

# Ch 17 The Progressive Era

## Section 1 The Origins of Progressivism

### Four Goals of Progressivism

#### Concerns of Progressives

- Early 1900s, middle-class reformers address problems of 1890s
- Different reform efforts collectively called **progressive movement**
- Reformers aim to restore economic opportunity, correct injustice by:
  - protecting social welfare, promoting moral improvement
  - creating economic reform, fostering efficiency

#### Protecting Social Welfare

- Social Gospel, settlement houses inspire other reform groups
- **Florence Kelley**, political activist, advocate for women, children
  - helps pass law prohibiting child labor, limiting women's hours

#### Promoting Moral Improvement

- Some feel poor should uplift selves by improving own behavior
- **Prohibition**—banning of alcoholic drinks
- Woman's Christian Temperance Union spearheads prohibition crusade

#### Creating Economic Reform

- 1893 panic prompts doubts about capitalism; many become socialists
- **Muckrakers**—journalists who expose corruption in politics, business

#### Fostering Efficiency

- Many use experts, science to make society, workplace more efficient
- Louis D. Brandeis uses social scientists' data in trial
- **Scientific management**—time and motion studies applied to workplace
- Assembly lines speed up production, make people work like machines
  - cause high worker turnover

#### Cleaning Up Local Government

#### Reforming Local Government

- Reformers try to make government efficient, responsive to voters
- Some cities adopt government by commission of experts
- Many use council-manager: people elect council that appoints manager

#### Reform Mayors

- Hazen Pingree of Detroit tackles taxes, transit fares, corruption
- Socialist Tom Johnson of Cleveland fights corrupt utility companies

#### Reform at the State Level

#### Reform Governors

- Governors push states to pass laws to regulate large businesses
- **Robert M. La Follette** is 3-term governor, then senator of Wisconsin
  - attacks big business

#### Protecting Working Children

- Child workers get lower wages, small hands handle small parts better
  - families need children's wages
- National Child Labor Committee gathers evidence of harsh conditions
- Labor unions argue children's wages lower all wages
- Groups press government to ban child labor, cut hours

#### Efforts to Limit Working Hours

- *Muller v. Oregon*—Court upholds limiting women to 10-hour workday
- *Bunting v. Oregon*—upholds 10-hour workday for men
- Reformers win workers' compensation for families of injured, killed

### **Reforming Elections**

- Oregon adopts secret ballot, initiative, referendum, recall
- **Initiative**—bill proposed by people, not lawmakers, put on ballots
- **Referendum**—voters, not legislature, decide if initiative becomes law
- **Recall**—voters remove elected official through early election
- Primaries allow voters, not party machines, to choose candidates

### **Direct Election of Senators**

- **Seventeenth Amendment** permits popular election of senators