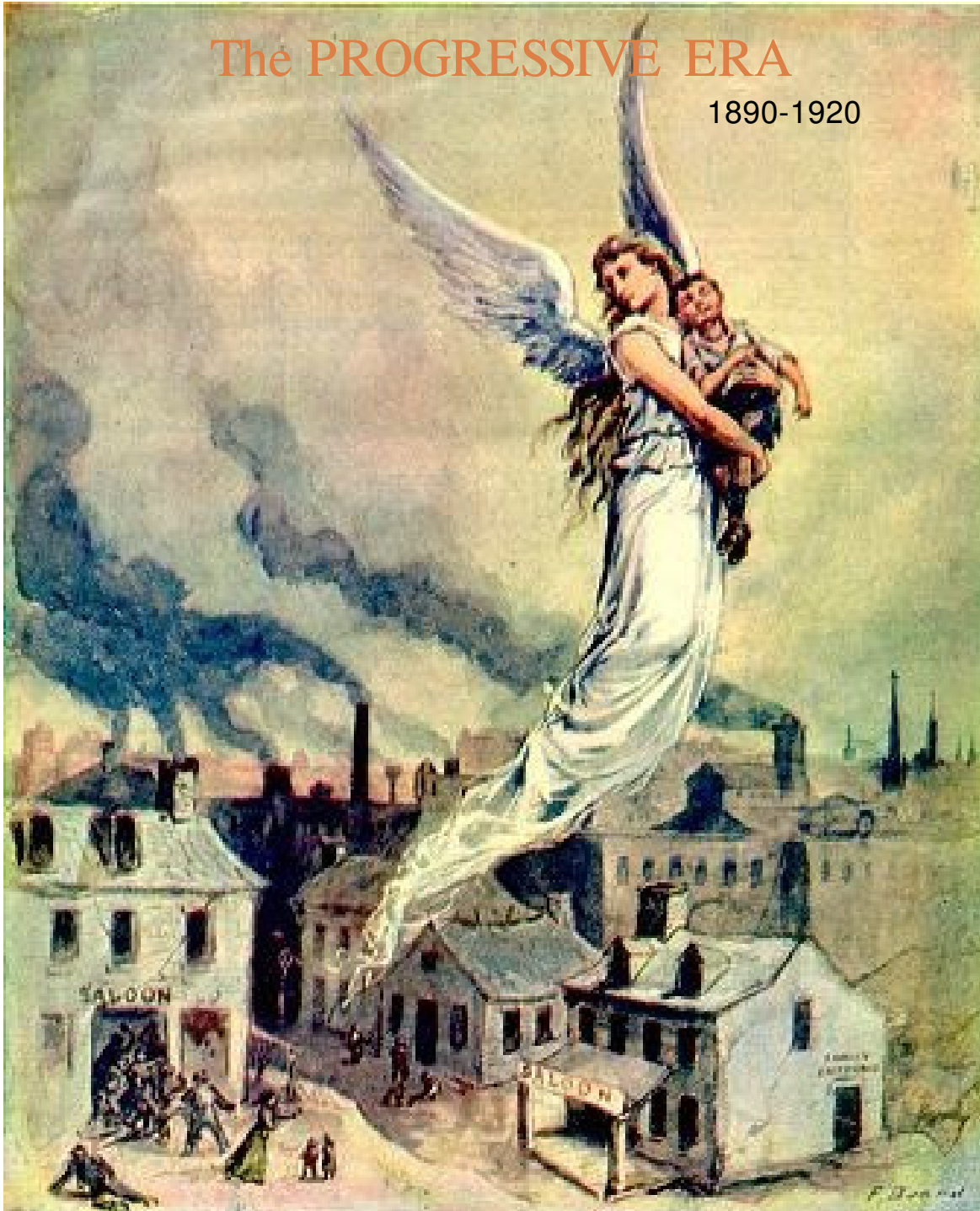


The PROGRESSIVE ERA

1890-1920



Reformers address the problems created by, or exacerbated by, industrialism and Big Business.

The Progressive Movement

Laissez-faire

- (lay-say-fair) – “hands off” which means “let the people do as they please.” → believed that the government should not interfere with the economy



Social Darwinism

“survival of the fittest.”

- 1900s → No laws regarding child labor, wages, hours, etc.

Businessmen → fortune → exploiting workers → many lived under harsh conditions.



□ Progressives

- industrialization and urbanization had created many social problems
- agreed the government should help to solve society's problems.

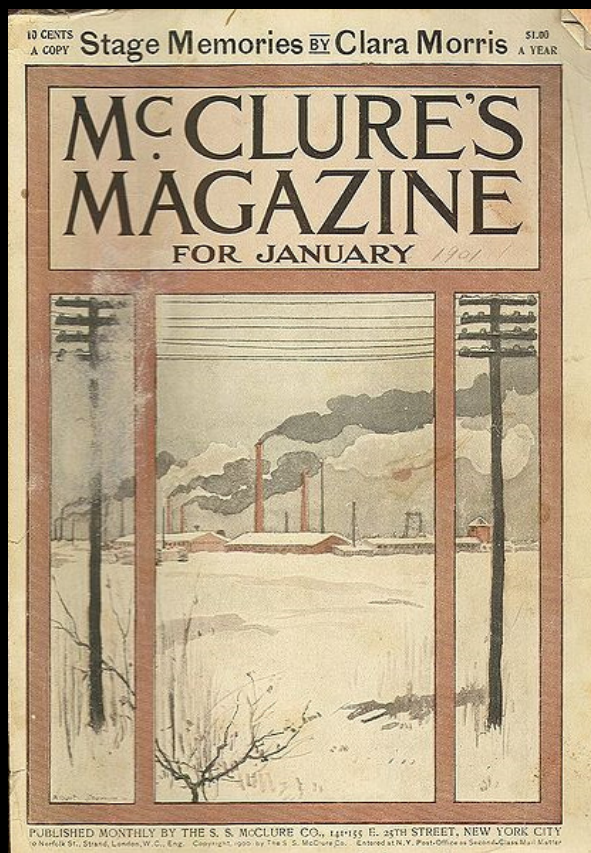
Rise of Progressivism



Some common basic beliefs were:

- 1. Government should be more accountable to its citizens.**
- 2. Government should curb the power and influence of wealthy interests.**
- 3. Government should be given expanded powers so that it could become more active in improving the lives of its citizens.**
- 4. Governments should become more efficient and less corrupt so that they could competently handle an expanded role.**

Muckrakers



- a group of journalists who investigated and exposed social problems and political corruption and the unfair practices of corporations
- raked “the mud of society”
- Objective was to create a more aware public who would put pressure on politicians to introduce reforms

Jacob Riis

***How the Other Half Lives: Studies among the Tenements of New York* (1890)**

- Photojournalism documenting squalid living conditions in New York City slums in the 1880s
- Started as a magazine article
- Later published as a book



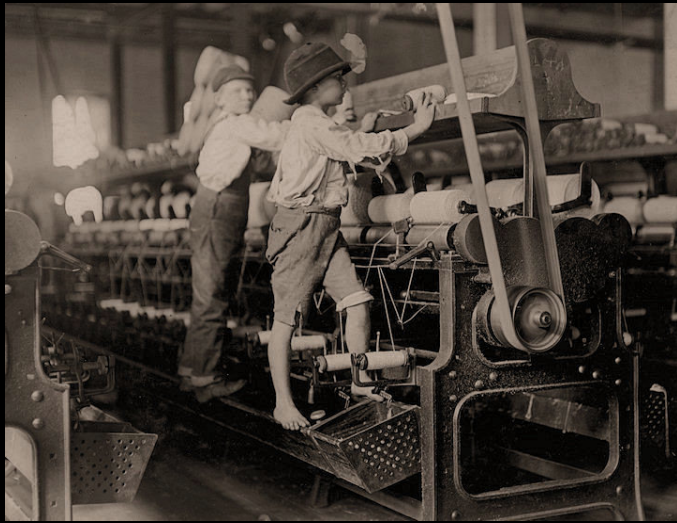
During the early 1900s

- 1 out of 5 children between 10 and 15 worked.
- About 1.7 million children worked in factories, sweatshops, and mines. Other children worked shinning shoes and selling newspapers.

Out of 45 states:

- 17 set a minimum age of 14 for factory work
- 5 prohibited children from night factory work
- 2 limited child factory workers to 8-hour days

Lewis Hine



- Photographed child labor
- Showed the public that child labor deprived children of childhood, health, education and a chance of a future.
- His work changed the public's attitude and was instrumental in the fight for stricter child labor laws.

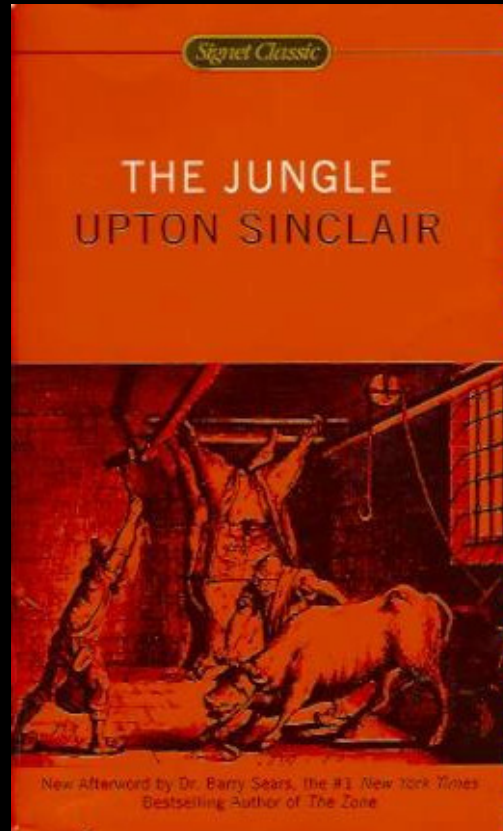
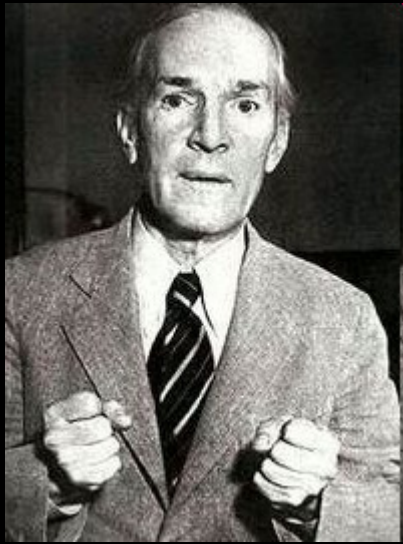
-“Breaker Boys” in coal mines often worked 14-16 hours days separating slate rock from coal.

Campaign Against Child Labor

- Reformers established the Child Labor Committee in 1904 to work to abolish child labor.
- Reports of child labor conditions → states → set a minimum age & maximum hours & making compulsory education laws that required children to be at school



The Jungle by Upton Sinclair



265 Splitting backbones and final inspection — hogs ready for cooler, Swift & Co., Chicago, U.S.A. Copyright 1908 by H. O. White Co.



Read The Jungle Excerpt

Upton
Sinclair's
The Jungle
(1905)

- Exposed the filth in the meatpacking industry
- Led to the Meat Inspection Act and the Food and Drug Act in 1906

Press Conference

INSTRUCTIONS

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT THE BELIEFS AND IDEAS OF A KEY PROGRESSIVE THINKER AND THEN BRING THE PERSON TO LIFE DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS THESE QUESTIONS:

- What are the most important issues facing American society?
- *How should those issues be addressed?*

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON THE BIO BRIEFING AND COME UP WITH ONE GOOD QUESTION FOR THE OTHER PROGRESSIVE THINKERS