**Progressive Reforms in Working Conditions and Politics**

**Part I: Working Conditions**

1. Read the section on Muckraking on pages 384-385.
   1. What is a muckracker? Who came up w/ the name?

**Teddy Roosevelt came up w/ the name muckraker to describe people like journalists and reporters who wrote about problems and corruptions in society.**

* 1. Give an example of a person we have already learned about who would be considered a muckracker. What did the person do? Was he/she successful? Why?

**Possible examples include Upton Sinclair (*The Jungle*) and Ida Tarbell (“History of Standard Oil Company”). Both were successful. The Jungle led to the Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act. “History of Standard Oil Company” led to an anti-trust lawsuit against the Standard Oil Company resulting in the break-up of the Standard Oil Trust.**

1. Read the section titled “Progressive Reform Organization” on pages 385-386.
   1. What is an injunction? What effect did injunctions have on workers ability to go on strike?

**An injunction is a court ruling that prohibits a certain activity. If a court ordered an injunction against workers, then they were being told they were not allowed to go on strike.**

* 1. On what side of the struggle between unions and employers/management were the courts on when they issued an injunction against workers?

**During the early years of the Progressive Era, the courts usually ruled on the side of management. An injunction ordering workers not to strike would be in favor of the employer/manager not the workers.**

* 1. What is socialism? Why did some Americans, especially union workers, believe that socialism could help solve their problems?

**Socialism is an economic and political philosophy that favors government control of property and income. Some union workers believed that a socialist government would take the power away from large corporations (trusts/monopolies) and would then distribute the profits from these corporations more evenly to the workers.**

* 1. Why did Progressives not support socialist ideas?

**A socialist government would have a lot of power and influence over people’s lives. This would threaten core American ideas like “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Progressives feared a socialist government would have too much control of the economy and personal liberties.**

* 1. What was the National Consumers’ League? What issues did they investigate?

**The National Consumers’ League was a women’s group that organized female workers into unions and they investigated working conditions in places where women made and sold goods. They worked to make sure that factories followed state laws regarding inspections and safety standards.**

**Part II: Politics**

1. Reread the section titled “The Results of City Growth” on pages 308-309.
   1. How were political machines and graft examples of corruption in city politics? Give one example of how William Marcy Tweed of New York took advantage of his power in city politics.

**Political machines took advantage of immigrants by offering the jobs, places to live, food and other favors in exchange for the promise of their vote. This is not how politics/elections are supposed to work. Graft was a corrupt practice where a person who worked for the government took advantage of their position to make extra and possibly illegal income. William Marcy Tweed used his position as the boss of the Democratic political machine in New York City to steal millions of city dollars.**

1. Read the section titled “Municipal Reforms” on pages 390-391.
   1. What does the word “municipal” mean? What was meant by the term “home rule?”

**Municipal is another word for “city.” In other words, municipal government and city government are the same thing. Home-rule is the desire for cities to have more local control over laws, programs, taxes, etc.**

* 1. What actions did city governments take to reform utilities and provide social services?

**In cities such as Detroit, Toledo and Cleveland, reformers worked hard to take power back from monopolies that controlled the utilities (gas, water, electricity) and have the utilities controlled by city governments instead.**

1. Read the section titled “State Reforms” and complete the chart below.

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| **Democratic Reform** | **Description** | **Problems Sought to Address** |
| **Secret Ballot** | A policy where your vote is private. | No longer could people in political machines find out who you voted for. |
| **Initiative** | A process where citizens can propose a law to be voted on. | Before, only state legislatures could propose/write new laws. The initiative gives more power/voice to the people. |
| **Referendum** | The referendum allows for citizens to vote in favor or against a law passed by a state legislature. | Before, only state legislatures could propose/write new laws. The referendum gives more power/voice to the people. |
| **Recall** | This allowed voters to vote to remove an elected official from office. | Before, only state legislatures or the courts could remove someone from office. The recall gives more power/voice to the people. |
| **Direct Primary** | This allows for voters to elect the people running for office for each political party. | Parties proposed their candidates and did not need to support of the people to do so. The direct primary gave more power/voice to the people. |