# Social Reforms

Progressive era is reform minded.

Big reform ideas follow:

**Work Conditions**

Child labor was common

Triangle shirtwaist fire - owners would lock women in the workroom and it caught fire, killing many of them.

**Muckrakers**

Journalists exposing the countries problems. Almost all were socialists who didn’t like capitalism at all.

Most famous muckraker was Upton Sinclaire, who wrote “The Jungle”, with chapters profiling the meat packing industries especially in Chicago. Helped create the FDA.

**Progressive Law - Sociological Jurisprudence**

Jurisprudence is the study of how the law is interpreted

Sociological Jurisprudence focuses on the social outcome of a case rather than the letter of the law.

(Lochner v New York) vs (Muller v Oregon) both had to do with work hours. First sided with the employers, next sided with the workers. Limited work hours.

**Progressivism Applied to Religion - The Social Gospel**

Progressivism takes religion in a more liberal direction. Theologians start to openly question teachings and parables from the Bible. Walter Rauschenbusch criticizes the “individualistic Gospel”; has more of a collective view of redemption. Wants state power to “redeem” society. “Resocializing property”. Collective over the individual.

**Jane Addams and the Settlement Housing Movement**

Settlement houses helped immigrants in need, especially women.

**Women’s Club Movement**

Helped schools, libraries, hospitals, public parks, etc.

Causes: child labor law, tempernce (reduced alcohol), women’s suffrage.

**Race Relations**

Progressive era was a low point for race relations. Lots of “scientific racism”, would lead into eugenics. Lynchings were commonplace.

**Eugenics**

“Eugenics is the self direction of human evolution.” IQ testing was common, they wanted to sterilize “defective” people. Americans rethink this around 1945 because that’s literally Hitler.

**Presidential Progressivism**

Teddy Roosevelt:

* Intervened in Mine workers strike and helped them come to an agreement
* Hepburn Act: interstate regulation in railroads
* Meat inspection and Pure Food and Drug Act
* Uses Sherman antitrust act to break up monopolies

Taft is president after Roosevelt. Roosevelt wants to be president again but doesn’t want to take away Taft’s (republican?) ticket, so Roosevelt starts the progressive “Bull Moose” party.

Bull Moose platform:

* Popular election of senators
* Ease constitutional amendment process
* Campaign finance reform
* Women’s suffrage
* Health and safety standards for labor
* Prohibit child labor
* 8 hour workday for women

President Wilson:

* Congress and 42 states ratified the 16th amendment (income tax)
* Federal reserve act of 1913 - gives congress more control over currency
* Federal Trade Act
* Clayton Antitrust Act - more aggressive than Sherman Antitrust Act.

**Progressive Constitutionalism**

Roosevelt: constitution is “an instrument designed for healthy growth.”

Wilson is the first president to be openly critical of the constitution.

**Progressive Amendments**

* 16th amendment - income tax
* 17th amendment - popular election of senators
* 18th amendment - Prohibition :(
* 19th amendment - Women’s suffrage :)

President Harding (after Wilson) promised a “return to normalcy” which kind of happened but later another president would bring progressivism back.