

Local & State Progressives

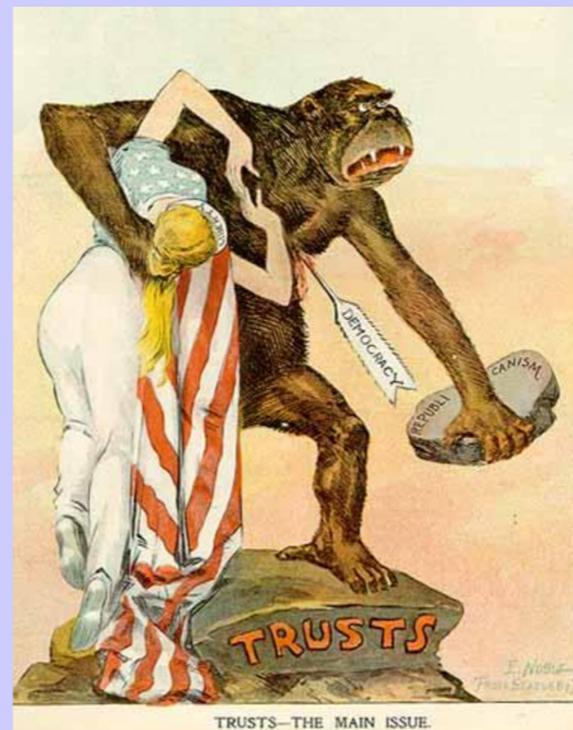
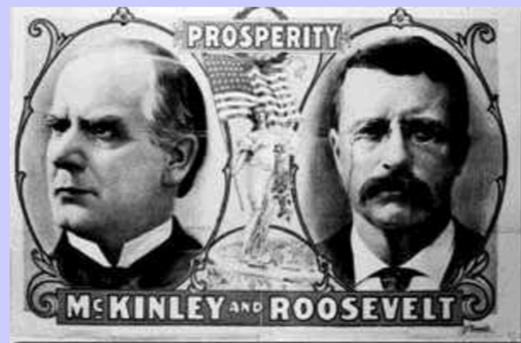
Avery Ferguson, Cory Takenaka and Alex Chavez



Local & State Progressives

- Progressives were middle-class women and well-educated women from wealthy families who were most responsible for starting progressive improvements. They wanted to solve America's problems by making business practices honest and fair. They worked at both local and state levels to improve many aspects in which American government was causing widespread problems. During this time period (1890s-1920s), many important people and events contributed to a greater benefit for the people by altering the power of the American government.

“The Progressive Movement”



Local Progressives

- Middle class people became concerned with the poor neighborhoods because the spread of diseases.
- Many families couldn't afford milk for their children, mothers who worked did not often have any place to leave their children, women worked long hours in dangerous conditions and young children worked instead of attending school, and more.
- Striving to resolve some of these struggles, Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr started some of the first settlement homes in America. Jane Addams received the Nobel Peace Prize for this honorable achievement to selflessly help others.

Local Progressives

- City governments were corrupted because politicians often took bribes from companies that did business with the city government. The patronage system was created as a way to hire people for city government jobs because of their friendship with politicians, not because of ability.
- Political bosses helped immigrants and poor people find jobs or places to live to get votes from them in return.
- Boss Tweed used city government corruption to become rich by requiring all city employees to overcharge the city on all construction jobs.
- Mayor Thomas Johnson was considered a good government candidate because he held public meetings for citizens to present their problems to government officials.
- Mayor Samuel Jones was also a good candidate because he set up free kindergartens and playgrounds and made the police give up their heavy clubs for lighter sticks and stop the practice of jailing people without charging them with a crime.

State Progressives

- Many of the problems at the local level were affected by state laws, which is why state progressives began to work at a state level.
- Because of these women, many states began passing laws requiring children under a certain age to attend school. At the same time laws were being passed that prevented young children from working in factories.
- They strived for more to be involved and enrolled in public education as well as ultimately achieving higher education and between 1870 and 1910, the number of students attending public school grew from 7 million to nearly 18 million.
- Further promoting children health and safety, labor laws and regulations were altered from 1902-1914 when most states adopted new child-labor laws which prohibited hiring children under the age of 14 to work in factories, prohibited children from doing dangerous work or working at night, limited how many hours children could work, and required safety inspections if children worked in factories or mines.
- In 1913, Thomas Mott Osborn successfully led a campaign to improve the New York prison system. Prisoner abuse decreased and prison buildings were cleaned up and upgraded with better self-hygiene facilities.

State Progressives

- State legislatures were often controlled by people representing the interests of big businesses.
- In a direct primary, the people who belong to a political party elect the local and state-level candidates for their party. This increased fairness because it gave everyone a chance to vote fairly without the influence of political bosses.
- Political bosses limited the effectiveness of the direct primary by getting the candidate they wanted elected in the primary election by giving him all the party's money for newspaper coverage and campaign signs. However, progressives had difficulty getting enough people to be aware of the problems and sustaining interest until all of the signatures were gathered and the vote was taken.

Conclusion

- Local and state progressives began the reforms that moved the American power that had been centralized within the legislature to be much more locally focused. They were effective in enacting these legal changes during the height of the progressive era and promoted new ideas and movements such as women's suffrage, achieving efficiency in every sector by identifying old ways that needed modernizing, and emphasizing scientific, medical and engineering solutions.