



# THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

# 1. PROGRESSIVE ERA:

- ✗ Definition = a period of widespread social activism and political reform (1890s-1920s)
- ✗ Also called the Progressive Movement
- ✗ A Progressive = an activist; usually white and middle class

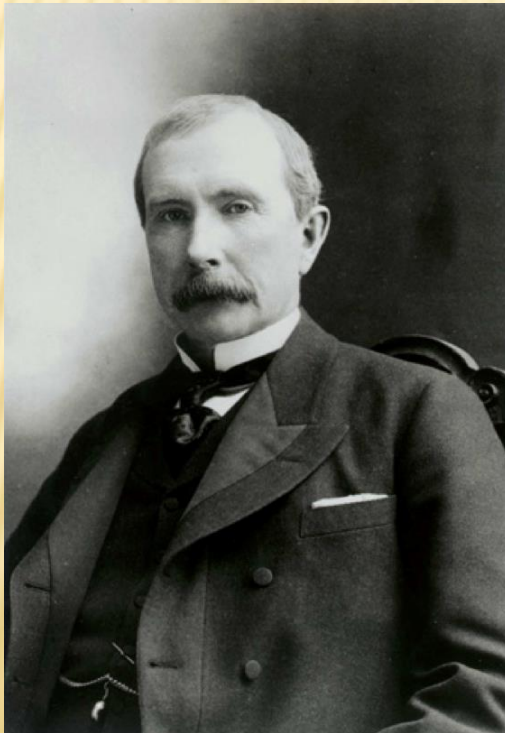




## 2. COMPARISON – TWO PHILOSOPHIES:

### ✗ 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)
  - ✕ \*food bank, child care, job training, housing





Hull House Settlement, Chicago.







### 3. MUCKRAKERS:

✗ Definition =

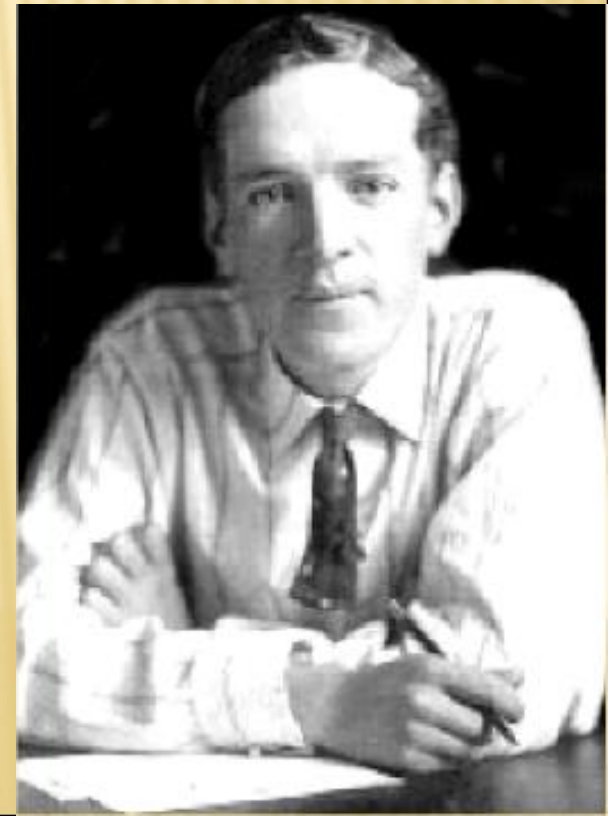
- + Investigative writers who exposed conditions in slums and work places; corruption in government, and unfair business practices of the trusts
- + Their goal = to bring about change



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.)
- + “Truth in labeling” (list of ingredients)





- ✖ Ida Tarbell, *The History of the Standard Oil Company*:
  - + Exposed the unfair practices of John D. Rockefeller as he forced competitors out of business
  - + Goal: get a law preventing those business practices; protect smaller businesses





# 4. POPULIST PARTY (1891) “PEOPLE’S PARTY”

- ✗ 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%)

**People's Party**  
VOTE UNDER THE LIBERTY BELL

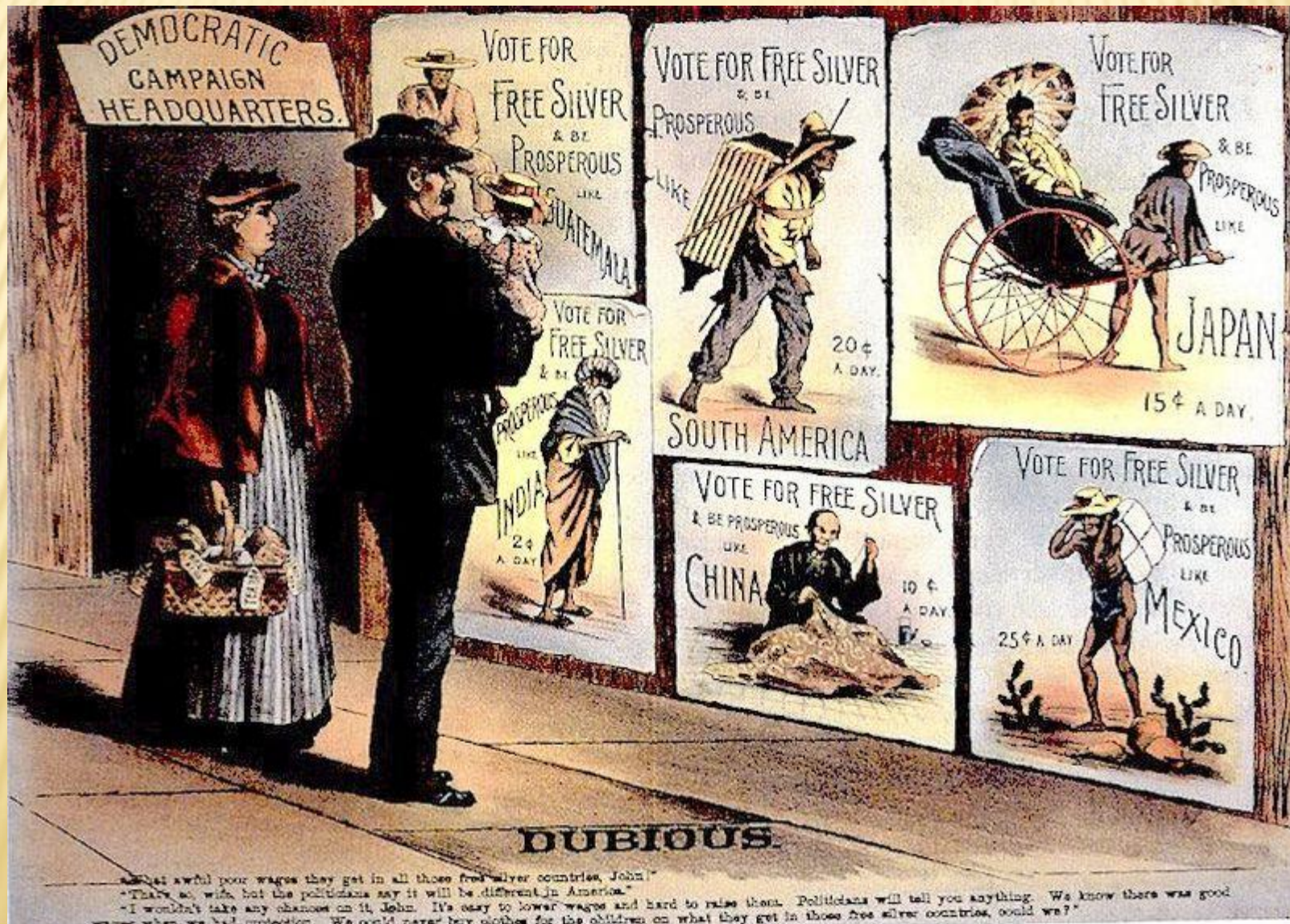


FOR PRESIDENT  
**Thomas E. Watson**  
OF GEORGIA



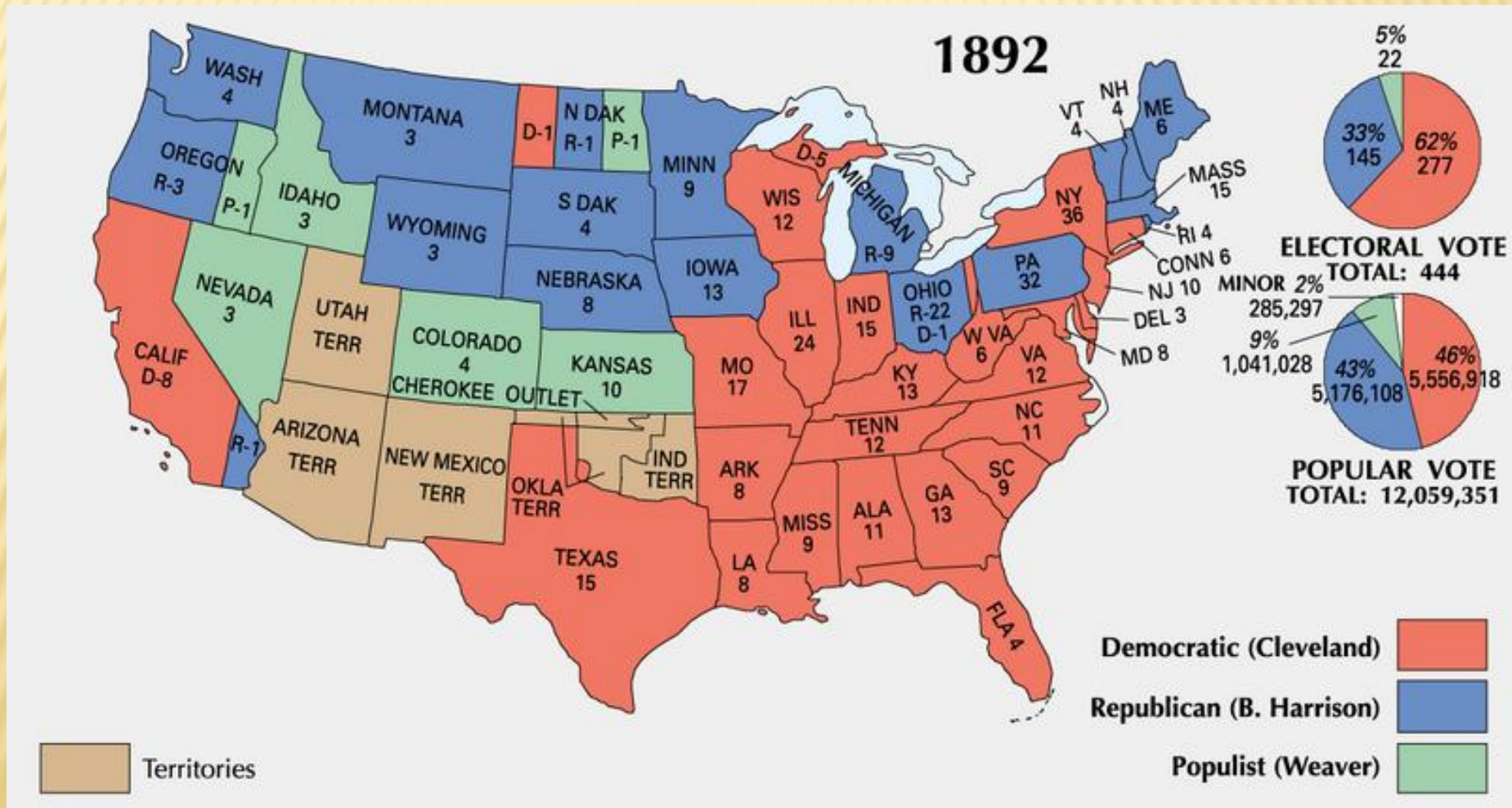


- ✖ favored “free silver” – this would make more credit available so people wouldn’t lose farms





# ELECTION OF 1892 – POPULIST GROWTH

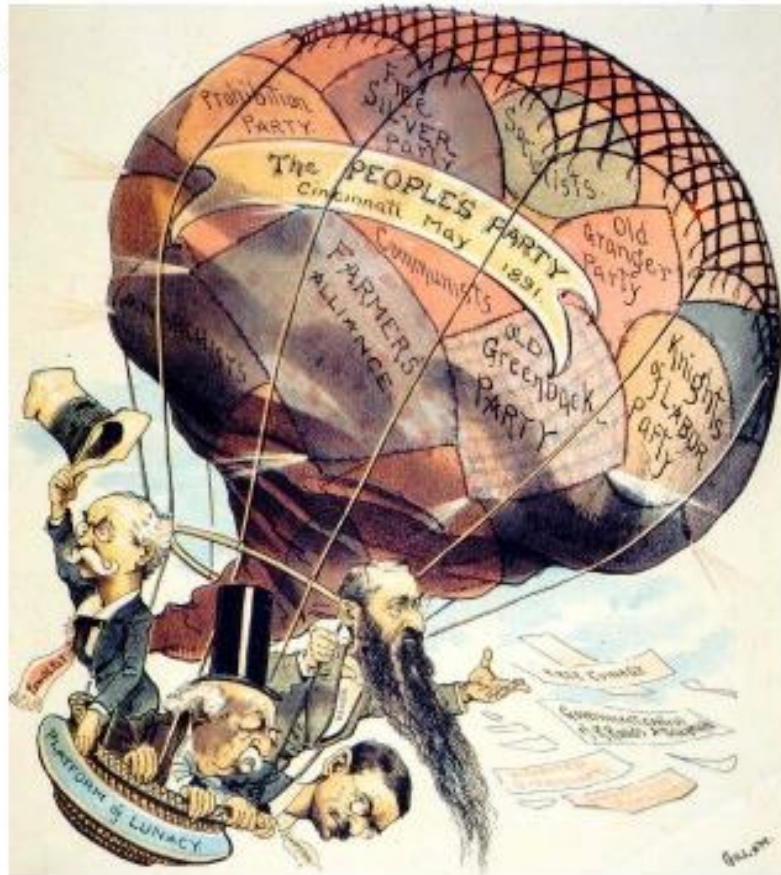




# MOVEMENTS of SOCIAL PROTEST

## 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:

- ✗ 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment – federal income tax
- ✗ 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment – direct election of senators
- ✗ 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment – prohibition of alcohol (1918)
- ✗ 19<sup>th</sup> 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)



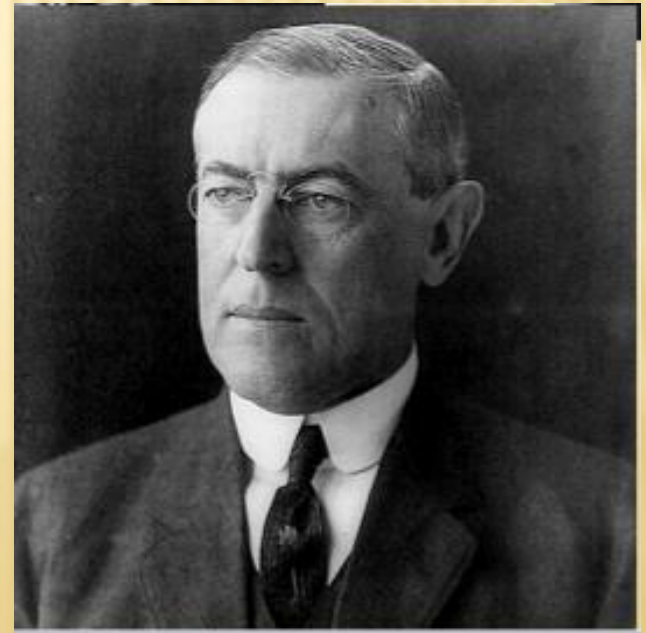
## ✕ William Howard Taft

- + Broke up trusts
- + Children's Bureau



## ✕ Woodrow Wilson

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



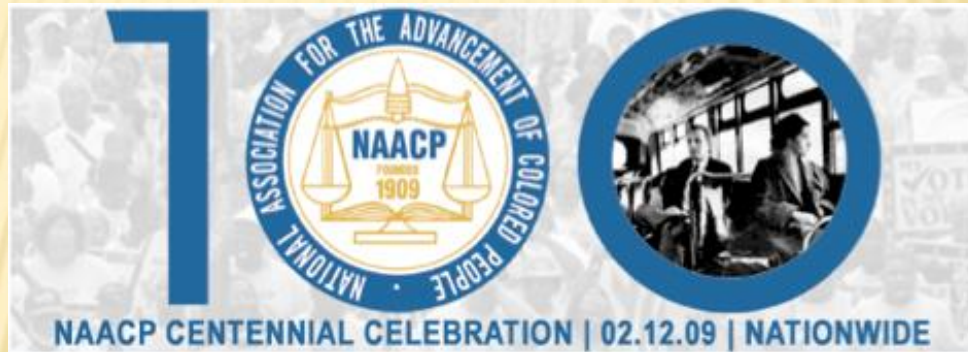


# 9. FAILURES OF PROGRESSIVES:

## ✗ Racism

+ African-American issues were not addressed

✗ lynching; voting rights; segregation



## ✗ Religious intolerance

+ anti-immigrant bias

✗ anti-Catholic; anti-Semitic

✗ African Americans and immigrants created their own movements and groups to deal with these things

