

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Ahmed Draia University-Adrar

Faculty of Arts and Languages

Department of English Language and Literature



A Dissertation in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master Degree in

Anglophone Literature and Civilization entitled:

**The Progressive Movement in the United States:
Origins and Results (1890-1920)**

Candidates:

Kelthoum Abiziane

Yamina Abderahmane

Supervisor:

Mr Abdelkrim Mabrouki

Board of Examiners

Chairman :Omayma Kerthiou

Examiner : Pr .Aziz Mostefaoui

Academic Year 2018-2019

Dedication

We dedicate this work to:

Our dear and beloved parents.

Our sisters and our brothers.

Our friends.

Kelthoum and Yamina

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, we would like to express our gratefulness to our teacher and supervisor Mr Mabrouki Abelekrim whom we would like to thank for his support, pieces of advice and most of all for his patience for the whole period of the work.

Our thanks extend also to our other university teachers for their efforts and for their instructions.

Our thanks go also to our classmates.

Abstract

The Progressive Movement was one of the most important events in the nineteenth-century in the American history. It took place in the period from 1890 to 1920, and it was a reaction to many problematic issues in the American society. The reforms of the Progressive Era affected many areas of life and brought many changes to the American society that still are in effect today. This dissertation aims to examine the origins, activists and the results of the progressive movement on the American society. The study shows that the progressive movement was a successful one since it succeeded to bring significant social and political improvements to the American society.

Keywords: progressive movement, origins, participants, reforms, awareness, peaceful.

المخلص:

ان الحركة التقدمية من اهم وابرز الاحداث التي شهدتها الولايات المتحدة الامريكية والتي شغلت الفترة الزمانية من 1890 إلى 1920؛ حيث كانت هذه الحركة رد فوري لأهم المشاكل التي خلقتها الثورة الأمريكية الصناعية و ذلك من أجل إصلاح و تطهير المجتمع الأمريكي من المشاكل التي سببها التطور الصناعي الأمريكي.

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى رصد أهم العوامل التي من أجلها ظهرت هذه الحركة في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية مع ذكر أهم المساهمين الذين ناشدوا إلى النهوض بهذه الحركة وصولاً إلى أهم النتائج التي حققتها.

الكلمات المفتاحية:

الحركة التقدمية ، الأسباب ، المساهمين ، البرامج ، النتائج ، اساليب ، اصلاحات

Table of Contents

Dedication	ii
Acknowledgments	iii
English Abstract.....	iv
Arabic Abstract	v
Table of Contents.....	vi
List of Acronyms	vii
General Introduction.....	01
I. Chapter One: Historical Background to the American Progressive Movem	04
Introduction.....	05
1. The American Industrial Revolution (1870-1914)	08
1.1. Social Ideologies of the American Industrialization.....	08
1.1.2. Social Darwinism.....	10
1.1.3. Individualism	12
1.2. Politics and Economy During the Industrial Revolution	12
1.2.1. Politics	14
1.2.2. Economy	15
1.3. The Negative Impacts of the American Industrial Revolution	15
1.3.1 .Social and Economic Impacts.....	18
1.3.2. Political Impacts.....	21
Conclusion.....	22
II. Chapter Two: The Progressive Movement (1890 to1920).....	23
Introduction.....	23
1. American Progressive Movement, Definitions.....	25
2. Activists of the Progressive Movement.....	

2.1.1. The Press and Social Mobilizing.	25
2.1.2. Child Labour and Reforming Educational Systems.....	25
2.2 Religious Efforts: Social Gospel Movement	25
2.3. Third Parties and Political Reforms	26
2.3.1. Socialist Party.....	29
2.3.2. Robert La Follette.....	31
2.3.3. The Bull Moose Party	31
Conclusion	35
III. Chapter Three: Results of the Progressive Movement.....	37
Introduction.....	39
1. Government Response to the Progressive Movement: The Political Reformers (1901 to 1920).....	40
1.1. President Teddy Roosevelt`s New Nationalism (1901-1909).....	40
1.2. President Howard Taft (1909-1910).....	40
1.3 . William Wilson`s New Freedom (1912-1920).....	45
2. The Results of the American Progressive Movement	48
Conclusion.....	50
General Conclusion.....	53
Works Cited.....	56

List of Acronyms

FTA	Federal Trade Act
DA	Department of Agriculture
ICC	Interstate Commerce Commission
NFP	New Freedom Platform
CAFP	Central American Foreign Policy
CBA	Children's Bureau Act
CSRA	Civil Service Reform Act
CAA	Clayton Antitrust Act
CP	Communist Program
FRS	The Federal Reserve System
FTC	Federal Trade Commission
FWCA	Federal Workingman's Compensation Act
WW1	First World War
KOA	Keating-Owen Act
MEA	Mann-Elkins Act
NCLC	National Child Labor Committee
NRA	National Reclamation Act

ODP	Open Door Policy
PAT	Payne- Aldrich Tariff Act
SLP	Socialist Labour Party
SOC	Standard Oil Company
THC	Tammany Hall City
UTA	Underwood Tariff Act
USFS	United States Forest Service

General Introduction

Any community in its history may be exposed to sensitive or critical periods. Accordingly, the need for social, political, and economic reforms is urged to create a society with minimal damage, and this is by knowing the roots of the problems that the society suffer from. Since identifying the problem facilitates the process of repairing or eliminating the problem itself.

The reform movement does not necessarily mean revolution. There is distinction between the two concepts of reform and revolution. The word reform means changing fundamentals and the principles that the society is based on, while revolution is the rejection of these foundations and regulations, which requires a radical change to them. Therefore, the goal of reform not revolution is to create an advanced state and a conscious generation.

Throughout history, influential philosophers, thinkers, economists and politicians participated in the process of social, economic, and political reforms. In the United States, the reforms were achieved by a social movement. The latter, refers to a group of people with a common ideology who try together to achieve certain general goals. In the nineteenth century, several factors played a vital role in motivating social reform movements including the growth of industrialization and urbanization.

The American progressive movement (1890-1920) was a significant model of American social reform movements. It gathered the efforts of other social groups, including women suffrage movement, prohibition, and abolition of child labor movement. Progressivism was a response to numerous crises that had taken place in the decades following the Civil- War.

This work will analyze the tendency of the progressive movement to protect ordinary American people. In order to investigate this, several questions are put forward such as why

did the progressives think that their country needed to change? Who were they and what were their objectives and programs? Was this movement successful in making their working and living conditions? To answer these questions and relying on a qualitative research, this work will hold a three chapter structure.

The first chapter will cover the historical background to the progressive movement through two themes. The first theme discusses the industrialization and its impact on the American society. It includes the factors and circumstances. Then changes that were brought to the country by the Industrial Revolution along with its effects on American society are clearly mentioned in this chapter. The second theme exposes the social ideologies that focused on Individualism and Social Darwinism and how they affected the American living standards.

The second chapter starts by discussing the emergence of the Progressive Movement in the United States. It also provides some details about the contributors of the emergence of this movement. This chapter also presents some examples of the activities and their demands that were introduced to the movement.

The third chapter deals with the results of those reforms by three progressive presidents. The chapter then sheds light on the achievements of the progressivistes on the American society between the period 1901 and 1920.

**Historical Background
of the American Progressive
Movement**

Introduction

The Progressive Era was a period of social activism and political reform in the United States that flourished in a healthy environment. Generally, it was recognized as the period from the 1890s to the 1920s, and it came as a response to the complexity of the problems of the late nineteenth century, which were mainly caused by industrialization and urbanization, corrupt and inefficient government, and unequal distribution of wealth. This chapter is devoted to identify why the progressive movement emerged.

1. The American Industrial Revolution (1870-1914)

In the decades following the Civil War (1861-1865) and the Reconstruction (1865-1877), the American society went through a significant era that was known as the Second Industrial Revolution or the American Industrial Revolution. This significant era is generally recognized as the period between 1870 and 1914(Mokyr1). By the end of this remarkable period, the United States was able to develop economically, socially and technologically. Yet, this progress was accompanied with economic and social problems.

The United States witnessed a movement of transformation from an agrarian society to an urban and industrial one in which the manual means were replaced by machines. This shift in the United States altered all aspects of life in the nation, including society, religion, politics, and economy. The term “industrialization” refers to “the structural change that backward countries experience in their development from an agricultural to an industrial economy, with the profound changes in the society that this entails”(qtd. in Guadagno 2).

The American government played a key role in stimulating American Industrialization by creating a legal climate that was very conducive to businesses development. The Federal government provided the essential basis for the American economic growth, by promoting an agricultural and industrial development. High tariffs were passed to protect the American

markets and industries from foreign competition. For instance, in 1861, there was a tariff labeled the Morrill Tariff which imposed higher taxes on imports to protect home industries, and in 1865 these tariffs increased to 47 percent (Maammeri 15).

The early industry in the United States began with textile. For example, Samuel Slater who emigrated from Britain to Rhode Island in 1789 was considered as the father of American industrialization as he opened the first mill in the United States in 1793 (Tunaley 1). His most prosperous mills were located in providence, Pawtucket, Statesville and Massachusetts. By 1815, there were 140 cotton manufactures within 30 miles of providence operating 130,000 spindles and employing 26,000 hands (Smith1).

More importantly, the origin of industrial development goes back to the variety of natural resources in which the United States was awash in an abundance of raw-materials such as iron, coal, oil, trees, water, copper, According to Ladenburg wrote in his article entitled: “The Industrial Revolution” :

Dense forests throughout the country provided wood for building and heating. In the Northeast, many swifts’ rivers provided the power to turn water wheels. Huge deposits of coals were discovered in the Allegheny Mountains around the time of the Civil War. The mighty Mesabi Mountain Rang in Minnesota was a source of ore needed to make iron and steel. Rich deposits of copper were founded in the West Reserves of crude oil were discovered in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and when these ran out they were founded in Oklahoma and Texas. The US was truly a land of plenty (2).

All these resources helped the United States to establish big businesses and to be one of the most powerful industrial nations in the world.

While the availability of raw materials made industrialization possible, transportation improved it. New achievements such as railroads allowed the country's markets to be interlinked with each other. Railroads played a crucial role in transporting huge quantities of goods, and it also helped workers to move rapidly from South to urban cities. The first railroads in the United States were operated in the early 1830s. Then, by the mid-1850s, these canals were able to link the Atlantic shore to the mid-West (Maammeri 17).

In addition to railroads, the American industrial growth was mainly stimulated by the emergence and the expansion of new inventions, particularly advancement in technological communication that revolutionized the country's economy and changed the American society. The invention of the telegraph in 1873 by Samuel F.B. Morse (1791-1872) helped the United States to be interrelated from side to side by creating vital smoothness in commercial transactions. In 1856, the United States created the Western Union Telegraph Company to reduce the distance between the American industrialized cities. Then, in 1866, a trans-Atlantic cable was established in order to accelerate communication between the United States and the Europe (Maammeri 17).

Another development in communication took place with the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. Like the telegraph, the telephone contributed to the refreshment of the American business. It made communication between businessmen who were from different geographical locations much quicker, and it helped production to flow easily. Furthermore, the American industrial revolution developed and flourished due to the rise of social ideologies such as Social Darwinism and Individualism.

1.1. Social Ideologies of the American Industrial Revolution

Social Darwinism and individualism were among the philosophies that boosted the development of the industrial revolution in U.S.A. each one of these philosophies based on puritans principles as the “hard work” and “manifest destiny”.

1.1.1. Social Darwinism

Among the common philosophies that appeared during the industrialization was Social Darwinism. Halliday in his article entitled “social Darwinism” saw the term as an “enterprise or ideology, founded in the nineteenth century, which holds upon the operation of the law of the natural selection of favorable heritable variants” (1). This definition indicates that Charles Darwin`s theory of “evolution by natural selection” that he used to refer to animals was implemented on the human experience in its social, political, and economic aspects.

Originally, Social Darwinism philosophy is also based on “the survival of the fittest”. In other words, Social Darwinists as Herbert Spencer¹ believed that white Europeans were superior to others. Therefore, it should be noted that France and Britain used this theory to justify their over control to other weak countries. This substantially encouraged imperialism, colonialism, racialism and nationalism (Maammeri 102).

Herbert Spencer who referred to Darwin`s natural selection in order to describe how societies change and evolve through time. As a sociologist, Spencer believed that animal organism and societies are similar. He also believed that human behaviors are designed in a way that strives for self-perception. In this sense, the natural world is seen as a field where species struggle for existence. Spencer also believed that the best competition would lead to the realization of an improved society. He referred to this struggle of survival as “the survival

¹ Herbert Spencer (1890-1920) was an English philosopher, biologist, and sociologist. He is remembered for his doctrine of social Darwinism. He is known for his famous book entitled “*The Men Against the State*”.
<https://www.thoughtco.com/herbert-spencer-3026492.2019>

of the fittest” (Marciano 3). In other words, the fittest had right to fight, compete, and do whatever he could to maintain his survival.

Herbert Spencer's ideas originated from his political belief in which he opposed the governmental intervention in the natural growth of society. As Benjamin noted ‘Spencer’ maintained that society was evolving toward increasing freedom for individuals and so held that government intervention should be kept to a minimum (1). Believing in such ideas led Spencer to repudiate any laws that could help the poor, claiming that the weak people were genetically diminished, weak, and unfit while the wealthy were economically and socially successful because they were biologically superior.

In the United States, Social Darwinism philosophy was led by William Graham Sumner². He developed Herbert Spencer’s works, and like Spencer, he believed in “natural selection” as well as the notion of ‘the survival of the fittest’. For him the humans who are the fittest are the ones who deserve to be successful in life. Regarding these principles, Sumner urged the neglect of the traditional American ideologies of equality and natural rights. Giving assistance to help the poor would reduce the value of competition and the hard work of the fitters. Helping the poor encouraged those less willing people to wait for rewards doing no efforts. To make things clear, Sumner said that those who struggled to survive were those people who knew the value of life. While those who did not were unaware of the value of life (Hofstadter 465).

The ideology of Social Darwinism thrived in the United States during the American industrial revolution by which wealthy American industrialists believed that self-interest, free trade, and competition were permanent and necessary laws for the economy. They also

²William Graham Sumner (1840–1910) was a classical liberal American social scientist. Sumner wrote widely within the social sciences, with numerous books and essays on American history, economic history, political theory, sociology, and anthropology. He advocated Herbert Spencer’s works of Social Darwinism. <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/post/77251933886/william-graham-sumner-social-darwinist2019>

embraced the concept of Liberalism in which they suggested presumably that American social problems could be solved through free markets and little regulations.

Competition in the United States helped the industrialists to achieve well- developed economy. However, the economic progress was at the expense of the working class. Businessmen in order to make wealth dehumanized people through engaging them to work for long hours without any insurance. This was the starting of the working misery. Workers then experienced serious crises.

1.1.2. Individualism

Individualism is an ideology that focuses on independence and the moral worth of individual self-reliance and liberty. Actually, the term individualism originated from a Latin word '*individuus*' that means indivisible. In literature, there are three different concepts that hold the meaning of indivisible. The first one is called 'autonomy' that emphasizes the individual's ability for survival, independent thinking, and making judgment without referring to other people. The second one is labeled mature 'self-responsibility' in which a person accepts the responsibility for his actions by accepting the results of those actions. The third one is 'uniqueness'. Which indicates that the individual has to be aware that he is unique and different from others. Accordingly, he can improve and realize his ambitions (Wiley 167-68).

The term individualism was first used in France; however, this philosophy was not greeted by conservative French thinkers, it was further boosted by French liberals and socialists who perceived the exaltation of individual as a tendency that could contribute effectively in creating a better society Then, this philosophy was extended to other European countries such as Germany and England (AkhtarKhan 127)..

By the 19th century, European thinkers such as Alexis de Tocqueville³ brought this philosophy to the United States. Yet with this transfer the individualism was adopted to become infused with the principles of Social Darwinism (AkhtarKhan 128). This indicates that individualism in America changed to be deeper selfishness that corresponded to the establishment of democracy in America. Accordingly, the idea of individualism was widely accepted in the United States, and it became part of the core of American culture. The American individualists embraced the philosophy that boosted the individual liberty insisting that each person has the right to be independent in choosing his/ her paths for survival without any external obligation (Fisk 70). Hence, individualism played a vital role in shaping the character of the American people.

Independent personality was and is still considered as one of the most attractive characters of American individualism in which citizens in the United States do not prefer to think of themselves as being dependent upon others including the government itself. Therefore, it was difficult to convince people in America to sacrifice some of their interests for the general public good.

As an ideology, American individualism signified two separated perspectives: The United States as a unique culture in itself and American people as independent individuals. The former indicates that America has peculiar culture that makes it distinct including independence and individualism among the others. The second perspective sees American individualism with respect to individuals living in America. For example, people in America are allowed to be who they want to be. Due to these core principles, the United States was able to be at the forefront of industrialized nations in the world (Waititu 2).

³Alexis Charles Henri (1805 – 16 April 1859) was a French diplomat, political scientist and historian. He was best known for his works *Democracy in America*. He analyzed the improved living standards and social conditions of individuals as well as their relationship to the market and state in Western societies.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexis_de_Tocqueville

Although individualism boosted independence, self-reliance, and self-responsibility, it had some other negative consequences. For instance, being not dependent upon others created a huge edge in interpersonal relationships. In other words, individualism made social ties shrink. American People felt loneliness as they mistrusted each other even those with whom they shared their daily life experiences (Lachelier 18).

1.2. Politics and the Economy during the American Industrial Revolution

The American Industrial Revolution reached its peak with the arrival of laissez-faire and capitalism that disapproved the governmental intervenes in political and economic issues. Due to capitalism, the United States became an economic juggernaut that took advantage of a vast internal and international consumer market

1.2.1. Politics: Laissez-faire

The early American economic system was based on the government involvement. This policy was first developed and advocated by federalists. Alexander Hamilton, an American statesman, believed that the country should be managed by a strong federal government that is capable of forming treaties with foreign powers, regulating commerce between states, creating and maintaining armed force, coining money, and declaring wars (Tocqueville 53).

Laissez-faire is a French phrase which means let them act. It disapproved the idea that glorifies the governmental involvement in economic issues. Merriam Webster Dictionary, defines “laissez faire” as “a doctrine opposing governmental interference in economic affairs beyond the minimum necessary for the maintains of peace and property rights”.

Adam Smith⁴ as a classical liberal economist (Butler128) advocated laissez-faire philosophy during the eighteenth century. According to Smith, the purpose of the

⁴ Adam Smith FRSA (1723 – 1790) was a Scottish economist, philosopher and author as well as a moral philosopher, a pioneer of political economy and a key figure during the Scottish Enlightenment, also known as "The Father of Economics" or "The Father of Capitalism" https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Smith

government is not to provide citizens with equal life, but it is to give them liberty to realize their own enlightenment and self-interest, claiming that when an individual pursues his own desired ends, he would thereby achieve the best results for the society where he lived. Smith wrote that the “Great ambition, the desire of real superiority, of leading and directing, seems to be altogether peculiar to man, and speech is the great instrument of ambition of real superiority, of leading and directing the judgments and conduct of other people”(Walraevens17).

Laissez-faire philosophy was as a vehicle for American socio-economic growth in which American industrialists believed that the role of the government was not to intervene in the economy. Instead, it had to protect property rights and maintain peace. Additionally, they believed that the state control over economy would increase expenses and eventually hurts society more than it would help (Butler 61). Accordingly, Progress in manufacturing and production of technology enabled the United States to establish an industrial empire that was based on heavy industries such as, factories, railroads and coal mining.

1.2.2. Economy

The economic growth during the American Industrial Revolution was extraordinary but unstable. Entrepreneurs competed and battled intensively with each other to gain control of industries. They simply applied Social Darwinism principles. John Rockefeller⁵ was one of the notable businessmen in American society during the Industrial Revolution. He once wrote:

The growth of a large business is merely a survival of the fittest. The American Beauty rose can be produced in the splendor and fragrance which brings cheer to

⁵ John D. Rockefeller (1839 – May 1937) was an American oil industry business magnate, industrialist, and philanthropist. He is widely considered the wealthiest American of all time, and the richest person in modern history https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Rockefeller

its beholder only by sacrificing the early buds which grow up around it. This is not an evil tendency in business. It is merely the working-out of a law of nature and a law of God (qtd in Destler 33).

John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie⁶ were among successful American industrialists. Their contribution was embodied in their management of businesses. They devoted their energy to make money and established industrial empire (Ladenburg 4). Rockefeller as an American industrialist wanted to improve businesses in America. In 1870, he operated the Standard Oil Company. Then, in 1882, this company controlled 90 percent of the oil industry in the United States. Rockefeller's administrative capabilities allowed him to extend his industrial oil empire (Maammeri 40-41).

Like Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie strived to establish an American industrial empire. He was the leader of American steel industry (Mokyr 3). In 1878, Carnegie's business was capitalized at \$ 11/4 million with an annual profit of \$ 5 million. Carnegie was a philanthropist businessman. Therefore, after his death, he left the rest of his wealth in order to make charitable activities (Ladenburg 4).

Although Rockefeller and Carnegie had philanthropic activities, they were among industrialization's captains who were known as "robber barons" in the United States. According to Stephen Schneider "Robber Barons" concept was a "pejorative term for one of the powerful 19th century U.S. industrialists and financiers who made fortunes by monopolizing huge industries through the formation of trusts, engaging in unethical business practices, exploiting workers, and paying little heed to their customers or competition"(1). In other words, "robber barons" was used to describe aggressive American

⁶Andrew Carnegie (1835 – 1919) was an American industrialist, business magnate, and philanthropist. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Carnegie

competitors who came with unethical methods, undemocratic practices, and lusty greed to build their own business world.

“Robber barons” advocated Herbert Spencer’s ideas. The entrepreneur views his success as a result of his own character and his hard work. The virtues of their times were mainly based on acquisitiveness and material success. Values such as loyalty, sobriety, and initiative had no importance within the business environment. Hence, “robber barons” resembled large fortunes at the expense of other weak businessmen. Like Rockefeller who enforced smaller companies to surrender their stock to his control, and through these unfair methods, he became one of the well-known industrialists in America (Grantham 136-37).

1.3. The Negative Effects of the American Industrial Revolution

Although there were several positives to the American Industrial Revolution there were also many negative elements, including: poor working conditions, poor living conditions, low wages, child labor.

1.3.1. Social and Economic Impacts

The industrial revolution in the United States was a turning point in the American history. Due to change brought about the industrial revolution, the United States witnessed an economic and social prosperity. What took month to be done and achieved; it could be produced in few a minute. As a result, the American economic grew and flourished.

Industrialization produced an extraordinary rate of economic growth in the United States by establishing great companies, such as Standard Oil Company (SOC) in 1867 with Rockefeller as its head. The success of this company boosted other industries, such as steel, electricity, and transportation (Benketat 39).

Socially, new technologies facilitated social American life by which people in the United States were able to use new and advanced devices, such as refrigerator, television, radio, clothes washer especially, after the extension of electricity cables. Illnesses' rate also decreased because of the improvement of medical apparatuses. Furthermore, education was enhanced and improved during the American Industrial Revolution. As a result, illiteracy was reduced. Additionally, the introduction of new machines as means of production provided Americans with prosperity and many achieved a good standard of living. Meanwhile, it created serious crises within the American society (Fisko 3).

After the spread of industrialization in the 1870s throughout America, a rapid urbanization followed and Americans increasingly migrated from rural to urban areas, mostly to the northern half of the United States. However, living in these crowded cities was difficult. Large slums were formed, garbage spread, and perilous diseases appeared. Moreover, when rural migrants went towards cities, they were forced to adapt to urban environment by changing their work habits. Because there was a great difference between the factory system and the way of working in the farm. Spending numerous hours in work a day led to the emergence of social problems such as divorce, scattered family ties, schools dropout, and decrease of marriage rate (Neale 954).

The new technology of machine lacking security mechanisms and the businessmen's greed for increased profits created a great deal of social unrest to many workers who worked within large factories. Clearly, working conditions during this era were often dangerous and performed in unsanitary circumstances. A number of workers had to work long hours a day, many days a week in dangerous factories and mines in order to survive (Benketaf 185).

In the textile mills factories, workers faced accidents from machines, which had no security devices. Usually, these workers could lose their fingers, hands, arms, or even their

life. Then if those workers got sick, they would simply be fired and replaced without any previous insurance. Likewise, in coal mines, employee had to labor in dust and darkness. Accordingly, most of workers could lose their sight. Furthermore, children were obliged to drop their studies to join factories in order to save their families. Consequently, many children ended as victims inside these workshops:

The job of the breaker boys was likely more dangerous. Their job was to use a coal breaker to separate slate and other impurities from coal before it was shipped. To do so, these boys, some as young as 14, were precariously position on wooden benches above a conveyor belt so they could remove the impurities as the coal rushed by. At times, the dust from the passing coal was so dense that the view would become obscured. Other child coal laborers worked as helpers. Journeymen miners frequently hired their own helpers, and some parents hired their own children to perform this role. These children were not usually employees of the mine but were instead paid out of the wages of the journeymen (Schuman 07).

During the industrial revolution, women in the United States often worked in unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. They were urged to work in a factory that was not initially organized by the government. Instead, they were controlled by companies that salaried them much less than men. Most women worked in textile factories and coal mining which were overcrowded and dangerous. Tragedies such as the factory fire triangle shirtwaist in New York 1901 city happened, in which it resulted in the death of 146 workers, most of them young women due to unsafe conditions and policies like keeping the outer doors closed to prevent theft (Woolley 1).

1.3.2. Political Impacts

After the expansion of Industrial Revolution in the United States, large American cities such as Chicago, New York, Boston, and Philadelphia experienced tremendous growth in terms of population under inefficient government. In order to get jobs and achieve a comfortable life, most citizens were drawn from farms towards cities. Accordingly, towns crowded and several ethnic groups started to emerge. These diverse ethnic groups brought a new race to the American society. Each group desired to gain political control. As a result, corrupted political machines started to emerge in the United States.

Political machine was a political organization headed by bosses or small autocratic groups. It based on collecting votes to keep control of city government in terms of politics and administrations. Bosses provided money and employments to local people in exchange for the votes they needed. According to Edward Banfield and James Wilson political machine could be defined as "a party organization that depends crucially upon inducements that are both specific and material " (Matlin 12).

In the United States, the system of corrupted political system extended during the gilded age⁷. The American cities governments became widely dominated by what was called "machines" where the government favored to serve their private interests. Political machine in the U.S.A can be referred to as political system which would increase the extractions of revenue from a democratic state through providing local politicians tangible favors (Menes 4-5).

Historically, cities and towns were the major places that contained numerous social services including schools, hospitals and police. The latter facilitated the process of corruption through what was called philanthropy. In other words, the American corrupt machine system performed certain policies. Under the charitable organizations, machines exploited poor

⁷Mark Twain called the late 19th Century the "Gilded Age." By this, he meant that the period was glittering on the surface but corrupt underneath http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/teachers/modules/gilded_age/index.cfm .

people who were living in slums and extreme poverty by promising them to improve their social conditions in return for voting for them (Matlin 13).

The machines also helped immigrants and those who were homeless, hungry and without citizenship with shelter, food, coal jobs and citizenship. However, the political machines vested interests underneath these efforts to help the poor which were political control; that is why they were corrupt (Suh 125).

Tammany Hall was one of the most famous political machines in the United States. It was the executive committee of the Democratic Party in New York City. From the 1860s, the party was a synonym of corruption under the powerful boss William M. Tweed⁸. The latter exploited poor and immigrants in order to gain Tammany Hall control. He paid drifters money, and crooks for Republican voters in exchange for their votes. Accordingly, between 1869 and 1870, Tweed brought huge debts to New York City through municipal mismanagement and malfunctioning (Benketaf 88).

As a result of the late 19th century industrialization, the American society witnessed massive increase in production. Therefore, the need for resources and raw materials necessitated. As the available sources within the nation were thought to be unsatisfactory to the needs of factories, and the same factories produced more than what Americans consumed, the nation was drawn towards new markets outside the nation, especially in the continents of America and Asia. These events gave birth to American imperialism, which was considered as one of the dark sides of industrialization in the United States.

Imperialism is the policy by which strong a nation takes control over a weaker nation, either directly or through economic and political means. According to Lenin

⁸ William Tweed built the Hall into a political force after the culmination of the Civil War, and effectively established the model of urban bossism which was copied by other bosses throughout the country in the next several decades (Fralick 1).

Imperialism "emerged as the development and direct continuation of the fundamental characteristics of capitalism in general. But capitalism only became capitalist imperialism at a definite and very high stage of its development, when certain of its fundamental characteristics began to change into their opposites, when the features of the epoch of transition from capitalism to a higher social and economic system had taken shape and revealed themselves all along the line" (Shizuta 1).

America in order to strengthen its economic investments outside its land, it attempted to dilate its expansion to Latin America, especially in Cuba and Mexico. In fact, in 1895, a civil war broke out between Spain and Cuba. Since the United States had several investments in Cuba, especially for in sugar, it attempted to join the war in order to protect its interests on Cuban lands. The Spanish-American war lasted only a few months, but delivered catastrophic results. The United States won a convincing conflict, showing military strength in fighting abroad, with a few American battle casualties. In the end, there were 5,462 American deaths in the war, Yellow fever, malaria and other diseases were primarily responsible for most of these victims (Davis 6).

Conclusion

The transformation of the American society from an agrarian to an urban system order enabled Americans to live in a comfortable environment. Yet, believing in certain classical ideologies, such as social Darwinism, individualism, and laissez-faire assisted the United States to build a socio-economic basis. Nevertheless, living on the fittest world caused the nation to lose its principles, such as loyalty, mercy, and solidarity. Due to that, a weak citizen was abased, and many children and women were oppressed within factories. As a response to these crises, abundance of reforms came in order to transform the American society. These

reforms ranged from governmental to social welfare. This era in America's history was known as the progressive era.

Chapter Two:

**The Progressive Movement:
Exponents and Demands**

Introduction

At the end of the nineteenth century, the United States witnessed a social and economic transition including advances in technology and industrialization. During this period, great cities and businesses developed and a powerful empire was established. As a result, waves of migrants with withdrew towards American cities, and this dramatic change flooded the nation with social problems such as slums, poverty, and corruption. As a reaction to that, a new era began as a social movement came to purify the American society, and to cope with the existing social problems. This period in American history is known as the progressive era. This chapter is devoted to identify the progressive movement, its exponents, demands, and ideologies.

1. American Progressive Movement

The progressive movement or progressivism as it is sometimes referred to, is among the events that had deep effects on modern American history. It is a term used to describe the broad movement that happened in the United States and took place between the period 1890 and 1920. According to Steven L. Piott, the progressive era was “a watershed period in American history in which technical improvement, socio-political reforms, as well as economic and demographic transformations altered American life profoundly (1). This movement came as a response to economic, political, and social problems that rapid industrialization and aggressive imperialism brought to America.

During the progressive era, activists, such as journalists, educators, and politicians were labelled progressives. This label was taken from their belief in "progress" (Benketaf 12). In other words, they believed that new ideas and an honest, efficient government could be realized through social justice. In this way, progressives were an educated members usually from urban middle classes, and they were even different in terms of their political allegiance

(some were Democrats and others were Republicans)⁹ (Appleby 520). During the progressive era reformers had two essential assumptions. The first assumption was that enlightened application of regulations, such as incentives and punishment could enhance the human nature. The second assumption was that social problems could be improved through governmental intervention. Progressivistes saw that a powerful federal government could progress equality for both the individual and society, but before that, the government had to fix its own problems that was mainly caused by classical liberalism¹⁰. In other words, the government had to alter its policy from uncooperative government as classical liberalism suggests to cooperative one (Heyse 4).

Generally, the demands and goals of those activists had the slogan of creating a better America. They were from various social, religious and political groups, and they were all motivated by the same goal that was establishing a fair American society by limiting corruption and reducing businessmen's greed. Purification of the government was the central goal of the activists. Therefore, they sought to eradicate immoral and unfair business practices that had increased due to the expansion of industrial America.

The progressivistes' motivations were not confined only to political issues. Instead, it extended to include other social dimensions. Industrialization in the 19th century resulted in abundance of social crises including poverty, children and women's abuse, unsafe working conditions, and the spread of unethical behaviors such as alcoholic drinks. Consequently, exponents from diverse backgrounds responded to these problems and attempted to improve

⁹Political parties in the United States are mostly dominated by a [two-party system](#) consisting of the [Democratic Party](#) and the Republican Party. The [United States Constitution](#) has always been silent on the issue of [political parties](#), since at the time it was signed in 1787 there were no parties in the nation. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_parties_in_the_United_States2019

¹⁰classical liberalism is a [political ideology](#) and a [branch of liberalism](#) which advocates [civil liberties](#) under the [rule of law](#), it emphasized on [economic freedom](#). It related to [economic liberalism](#) and it developed in the early 19th century, building on ideas from the previous century as a response to [urbanisation](#) and to the [Industrial Revolution](#) in [Europe](#) and the [United States](#). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_liberalism2019

the American society by creating a healthy platform where all components of the American society live a decent average life. For that reason, they sought to enhance working conditions, provide children with suitable education, and improve health sector.

2. The Progressive Movement: Exponents and their Demands

During the Progressive Era, There were many important players who worked to liven the consciousness of America to the social ills plaguing many vulnerable communities. Divers of religious, social, and political groups became prominent voices in raising public awareness of social ills.

2.1. The Press and Social Mobilization

Initially, the progressive movement in the United States did not emerge as an organized reform movement guided by political machinery. Instead, it came as popular efforts in which various social groups including journalists and educators, revolted against immoral capitalistic and rapacious individualism to realize the American social justice (Link 836).

Among the first exponents to flourish with progressive ideas were a group of journalists and writers who were referred to as Muckrakers (Appleby 521). The term Muckraker was used to describe investigated novelists and journalists who sought to end social and economic injustices during the progressive era. Prior to this period, this term was used by US president Theodore Roosevelt in his speech in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1906, entitled “The Man with the Muck-Rake”. Roosevelt emphasised that” “The men with muckrakers are often indispensable to the wellbeing of society (Benketaf 114); but only if they know when to stop raking the muck, and to look upward to the celestial grown of worthy endeavour” (Feldstein1). He borrowed the term “muck rake” from the well-known didactic novel, “Pilgrim’s Progress,” which was written by John Bunyan in the late of seventeenth century. Roosevelt coined the word muckrakers in order to crush the negative excesses of industrial revolution with the maintenance of the nation`s capitalist system (Feldstein 1).

Muckrakers were unique; they were not as any journalist whose concern was selling newspapers only. Instead, they strived to shed light on the American crises, and they were similar to modern press of investigation. Accordingly, they attempted to expose what was going wrong in society evoking by awareness of chronic urban poverty, unsafe working conditions, and other social problems associated with industrialization.

The writing of the muckrakers was important during the progressive movement. McClure`s and Collier`s Weekly were the medium that helped journalists such as Lincoln Stephens, Ida Tarbell and Upton Sinclair to expose corruption in government and big businesses. For instance, Lincoln Stephens wrote the *Shame of the City* which contains reports on the workings of corrupt political machines in several major U.S. cities, along with a few efforts to combat them. This book is considered one of several early major pieces of muckraking journalism. After all, Steffens claimed that this work made him “the first muckraker”.

Additionally, Ida Tarbell, a well-known female muckraker focused on exposing evils in John D. Rockefeller`s Standard Oil Company (SOC). In 1904, she made interviews and wrote articles entitled “*The History of the Standard Oil Company*” in which she examined the excesses of the company and exposed illegal practices of Rockefeller. Along with other muckrakers' efforts, Tarbell pushed citizens in the United States to take action against social welfare problems such as mal-educational systems, child labour, unsafe working conditions, and women suffrage (Benketaf 101).

2.1.2. Child Labor and Reforming the Educational System

Improving educational system was another prominent demand of the Progressivistes. At first, people were not satisfied with the early educational systems that were

completely based on elementary schools. As result, several reformers like William Kilpatrick, Francis Parker, George Counts, and John Dewey came to expose and put their ideas to establish modern educational systems that focused on experimental schools. Progressivistes in the field of education emphasized on promoting values of community such as tolerance, cooperation, justice, and democratic equality (Labaree 277).

John Dewey, the father of progressive education was one of the most well-known educational reformers who were so concerned with improving educational curriculum in the United States during the progressive Era. In 1879, Dewey graduated from the University of Vermont. Then, he got his doctorate from the Johns Hopkins University. During his study, he wrote several books and articles. "*The School and Society*", "*The Child and Curriculum*", and "*Democracy and Education*" were among his popular books. Through these works, he promoted his famous educational theory that was based on center-child pedagogy system in which he emphasized on the core connection between childhood and democracy in education system. For Dewey, schools were the fitting environment that could provide children with the basis of democracy. Deeply, Dewey believed further in the philosophy of learning –by-doing where he stated that if schools taught students how to link between learning and doing, students themselves would play a vital role in the American democratic society (Benketaf 120).

The attempt to improve the educational system did not conceal the truth about exploitation that targeted a considerable number of children. Despite these reforms, many children were still oppressed in factories working for long time in unsafe conditions. As a result, progressivistes attempted to make Americans aware of this sensitive phenomenon.

The issue of child labour was prominent in the writing of the progressivistes. From 1902 to 1906 journalists published 69 articles under the title of child labor (Schuman 4).

Muckraker John Spargo, in 1906, published his book *"The Bitter Cry of Children"* in which he exposed the hard conditions that children had to bear especially in coal mines. He described the circumstances where the tough work crippled children's hands (Appleby 526).

Articles such as the ones mentioned earlier, pushed the Americans to take action towards children's abuse. The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) was established by Edgar Gardner Murphy in 1904 in an attempt to limit child labor's restrictions by mill operators. Later, a Mill Children's 1903 March strike at a Kensington was organized by Mary Harris, also known as "Mother" Jones. In this strike, "Mother" Jones assembled various protesting groups and directed towards the public demonstration to voice their demands for regulation of child labor by the federal government. The President Theodore Roosevelt at first refused to meet them, but later, he disclosed his sympathy for the issue of child labor, and ordered the Department of Commerce and Labor to pay particular attention "to the conditions of child labor and child-labor legislation in several states (Schuman 4-6).

Movement for women's suffrages was also a prominent aspect of the progressive movement. American women had long been abused and oppressed especially during the industrial revolution. Due to the mal cruelty, they were obliged to attend factories and do hard activities beyond their capacities. Within the American patriarchal society, woman had neither the right to make their own decision nor the voice to speak for them. For example, they could not vote in elections; they did not obtain the right of education, and the right to divorce the oppressive husband was not granted yet (Benketaf 60). As a result, several attempts to get rid of woman's rights violations and inequality were arisen. In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton assembled group of women in Seneca Fall, New York in order to discuss the issues of women's rights. Indeed, the Seneca Falls Conventions' delegates argued that American

women were capable to have their own political identity. Cady said:

We are assembled to protest against a form of government, existing without the consent of the governed—to declare our right to be free as man is free, to be represented in the government which we are taxed to support, to have such disgraceful laws as give man the power to chastise and imprison his wife, to take the wages which she earns, the property which she inherits, and, in case of separation, the children of her love” (Gilman and Graber 1).

Religious Efforts: The social Gospel Movement

The social gospel movement was a powerful religious movement that arose during the late of the 19th century , and the early of 20th century in the United States ,The term "the social gospel" refers primarily to a social movement within the churches of North America ,both in the U.S.A. and Canada, which responded to the social injustices that emerged in the wake of the industrialization in the 19th century (Roger 477). This indicates that the social gospel movement was as a response to the social conditions that industrialisation and urbanization brought to America.

The Social Gospel movement insisted on the application of the values of Christianity on society (Corbett 92). Baptist theologian Shailer Mathews¹¹ described the social gospel as the “application of the teaching of Jesus and the total message of the Christian salvation to society, the economic life, and social institutions such as the state and the family, as well as to individuals ” (qtd. in Marta et al 5). This means that the Social Gospel movement derived its principals from Jesus Christ, the man considered by many Christians an honour God.

¹¹He was a [progressive](#), advocating [social concerns](#) as part of the Social Gospel message, and subjecting [Biblical](#) texts to [scientific study](#). He incorporated [evolutionary](#) theory into his religious views, noting that the two were not mutually exclusive. He remained a devout [Baptist](#) for his entire life and he helped to establish the [Northern Baptist Convention](#), serving as its president in 1915"Shailer Mathews". <https://EncyclopaediaBritannica.2018.RetrievedMay22.2019>

Therefore, Christian reformers argued that people had to emulate the life of Jesus Christ, and in so doing, they attempted to tie salvation and good works together. Believing on these ideas had reinforced the progressive movement.

The Social Gospel movement played a key role in the realization of economic fairness and justice in the 20th century. Progressivists during this movement powerfully believed in the fundamental notion of equality that all people are the same in God's eyes, and they should have the equal freedom, economic opportunities, political rights, and dignity. Back in history, Thomas Jefferson¹² and James Madison were among the prominent American liberals who further believed in liberty of conscience, religious tolerance, and strict separation of church and state. Yet, many religious authorities such as the Catholic Church opposed that philosophy of liberalism and considered it as a sin. They therefore attempted to replace the laissez-faire principle of the late 19th century with a more communitarian outlook (Cook and Halpin 2).

Industrialization brought an economic environment that banned most working class Americans from reaching a comfortable position in life. For instance, poor children were urged to leave their class and attend to factories in their early age. For Social Gospel leaders, these unsafe conditions were a result of the new American system failing, as Cook and Halpin stated in their book *"The Role of Faith in the Progressive Movement"*: "Social gospel theologians argued that there were systemic failings in the new American economic order, that the industrial capitalists used their financial power to create a system that allowed them to accrue enormous wealth, while at the same time ensuring what was tantamount to economic slavery among the lower classes"(5).

¹² Jefferson was a proponent of democracy, republicanism, and individual rights, motivating American colonists to break from the Kingdom of Great Britain and form a new nation; he produced formative documents and decisions at both the state and national level. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson

Shailer Mathews¹³, Washington Gladden¹⁴, and Walter Rauschenbusch¹⁵ were among leading American pastors during the Social Gospel movement (Pierre 4). For them Christianity had to maintain justice and equality within the American society. Washington Gladden, the father of Social Gospel was against the businessmen`s greed. Gladden declared that “Christianity principals dictated that wealth created by industrial revolution not be accumulated into the hands of a few industrialists, but be shared by those workers whose labor generated that wealth (Hall 216).

As a result, Gladden supported his congregation to consider his contributions in both American religious and social justice. Gladden`s contributions contained sequence of elements. Among them: The advocating liberty, equal rights, public order and improvement, political purity, and general progress, The ideal of the church as a body for all people, regardless of wealth or class, and The encouragement of education and popular intelligence (Pierre 4).

2.3. Third Parties and Political Reforms

During the Progressive Era, between 1890 and 1920, a number of political parties appeared to challenge the Republican-Democratic regime and to push a more progressive policy agenda. Most notable among these challengers were the Socialist Party, Lafollette, and the Progressive (or Bull Moose) Party.

¹³Shailer Mathews (1863–1941) was an American liberal Christian theologian, involved with the Social Gospel movement. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shailer_Mathews

¹⁴ Washington Gladden (1836 – 1918) was a leading American Congregational pastor and early leader in the Social Gospel movement. He was a leading member of the Progressive Movement. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Gladden

¹⁵ Walter Rauschenbusch (1861–1918) was an American theologian and Baptist pastor who taught at the Rochester Theological Seminary. Rauschenbusch was a key figure in the Social Gospel and single tax movements that flourished in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Rauschenbusch

2.3.1. The socialist Party

The socialist party and the political social movement cannot be understood without referring to the two essential American parties: The Republican and Democratic party. The clash between these two parties had its basis on their vision to the role of government in society (Benketaf 81). Essentially, the Republican Party or `Grand old party` was the party that dominated the presidency since the Post-Civil War era. The Republican Party was mainly identified with financial interests and big businesses; it supported the low tariff rates for business and limited governmental intervention in the economic and social issues.

On the other hand, the Democratic Party also known as `Bourbon Democratic` came to dominate the period from 1885 to 1900. This party opposed free business and glorified the role of the federal government (Maammeri 142 -150). While, the two previous parties focused on the government role for protecting both poor and rich interest, the Socialist Party came to protect the worker`s interests. This party was known as the progressives` socialist party.

According to Schneirov socialism is “the political movement to replace private ownership of productive property and the profit motive with democratic and collective control of the modern economy – dated in the United States to the early nineteenth century (245). In other word, Socialism was a type of economic system, a social theory and a political movement that supported the collective ownership of means of production including utilities and transportation systems. American socialists did not tend to equalize all people politically, economically, and socially. Instead they wanted to have people in the United States, as a whole, working together to benefit everyone (Schneirov 245).

There was a legitimate Socialist movement during the progressive movement. In 1890, progressivistes advocated socialism. They desired the state to take control over the big companies and manufacturing processes that affected every one. Socialist movement grew

and developed in the United States as a response to economic crises that business and industry resulted including agrarian unrest, and turbulent and violent strikes. American socialism's first initiative started in 1876 when Daniel De Leon established Socialist Labour Party (SLP). And in 1897 trade unionist, Eugene V. Debs¹⁶ founded the Social Democratic Party (SDP) of America. Actually, leaders such as Eugene V. Debs, Norman Thomas and Michael Harrington had made great effort to create Socialist Party in 1901 (Schneirov 246).

Socialist Party was one of American third political Party that was led by Eugene V. Debs. It was formed to promote public control of means of the production and distribution. It run from 1901 and lasted until 1912. Socialist Party sought to eliminate businessmen`s greed and create opportunities for all people including working class as Robert Tuttle emphasized:

Socialism proposes three things: First, social ownership of all the means of production and distribution that are socially used. Secondly, democratic control of the socially owned property, together with an extension of the principle of democracy in politics. Third, until the above can be realized, and as a means toward securing them, all lawful and peaceable measures that will cripple the present capitalist profit system and improve the conditions and power of the working class (57).

Socialist Party became more popular in the United States in the election of 1911 when it gained 700,000 voters and local elections won seventy-four major government officials. In 1912, Eugene V. Debs won 6 percent of the vote. Its two essential Socialist weeklies, the Appeal to Reason and Wilshire`s Magazine reached over 250,000 readers. Additionally, the Socialist Party`s membership increased from 10,000 to 118,000 in the same year (Schneirov 245).

¹⁶Eugene Victor Deb (1855 – 1926) was an American socialist, political activist, trade unionist, one of the founding members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and five times the candidate of the Socialist Party of America for President of the United States. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene_V._Debs

Socialist Party was based on two main ideologies “left-wing` and `right –wing”. The left-wing guided the first six years of Socialist Party from 1901 -1906.They introduced Socialism as revolutionary movement by which they referred to the Marxist concepts of proletariat. According to them, the latter had to battle against the capitalists to realize better working conditions, and for them, true socialism could be achieved only when the total ownership of government is realized and the means of production would become within the hands of the proletariat. Accordingly, the left –wing strived for a general strikes to seize power from the capitalists. On other hand, the right-wing came to moderate traditional Socialism Democratic forms that were embodied on the left- wing by opposing Marxism-Leninism. Instead of focusing on force and power, the right- wing aimed to use the box, the ballot, and not revolution to gain a true Socialist Party. In addition to that, the right-wing believed that a valid socialism could be realized through a guided machinery of the state by offering Legislation that could benefit all classes claiming that socialism was not just a class movement. Instead, it was a tendency that included all social classes (Tuttle 54-56).

Socialists in the United States advocated and supported several demands among which were the collective control of means of productions and industries that used to be restricted to monopolies and trusts, reduction of hours of labor and provide state national insurance for the workers in case of sickness, accidents and lack of employment, provide children at age of 18 years with education and supporting them with books, cloths, and food. The Socialists also supported equal rights for men and women (Debs 5).

Eugene V. Debs as a leader of the socialist Party strongly believed in Karl Marx writings that were mainly based on the popular and collective ownership of wealth. He argued that the government should control businesses and divide the profits among all classes especially those who contributed to the increase in the production. Debs after his experience

with the Pullman Strike¹⁷ and his six month on jail recognized that radical actions was necessary to limit the businessmen's greed. He therefore became a well- known Socialist Party leader. Sreenivasan in his article, "*Poverty and the Government in America reported*"

Debs`statement in the Court in 1918 argued that: "Our honor, years ago I recognized my kinship with all living things, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest on the earth. I said then and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free" (199).

Debs opposed the left –wing`s principle of blood and power. Instead, he wrote that "he was not a syndicalist or a force anarchist. That he was a Socialist and believed in civilized and intelligent weapons for the working class. He regarded the propagation of sabotage as folly. Even the "lefts" have now forgotten it. I do not recall having seen the word in a single Communist Program" (2). Thus, he was against America` intervention in the First World War, and therefore, Debs was arrested for his perspective to WW1; he did not hesitate to promote socialism over America. He wrote abundance of articles in socialist newspapers, journals, and magazines that existed during his life. In order to heighten conscience among Americans towards socialism.

2.3.2. Robert La Follette (1855-1925)

Robert La Follette (1855-1925) was one of the famous leaders during the progressive era. His political career started with the Republican Party. La Follette was nicknamed or known as "Fighting Bob" and this was due to his fight against corporate monopoly in

¹⁷The Pullman Strike was a nationwide railroad strike in the United States that lasted from May 11 to July 20, 1894, and a turning point for US labor law. It pitted the American Railway Union against the Pullman Company. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pullman_Strike

America and imperialism abroad. Later, like many other socialists, he believed that the government rather than big businesses and corporations ought to own and manage the main industries. Additionally, La Follette also defended the working class against many issues such as racism and the unfair treatment which they received from their bosses (Honeywell 5).

Corruption was another main concern over which La Follette revolted. Even before becoming a governor, he opposed such practices and this became clear after his rejection to accept a bribery that was offered to him. Following this incident, La Follette became determined to expose any corruption within the government and within the Republican Party (Honeywell 6).

La Follette's era came to be recognized by different achievements among which was the establishment of the Robert M. LaFollette Institute of Public Affairs which was considered as La Follette's main legacies. This program was established in a bid to promote cooperation between university scholars and government officials in order to find out solutions and set future programs. Under this initiative, many students received an education that enabled them to hold administrative positions in the future. Additionally, the institute offered several conferences and seminars whose findings were to be used by policymakers in making decisions (Honeywell 19-20).

La Follette was an enthusiastic and charismatic orator whose most inspiring speeches contributed to his party's popularity (Maxwell 56-57). Eventually, his thoughts and achievements were to be awarded and received by peoples' approval and appreciation. Women, labor movements, and even farmers were inspired and attracted by La Follette's political views (Maxwell 56-57).

The Progressive Era was the period in the American's history that was dominated by reform ideals from 1890 to 1920. The Progressive Movement enclosed social reform issues

that related to female suffrage, education, working conditions, urbanization, the problems of industrialization and child labor. The Progressive Movement called for political reforms attacking corruption, the political machines and the regulation of Big Business and reducing the power of the Robber Barons and unfair business practices. Progressivistes believed that the role of government was too perverse the American people from abuses that were occurring in society and to take action to deal with problems in American society. As a result, the progressives declared the beginning of the period of the progressivistes presidential reforms from 1901to 1921.

2.3.3. The Bull Moose Party

Bull Moose party (1912-1916) or the progressive party as it is sometimes referred to was a third party on the United States headed by Theodor Roosevelt; the party's nickname was derived from Roosevelt's quote when he was asked to be a president, he merely replied that he was as fit as Bull Moose (Boyer 37).

The origins of the Bull Moose Party go back to debates over Republican candidates. Theodore Roosevelt served as president of the United States from 1901 to 1909. When time came to run again in 1908, he instead favored his friend William H. Taft, who won the election. However, in 1912, Teddy Roosevelt came back to run as candidate for the Republican Party again. Taft's policies turned out to be contradicting to Roosevelt's philosophy. Taft won the Republican Party's nomination in 1912. As a result, Roosevelt withdrew to form his own Progressive Party or Bull Moose (Boyer 37).

The progressive platform contained social reforms such as social welfare assistance for women and children, health insurance in industries, and worker's compensation protection of workers through minimum wages and reducing hours of work, health program, and slum clearance were the essential party 'demands (Maammeri 222).

Bull Moose party's platform outlined political reforms including federal government to control big businesses, woman's suffrage. Roosevelt as leader of nationalism in the United States argued that a nation as America had to drive the special interests out of political issues. Instead, he emphasized that each single American individual should have justice and opportunities. He once said:

Practical equality of opportunity for all citizens when we achieve it, will have two great results. First every man will have a fair chance to make of himself all that in him lies; to reach the highest point to which his capacities, unassisted by special privilege of his own and unhampered by the special privilege of others, can carry him, and to get for himself and his family substantially what he has earned. Second, equality of opportunity means that the commonwealth will get from every citizen the highest service of which he is capable. No man who carries the burden of the special privileges of another can give to the commonwealth that service to which it is fairly entitled (qtd. in *New Nationalism vs. New Freedom* 137).

Conclusion

Prior to the progressive movement, American citizens were living in miserable social and political conditions. While this down life was acceptable by some citizens, enlightened class of American people started to emerge in order to change and improve it. Diverse of social, religious, and political groups came to expose what was going on in the American society by shedding light on the dark sides that were brought through the American social growth. The success of these demands based on what extent the exponents' demands received any authority's response.

Chapter Three:
The Results
of the Progressive Movement

Introduction

The progressivistes believed that the role of government was to protect the American people from the buses that were taking place and to take action regarding the existing problems in the American society. The progressive movement was advocated by three main progressive presidents which were Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Wilson Woodrow. These presidents tried to reform the American society, control the power of business, and improve the lives of the individuals. The period of progressive presidential reforms began in 1901 and ended in 1921. The aim of the chapter is to describe the main political reforms that the progressives introduced and analyse the results that the progressive movement brought to the American society.

1. Government Response to the Progressive Movement: The Political Reformers (1901-1920)

Progressivism had two main important objectives. First, giving the public the opportunity to participate more directly in the political process and the second limiting the power of big city bosses. Progressives hoped to accomplish these goals through a variety of political reforms.

1.1.Theodore Roosevelt , New Nationalism (1901-1909)

The assassination of the President William McKinley took America's government to a new system, which was named Progressivism in the United States. Progressivistes brought presidential reforms from 1901 to 1921. This period was divided into two phases, the first one covered the Republican Presidential terms of both Theodor Roosevelt¹⁸ and William Howard

¹⁸Theodore Roosevelt Jr. (1858- 1919) was an American statesman, politician, conservationist, naturalist, and writer who served as the 26th president of the United States from 1901 to 1909. He previously served as the 25th vice president of the United States from March to September 1901 and he became a driving force for the Progressive Era in the United States in the early 20th century. (Benketaf 127).

Taft¹⁹. The second phase was from 1913 to 1921, the period of Democratic president Woodrow Wilson²⁰. These two phases were period of the developments constituted the progressive movement in the America especially in the period between 1900 and 1910 (Benketaf 125).

After the assassination of William McKinley and his wife on 6 September 1901 in Buffalo, New York, Theodore Roosevelt served as the U.S. president from 1901-1909. He was known as the accidental president. He became president at the age of 43 which made him the youngest person ever to take office (Benketaf 125).

Theodore Teddy Roosevelt was a social Darwinist²¹ who believed that there was a competition between the United States and the other nations, in a way that was similar to the notion of “the survival of the fittest”. Despite of his aggressive personality, he was sympathized with the lower classes that were abuses in factories. His domestic program, known as the “Square Deal” promised protection for consumers, the environment and workers especially the middle class (Heyse 3). He set new laws in order to protect consumer health and reduce facts advertising. In addition, he worked to protect the natural resources of the nation. In the book “*The American Vision*”, Appleby wrote that: “ Roosevelt declared in 1904, that every man will have a square deal, no less and no more” (528). His reform

¹⁹Taft represented the republican political party. Before he became president, Taft served in many position in politic. At the age of 30, he worked as judge on Superior Court in Cincinnati for three years, at the age of 34 ,he also as appointed as a judge of the newly created sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati by president Benjamin Harrison from 1892 ,1900 (Benketaf 141).

¹⁵William Jennings Bryan (1860 – 1925) was an American orator and politician from Nebraska. Beginning in 1896, he emerged as a dominant force in the Democratic Party, standing three times as the party's nominee for President of the United States. He also served in the United States House of Representatives and as the United States Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson (Benketaf 165).

²⁰Thomas Woodrow Wilson born in Staunton ,Virginia ,on December 28 ,1856, the son of Presbyterian minister .Shortly after Wilson turned one ,his family moved to Augusta ,Georgia , and then to Columbia ,south Carolina ,where “Tommy” as his family called him ,completed his elementary education (Benketaf 156).

²¹ Social Darwinism, the theory that human groups and races are subject to the same laws of natural selection as Charles Darwin had perceived in plants and animals in nature. According to the theory, which was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the weak were diminished and their cultures delimited while the strong grew in power and in cultural influence over the weak. Social Darwinists held that the life of humans in society was a struggle for existence ruled by “survival of the fittest,” a phrase proposed by the British philosopher and scientist. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/social-Darwinism>

programs soon became known as the Square Deal. To Roosevelt, it was not inconsistent to believe in Social Darwinism and progressivism at the same time. In one of his speeches Roosevelt commented

as follows :

I stand for the square deal. But when I say that I am for the square deal, I mean not merely that I stand for fair play under the present rules of the games, but that I stand for having those rules changed so as to work for a more substantial equality of opportunity and of reward for equally good service. One word of warning, which, I think, is hardly necessary in Kansas. When I say I want a square deal for the poor man, I do not mean that I want a square deal for the man who remains poor because he has not got the energy to work for himself. If a man who has had a chance will not make good, then he has got to quit. And you men of the Grand Army, you want justice for the brave man who fought, and punishment for the coward who shirked his work. Is not that so? (Theodore Roosevelt, the New Nationalism 4).

Roosevelt “served two terms as president and achieved many notable successes. He earned the title "trust buster" for bringing antitrust suits against large corporations under the Sherman Act” (Heyse 17). Roosevelt reinstated the use of Sherman Antitrust Act²² against some business consolidation that was known as Trusts. He had mixed feelings regarding big business. In a way, he wanted to control their power, and at the same time, he felt that a big business was necessary and its success could partly guarantee the prosperity of the United States (Heyse 17).

²²The Sherman Antitrust Act passed in 1890 and it was the first major legislation passed to address oppressive business practices associated with cartels and oppressive monopolies. The Sherman Antitrust Act is a federal law prohibiting any contract, trust, or conspiracy in restraint of interstate or foreign trade.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Sherman-Antitrust-Act>

Before Theodore Roosevelt became president, the federal government paid very little attention to the conservation of the natural resources of the nation. Nevertheless, during Roosevelt's presidency, there was an attempt to stop the exploitation of the natural resources of the country. According to Roosevelt, conservation meant that some desert areas would be preserved where others would be developed for the common good (Sheffield 89). In addition, he urged the Congress to establish the United States Forest Service (USFS) in 1905 to protect the forests. He also used his authority to establish four national parks, 150 national forests, 51 federal bird reserves, four national game preserves. Additionally, Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act²³ in 1906 in which he set 18 national monuments to protect the natural resource of the nation (Sheffield 89). Roosevelt in one of his speeches argued for conservation as follows:

Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us...Moreover, I believe that the natural resources must be used for the benefit of all our people, and not monopolized for the benefit of the few [...] Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the nation."(Theodore Roosevelt, The New Nationalism 4).

In 1902, Roosevelt supported the passage of the National Reclamation Act²⁴ which was also known as the Newland Act. This act allowed the use of lands by the public and

²³ The Antiquities Act of 1906, is an act that was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by Theodore Roosevelt on June 8, 1906. This law gives the President of the United States the authority to, by presidential proclamation, create national monuments from federal lands to protect significant natural, cultural, or scientific features. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/legal/american-antiquities-act-of-1906.htm>

²⁴ The Newlands Reclamation Act, also called the U.S. Reclamation Act, authorized the federal government to commission water diversion, retention and transmission projects in arid lands, particularly in the far west https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newlands_Reclamation_Act

fostered great irrigation projects. Moreover, the Act established to support the water resource of the west that would be managed by the federal government. The latter began transforming the landscape and the economy of the west on a large scale. In his speech, Roosevelt “argued “that the government must distinguish between the man who skins the land and the man who develops the country”(Theodore Roosevelt , the New Nationalism 1). This expression indicates that Roosevelt believed in the existence of two kinds of men; one that benefited the country and helped in its progress and another kind that led the country towards decline. Thus, according to him, it was the former that deserved to work with the government in order to take the United States to a highly advanced level.

Roosevelt was more aggressive than his opponents Taft and Wilson. Roosevelt suggested being very diplomatic (Benketaf 135). He also focused on Central American foreign policy. In conformity with recommendation of Alfred Thayer Mahan²⁵ that the United States had to build canal across central America in order to insure dominance of the seas . Accordingly, The Congress passed a bill to construct a canal in the region of Panama in Colombia. Moreover, Roosevelt expanded the navy and sent the great white fleet on the world tour to protect America around the globe (Callaghan 87).

In 1906, Roosevelt along with the Congress issued a number of regulations that came as a reaction to unregulated and unhealthy products. They passed Meat Inspection Act, Pure Food and Drug Act in the same year. The former Act focused on regulating meat packers by using strict sanitation guidelines and creating the program of federal meat inspection that was in use until 1990. The second act was established in order to check products before being sold to the public. This Act came as a response to the unregulated claims and unwholesome

²⁵ Alfred Thayer Mahan (1840-1914) was a United States naval officer and historian, whom John Keegan called "the most important American strategist of the nineteenth century." His book *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660–1783* (1890) won immediate recognition, especially in Europe, and with its successor https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Mahan

products, the need to prohibit and stop contaminated foods and medicines as well as being a call for truth in labelling (Appleby 530).

1.2. President William Howard Taft (1909, 1913)

William Howard Taft was the 27th American president from 1909 until 1913, he was known by Theodore Roosevelt as the “hand-picked successor” (Benketaf 129). He was neither Dynamic nor popular as Roosevelt, and he was more conservative than him. President Roosevelt helped his friend Taft to win the Republican nomination in 1909 and he won the election against the Democrat candidate William Jennings Bryan. Taft proved to be a man that had a different character and personality and this was reflected in his progressive policies. Moreover, Taft believed deeply in law as the scientific device that should be used by judges in order to solve the problems of society. Indeed, he considered himself as a progressivist as his administration directed intense social and political changes to the American society. Additionally, Taft kept the same progressive ideas of his friend Roosevelt (Benketaf 129-130). Unlike Roosevelt, Taft did not believe in Social Darwinism:

So the conservative Republicans at the time in 1912, and certainly in the person of Taft himself, were not radical laissez faire conservatives. They didn't believe in a completely unfettered marketplace, rugged individualism, and social Darwinism. They were very much all in the school of a powerful national government remediating the problems that they could reach (Theodore Roosevelt , the New Nationalism 4)

During the year of 1910, there was an increase in the price of railroad. As a reaction to this, the US President William Howard Taft introduced the Mann-Elkins Act which granted the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) the authority to control and decide over railroad's rates. This Act also empowered the ICC to control telegraphs, telephones and the

radio. Under this Act, price ceiling were introduced on transportation companies and interstate commerce in order to assure fair and just market value of prices (Benketaf 201-202).

Taft's foreign policy was different from his friend Roosevelt. Although they both had the same principles, they did not share the same goals. For example, On December 3rd, 1912,

he wrote his final Annual Message to Congress where he noted that:

The diplomacy of the present administration has sought to respond to the modern idea of commercial intercourse. This policy has been characterized as substituting dollars for bullets. It is one that appeals alike to idealistic humanitarian sentiments, to the dictates of sound policy and strategy, and to legitimate commercial aims (Mowry 282).

Taft adopted an aggressive foreign policy called the Dollar Diplomacy which he brought to stimulate trade with Latin America and the U.S. Taft used foreign policy to protect American investments abroad, and he used American money (taxation) to uphold foreign policy. The goal of Taft's foreign policy was to maintain stability in Latin America. He placed more emphasis on helping Latin American industry and less on military force. Taft believed that his plan would make the American business more advanced. Meanwhile, Latin America and Asia would recover from their poverty and social disorder. Taft's attempts to build railroads in China alienated Japan and ended the Open Door Policy²⁶ (ODP) (Callaghan 87).

Despite of the fact that Roosevelt warned Taft to stay far away from tariff reform because it would make division within the Republican Party, Taft refused the idea and he

²⁶ The Open Door Policy is a term in foreign affairs initially used to refer to the United States policy established in the late 19th century and the early 20th century that would allow for a system of trade in China open to all countries equally. It was used mainly to mediate the competing interests of different colonial powers in China. In more recent times . https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_Door_Policy

called Congress into a special session in order to lower tariff rate (Appleby 534). In 1909, Taft signed the Payne-Aldrich²⁷ tariff instead of signing the Payne Bill. The latter lowered the rates on imported manufactured goods, however, the Payne-Aldrich Tariff made less cuts and increased many rates. The Payne Aldrich Tariff Act began in the United States House of representatives as a bill that increased certain tariffs on goods in the United States. The high rated inflamed Republican reformers and led to a deep split in the Republican Party. Further more, Taft refused to do what Roosevelt wanted he then sought to split the Republican Party. (DeSantis 194–199).

Moreover, Taft during his term made several progressive achievements. He established the Children's Bureau Act in 1912. This Act was passed in the Houses of Representatives by 177 votes to 17 and in the senate by 54 votes to 20 (Benketaf 267). The Children's Bureau Act was an agency to investigate and publicize the problems of child labor. This agency dealt with children's problems such as child abuse prevention, foster care, and adoption (Appleby 535).

Another achievement that was made by Taft was establishing the Bureau of Mines in 1910. This institution was created in order to enlarge national forests, to keep waterpower sites away from private development and to control the mining companies' activities. Additionally, the Bureau of Mines helped in creating new technologies in the mineral fields (Appleby 535).

However, The problem that Taft encountered was the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act had the immediate effect of frustrating both opponents and proponents of reducing tariffs. In particular, the progressive and the conservative Republicans were alienated by Taft and he

²⁷ Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act, law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1909 in response to a call from Republican Pres. William Howard Taft for lower tariffs. His acceptance of a bill that failed to significantly decrease rates caused him to lose the support of the progressive wing of his party. The Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act dropped rates in general only by about 5 percent, and it raised rates on such items as iron ore and coal
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Payne-Aldrich-Tariff-Act>

was mauled by the press. Furthermore, the bill angered progressives who began to withdraw their support for President Taft. Because it increased the president, further tarnishing his image. The Tariff Act did just the opposite of what Taft had intended ,raising tariffs instead of lowering them, as a result, President Taft lost the support of most of the progressive Republicans. The latter no longer looked to Taft for leadership and criticized almost all of his policies (Benketaf 197).

Roosevelt and the public were unhappy with Taft's policies that led him to lose re-election in 1912. After presidency, Taft served as the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Following the United States presidential election of 5 November 1912, the Democrat Woodrow Wilson defeated both of Theodore Roosevelt Bull Moose candidate and William Howard Taft to serve as the American president from 1913 to 1921.

1.3. President Woodrow Wilson, New Freedom 1913-1921

Wilson Woodrow was the 28th U.S. president and one of the American leaders of the progressive movement. He was considered as the last President of the Progressive Era. He run against Roosevelt and Taft and he won the election on March 4th 1913. Wilson was a democratic president and he sought to bring American focus and attention back home. In addition to this, Wilson believed in democracy and he saw it as a tool for creating harmony with the nation. Furthermore, unlike his proceeded, in most of his speeches, Wilson spoke directly to the people instead of congress. In his speeches, he emphasised on peace and equality and spoke for unifying Americans partners with other countries (Appleby 536).

The policies of president Wilson were organized in a program named "the New Freedom Platform"(NFP) (1913–1921). Wilson promised Americans a "New Freedom" for transferring power from big businesses to citizens, encouraging competition, reducing corruption and eliminating special privileges. Wilson focused his attention particularly on attacking the tariff, trusts and the banking system (Appleby 537)..

As soon as he won the election, President Wilson quickly pushed several reforms through Congress. Wilson passed the Underwood Tariff Act on October 3, (1913),²⁸ which “reduced taxes on imports for the first time from 40% to 25%” (Maammeri 231). Wilson believed that high tariffs benefited rich monopolists but hurt average Americans. He lowered tariff duties and introduced a graduated income tax which was made possible by the 16th Amendment (Maammeri 231). From 1791 to 1913, the United States made several efforts to regulate banks and rule supply of the nation’s money before the creation of the Federal Reserve System (FRS). In 1913, Congress passed legislation which established the Federal Reserve Act. This act was signed by Wilson and it provided a system to regulate the nation’s banks, credit and money supply. Moreover, in 1914, Federal Trade Act(FTA) established the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)which prohibited and investigated unfair business practices.

This act replaced Roosevelt’s Bureau of Corporation with a new independent federal agency and gave it more regulatory powers over business. Congress created the Federal Trade Commission to administer the Sherman and Clayton acts and “prevent the unlawful suppression of competition.” The Federal Trade Commission consists of five commissioners appointed for a seven-year term by the president-subjected to approval by 2/3 vote of the Senate (Maammeri 233).

Efforts of president Wilson were still felt in modern America due to the series of acts he passed to improve the life of the common man in society. In 1916, the Congress passed Wilson’s Keating-Owen Act (KOA), which prohibited the work of children under the age of 14 in goods factories in interstates commerce. Wilson also supported Federal Workingman’s Compensation Act (FWCA) in 1916 which protected the workers conditions. Wilson also

²⁸the Underwood Tariff Act or the Underwood –Simmons Act (October 3,1913),ch.16,38.stat,144.

supported the 18th Amendment of the United States constitution in 1920 which was established to prohibit alcoholic beverages to preserve people's health. Additionally, Wilson supported the Adamson Act of 1916 which established the eight hour day for railroad workers. Furthermore, Wilson signed the Federal Farmer Loans Act (FFLAC) which provided farmers with loans at low interest rates). According to, Benketaf:

President Wilson's campaign for the protection of the worker's health covered the category of working children. The plight of child labour was at the same time disgrace, intolerable and unjustifiable practice in a nation that pretends to be civilised and democratic .Therefore, Wilson continued the work of his predecessors by urging Congress to enact laws to abolish child labour once for all. (279)

During the presidency of Wilson, females were honoured as they enhanced their status and gain some new rights. On August 1920, he supported the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote in all state and national elections, Wilson had pushed congress to pass the amendment in which women from every state were allowed to vote. Furthermore, Wilson selected the first Jewish person to the United States Supreme Court, Louis Brandies (1856-1941) who was confirmed by the Senate in 1916. Perhaps, this action signified his sympathy with other minorities that are a component in the American nation (Maammeri 234).

2. The Results of the Progressive Movement

The progressive movement ended in 1920, and it was successful in bringing positive results to the American society. For example, working conditions were enhanced, social services improved, and women and children's exploitation was reduced. Prior to the Progressive Era, workers often worked extremely for long hours and for low salaries and often faced poor conditions. Due to the movement, their situation changed.

Moreover, due to the progressive reforms child labour witnessed great improvements. New child labor’s laws were adopted. Most of them prohibited the work of children under 14 in factories and workshops. Therefore, instead of working long hours in factories, many children attended to schools; as this table shows

Table 1: Gainful Workers, Aged 10–14, in the United States, 1870–1930

Gainful Workers, Aged 10–14, in the United States: 1870–1930 (in thousands)						
Year	Workers 10–14	% Nonfarm	Population 10–14	Total workers	Children as % of workforce	Activity rates of children (%)
1870	765	47.00	4,786	12,925	5.92	15.98
1880	1,118	50.64	5,715	17,392	6.43	19.56
1890	1,504	57.38	7,034	23,318	6.50	21.38
1900	1,750	62.47	8,080	29,073	6.02	21.66
1910	1,622	68.98	9,107	37,371	4.34	17.81
1920	1,417	73.02	10,641	42,434	3.34	13.32
1930	667	78.55	12,005	48,830	1.37	5.56

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997), Series A119–134 and D75–84.

From, (Exploring 19th-Century Child Labor in the United States Teacher Version 10).

This table shows the gainful workers, Aged 10–14, in the United States between 1870-1930. It indicates that the exploitation of children in factories witnessed a significant increase during the period of the industrialization where child worker’s rate was 15.98present in 1870. Then, this rate gradually increased throughout the decades of 1880 and 1890 due to the extension of big businesses. However, in1910, after setting numerous acts as child labor’s working average slowly decreased. Hence, by the end of 1920 and 1930, child labor dramatically declined to beonly 5.56 present. As result, children gained more opportunities to advance their education.

Furthermore, Food safety and health issues grasped the progressivists' concern. With the publication of Upton Sinclair's "*Jungle*"²⁹, people were given a look to the bad conditions in America's food facilities. The result was an attempt to ensure that the food was produced in a clean environment and was up to the level that it was sold at. Accordingly, several acts were put forward including "the Meat Inspection Act", "the Food and Drug Law". The latter, provided opportunities for examination of food. Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture (BCDA) was established as well in order to ensure the protection of food. For instance, Coca Cola Company through the Pure Food and Drug Act was obliged to reduce the quantity of cocaine and caffeine that the product contained (Benketaf 252).

Politically, the progressive movement brought important changes to the politics of the United States. Progressivistes were unsatisfied with the corrupt and inefficient government ; they externally targeted the unofficial organizations that came to gain political control. Roosevelt argued for maximized federal regulation to coordinated big business practices. Accordingly, he passed the 1883 Civil Service Reform Act. Due to this Act, most federal employee was placed on the merit system in order to end and limit corrupted machines. For instance, the Tammany Hall City appeared well organized when New York City reformed its own civil services.

Prior to the progressive movement, women were oppressed and marginalized. Thanks to the many reforms during the period 1890 to 1920 this situation changed. These reforms helped women to gain a significant role in society from being marginalized due to their sex to being active participants in efficient organizations to defend women's rights and interests.

²⁹ The Jungle is a 1906 novel by the American journalist and novelist Upton Sinclair (1878–1968).[1] Sinclair wrote the novel to portray the harsh conditions and exploited lives of immigrants in the United States in Chicago and similar industrialized cities. His primary purpose in describing the meat industry and its working conditions was to advance socialism in the United States. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jungle

Women suffrage helped to raise the women consciousness, developments at the educational level and being head of organization. For example, Elizabeth Cady was the first women to be president of the National American Suffrage Association in 1890 that made a monitory of women eligible to vote. By 1900, all women white and even black received the full right to vote (Benketaf 61-62).

These are just some of the reforms made during the Progressive Movement in the United States. Clearly, this movement had a wide range of goals, many of which were realized. The Progressive Era and the effect of many of the reforms made at the time can still be seen in American society today.

Conclusion

The progressive movement reached its peak during the terms of Theodor Roosevelt, Taft William Howard, and Wilson Woodrow. Abundance of acts and programs were introduced in order to challenge the American social, economic, and political problems. The effectiveness of these reforms was proved in the improvements that American life has witnessed.

General Conclusion

During the late of the 18th and 19th century, the United States witnessed a significant event in its history. The American Industrial Revolution was a turning point in the American history; it had clearly transformed America into a machine dependent country. Between 1860 and 1900s, the number of workers increased, the production doubled and the average of manufacturing plants developed. With the emergence of businessmen such as Rockefeller, the volume of industrializing reached its peak in the United States. Naturally, in any capitalist environment, business men strive to protect and expand their interests through competing over building a great industrial empire. Yet, the extension of big businesses was at the expense of poor working-children and women who were oppressed, exploited and used to establish an industrial economy.

As a response, some Americans elites came to wake up citizens to what was going on American society. Through their demands of reforms, they attempted to create a classless society by providing ordinary people with opportunities for survival. Through their written works, strikes manifests, progressives were able to go far with their goals.

The presidential terms of the three progressive presidents indicated a period of change in America between 1901 and 1920. The progressive participants' demands were achieved and put into practice after the introduction of a number of Acts which improved ordinary people's social conditions. Among these Acts were the right to vote for women and establishing a union for working labor. Additionally, the workers conditions were to be improved by these Acts which reduced the working hours and introduced health care. These reforms embodied in a number of the Acts that contributed to the enhancement of American society.

All in all, the progressive movement in the United States occurred from around 1890–1920 and it was a reaction to many problems that were seen as problematic in American society. The real success of the progressive movement was embodied on conscience and awareness that the American citizen had acquired from that social movement. They recognized that people do not have to wait for change from the top down. Instead, that people themselves can be catalysts for change from the bottom up. They recognized that they possessed the courage and skill to improve their situation.

The key essence of the progressive movement then was that people in the United States reconsidered that working collectively in an organized ways would push them to achieve their goals more than using violent ways. Women, children, and workers become more conscious that working collectively in peaceful paths would have better an opportunity of making the bosses listen to their interests. This indicates that the progressive movement was able to create an enlightened generation. The effects of the reforms of the Progressive movement can be still seen and lived today. However, this reform movement failed to cover all the American issues such as minorities. Therefore, African-American progressives took action themselves and formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.

Works Cited

- AKHTAR KHAN, Mohd. "INDIVIDUALISM: ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION" *The Indian Journal of Political Science* 48. 1, (1987):126-132. Print.
- Allen, Samuel K. Price V. Fishback, and Rebecca Holmes. "The Impact of Progressive Era Labor Regulations on the Manufacturing Labor Market". (2013): 1-28. Print.
- Appleby, Joyce. Alan Brinkley. Albert S. Broussard. James M. McPherson, and Donald A. Ritchie. *The American Vision: Modern Times*. New York: Glencoe/McGraw-Hill School Publishing Company, 2010. Print.
- Benketaf, Abdel Hafid. *The Progressive Movement and the Reforming of the United States of America, from 1890 to 1921*. Doctorate Thesis. University of Oran, 2014. Oran. Print.
- Boyer, Hugh E. "The Bull Moose in the Upper Peninsula: William J. Macdonald and Michigan's Twelfth Congressional District in 1912". *The Great Lakes Review* 9/10. 2/1, (1984): 37-50. Print.
- Butler, Eamonn. *Classical Liberalism A Premier*. London : The Institute of Economic Affairs, 2015. Print.
- Conn, Peter J. *Literature in America: An Illustrated History*. England: Cambridge University Press, 1989. Print.
- Cook, Marta and John Halpin. *The Role of Faith in the Progressive Movement: Part Six of the Progressive Tradition Series*. Center for American Progress, 2010. Print.

Debs, Eugene. "The Mission of Socialism is Wide as the World": Speech at Chicago, Illinois— July 4, 1901". *The Social Democratic Herald* 4. 4, (1901): 1- 4. Print.

Destler, Chester McArthur. "Entrepreneurial Leadership Among the "Robber Barons": A Trial Balance". *The Journal of Economic History* 6. (1946): 28-49. Print.

EXPLORING 19TH-CENTURY CHILD LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES"

TEACHER VERSION. (1870-1900).Print.

Fisk, Donald M. "American Labor in the 20th Century". *U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Compensation and Working Conditions.* (2003): 1-8. Print.

Fralick, Braxton. "The Legacy of Boss Tweed on Tammany Hall". 1-9. Print.

Ganoe , John T. "The Origin of a National Reclamation Policy". *Oxford University Press on be half of Organization of American Historians* 18. 1, (1931): 34- 52. Print.

Gillman, Howard. Mark A. Graber and Keith E. Whittington. "The Jacksonian Era— Equality/Gender". *AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONALISM.* (2013): 1-3. Print.

Glasgow. 2011. Print.

Grantham, Dewey W. "What Manner of Men: "The Robber Barons"". *The Georgia Review.*16. 2, (1962): 131-140. Print.

Grantham, Jr, Dewey W. "What Manner of Men: "The Robber Barons"". *The Georgia Review* 16. 2, (1962):131-140. Print.

Guadagno, Francesca. "The determinants of Industrialization in Developing Countries". 2016.Print

Gurney, Scott. "Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919)". *Forest History Today.* (2008): 58-61. Print.

Haight, Roger. "The Mission of the Church in the Theology of the Social Gospel".

Theological Studies 49, (1988): 477-497. Print.

Halpin, John and Marta Cook. *Social Movements and Progressivism*. Center for American

Progress, 2010. Print.

Hesseltine, William B. "Robert Marion La Follette and the Principles of Americanism". *The*

Wisconsin Magazine of History. 31, (2019): 261-267. Print.

Heyse, Amy L. "Theodore Roosevelt "Address of President of Roosevelt at the Laying of the

Corner Stone of the House Representatives Saturday April14,1906". *Voices of*

Democracy 5, (2010): 1-17. Print.

Hofstadter, Richard. "William Graham Sumner, Social Darwinist". *The New England*

Quarterly 14. 3, (2019): 457-477. Print.

Hogan, J. Michael. "WOODROW WILSON, "THE PUEBLO SPEECH" (25 SEPTEMBER

1919)". *Voices of Democracy* 1. (2006): 59-82. Print.

Honeywell, Alice. *La Follette and His Legacy*. William T. Evjue Foundation. 1984. Print.

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/teachers/modules/gilded_age/index.cfm 2019.

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/teachers/modules/gilded_age/index.cfm

<https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/post/77251933886/william-graham-sumner-social-darwinist>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexis_de_Tocqueville

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Carnegie

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Rockefeller

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_parties_in_the_United_States2019

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shailer_Mathews

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Gladden

<https://EncyclopaediaBritannica.2018.RetrievedMay22,2019>

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Smith

https://www.academia.edu/13440953/The_Origins_and_History_of_American_Individualism

https://www.academia.edu/923988/Individualism_in_America_Are_We_Missing_the_Problem

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Sherman-Antitrust-Act>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/herbert-spencer-3026492>

Jenning , Pam . “*The Election OF 1912*” .*Constitutional Foundation Rights*.31.3.2016. Print.

Joyce ,Appleby and Alan Brinkley, Albert Broussard, James McPherson and Donald Attack ,
Jeremy, Fred Bateman, Michael Haines and Robert A. Margo. Did “*Railroads
Induce or Follow Economic Growth? Urbanization and Population Growth in
the American Midwest, 1850-1860*”.Cambridge University Press.171-197.
2010. Print.

Labaree, David F. “Progressivism, Schools and Schools of Education: An American
Romance”. *Paedagogica Historica*. 41. (2005): 275–288. Print.

Leonard, Thomas C. “American Economic Reform in the Progressive Era: Its Foundational
Beliefs and Their Relation to Eugenics”. *History of Political Economy* 41. 1,
(2009): 109-141. Print.

- Link, Arthur S. "What Happened to the Progressive Movement in the 1920's?" *The American Historical Review* 64. 4, (1959): 833-851. Print.
- Maammeri, Fatima. *A History of the United States :The Rise of Modern American, 1865-1940*. University of Constantine, 2009. Print.
- Matlin, John S. *Political Party Machines of the 1920s and 1930s: Tom Pendergast and The Kansas City Democratic Machine*. Doctorate Thesis. University of Birmingham, 2009. Print.
- Maxwell, Robert S. "La Follette and the Progressive Machine in Wisconsin" *Indiana Magazine of History* 48. 1, (1952):55-70. Print.
- Menes, Rebecca. *Corruption in Cities: Graft and Politics in American Cities at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*. Thesis. George Mason University, 2013. Print.
- Michigan's Twelfth Congressional District in 1912". *The Great Lakes Review* 9/10.
- Mokyr, Joel. "The Second Industrial Revolution, 1870-1914". (2003): 1-14. Print.
- Mowry, George E." *The Era of Theodore Roosevelt, 1900-1912*". *Political Science Quarterly* 74. 1, (1959): 135-137. Print.
- Neale, Walter C. "Social Effects of Industrialization". *THE ECONOMIC WEEKLY*. (1956): 951-954. Print.
- Callaghan, Bryn. *An illustrated history of the U.S.A*. England: Longman, 1990. Print.
- Oneal, James. "Eugene Debs and Socialist Party Policies ". *The New Leader [New York]* 13, (1926): 3-4. Print.
- "*Osawatomie: Then and Now*". Hudson Institute . 2011. Print.
- Pagington, Laura. "Teaching American History: Gilded Age and the Progressive Era". 1-18. Print.

Peters, Gerhard and John T. Woolley, eds. "William Howard Taft, "Fourth Annual Message." 1912. Print.

Pierre, Jacobs. "The Social Gospel movement revisited: Consequences for the church". (201):5 1-28. Print.

Piott, Steven L. "Daily Life in the Progressive Era". *The Kelvingrove Review* Issue 11. (2011): 1-4. Print.

Piott, Steven L. "Daily Life in the Progressive Era". *The Kelvingrove Review*. University of

REALO, ANU. KATI KOIDO. EVA CEULEMANS and JU" RI ALLIK. "Three Components of Individualism". *European Journal of Personality*. (2002) : 163–184. Print.

Roy, William. Endogenous and Explanation of U.S. Imperialism the Late Nineteenth Century. Thesis. The University of Michigan. 1974. Print.

Schansberg, D. Eric Exposing. "the Paradoxes of Progressivism". *Journal of Markets & Morality* 19. 2, (2016): 353–366. Print.

Schneirov, Richard. "New Perspectives on Socialism I: The Socialist Party Revisited". *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 2. 3,(2003): 245-252. Print.

Schuman, Michael. *History of child labor in the United States—part 2: the reform movement*. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017. Print.

Sheffield, Jessica. "THEODORE ROOSEVELT, "CONSERVATION AS A NATIONAL DUTY" (13 May 1908)". *Voices of Democracy* 5, (2010): 89-108. Print.

SHIZUTA, Hitoshi. "IMPERIALISM AS A CONCEPT". *MEMOIRS OF THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS XXXI. THE KYOTO UNIVERSITY. 1961*. Print.

Suh, Eric J. "THE TRUE REFORMERS OF THE PROGRESSIVE ERA: POLITICAL MACHINES AND URBAN BOSSES". *THE CONCORD REVIEW*. (2002) : 119-138. Print.

The Second Industrial Revolution and Its Consequences". *Digital History*. 1-20. Print.

The Socialist Party: Indianapolis Convention Effects Union of All Parties Represented in Response to Call of the Social Democratic Party". the *Social Democratic Herald* 4. 7, (1901): 2-3. Print.

Theodore Roosevelt. " The New Nationalism". (1911): 3-33. Print.

Thomas Ladenburg. "The Industrial Revolution". *Digital History*. (2007): 1-6. Print.

Tunaley, P.H. "Samuel Slater & The Bootts: American Pioneers". (2017): 1-21. Print.

Tuttle, Robert. "THE APPEAL TO REASON AND THE FAILURE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN 1912" *Mid-American Review of Sociology* 1. 1, (1983):51-81. Print.

Walker, Larry. "Woodrow Wilson, Progressive Reform, and Public Administration". *The Academy of Political Science* 104. 3, (1989): 509-525. Print.

Walraevens, Benoît. "Adam Smith's Economics and the Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Letters the Language of Commerce". *History of Economic Ideas* 1. (2010): 10-32. Print.

