

## **Problem:**

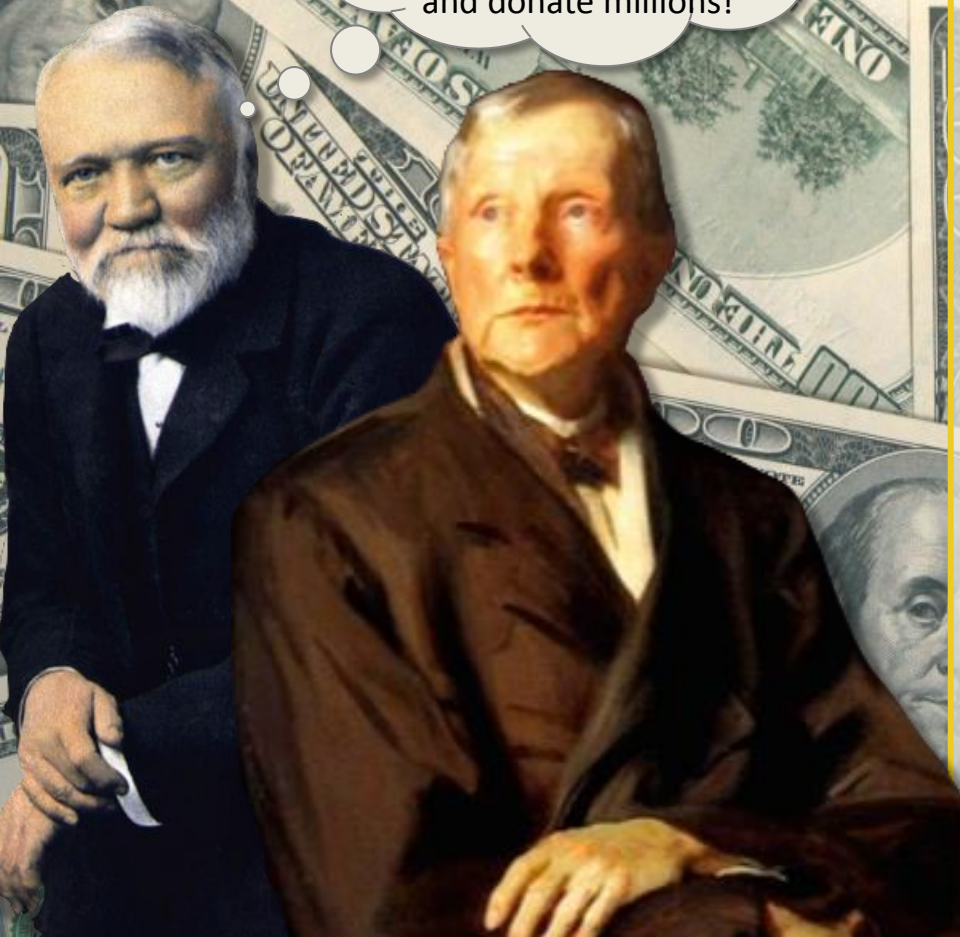
Industries were teaming up to form Trusts that would eliminate competition and keep prices high.

# Progressivism

But our businesses provide jobs and our wealth allows us to be philanthropists and donate millions!

At the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie, like other business leaders, saw progress everywhere. These industry leaders felt big business made progress possible. Railroads that linked the economies of the east and west, resources like oil and iron ore, and factories mass producing goods more quickly than ever provided jobs for the growing work force in rapidly expanding cities

Not everyone admired big business the way these industry leaders did. Many felt they grew wealthy off the backs of the poor, hardworking lower class. And with these wealthy industry tycoons forming trusts and monopolies, they were eliminating smaller companies and controlling prices of their products.



# Progressivism

## Problem:

Industries were teaming up to form Trusts that would eliminate competition and keep prices high.

## Solution:

Government regulations enforced to break up trusts and eliminate monopolies.



Congress had passed the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to keep these industries from forming trusts and monopolies. However, industry leaders had the wealth needed to help elect government leaders who would allow them to continue expanding their businesses. When President McKinley was assassinated in 1901, this trend changed.

Theodore Roosevelt was a progressive. He believed the government should help make progress in areas impacting society. He began by enforcing the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. He had the Justice Department sue the industries that had created trusts and monopolies. They were forced to break into smaller companies.



# Muckrakers

## Problem:

Corruption existed in many areas of society, allowing the rich and powerful to continue to gain wealth at the expense of the working class.

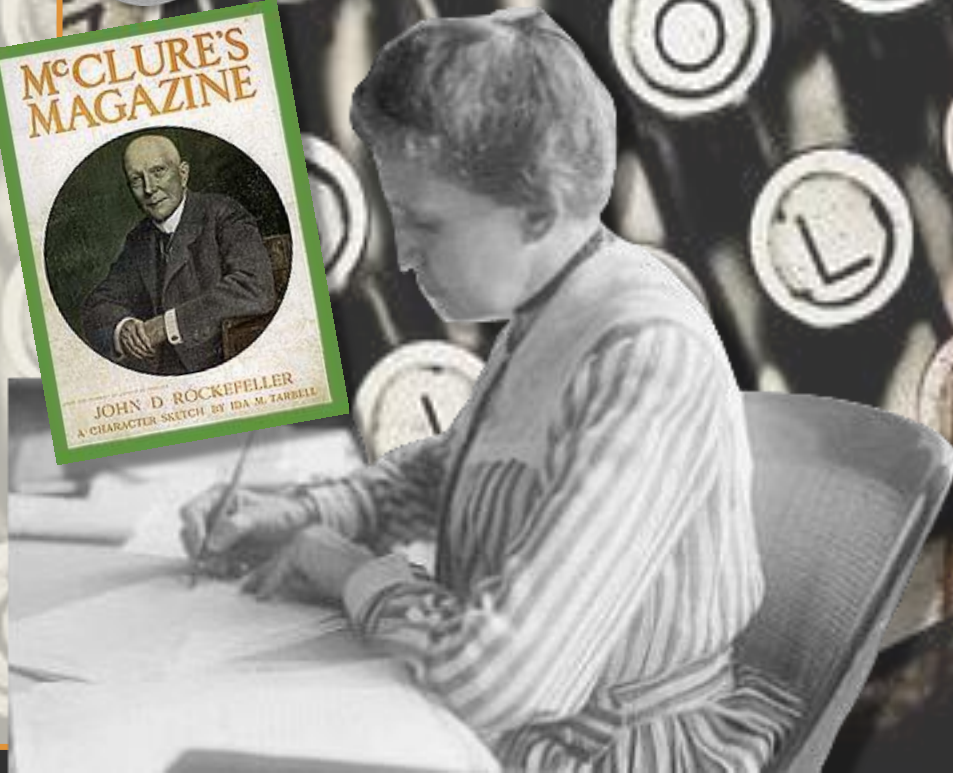
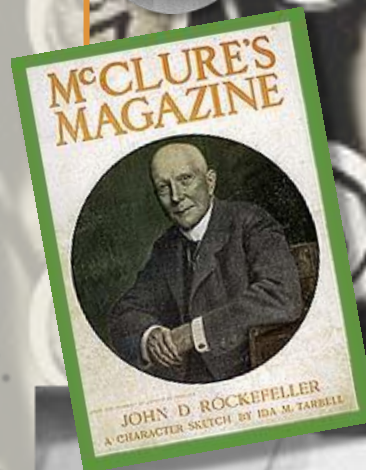
When President Roosevelt began enforcing the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, it made Ida Tarbell a very happy woman. Ida was one of many investigative reporters at the turn of the century who was working to expose corruption in society. She had dug up a lot of dirt on Rockefeller's Standard Oil trust. Her articles were printed in *McClure's Magazine*.

Writers and authors like Tarbell were nicknamed "Muckrakers" because they were "raking up" or exposing corruption in businesses and society. *McClure's Magazine* hired many of these journalists. They embraced the nickname and continued writing, hoping to inspire Americans to start movements that would improve society.



Ida Tarbell

Newspaper reporter who exposed the corruption of Standard Oil.



# Muckrakers

Muckraker and author Upton Sinclair was on a mission to expose corruption in the meat packing industry. He was hoping to expose the mistreatment of immigrant workers and the hazardous working conditions they endured. He wrote his book, *The Jungle*, about immigrant workers in Chicago's meat factories.

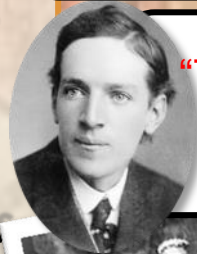
However, instead of stirring up compassion for the immigrant workers, Sinclair's novel made readers ill by describing the unsanitary conditions of the meat packing plants. Sick animals and spoiled meats were used to can meat. It moved President Roosevelt and Congress to pass the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act in 1906 and create health standards for food products.

## Problem:

Corruption existed in many areas of society, allowing the rich and powerful to continue to gain wealth at the expense of the working class.

## Solution:

Authors and journalists began investigating and writing articles and books to expose corruption in society.



Upton Sinclair  
"The Jungle" exposed struggles of immigrant workers and inspired the Pure Food and Drug Act.



# Conservation



## Problem:

Natural resources were disappearing rapidly as the U.S. continued to expand into wilderness areas.

## Solution:

Preservation and protection of the environment and natural resources by creating more national parks.



Growing businesses relied on natural resources like iron ore and lumber. As industries grew, it took a toll on the environment. Rapid industrial growth and urbanization were causing massive environmental damage.



John Muir

Worked with Teddy Roosevelt to protect wilderness areas and create national parks.

John Muir was concerned. He had spent his life roaming wild places and had a deep appreciation for America's wilderness. He wanted to protect areas from further industrialization and began to publish articles to attract support for environmental conservation.

Muir had help from President Roosevelt. Teddy Roosevelt had also spent part of his life in the wilderness. Together, Muir and Roosevelt worked to restrict industry and set aside more protected areas of land. Under Roosevelt, the number of national parks doubled.



# Helping Immigrants

Thousands of immigrants were arriving in America's growing cities daily and these families often experienced culture shock as they tried to navigate life in their new communities.

A growing group of social reformers were inspired by London's Toynbee Hall- a settlement house where residents volunteered to help people in the community who were living in poverty.

American reformers like Jane Addams decided to bring settlement houses to some of America's growing urban centers. Addams and her friend, Ellen Gates Starr, established the Hull House in Chicago to help incoming immigrants access resources to meet their family's needs.

## Problem:

New immigrants struggled to find resources like housing, jobs, education, childcare, training, and healthcare.

## Solution:

Creating settlement houses in urban communities to provide resources for immigrant families.



Jane Addams

Started the Hull House to offer resources to Chicago's immigrants.



Jane Addams became the first American woman to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize.

# Exposing Poverty



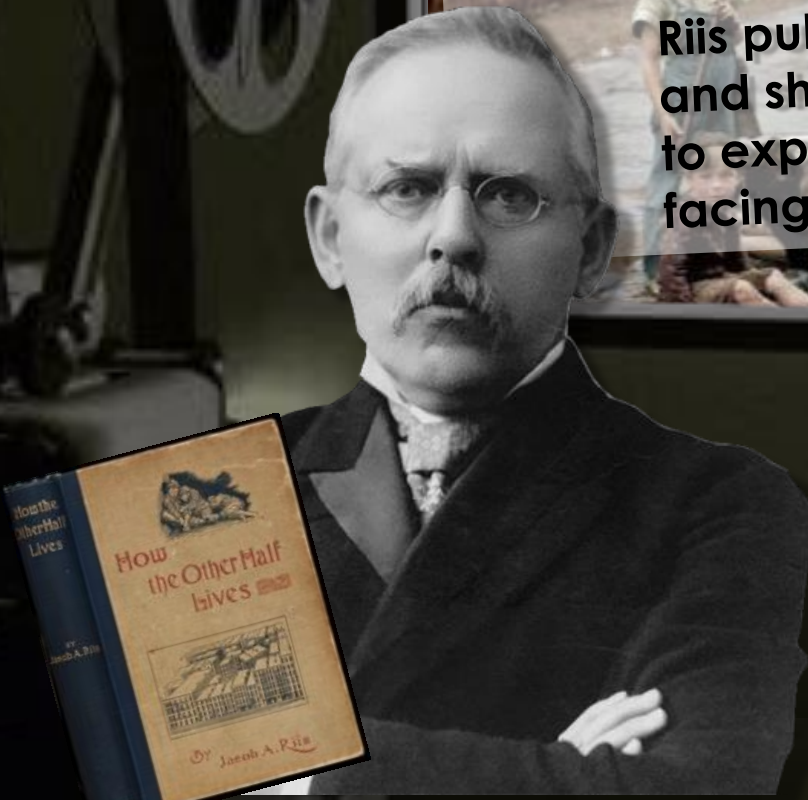
Jacob A. Riis

Photographed "How the Other Half Live" to show the living conditions of people in poverty.

The "Gilded Age" with a small percentage of Americans living in extravagant wealth made society appear better off than reality.

Photo journalism became a way for reformers like Jacob A. Riis to bring attention to the struggle that a large percentage of citizens faced in poverty.

Riis published his book *How the Other Half Lives* and showed his photos to wealthy Americans to expose the poverty so many people were facing every day.



## Problem:

The wealthy lived like royalty seemingly unaware of the dismal poverty that many others faced.

## Solution:

Publish articles and use photography to show wealthy Americans what it was like for people in poverty.



# Protecting Workers



Samuel Gompers

Helped establish the American Federation of Labor to unionize workers.



"Mother" Jones

Fought for safer working conditions, shorter work days, and to end child labor.

## Problems:

Working conditions for laborers were unsafe and unfair. Many children were working dangerous jobs instead of getting an education.

## Solutions:

Organize workers into Labor Unions to have a stronger voice and demand better working conditions.  
Pass laws to outlaw hiring children and require mandatory education



Reformers in the Progressive Era were working hard to improve the lives of workers- both adult and children. Child labor was common- children worked in dangerous jobs. These children were unable to get an education.

Adult workers were also up against many challenges. More immigrants meant more potential employees. Businesses could find replacements if employees complained about the long hours or hazardous working conditions.

Reformers like Samuel Gompers and "Mother" Mary Jones worked to unify workers through labor unions to give employees a voice. Some unions organized strikes to stand up to powerful business owners to convince them to make wages fair and workplaces safe.

