
Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Reform Over Revolution (The Progressive Age) | 1 |
| Challenges Facing Americans in the Late 19th Century | 1 |
| Women in 1900 | 2 |
| Women's Rights in 1900 | 2 |
| Middle Class White Women's Roles | 2 |
| Change Already Underway in 1900 | 2 |
| Women and Temperance Movement | 3 |
| Francis Willard | 3 |
| Jane Addams | 4 |
| Johnny Powers and the Boodlers | 4 |
| What is Progressivism | 4 |
| How did Progressivism Work? | 4 |
| The Muckrakers | 4 |
| Florence Kelly | 4 |
| Making Human Junk | 6 |
| How did Progressive Reach and Sway the Public | 6 |
| Clara Lemlich and the Uprising of the 20,000 | 6 |
| Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire | 6 |
| Progressive Presidents | 7 |
| The Election of 1912 | 7 |
| Ida B. Wells | 7 |
| Margret Sanger | 7 |
| Birth Control as "Race Suicide" | 8 |
| Madame C.J Walker | 8 |

Reform Over Revolution (The Progressive Age)

- Never got a hold of socialism

Challenges Facing Americans in the Late 19th Century

- New wave of immigration - the Ellis Island generation
- Urbanization
- Labor unrest
- Jim Crow Laws

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- Laws that seek to oppress and smother Black rights
 - Lack of franchise for women and African Americans
 - Women played a large role in addressing (though not necessarily solving) many of these problems
 - Suffrage, prohibition
 - Laissez Faire: hands-free mode, no regulations (**free market economy**)
 - Let it be by the Beatles

Women in 1900

- Women's lives structured by race, class and marital status, in that order
- Average lifespan was 48.3 years
- Average women married at age of 22
- Women who reached adulthood had an average of 3.6 children

Women's Rights in 1900

- A married woman had no separate legal identity from her husband
- No control over reproduction (even talking about contraception is illegal)
- No property held in her name
- Jobs available
 - No career but not going anywhere

Middle Class White Women's Roles

- Middle class is overwhelmingly white, urban, Protestant, Anglo-Saxon
- Sacred duty - raise virtuous sons and daughters
- Victorian sexualality
 - Women were not allowed to be sexually active

Change Already Underway in 1900

- Literacy - more girls than boys finished high school
 - Boys got jobs before finishing

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- New female-dominated professions
 - Nursing
 - Social work
 - Clerical jobs also becoming women's work
 - College Education
 - Women constitute 30% of college students
 - Professions limited

Women and Temperance Movement

- Movement against alcohol



Figure 1: Temperance Movement Poster

Francis Willard

- WCTU: Women's Christian Temperance Union
- Refocused organization on social *action*
- Home protection outside of the home (political activism)

Jane Addams

- Mother of social work
- Hull House
- Represented what is known as the “social gospel” reform tradition

Johnny Powers and the Boodlers

- Powers was an Irish “boodler”
- A city boss targeted by Jane Addams
- Trash smells really bad
- Goes around and making sure the trashmen were doing their jobs

What is Progressivism

- A political approach that dominated change in the United States from roughly 1900-1920
- Centered on the idea that America’s political system is fundamentally sound, but was in need of attention to perfect the relationship between government and society
- Not laissez-faire, but not intrusive

How did Progressivism Work?

- An unofficial alliance between middle class reformers and presidents of two major parties who advocated the REFORM of problematic aspects of society through legislation
- Women were heavily represented among progressives
- Introduction of Liberals
- Speaking out against monopolies

The Muckrakers

- to characterize reform-minded American journalists who attacked established institutions and leaders as corrupt

Florence Kelly

- Chicago based crusader against child labor laws



Figure 2: Monopoly

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- College educated
 - Advocate against child labour

Making Human Junk

- People who advocated for abolishing child labor laws claimed that it was affecting the education of the youth (cause guess what, it was)
- Others said it made them hard workers
 - But that is not entirely true

How did Progressive Reach and Sway the Public

- McClure's magazine
 - Popularized progressive causes
 - Monthly and published books
 - Magazines were effective because they were in a language that everyone could understand, where as books may have used higher level thinking/big words
 - * It was also cheaper

Clara Lemlich and the Uprising of the 20,000

- In 1909, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union went on strike in NY
 - Arrested and beaten by police
 - Strikers cooperate across ethnic lines
 - Cooperated with other unions
 - Impressed a lot people in NY
 - Went beyond racial lines
 - Ellis Island Generation
 - * Segregated societies between different races
 - The situation for most workers did not get better

Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire

- Many victims were Jews (immigrant) and their daughters
- Not enough fire escape routes and most of the employees died
- 100 people were burned alive

Progressive Presidents

- Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)
 - Food Regulation
 - * Meat Inspection Act of 1906
 - TR uses Sinclair's *The Jungle* to force reforms
 - * Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906
 - Clamps down on patent medicine (alcohol) and took cocaine out of Coca-Cola (why they call it Coke)
- William Howard Taft (1909-1913)
- Woodrow Wilson (1913-1920)
 - Imposed an income tax for the first time
 - Created the Federal Reserve System which was 12 banks to expand or contract the currency to manage the economy
 - Created Federal Trade Commission to Prevent monopolies
 - Granted women's suffrage hesitantly (what a cunt)

The Election of 1912

- All three of the above run and also a Eugene Debs runs (who was not a progressive)
- Debs was basically was a communist (kicked out of America was considered a RED)

Ida B. Wells

- Trained in Reconstruction-era schools
- Member of the black middle class
- Daughter of a "race man"
- Anti-lynching campaign
- Alpha Suffrage Club
- [Documentary](#)

Margret Sanger

- Considered a radical, even among the New Women at the turn of the century
- Coined the term birth control

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- Emphasized “economic self-sufficiency” (a break from Progressive tradition)
 - Woman Rebel: the newspaper led to Sanger’s arrest
 - Pamphlet “Family Limitation” written by Sanger and distributed by Wooblies

Birth Control as “Race Suicide”

- Because he is a Conservative white male, who is Christian who can’t wrap his pea-sized brain around the idea of an idea going against God

Madame C.J Walker

- Earned her wealth by selling her hair products and skin lotion to primarily African American customers in Indianapolis between 1910 until her death in 1919