



THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

1. PROGRESSIVE ERA:

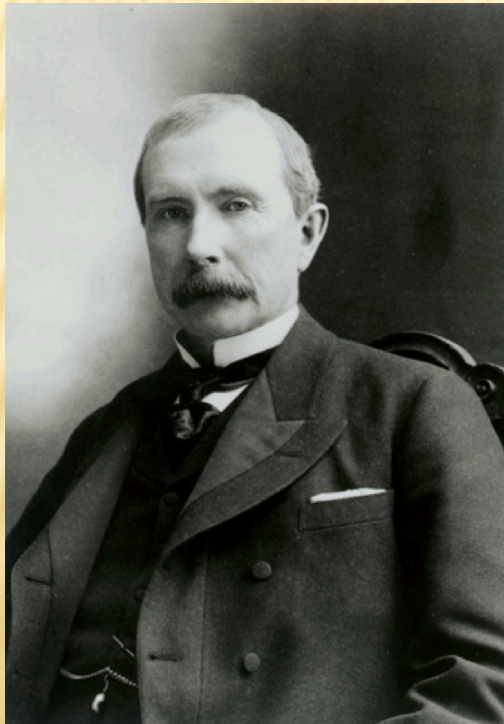
- ✗ Definition = a period of widespread social activism and political reform (1890s-1920s)
- ✗ Also called the Progressive Movement



2. COMPARISON -- TWO PHILOSOPHIES:

✗ Social Darwinism:

- + Belief that the rich were the “fittest” and should not help the poor since their position was “natural”



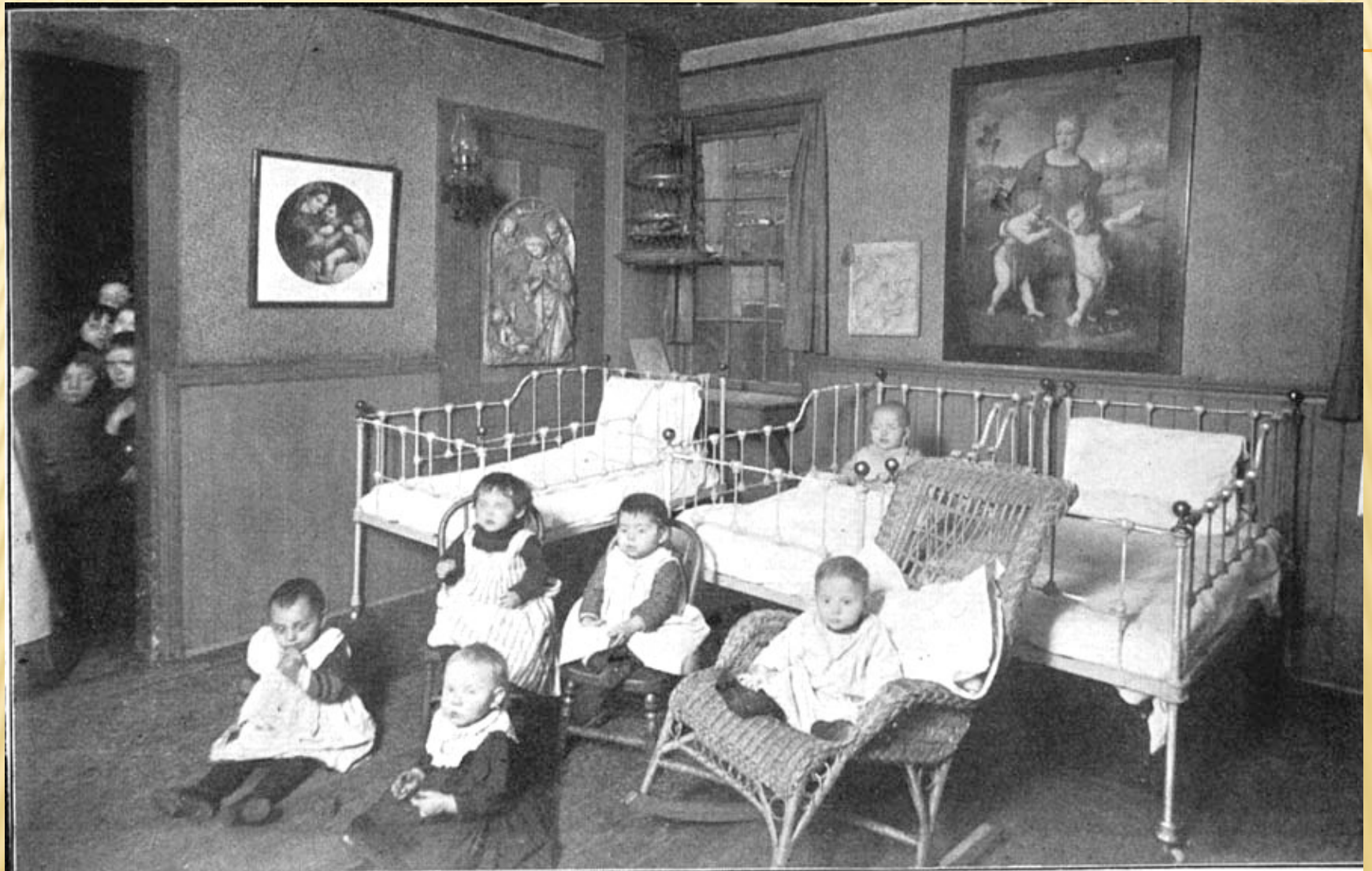
✕ Social Gospel:

- + A movement which applied Christian ethics to social issues; influenced reformers to help the poor
- + Led to the Settlement House movement:
 - ✕ Offered social services to the poor (Jane Addams; social worker who led the movement with “Hull House” in Chicago)



Hull House Settlement, Chicago.





3. MUCKRAKERS:

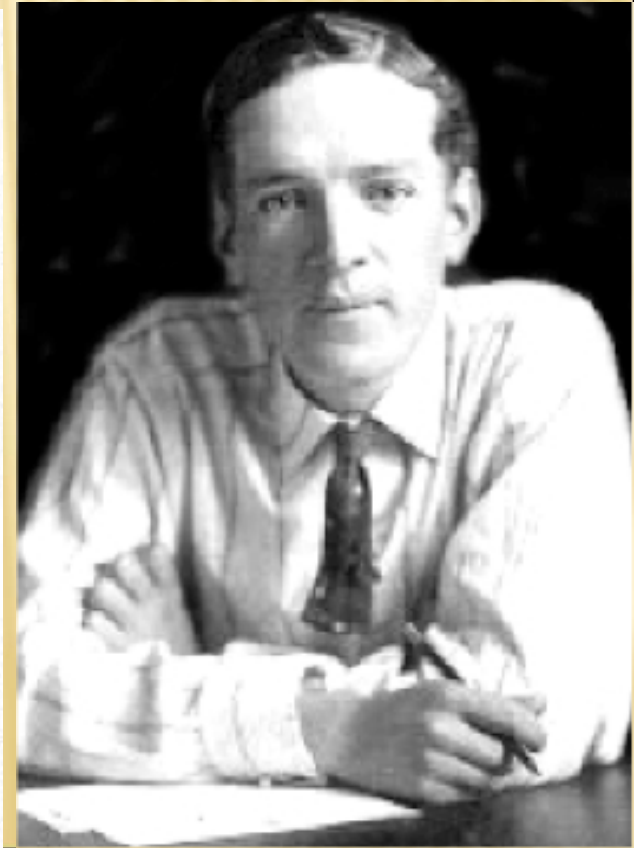
- ✗ Definition =

- + Investigative writers who exposed conditions in slums and work places; corruption in government, and unfair business practices of the trusts



A NAUSEATING JOB, BUT IT MUST BE DONE

- ✖ Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*:
 - + Described conditions for workers in the meatpacking industry
 - + Led to the Meat Inspection Act, Pure Food and Drug Act; creation of the FDA (Food and Drug Admin.)



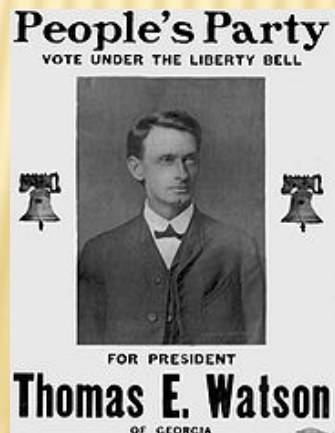
✕ Ida Tarbell, *The History of the Standard Oil Company*:

- + Exposed the unfair practices of John D. Rockefeller as he forced competitors out of business

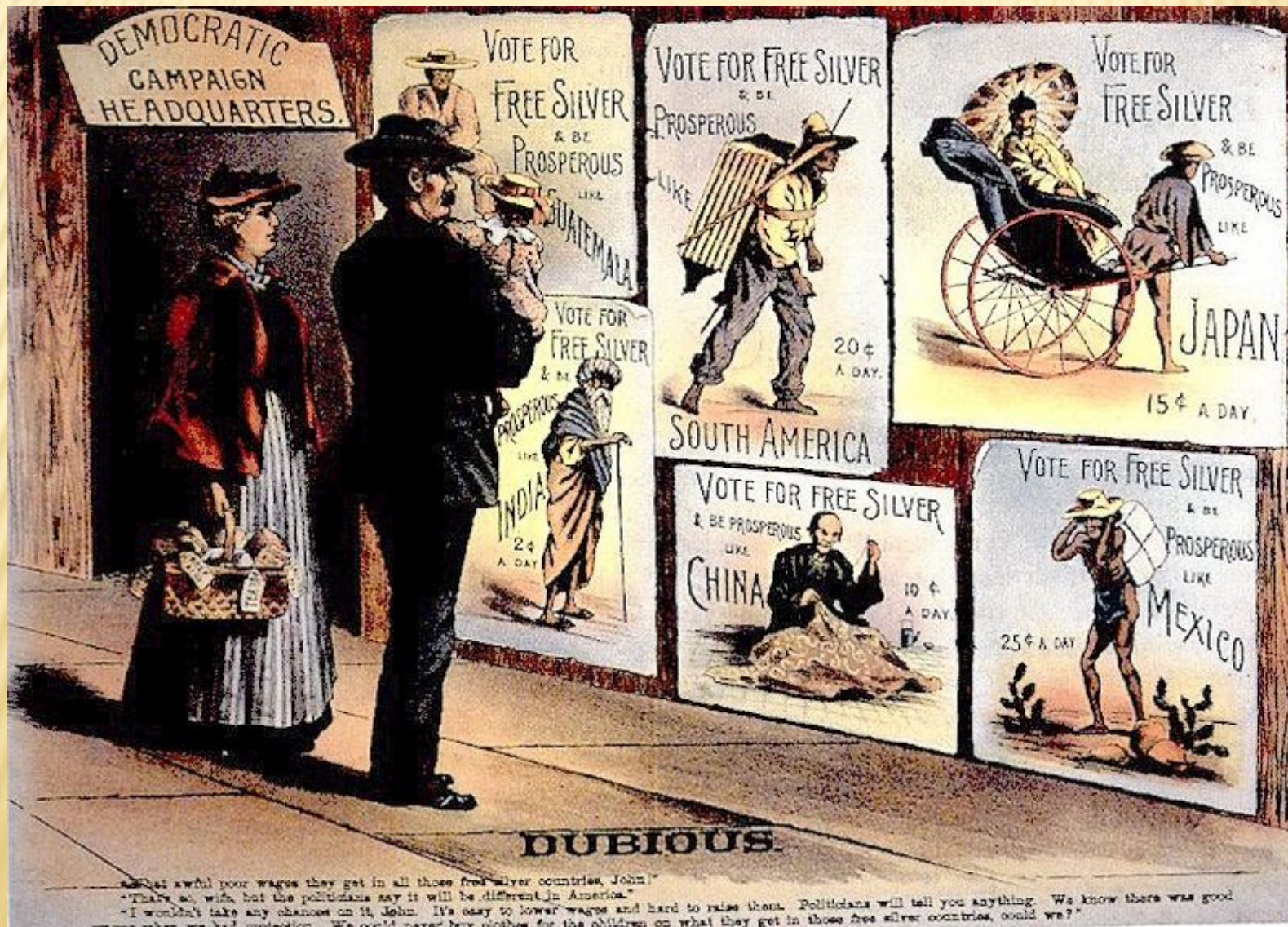


4. POPULIST PARTY (1891)

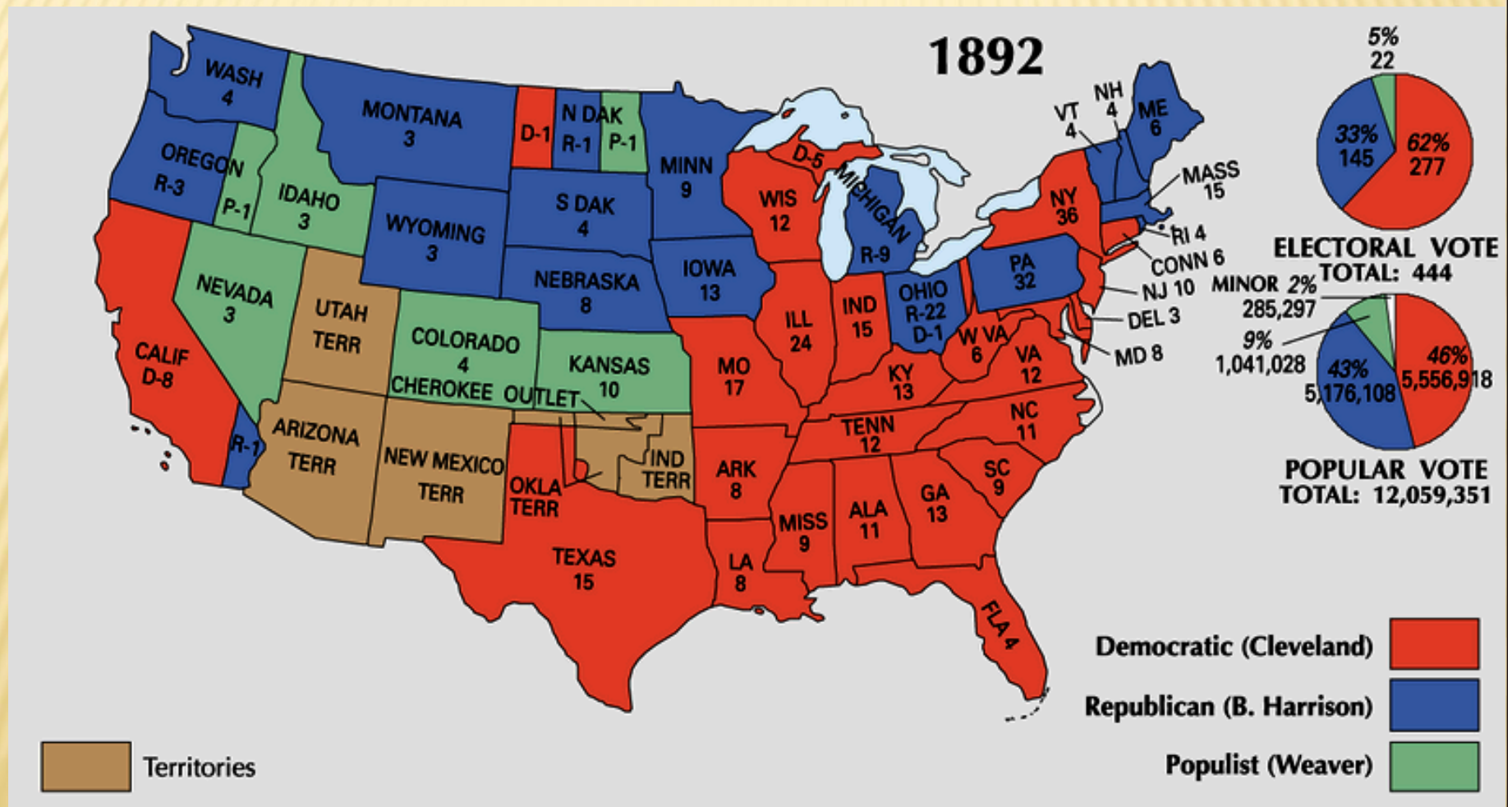
- ✖ Favored:
- ✖ laborers and farmers,
- ✖ a graduated income tax
- ✖ government control of monopolies, particularly the railroads.
- ✖ Stood for the “common people” as opposed to the “money interests of (big business)”
- ✖ (the 1800s’ 99%)



- ✗ favored “free silver” -- this would make more credit available so people wouldn’t lose farms



ELECTION OF 1892 — POPULIST GROWTH



MOVEMENTS of SOCIAL PROTEST

POPULISTS

fought hard
against
corrupt
business
practices
(railroad
monopolies)
and the Gold
Standard.



PROGRESSIVES

were a diverse
collection of
optimistic, largely
middle class
reformers
confident in their
ability to improve
government and
the quality of life.

5. REGULATION OF BUSINESS:

- ✗ Regulation = government control
- ✗ Railroads:
 - + The ICC (1887) (Interstate Commerce Commission) regulated railroads
 - + The Hepburn Act (1906) allowed the ICC to set fair rates (under Roosevelt)
- ✗ Trusts (monopolies):
 - + Sherman Antitrust Act (1890) – first US law to limit monopolies and cartels
 - + Clayton Antitrust Act (1914)– allowed individuals to sue for injury to their business by a monopoly or cartel

✖ Banks:

- + Federal Reserve Act (1913) – created a central banking system to stabilize US currency in response to economic panics (under Wilson)



✖ Labor:

- + Protective labor laws (limited hours); workman's compensation laws; occupational safety laws
- + The U.S. Children's Bureau investigated the welfare of children; publicized abuse of child labor laws



6. POLITICAL REFORM



6. POLITICAL REFORM:

- ✗ General goal – rid the government of corruption and make system more democratic and efficient
- ✗ Examples of reforms:
 - + secret ballot
 - + voter registration laws
 - + civil service laws
 - + commission plan
 - + ballot initiative/referendum
 - + recall election
 - + direct primary – people choose party candidates (not machines)

- ✖ Robert La Follette – Wisconsin governor who worked for the initiative, recall elections, and direct primary
 - + Set model for other states and national government



7. PROGRESSIVE AMENDMENTS:

- ✗ 16th Amendment – federal income tax
- ✗ 17th Amendment – direct election of senators
- ✗ 18th Amendment – prohibition of alcohol (1918)
- ✗ 19th Amendment – Women's suffrage (1920)



8. PROGRESSIVE PRESIDENTS:

- ✕ Theodore Roosevelt
 - + “Trustbuster” (regulated trusts)
 - + Food safety (read *The Jungle*)
 - + Conservation of resources (forests, national parks)
 - + Mediated labor dispute (coal strike 1902)



✖ William Howard Taft

- + Broke up trusts
- + Children's Bureau



✖ Woodrow Wilson

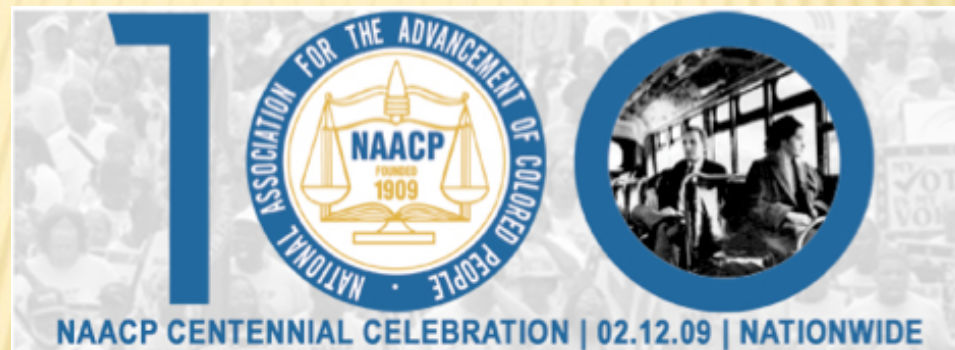
- + Federal Reserve System
- + Tariff reform
- + Federal Trade Commission
(to monitor business)



9. FAILURES OF PROGRESSIVES:

✗ Racism

- + African-American issues were not addressed
 - ✗ lynching; voting rights



✗ Religious intolerance

- + anti-immigrant bias
 - ✗ anti-Catholic; anti-Semitic
- ✗ African Americans and immigrants created their own movements and groups to deal with these things)

