

Unions

- The Working Men's Party ("The Workies")
 - Dates: 1827 in Philadelphia → died quickly
 - Goals:
 - 10-hour workday
 - End of government-chartered monopolies (especially banks)
 - A public school system
 - Cheap land in the west
 - Leaders:
 - P.J. McGuire
 - Albert R. Parsons
 - John G. Day
 - Followers:
 - White socialist workers
 - Important Events:
 - No major ones → died too quickly
- *actually a political party → influenced the Jacksonian Democrats
- General Trades Union (GTU)
 - Dates: 1833 in N.Y. – 1837
 - Founded by representatives from 9 different craft groups → ended by the Panic of 1837
 - Goals:
 - To start unions and strikes (encouraged the formation of more than 50 unions and almost 40 strikes in N.Y. alone)
 - Followers:
 - White men in skilled trades
 - Important Events:
 - 1836: Mass Rally → Judge Edwards (mentioned below in NTU) was burned in effigy
- National Trades Unions (NTU)
 - Dates: 1834 in Baltimore - 1837?
 - Founded by representatives of several local GTU's
 - Goals:
 - Criticized unequal distribution of wealth; said it is incompatible with natural equality
 - Followers:
 - White men in skilled trades
 - Important Events:
 - 1836: N.Y. employers took several journeymen tailors to court → Judge Edwards said they were guilty of conspiracy and unions are un-American
- Miner's Unions in the 1860's
 - Dates: 1860's – into the 1900's (when prices and ore production fell sharply)
 - Goals:
 - Good pay for such dangerous work

- 1910's: Enacted laws from previously secured legislation mandating a maximum eight-hour day for certain jobs and workmen's compensation for injuries → long before eastern states got similar laws
- Leaders:
 - White miners in the west
- Followers:
 - White miners in the west (especially Montana → most dangerous)
 - Eventually admitted Irish, English, Italians, Slovaks, and Greeks
- Important Events:
 - Violent → mineowner's private armies "arrested" and fought against strikes with rifles and miners burned down campsites
 - At the end of the century, they were the strongest unions in the west
- National Labor Union (NLU)
 - Dates: 1866 - around 1872 (soon after Sylvis's death)
 - Ended soon after Sylvis's death and during The Depression of the 1870's
 - Goals:
 - To halt the wage system → passed resolutions advocating banking reforms so workers could borrow enough money to launch their own factories
 - Leaders:
 - Founder and President- William Sylvis
 - Followers:
 - Mostly skilled workers
 - Also included some farmers and unskilled workers
 - Small attempt to defend the rights of women and blacks → efforts were "halting and ineffective"
 - Reached 300,000 members
 - Important Events:
 - 1868: Congress allows government workers to have 8-hour work days
- The Noble and Holy Order of the Knights of Labor ("The Knights")
 - Dates: 1869 in Philadelphia - around 1887
 - Founded by a group of Philadelphia garment cutters
 - Goals:
 - Shorter workday
 - more land for homesteading
 - abolition of child labor and contract
 - monetary reform
 - a graduated income tax
 - Did not accept the wage system
 - Leaders:
 - Grand Master Workman Terence V. Powderly
 - Followers:
 - Almost everyone (included women and blacks!)
 - Excluded doctors, bankers, lawyers, liquor producers and gamblers
 - Supported restricted immigration and the Chinese Exclusion Act
 - Important Events:
 - Built their own factories and worker-run factories → helped wage issue

- 1866: Haymarket Square Riot → a bomb was thrown at a protest rally (killing one police officer and fatally wounding seven others), making the police shot (killing several others) → associated them with anarchism
- The American Federation of Labor (AFL)
 - Dates: 1886 – present (now called the AFL-CIO)
 - Founded by craft unions → delegates from 8 national unions formed the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada → this became the AFL in 1886
 - Goals:
 - Accepted wage system (unlike NLU or the Knights)
 - Bargained with employers → offered the benefit of good relations with highly skilled wage earners
 - Only went on strike if a company refused to bargain
 - Better working conditions
 - Higher wages
 - Shorter hours
 - Leaders:
 - Founder and President- Samuel Gompers
 - Followers:
 - Did not accept unskilled workers, African Americans, women and most immigrants
 - Important Events:
 - 1894: Labor Day becomes a national holiday (celebrated since the 1880's)
 - 1890's: Following the Depression, AFL came out as the strongest and most stable organization of workers (grew most in coal mining)
 - 1970-1982: AFL-CIO lost much of its membership and political influence
- Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)
 - Dates: 1935 – present (now called AFL-CIO)
 - Founded by a group of militant union officials led by John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers and Sidney Hillman of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers
 - Goals:
 - To organize mass production workers by industry rather than by craft → large scale, mass-production industry workers, including women & blacks
 - To arouse the dead labor movement between 1932-1942
 - Leaders:
 - Founder and key figure- John L. Lewis and Founder- Sidney Hillman
 - Many communist and radical leaders
 - Followers:
 - All workers (including women and blacks!), not just those of craft → large scale, mass-production industry workers
 - Important Events:
 - Flint sit-down strike at General Motors → increased membership rapidly
 - 1837: Memorial Day Massacre in Chicago → police fired into a crowd of union supporters, killed 10 and would many more
 - 1970-1982: AFL-CIO lost much of its membership and political influence

- United Auto Workers (UAW)
 - Dates: 1941
 - Goals:
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 - Leaders:
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 - Followers:
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 - Important Events:
 - 1941: Came out as one of the most powerful unions of that time
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
 - Dates: 1909
 - Lillian Wald (child labor, women and black suffrage advocate) offered Henry Street (Henry Street Settlement houses) a meeting place to the National Negro Conference → made the NAACP
 - Goals:
 - Racial barriers
 - Equal opportunity
 - Leaders:
 - Henry Street
 - Only black officer of the original NAACP- W.E.B. Du Bois
 - Wrote the monthly journal *Crisis*
 - Writer of *Crisis* in 1919- James Weldon
 - Followers:
 - African Americans
 - Included some white progressives sympathetic to challenging Booker T. Washington's ideas
 - Important Events:
 - 1919: National conference about lynching → defended persecuted blacks, publicized the horrors, and looked for federal legislation against lynching
 - 1940-1946: Grew over 8 times
 - After WWII: Conducted voter registration drives and lobbied against discrimination in housing and employment
- American Railroad Union (ARU)
 - Dates: 1893 – sometime after Debs is put in jail in 1894 (union dissolves)
 - Goals:
 - To bring all railroad workers together into one organization
 - Leaders:
 - Founder- Eugene V. Debs
 - Followers:
 - All railroad workers
 - Important Events:
 - 1894: Victory at the Great Northern rail line
 - 1894: Sympathy strike against Pullman cars due to the crushing defeat of the Pullman Car Strike

- American Postal Workers Union (APWU)
 - Dates: 1971 – today
 - Five already existent postal unions merged to form it → United Federation of Postal Clerks, National Postal Union, National Association of Post Office and General Service Maintenance Employees, and the National Association of Special Delivery Messengers
 - Goals:
 - To get a significant increase in wages
 - Better employee benefits
 - Better working conditions
 - Make achieving promotions and moving higher up in company easier
 - “Dignity and respect on the job for the workers...as well as for decent pay and benefits and safe working conditions.”
 - Leaders:
 - Previously- Moe Biller → died in 2003
 - Current leader- William Burrus
 - Followers:
 - 330,000 clerks, maintenance workers, and motor vehicle service workers
 - Important Events:
 - The Great Postal Strike of 1970 → Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 (granted unions the right to negotiate with management over wages, benefits and working conditions)
 - 1981: Joint Bargaining Committee (JBC) formed between the APWU and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
- American Conservative Union (ACU)
 - Dates: 1964 (first meeting)
 - Goals:
 - Mission statement- “consolidate the overall strength of the American conservative movement through unified leadership and action, mold public opinion, and stimulate and direct responsible political action.”
 - Leaders:
 - Frank S. Meyer
 - John Chamberlain
 - Jameson Campagne Sr.
 - John Ashbrook
 - Katharine St. George
 - William F. Buckley Jr.
 - L. Brent Bozell
 - Robert E. Bauman
 - Followers:
 - Conservatives who:
 - Did not want to be exploited by Republican regimes
 - Were critical of the Nixon Administration
 - Wanted to work against the liberal congress
 - Wanted to challenge the media
 - Wanted to confront federal bureaucracy
 - Important Events:

- 1973: Launched the Public Monitor Initiative (heightened awareness of bureaucratic abuse), the ACU Education and Research Institute (source of many studies and issue analyses), and the congressional placement program (a job bank for new conservatives in the Washington area)
 - 1975: Asked Ronald Reagan to help them by running for President → see him become President in 1981
- Teamsters Union
 - Dates: 1903 – present
 - Formed by merging the Team Drivers International Union and the Teamsters National Union
 - Goals:
 - Higher wages
 - Shorter hours
 - Leaders:
 - President from 1907 - 1952 Daniel J. Tobin
 - President from 1952 - 1958 Dave Beck
 - President from 1958 - 1971 David Hoffa
 - President from 1971 - 1981 Frank E. Fitzsimmons
 - President in 1981 Roy Williams
 - President from 1982 - 1985 Jackie Presser
 - President from 1985 - 1991 William McCarthy
 - President from 1991 - 1997 Ronald R. Carey
 - President from 1998 - present James P. Hoffa
 - Followers:
 - Majority are truck drivers
 - Also clerical, service, and technological members since the 1980's
 - Important Events:
 - 1933: Took on the organization of the long-distance trucking industry
 - 1934: Minneapolis branch won a bloody strike in Minneapolis against their own national officials and anti-union employers
 - 1957: Expelled from the AFL-CIO
 - 1988: Reentered the AFL-CIO
 - 2005: Teamster leave the AFL-CIO of their own accord