I. Second Civil War or the War against the People

A. From 1877 through WWII factory workers, miners, mill workers, loggers, railroad workers, small merchants, artisans, farmers, farm workers engaged in sustained resistance to “organized power and wealth.”

1. strikes

a. sympathy strikes, sit-down strikes wildcat strikes

b. general strikes

2. violence against property and person

a. sabotage

b. destruction of property

c. violence, stoning, shooting

3. boycotts

4. articulating another "world view"

a. questions: what type of society should we live in, race question,

gender question, labor question.

b. anti-capitalist

i. wage labor is wage slavery

ii. people over profit

c. solidarity, sympathy (institutionalized as a type of strike)

d. ideologies: socialism, Marxism, populism, Social Gospel, anarchism, industrial democracy

e. labor halls, newspapers, music, literature, events.

B. The War: The Great Upheaval 1877 (also Pullman, Homestead, Haymarket, Ludlow, Lawrence, Triangle, Seattle, San Francisco)

1. July 16, 1877 Martinsburg, West Virginia

a. B&O cut wages 10%

b. Workers stopped trains from leaving

c.. Governor called out militia to “prevent obstruction of the trains.”

i. militia not able to help

ii. *solidarity:* people of Martinsburg unanimously supported strike

iii. pattern for the war

2. Strike spread to all workers on B&O

a. B&O asked for and received federal troops

b.. workers in surrounding towns and other occupations joined

c. becoming a “*mass strike”*

3. spread to Maryland,

a. in Baltimore people stoned National Guard which fired on people

b.. asked the President for the U.S. Army

4 spread to Pennsylvania, workers controlled railroad activity in Pittsburg

a.. National Guard attacked workers,

b. *the entire city mobilized*, fired on Guard, burned the rail cars, round houses

5. spread to New York, militia attacked and fired back

6. movement for *general strike* in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio then spread to Chicago and the South. *St. Louis: General Strike: Executive Committee*

7. Force: “the strikers have been put down by force”: President Hayes

federal troops, citizens patrols, 5,000 special police, employer police units.

C. Lawrence Textile Strike

1. American Woolen Company in Lawrence, Mass

1. immigrant workers
2. wooden tenements: crowded, unsanitary, flammable

1. wages $8.76 a week
2. labor force: young women between 14 and 18

"A considerable number of the boys and girls die within the first two or three years after beginning work . . . thirty-six out of every 100 of all men and women who worked in the mill die before or by the time they are twenty-five years of age."

1. Jan cut back in pay
2. Job action: 10,000

2. IWW (International Workers of the World)

"the IWW was the most egalitarian labor organization in American history, organizing skilled and unskilled, men and women, blacks and Mexicans, and in a break with tradition, Chinese and Japanese workers.”

a. goal: worker control (industrial democracy)

b. means: direct action (include strikes, boycotts, general strikes)

c. small organization but a powerful idea

d. arrested for speaking, no free speech, hung, murdered

3. IWW leaders to conduct strike

a. committee of 50 from all nationalities

b. soup kitchen to feed 50,000

c. financial support from all over the country

4. Government response

a. mayor called out the local militia

b. governor called out the state police

c. peaceful parade attacked by the police and

a female striker killed

d. arrested strikers Joseph Ettor and Arturo Giovanni

e. Martial law, 22 cos of militia, 2 troops of cavalry,

citizens forbidden to talk on streets

5. workers: mass picketing, 7000 to 10,000

6. children

a. hungry

b. four out of 119 had underwear, their outerwear was

in rags, their coats torn to shreds."

c. send to supporters in other cities

d. City officials forbid this,

e. police then attacked parents and children

7. outcome

D. Seattle Genera Strike 1919, San Francisco General Strike 1934

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dku-MFnIxaU>

E. Republic Steel 1937

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q3RUGLfFv0>

F. GM Sit In

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZ7v1FQJTiQ>

G. Great Depression: victories

1. Wagner Act: collective bargaining, NLRB

2. Fair Labor Standards Act: wage and hour laws, no child labor