



Welcome!

Today's Agenda

Lecture 17:
The Progressive Impulse

Unit 3: Facing Freedom's Boundaries

Lecture 17: *The Progressive Impulse*



“We’ve stumbled along for awhile, trying to run a new civilization in old ways, but we’ve got to start to make this world over.” Thomas Edison

Unit 3: Facing Freedom's Boundaries



Lecture 17: *The Progressive Impulse*

Gilded Age responses to industrialization:

- laissez-faire capitalism and social Darwinism
- socialism and anarchism
- Populism
- Unionism

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Lecture 17: *The Progressive Impulse*

Gilded Age responses to industrialization:

- Populism--rural discontent with industrialization
 - ▶ too much power in the hands of corporations
 - ▶ government should intervene to protect the public good
 - control of the railroads
 - monetary policy

Populist Party = Presidential Election of 1896

William Jennings Bryan



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Gilded Age responses to industrialization:

- Unionism
 - ▶ Cooperative action
 - ▶ “bread and butter” unionism

American Federation of Labor (1886)

Samuel Gompers



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Lecture 17: *The Progressive Impulse*

Progressive reform movement (1900-1920)

Key Progressive Ideas:

- rejection of social Darwinism
 - ▶ cooperation not competition is natural
 - ▶ human agency can produce progress
 - ▶ civic activism required when power is too concentrated
- Social Gospel
 - ▶ morality requires social justice
 - ▶ religion should work to solve society's problems
- scientific government
 - ▶ collect data and analyze it rationally
 - ▶ legislate change

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Lecture 17: *The Progressive Impulse*

Progressive reform movement (1900-1920)

Key Progressive Reforms:

- political reform
 - ▶ direct election
 - ▶ recall and referendum
 - ▶ women's suffrage

- economic reform
 - ▶ regulate competition
 - ▶ regulate worker safety
 - ▶ regulate consumer safety
 - ▶ conservation of natural resources

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Lecture 17: *The Progressive Impulse*

Progressive reform movement (1900-1920)

Key Progressive Reforms:

- social reform
 - ▶ settlement houses
 - ▶ housing and public health
 - ▶ birth control

- moral reform
 - ▶ prohibition