions to be important. This is also true with all minorities.
Truths

• Dates should be thought of as objective truths. These truths are those that we all agree upon. Example, July 4, 1776.

• Subjective truth: Why was the Declaration of Independence signed at the time that it was?

• Historians will often disagree upon the answer.

• History is ambiguous, and we are all a bundle of contradictions.

• Truth about history is relative to time, place, and condition.
Tammany Hall & Boss Tweed

(Tammany Ring, n.d.)

(Boss Tweed, 1871)
Anti-Immigrant Movement

“They would close to the newcomer the bridge that carried them and their fathers over.”

(Glackens, 1912)  
(Taylor, 1889)
Statue of Liberty, 1886

(Leslie Liberty, n.d.)
Origins of Progressivism

• Four Goals:
  • Protecting social welfare
  • Promoting moral improvement
  • Creating economic reform
  • Fostering efficiency
Progressive Era

Social Welfare

• Florence Kelley took action to improve the lives of children
• Appointed chief inspector of factories for Illinois
• Illinois Factory Act, 1893
• Prohibited child labor and limited women’s hours

Moral Improvement

• Prohibition
• Carry A. Nation
• WCTU: Women’s Christian Temperance Union
## Progressive Era

### Economic Reform
- Panic in 1893
- Muckrakers: wrote about the evils of big business
- Ida Tarbell: *History of the Standard Oil Company*

### Efficiency
- Scientific Management: to see how quickly tasks could be performed
- Time and motion studies
- Brandeis Brief: model for reform litigation
- Henry Ford: 8hrs a day, $5/day
Clean up Government

- Reforming local government
- La Follette: Wisconsin led the way to regulate big business
- Protect working children
- Limit working hours
- Reform elections: initiative, referendum, and recall
- 17th Amendment
Women

- Women in the work force: farm women, industry, and domestic
- Women in higher education: Vassar College, 1865; Smith and Wellesley, 1875
- Women and reform: NACW, Susan B. Anthony, suffrage, Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Square Deal

- Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*
- Teddy Roosevelt became president when McKinley was assassinated
- He was 42 years old
- Term was used to describe various reforms
Federal Power: Usage

• Trust-busting
• Trusts: legal bodies created to hold stock in many companies
• He sought to curb the actions of those trusts that hurt the public
• Sherman Antitrust Act
• Northern Securities company: dissolved in 1904 (railroads)
1902 Coal Strike

- 140,000 Pennsylvania coal miners went on strike
- 20% raise
- 9-hour day
- Union

- Roosevelt intervened
- Threatened to take over the mines
- 10% raise
- 9-hour day
- Gave up union and right to strike for three years
Rail Road Regulation

- Interstate Commerce Act, 1887
- Prohibited rails from fixing high prices
- Had little power
- Elkins Act, 1903: illegal for RR to give and shippers to receive rebates
- Could not change rates without notification
- Hepburn Act, 1906 limited free rail passes
Health & Environment

- Meat Inspection Act
- Pure Food & Drug Act, 1906
- Conservation & Natural Resources
- US Forest Bureau, 1887: 45 million acres of timberlands taken out of public sale
- Roosevelt made conservation a primary concern

This political cartoon pays homage to Bureau of Chemistry Chief Chemist Harvey Wiley who led the fight to institute a federal law to prohibit adulterated and mis-branded food and drugs, which President Theodore Roosevelt signed in 1906 as the Pure Food and Drugs Act.
Roosevelt & Civil Rights

• Did not support Civil Rights for African Americans
• Booker T. Washington invited to the White House
• W.E.B. Du Bois writes: *The Souls of Black Folk* and talks about Washington
• NAACP formed by Du Bois
U.S. Imperialism

“And, after all, the Philippines are only the stepping-stone to China,” editorial cartoon from after USA conquest of the Philippines. Uncle Sam is seen stepping across the ocean into the Philippines loaded down with symbols of modern civilization, including books labeled "Education" and "Religion," bridges, railroad trains, a sewing machine, and farm machinery. A short distance beyond the Philippines a small figure representing China stands with a happy expression and open arms, surrounded by signs saying large quantities of modern goods are wanted.
References

And, after all, the Philippines are only the stepping-stone to China [Image]. (1901). Retrieved September 22, 2015, from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:1900s_political_cartoons_of_the_United_States#/media/File:UncleSamSteppingStoneToChina.jpg


