

## Lesson #63 U.S. History

### Labor Unrest

The industrial Age saw working conditions change. Workers resisted the new technology in the mechanized workplace. The Luddites were according to rumors began when Ned Ludd destroyed a machine in 1779 in England. Then in 1808 in France workers tossed their wooden shoes called *sabots* into the machines coining the word *sabotage*.

Anarchist expanded beyond business to the government with violent actions of bombings and assassinations.

Utopian socialist tried to recreate a perfect world in collective communities. Others socialist wanted have workers collectively organize and change government.

### Labor Organizations:

Knights of Labor 1869 – Terrence Powderly

AF of L – Samuel Gompers – skilled workers

CIO – Eugene V. Debs – unskilled workers

Mary Harris Jones “Mother Jones”

Picket line – worker blocking a business

Scabs – workers who cross the Picket Line

Strike – stopping work

Boycott – refuse to use

International Worker of the World (IWW) and William “Big Bill” Haywood

Molly Maguires – a English movement that spread to other nations – violent actions

Farmers organize after the Civil War and Reconstruction and railroads controlled the market.

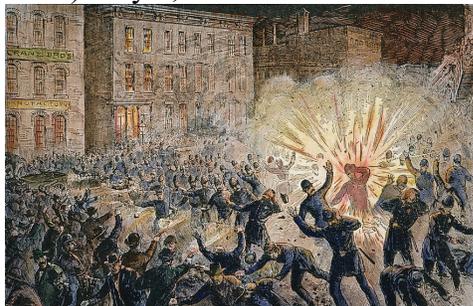
1867 Grangers

1875 Patrons of Husbandry

1880 Farmers Alliances

Divided and Conquer -Turn working people against each other (Blacks, Whites, Foreigners)

Haymarket Riot (Strike) May 3, 1886



Anarchist Leader called for a meeting in Haymarket Square after Strike at McCormick factory. At the meeting as the police arrived a bomb was tossed killing 7 police officers. Arrests were made and eight men were convicted without evidence linking them to the bomb. Seven sentence to death and one to 15 years in prison. Before the execution one committed suicide and four were hung. The remaining three were pardon in 1893.

1892 The Populist Party formed to push for national laws. Now labor and farmers had a common goal. Yet Farmers were divided between the North, South and West with different crops and different social lives. Labor also was divided with skilled and unskilled workers and different social lives. They did get laws passed to control the new monopolies.

Laws passed:

1887 Interstate Commerce Act

1890 Sherman Anti-trust Act

1894 Jacob S. Coxey "Army" The first march on the Nation's Capital was known as -The Army of the Commonwealth in Christ became. There were many armies from all over the country of unemployed workers who had demands for the national government to start a public work projects to build roads and bridges.



Three Great Strikes That Hurt Union Movement

1892 Homestead Strike

Reasons for the strike

Competition forced the company to cut wages

Pinkerton detectives aggressive

Strike failed government sided with owners



There had been a strike in 1882 and another in 1889 with labor winning demands. Then in 1892 the company locked out the workers in a contract meeting and skilled and unskilled workers went on strike. Workers battle Pinkertons on land and in the river. Artillery was used by both sides. Both sides said the other side shot first. The Pinkertons surrender and sent to Pittsburg for trial where they were released against the agreement with the workers. Militia sent in with Marshal Law declared for the town. Labor had sixteen of its leaders arrested for conspiracy, riot, and murder. The labor movement in the steel industry was broken for the next 40 years.

## 1894 Pullman Strike

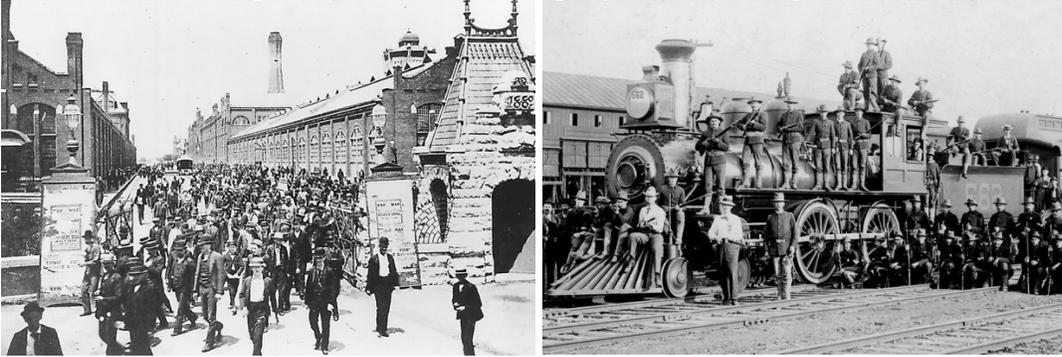
Workers live in Company towns.

Workers turned to Eugene Debs & the American Railway Union.

Mail cars attached to Pullman cars.

Debs jailed, and union called off the strike.

Competition caused the company to reduce wages and services in company town



George Pullman refused to lower rents and the workers called a boycott. The company did not move, and Debs called and strike against to wishes of Gompers and AF of L dividing the union effort. Then President Grover Cleveland declared the unions violated the Anti-trust Act and sent in the Army to open the rail traffic. Governor John P. Altgeld denounced the President for sending in the Army when the State militia could have done the job. There were 30 killed and 57 wounded in the dispute. Debs was arrested and found guilty and served 6 months in prison until the Supreme Court overturn the conviction.

### Political Action:

1896 July 9, William Jennings Bryan & Populist Party

His speech on bimetallism asking for a 16-1 gold standard.

“You shall not press down upon the brow of labor the crown of thorns: you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.”

Frank Baum wrote a book that showed the political climate of the 1890's. That book was *The Wizard of Oz* – The shoes were silver (not ruby), and the Yellow Brick road was the gold.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels together publish *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848. The proletariat (industrial workers), the Bourgeoisie (exploiters), Petite Bourgeoisie (middle class), Landlords and the peasants were the groping Marx divide people into. The proletariat should control the means of production.

Utopian Socialist moved onto working with labor and in 1864 they held the First International. Followed by the Second in 1889 and the Third in 1893 which banned the Anarchist from the meeting. The Marxist were behind the ban.

## Socialism and Labor

After his release from prison Eugene Debs formed the Social Democracy of America in 1897. Changing to the Social Democracy Party in 1898 and the followed year to form the Socialist Party in 1901 where he was nominated for President. He would run for President four more times 1904,1908,1912, and 1916. Later in 1918 he was back in prison under the Sedition Act and the sentence was commuted in 1921.

