Labor in the Progressive Era

* Many workers believed freedom meant fighting for better economic and social conditions
* Socialist Party: Founded in 1901, appealed to urban reformers, former Populists and immigrant workers. Had a strong following in NY and some western cities like Milwaukee
* Party 150,000 members 1912
* Leaders included Victor Berger and Eugene V. Debs

AFL and IWW

* International workers of the World also called “Wobblies”
  + Advocated a revolution of workers seizing means of production and state
  + Recruited workers ignored by other unions
    - Women, immigrants, migrants, African Americans, Chinese
  + Big Bill Haywood was an important leader
* American Federation of labor
  + Had 1.6 million members by 1904
  + Forged close ties with corporate leaders who would deal with unions
  + Recruited skilled industrial workers and craft laborers
  + Primarily white, male, and native born.