

U.S. History Readers

**The Populist Revolt and the
Progressive Movement**

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The Populist Revolt and the Progressive Movement

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The Populist Revolt and the Progressive Movement

This unit asks students to discuss the role of government in the economy, evaluate the policies proposed by reformers, and learn how three different presidents, various politicians, numerous muckrakers, and several important women responded to the problems caused by America's Industrial Revolution. The unit begins by discussing problems experienced by America's farmers in the 1870s, the Grangers' response to these problems, and the Populist revolt of the 1880s and 1890s. A chapter is devoted to the Panic of 1893 and the campaign to restore silver to the U.S. currency, and another chapter covers the election campaign of 1896. A chapter on changing lifestyles, new ways of marketing products, and improved urban transportation builds a bridge to the Progressive era. The unit continues by revealing the sources of the Progressive impulse and includes a chapter highlighting the contributions made by prominent female reformers. One of the five chapters discussing the roles of the three presidents during the Progressive era is devoted to Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policy and another covers the Election of 1912. The last chapter consists of two parts. The first reviews Woodrow Wilson's legislative achievements, his reluctance to pass what he called "class legislation," and his commitment to the rights of the states to regulate hours and wages. The second part discusses the inconsistency between Wilson's desire to enter World War I in order to "save the world for democracy," and the government's violation of civil liberties at home.

Each chapter is designed to accommodate a wide range of student abilities. The first part is written at a lower reading and conceptual level than the second. The two parts are separated by a series of student exercises, including a graphic organizer and several questions intended to help students master basic information and stimulate higher-order thinking skills. The second part of each chapter, "For Further Consideration," is written at a higher reading and conceptual level. It is followed by a question that requires students to write a strong paragraph and/or be prepared to present their opinions in class. In some cases, this section continues the narrative; in others it challenges students to think deeply about issues related to the overarching questions raised in the unit. In addition, I (Inquiry)-Charts are provided to help students optimize what they already know or think about a topic and integrate it with identifiable additional information they find in the text and in other sources. Finally, each lesson includes vocabulary words and key terms in flash-card format; these can be used either for review or reference.

This unit is designed to stimulate informed discussions and higher-order thinking skills rather than recitation and rote learning. Students are provided with the information they need to acquire and share factually supported opinions and/or consider important philosophical issues. Opportunities are provided for simulating the election debates of 1896 and the four-candidate election of 1912. Students are asked to evaluate the contributions of prominent female progressives, decide whether Roosevelt lived up to his admonition that the U.S. treat other nations fairly and assume world leadership, decide whether Taft was right in denigrating Progressives' efforts to

make reforms, and evaluate Woodrow Wilson's domestic legislation and his foreign policy. This unit, as with others in the series, is designed for students to experience the conflicts and passionate viewpoints of the men and women who made history.

Chapter 1. Grangers and Populists Respond to Farmers' Grievances Teacher Page

Overview:

This chapter lists and explains a number of reasons farmers in the corn, wheat, and cotton belt states complained about the hardships they faced, including prices they had to pay for mortgages and rates charged by railroads and grain warehouses. The chapter quotes Mary Ellen Lease's charge that big businesses and banks controlled the nation's governments and excerpts part of the Populist Party platform, which made essentially the same charges. A brief summary of the formation of the Grange, the Granger laws, and the *Munn* case is followed by a review of the Farmer's Alliances' activities and its merger with the Populist Party. Students are asked to point out the similarities of Lease's charges and the Populist platform and to evaluate the Populists' legislative demands as being too radical or generally reasonable. The "For Further Consideration" section excerpts parts of the majority and minority opinions of the *Munn v. Illinois* case and asks students to explain why they agree with one rather than the other.

Objectives:

Students will:

- learn that farmers in post-Civil War America were required to pay high interest rates as well as exorbitant amounts of money to store and ship their crops
- know that farmers formed the Grange and later joined the Populist Party in order to address their grievances
- evaluate the major planks of the Populist Party

Strategies:

Before class: Point out the purpose of this unit as described in the Teacher Introduction. Assign the chapter either up to or including the "For Further Consideration" section and inform students they will be expected to write their answers to all the Student Activities questions covering the assigned section(s).

In class: Ask students what difficulties they might have had if they lived in the late 1800s and their parents had brought them to Kansas in order to start a farm on the plains. Next, ask whether Mother Nature or manmade problems were most responsible for the difficulties faced by 19th-century farmers in Kansas. After you have finished discussing the first two questions, have students share their answers to the Graphic Organizer. Follow up by reviewing their answers to the assigned essay. The question covering the Populist Party platform is more likely to provoke a productive discussion. With careful planning, you should have time left to have students who read the "For Further Consideration" section lead a discussion on the landmark *Munn* decision.

Chapter 1. Grangers and Populists Respond to Farmers' Grievances I-Chart

	What made life particularly difficult for farmers during the late 19th century?	Who were the Grangers and the Populists and what did they want?	What do I think about the proposals made by the Grangers and the Populists?
What I already knew			
What I learned from Chapter 1, Part I			
What I learned from Chapter 1, Part II and in class			
What I still want to know			

Chapter 1—Grangers and Populists Respond to Farmers' Grievances

**foreclosed on a
mortgage**

prostrate

aliens

overproduction

Wall Street

colossal

Homestead Act

downtrodden

**“Altar of
Mammon”**

Chapter 1—Grangers and Populists Respond to Farmers' Grievances

When a bank takes possession of a property after the owner does not pay what is owed	Lying face down and helpless	In a historical context, this term refers to foreigners
When more is produced than people want or can buy	General term referring to the major bankers and stock brokers on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE); some believe "Wall Street" controls the economy	Very large; immense
Law granting a free 160-acre plot of land to settlers provided they make improvements on it	Dejected and beaten down; oppressed	Those who "worship" at the Altar of Mammon are characterized as sacrificing principles for monetary gain

Chapter 1

Grangers and Populists Respond to Farmers' Grievances

Introduction

According to Thomas Jefferson, “Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever He had a chosen people.” Throughout history, American writers have admired the American farmer for “his honest industry, his independence, his frank spirit of equality, his ability to produce and enjoy a simple abundance.”¹

As admired as they may have been, why then did so many farmers in America in the late 19th century become very angry? This chapter and the next seek to answer that question by describing what farmers tried to do in order to relieve the causes of their discontent and by helping you decide what the U.S. government should have done to help them.

Problems America's Farmers Faced

On June 29, 1871, from her home in Kansas, Mary Chaffe Abell wrote the following letter to her mother back east:

Robert [Mary's husband] got a piece of land that suits him, [through the Homestead Act] and so near market that we can get everything just as cheap as we could in Lawrence...There is a house to be built—a well to be dug and a cow to be got beside a living—for the first year on homestead bring in nothing—for the sod has to rot a year before a crop can be put in...



A sod house in Kansas in the 1880s, typical housing in the treeless plains

1 Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform*, p. 23

Over two years later, November 1873, Abell again wrote to her family:

Imagine yourself for instance with nothing but land, house, and stock—for that's where we are. Not a tree, particle of water, grass, stable, fence or anything else...Eastern people may think us homesteaders are doing a fine thing to get 160 acres of land for nothing--all but nothing. Oh, the suffering that the poor people endure here, and the privations you have not the remotest idea of, and poor means nearly all homesteaders.

The interest an unfortunate farmer had to pay on his mortgage and the low prices he received for his wheat were not his problems alone—he had lots of company. Farmers suffered from swarms of grasshoppers in the spring, a lack of rain during the growing season, hail in the summer, and blizzards in the winter. They lived far from their neighbors, worked from sunup to sunset and paid high prices for the tools of their trade, the clothes on their backs, and the few items that provided them with a minimum amount of comfort.

From the late 1860s to the mid 1890s, American farmers did not benefit from the improvements made by increased industrialization. Machines helped them plant and harvest more of their crops, which led to overproduction and caused a steep decline in prices. For example, wheat that sold for \$1.45 a bushel in 1867 dropped down to 49 cents in 1895. The price of corn in Kansas fell to 10 cents a bushel and instead of selling it, farmers used it as fuel to cook their food and heat their houses. Meanwhile, farmers had to pay back the money they had borrowed to buy their horses, reapers, and plows. Since all prices were in decline during this period, farmers had to pay their debts with dollars that were worth far more than the ones they had borrowed.

By the 1890s, the people of Kansas owed twice as much money as their land was worth. Farmers often needed to spend most of what they could get for their crops in order to pay their mortgages and transportation. Railroads and grain warehouses consumed a great deal of each farmer's earnings. No community was served by more than one railroad, and farmers had to pay whatever the railroads charged. Interest rates often ran as high as 15 percent, with the interest deducted before the loan was made. Thus, the farmer who borrowed \$1000 would only receive \$850. Official records showed that in the four years between 1889 and 1893, banks foreclosed on more than 11,000 mortgages.

Taxes posed another problem for downtrodden farmers. Even though they only possessed one-quarter of the nation's wealth, farmers paid an estimated three-quarters of the country's taxes.

As the wife of one farmer put it, "I saw times during those years that I wouldn't have given the snap of my fingers for the whole of Kansas. Everybody wanted to sell and nobody wanted to buy. Few could leave, because they had not the means to get

away with it.” However, crop failures and other hardships led 30,000 of the 100,000 early settlers in the western part of the state to return to the East.



An idealistic portrayal of mission and purpose of the Grange

Farmers Organize: The Grange

During the last half of the 19th century, farmers formed two major organizations in order to improve the conditions of their lives. The first, The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, was popularly known as The Grange. Oliver H. Kelley, an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, founded it in 1867. Originally intended as a social organization designed to reduce the sense of isolation farmers experienced, the Grange quickly turned to farmers' economic interests. With the onslaught of a severe but short economic downturn in 1873, Grangers began forming business cooperatives to produce the machines they needed to run their farms and to sell their crops. In addition, Grangers turned to politics, and with the cooperation of the established political parties passed a series of

“Granger laws.” This legislation gave states the power to regulate the prices charged by railroads and grain storage warehouses. They were opposed by businessmen who claimed their rights to control their own property were being violated by laws giving states the power to set prices. However, an important decision by the Supreme Court supported the Granger laws. In the 1876 case of *Munn v. Illinois*, the Court ruled that “[W]hen...one devotes his property to a use in which the public has an interest, he, in effect, grants to the public an interest in that use, and must submit to be controlled by the public for the common good.”

The Grange's successes, however, were short-lived. Their businesses often failed because of a combination of inexperience, poor management, insufficient capital, and cutthroat competition. Many of the laws they drafted were not enforced, were often disobeyed, and eventually declared illegal. When economic conditions improved in the late 1870s, membership in the 20,000 Granger lodges decreased noticeably and many closed down altogether. The Grange as a whole still exists to this day, but has played an insignificant role in the nation's politics since the late 1870s. An organization called the Farmers' Alliance took its place.

Farmers Organize The Farmers' Alliance and the Populist Party

The first chapter of the Farmers' Alliance originated in Texas in 1876. Like the Grange, the Alliance was originally formed for social purposes but also organized farm

cooperatives and sponsored businesses that served farmers' needs. Members founded newspapers and magazines, and sponsored lecturers to spread the Alliance's ideas to all farmers. During the 1880s, membership in the Alliance and similar organizations increased throughout the South, and the organization later spread to the Midwestern states, especially to Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Illinois. As widespread droughts began in 1886 and continued with scarcely any relief for nearly ten years, more and more farmers joined the Alliance.

Mary Ellen Lease Blames Wall Street for Eight-Cent Corn

Mary Ellen Lease, a firebrand orator from Kansas, expressed what many in her state believed were the real causes of the farmers' problems.



It is no longer a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, but a government of Wall Street, by Wall Street, and for Wall Street. The great common people of this country are slaves, and monopoly is the master. The West and South are bound and prostrate before the manufacturing East. Money rules, and our Vice-President is a London banker. Our laws are the output of a system which clothes rascals in robes and honesty in rags. The [political] parties lie to us and the political speakers mislead us. We were told two years ago to go to work and raise a big crop, that was all we needed. We went to work and plowed and planted; the rains fell, the sun shone, nature smiled, and we raised the big crop that they told us to; and what came of it? Eight-cent corn, ten-cent oats, two-cent beef and no price at all for butter and eggs—that's what came of it. The politicians said we suffered from overproduction. Overproduction, when 10,000 little children, so statistics tell us, starve to death every year in the United States...

The Alliances differed from the Grange in three important respects. First, African American chapters of the Alliance arose in the South, and for a time, it worked in an uneasy coalition with white chapters. Second, members of the Alliance were not satisfied with merely cooperating with existing political parties, and they formed the People's Party, which became known as the Populist Party. Third, the Populists supported a radical national legislative program. In 1892, 1300 Alliance/Populist delegates stormed into Omaha, Nebraska and proclaimed their political program. Parts of this program are summarized below (often in the platform's own words):

Summation of Populist Party Beliefs, Demands and Sentiments

PREAMBLE

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot-box.... The people are demoralized...public opinion silenced....homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished, and the land concentrating in the hands of capitalists. The urban workman are denied the right to organize for self-protection, imported pauperized labor beats down their wages...and [we] are rapidly degenerating into European conditions. The fruits of the toils of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind....From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires...

Controlling influences dominating both...parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious effort to prevent or restrain them. Neither do they now promise any substantial reform...They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives, and children on the alter of mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires...

PLATFORM

- The government should...own and manage all the railroads, telephone, and telegraph companies.
- A national currency, safe, sound, and flexible, should be issued by the general government.
- We demand a free ballot, and a fair count in all elections.
- Savings banks should be established by the government.
- Lands owned by aliens and by railroads and corporations exceeding their needs be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.
- Revenue from a graduated income tax be used to reduce the burden of taxation.
- Restrict undesirable immigration.
- Shorten hours of workers.
- We commend to the favorable consideration of the people...the initiative and referendum [which allow voters to propose and ratify legislation without the formality of using the legislature].
- Limit President and Vice President to one term.
- Elect Senators by direct vote of the people.

Student Activities

A. Graphic Organizer:

1. Describe, identify, or define and elaborate on each of the following:

Term	Definition, description, or identification elaborated
a. Three farmers' grievances	
b. The Grange	
c. What Granger laws regulated	
d. <i>Munn v. Illinois</i>	
e. The Farmers' Alliance	
f. Sentiments expressed by Mary Lease	
g. Three major differences between Granges and Alliances	

B. Essay:

In no fewer than 150 words, answer the following essay question:

Do you view the Populist Party platform as a collection of practical ideas that might have improved conditions in the United States or as a collection of radical and ridiculous ideas that deserved to be rejected?

For Further Consideration: *Munn V. Illinois*, the Grain Elevator Case

For years, Ira Munn and George Scott operated a grain elevator with a capacity of 200,000 bushels before they were charged with violating an Illinois law regulating the activities of people in their line of business. Munn and Scott had failed to apply for a license and had agreed with eight other elevator companies to charge more than the legislated ceiling price of 2 cents per bushel. Believing the law deprived them of their right to control their own property, Munn and Scott refused to lower their prices. The case first went to court in Illinois and was appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States. Excerpts from the majority and minority decisions are provided below:

In the words of Associate Justice J. Field, “[t]he question presented, therefore, is one of the greatest importance—whether it is within the competency of a State to fix the compensation which an individual may receive for the use of his own property in his private business and for his services in connection with it.”

Chief Justice C.J. Waite	Associate Justice J. Field
<p>Property does become clothed with a public interest when used in a manner to make it of public consequence and affect the community at large. When, therefore, one devotes his property to a use in which the public has an interest, he, in effect, grants to the public an interest in that use, and must submit to be controlled by the public for the common good, to the extent of the interest he has thus created. He may withdraw his grant by discontinuing the use, but, so long as he maintains the use, he must submit to the control...</p> <p>...the government regulates the conduct of its citizens one towards another, and the manner in which each shall use his own property, when such regulation becomes necessary for the public good. In their exercise, it has been customary in England from time immemorial, and in this country from its first colonization, to regulate ferries, common carriers, hackmen (carriage drivers), bakers, millers, wharfingers</p>	<p>If this be sound law, if there be no protection, either in the principles upon which our republican government is founded or in the prohibitions of the Constitution against such invasion of private rights, all property and all business in the State are held at the mercy of a majority of its legislature. The public has no greater interest in the use of buildings for the storage of grain than it has in the use of buildings for the residences of families, nor, indeed, anything like so great an interest, and, according to the doctrine announced, the legislature may fix the rent of all tenements used for residences, without reference to the cost of their erection. If the owner does not like the rates prescribed, he may cease renting his houses. He has granted to the public, says the court, an interest in the use of the buildings, and “he may withdraw his grant by discontinuing the use, but, so long as he maintains the use, he must submit to the control.” The public is interested in the</p>

wharfingers (wharf owners), innkeepers, &c., and, in so doing, to fix a maximum of charge to be made for services rendered, accommodations furnished, and articles sold. To this day, statutes are to be found in many of the States upon some or all these subjects; and we think it has never yet been successfully contended that such legislation came within any of the constitutional prohibitions against interference with private property.

manufacture of cotton, woolen, and silken fabrics, in the construction of machinery, in the printing and publication of books and periodicals, and in the making of utensils of every variety, useful and ornamental; indeed, there is hardly an enterprise or business engaging the attention and labor of any considerable portion of the community in which the public has not an interest in the sense in which that term is used by the court in its opinion...

With whose opinion do you agree: Justice Waite's or Justice Field's? Write a strong paragraph responding to this question and come to class prepared to present your opinion, listen to the opinion of others, defend your own, or change your mind.

Chapter 10

The Election of 1912

Introduction

The election of 1912 presented perhaps the most intriguing alternatives of any in American history. It featured four candidates with markedly different political philosophies. The best known of the four was former “Rough Rider” and president Theodore Roosevelt, who became the standard-bearer for the Progressive (Bull Moose) Party on a platform calling for more federal regulation. The champion of stand-pat Republicans was the incumbent president, William Howard Taft, who was just completing his first term in office. Woodrow Wilson, a comparative newcomer to politics, ran as a Democrat and advocated what he called the “New Freedom.” The fourth candidate, dynamic labor leader, Eugene Debs, spoke for the Socialist Party and offered a stinging critique of capitalism. This chapter presents you with the candidates’ ideas and their party’s platforms and provides a chance for you to reenact this controversial and important election.

The Progressive Party: Candidate Theodore Roosevelt Advocates a “New Nationalism”	The Democratic Party: Candidate Woodrow Wilson Advocates a “New Freedom”
<p>Released from the need to please the conservative wing of the Republican Party, ex-President Roosevelt was free to propose a bold new program to reform America.</p> <p><u>The New Nationalism</u></p> <p>The people of the United States have but one instrument which they can efficiently use against the colossal combinations of business—and that instrument is the Government of the United States. All that these great corporations ask is that the power of the Government shall be limited. Remember that it is absolutely impossible to limit the power of these great corporations whose enormous power constitutes so serious a problem in modern industrial life except by extending the power of the Government.</p>	<p>The successful governor of New Jersey, Woodrow Wilson, advocated a program of reforms appropriately called the “New Freedom.”</p> <p><u>The New Freedom</u></p> <p>If the government is to tell big business men how to run their business, then don’t you see that big business men have to get closer to the government even than they are now? Don’t you see that they must capture the government, in order not to be restrained too much by it?...</p> <p>I don’t care how benevolent the master is going to be, <i>I</i> will not live under a master. That is not what America was created for. America was created in order that every man should have the same chance as every</p>

We propose...to extend governmental power in order to secure the liberty of the wage workers, of the men and women who toil in industry, to save the liberty of the oppressed from the oppressor. Mr. Wilson stands for the liberty of the oppressor to oppress. We stand for the limitation of his liberty not to oppress those who are weaker than himself.



Progressive Party Platform

We pledge ourselves to work unceasingly in State and Nation for:

1. Securing equal suffrage to men and women,
2. Legislation that will compel strict limitation of all campaign contributions and expenditures,
3. Preventing issuance of injunctions in cases arising out of labor disputes,
4. Prevention of industrial accidents, occupational diseases, overwork, involuntary unemployment,
5. The fixing of minimum safety and health standards for the various occupations,
6. The prohibition of child labor,
7. Minimum wage standards for women, to provide a "living wage,"
8. The establishment of an eight-hour day for women and young persons,
9. 1 day's rest in 7 for all wage workers,
10. Compensation for death by industrial accident and injury and trade disease,

other man to exercise mastery over his own fortunes...If you will but hold off the adversaries, if you will but see to it that the weak are protected, I will venture a wager with you that there are some men in the United States, now weak, economically weak, who have brains enough to compete with these gentlemen and who will presently come into the market and put the "gentlemen on their mettle"...



The Democratic Party Platform

The high Republican tariff...is a system of taxation which makes the rich richer and the poor poorer; under its operations the American farmer and laboring man are the chief sufferers; it raises the cost of the necessities of life to them, but does not protect their product or wages.

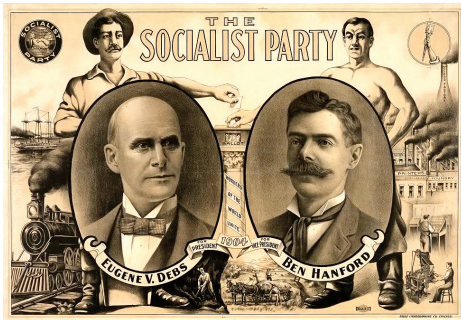
A private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable, we therefore favor the vigorous enforcement of the criminal as well as the civil law against trusts and trust officials, and demand the enactment of such additional legislation as may be necessary to make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist in the United States..

...we denounce as usurpation the efforts of our opponents to deprive the States of any of the rights reserved to them, and to enlarge and magnify the powers of the Federal government.

<p>11. The protection of home life against the hazards of sickness, unemployment & age,</p> <p>12. Strong National regulation of corporations,</p> <p>13. Strengthening the Sherman Law by prohibiting agreement to divide territory or limit output; refusing to sell to customers who buy from business rivals; to sell below cost in certain areas while maintaining higher prices in other places...and other unfair trade practices.</p>	<p>We believe that injunctions should not be issued in labor disputes...</p> <p>...labor organizations and their members should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade.</p> <p>We pledge the Democratic party, so far as the Federal jurisdiction extends, to an employees' compensation law providing adequate indemnity for injury to body or loss of life.</p>
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<p>The Socialist Party: Candidate Eugene Debs Advocates for Socialism</p>	<p>The Republican Party: Candidate William Howard Taft Advocates for Continued Progress</p>
<p>Jailed for his role in the 1894 Pullman strike, Eugene Debs became a socialist and called on Americans to make drastic changes to the country's economic system.</p> <p><u>Capitalism is the Culprit</u></p> <p>It is this capitalist system that is responsible for the increasing burden of armaments, the poverty, slums, child labor, most of the insanity, crime and prostitution, and much of the disease that afflicts mankind.</p> <p>Under this system the working class is exposed to poisonous conditions, to frightful and needless perils to life and limb, is walled around with court decisions, injunctions and unjust laws, and is preyed upon incessantly for the benefit of the controlling oligarchy of wealth. Under it also, the children of the working class are doomed to ignorance, drudging toil and darkened lives.</p>	<p>Having kept control of the Republican Party, candidate Taft opposed making the radical changes he claimed the other parties wanted to make.</p> <p><u>False Charges Produced Discontent</u></p> <p>We are living in an age in which by exaggeration of the defects of our present condition, by false charges and responsibility for it against individuals and classes, by holding up to the feverish imagination of the less fortunate and the discontented the possibilities of a millennium, a condition of popular unrest has been produced...</p> <p>A National Government cannot create good times. It cannot make the rain to fall, the sun to shine, or the crops to grow, but it can, by pursuing a meddlesome policy to change economic conditions, and frightening the investment of capital, prevent a prosperity and a revival of business that which otherwise</p>

We declare, therefore, that the longer sufferance of these conditions is impossible, and we purpose to end them all.



Socialist Party Platform

We advocate and pledge ourselves and our elected officers to the following program:

1. The collective ownership and democratic management of railroads, wire and wireless telegraphs and telephones, express service, steamboat lines, of all large-scale industries
2. The immediate acquirement by the municipalities, the states or the federal government of all grain elevators, stock yards, storage warehouses
3. The extension of the public domain to include mines, wells, forests & waterpower
4. The collective ownership of land and the banks when possible
5. The extension of all useful public works under a work day of not more than eight hours to relieve public unemployment.
6. Shortening the workday and forbidding employment of children under 16
7. Forbidding the interstate transportation of all uninspected factories and mines
8. Establishing minimum wage scales
9. Insurance against unemployment, industrial accidents and death
10. The absolute freedom of press, speech and assemblage
11. A graduated income tax

might have taken place. And, in view of the experience of the past, it can halt enterprise, paralyze investment, and throw out of employment hundreds and thousands of working men.



Republican Party Platform

On the Tariff

The Republican tariff policy has been of the greatest benefit to the country, developing our resources, diversifying our industries, and protecting our workmen against competition with cheaper labor abroad, thus establishing for our wage-earners the American standard of living.

On Monopolies

The Republican party favors the enactment of legislation supplementary to the existing anti-trust act which will define as criminal offences those specific acts that uniformly mark attempts to restrain and to monopolize trade, to the end that those who honestly intend to obey the law may have a guide for their action and those who aim to violate the law may the more surely be punished.

On States Rights

The Republican party is now, as always, a party of advanced and constructive statesmanship. It is prepared to go forward with the solution of those new questions,

12. Abolition of the monopoly patents ownership
13. Unrestricted and equal suffrage for women
14. Abolition of the Senate and of the veto power of the President
15. The election of the President and Vice-President by direct vote of the people
16. Immediate curbing of the power of the courts to issue injunctions

which social, economic and political development have brought into the forefront of the nation's interest. It will strive, not only in the nation but in the several States, to enact the necessary legislation to safeguard the public

On Workers' Rights

The Republican party...will strive, not only in the nation but in the several States, to enact the necessary legislation to safeguard the public health; to limit effectively the labor of women and children, and to protect wage earners engaged in dangerous occupations; to enact workman's compensation laws...

Student Activities

A. Graphic Organizer: Understanding speeches and platforms

In the spaces provided in the accompanying chart, write the name of the candidate or the party platform that answers each question and give an example of the evidence that led you to this conclusion:

1. Which candidate wanted to make the most radical changes?
2. Which candidate wanted to make the fewest changes?
3. & 4. What two parties' platforms seemed not to support what its candidate said in his speech?
5. With the exception of Eugene Debs, which candidate wanted to give most power to the national government?
6. Which two platforms supported giving women the right to vote?
7. Which platform seemed to be most in favor of states' rights?
8. Which platform, the Progressive or the Democratic, would have been most opposed by big businesses?
9. Which platform offered the most to workers?
10. Which candidate's speech do you think was the most convincing? Give reasons to support your answer.

Candidate or Party	Evidence that supports your answer
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

B. Statement of Belief

Including specific legislative proposals, write a statement explaining why you would vote:

1. Either Republican or Socialist
2. Either Progressive or Democrat

For Further Consideration

Write a speech that would take no more than four minutes to deliver in support of one of the four candidates for president. Base your speech on your candidates' words and his party's platform.