

Lecture Set 07

Progressivism & related movements, 1890s to 1920s.

***) Background & Definitions**

- What is “progress?” Who were the “Progressives,” and how did they define “Progress?” How has the meaning of “Progressive” changed over time?
- Reform-oriented politicians began using the word “Progressive” early in the twentieth century ...
- Early 20th-century “Progressives” joined the attack against *laissez-faire*.
- Most Progressive leaders considered themselves “middle class” ...
 - many different types of people were “progressives” ...

A) Problems that concerned Progressives ...

- *) Movements define themselves by identifying problems and solutions.
 - 1) “monopoly” & the rising power of big business / economic inequality
 - 2) political “corruption”
 - 3) increasingly violent confrontations between workers & capitalists
 - 4) unsafe working conditions
 - 5) urban problems: poverty, crime & vice, blight (pollution), overcrowding, disease, fire ...
 - 6) ignorance
 - 7) new immigrants & multi-culturalism
 - 8) warfare vs. Indians, and violence in general
 - 9) wasteful use of natural & human resources
- *) opposition to Progressivism