

Industrialism and Progressivism

An Online Professional Development Seminar



Henry Binford

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AMERICA *in* **CLASS**[®]

from the National Humanities Center

We will begin promptly on the hour.

The silence you hear is normal.

If you do not hear anything when the images change, e-mail Caryn Koplik ckoplik@nationalhumanitiescenter.org for assistance.

Industrialism and Progressivism

GOAL

- To provide fresh primary resources and instructional approaches for use with students

UNDERSTANDING

- Late nineteenth-century industrial growth gave new meaning to words such as “science,” “efficiency,” and “progress,” and Progressive reformers extended these ideas from the economic realm into social and cultural life.

Industrialism and Progressivism

From the Forum

Were there any industrialists who attempted to humanize the work experience?

Was there a generally agreed upon definition of progressivism during the Progressive Era?

How were workers in newly industrialized industries trained?

How was labor divided in different types of industries?

How was the concept of “efficiency” invented?

From the Forum

How did the division of labor, specialization, and mechanization change the lives of Americans during this period?

How was the assembly line introduced, and what response did it provoke among craftsmen?

What does the Triangle shirtwaist fire tell us about industrialization and Progressivism?

During this period were machines humanized more than humans mechanized or vice versa?

Framing Questions

- What constituted progress during the Progressive Era?
- How did Americans define the “old” and the “new,” “backwards” and “progressive” during this era?
- How did economic and industrial ideas and methods influence other areas of American life during the Progressive Era?

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Urban historian specializing in the nineteenth century evolution of sub-communities within cities, including suburbs and slums.

Interested in efforts to redevelop cities in the twentieth century.

The First Suburbs: Residential Communities on the Boston Periphery, 1815-1860.

Industrialism and Progressivism

- The “Second Industrial Revolution” produced economic changes that seemed both miraculous and frightening to contemporaries.
- Much of this change was perceived to be the result of applying scientific and technical knowledge and practices.
- Those who grew up in this world – the “Progressive Generation” – were eager to apply similar knowledge in social and political affairs.
- In wrestling with both the positive and negative aspects of change, they eagerly embraced the idea of expert “regulation.”
- Today’s texts and images show both the ramification of ideas and the ways they prompted controversy.

SOME IMPORTANT LIFE DATES

BUSINESS

JOURNALISM

POLITICS

MISCELLANEOUS

1830s Horatio Alger 1834-1899
Andrew Carnegie 1835-1919
J. P. Morgan 1837-1913
John D. Rockefeller 1839-1937

1840s

Elbert H. Gary 1846-1927
Thomas Edison 1847-1931

1850s

Joseph Pulitzer 1847-1911
Jacob Riis 1849-1914

Ida Tarbell 1857-1944

G. W. Plunkitt 1842-1924

John P. Altgeld 1847-1902

Tom Johnson 1854-1911

Robert LaFollette 1855-1925

Eugene Debs 1855-1926

Woodrow Wilson 1856-1924

Theodore Roosevelt 1858-1919

Carroll D. Wright 1840-1909

Daniel Burnham 1846-1912

Booker T. Washington 1856-1915

Louis Sullivan 1856-1924

Clarence Darrow 1857-1938

John Dewey 1859-1952

Florence Kelley 1859-1932

SOME IMPORTANT LIFE DATES

BUSINESS

JOURNALISM

POLITICS

MISCELLANEOUS

1860s

Henry Ford 1863-1947
Ransom Olds 1864-1950

Wm. R. Hearst 1863-1951

Lincoln Steffens 1866-1936

Wm. Jennings Bryan 1860-1925

Jane Addams 1860-1935

W. E. B. Du Bois 1868-1963

Frank Lloyd Wright 1869-1959

1870s

Theodore Dreiser 1871-1945

Herbert Hoover 1874-1964

Upton Sinclair 1878-1968

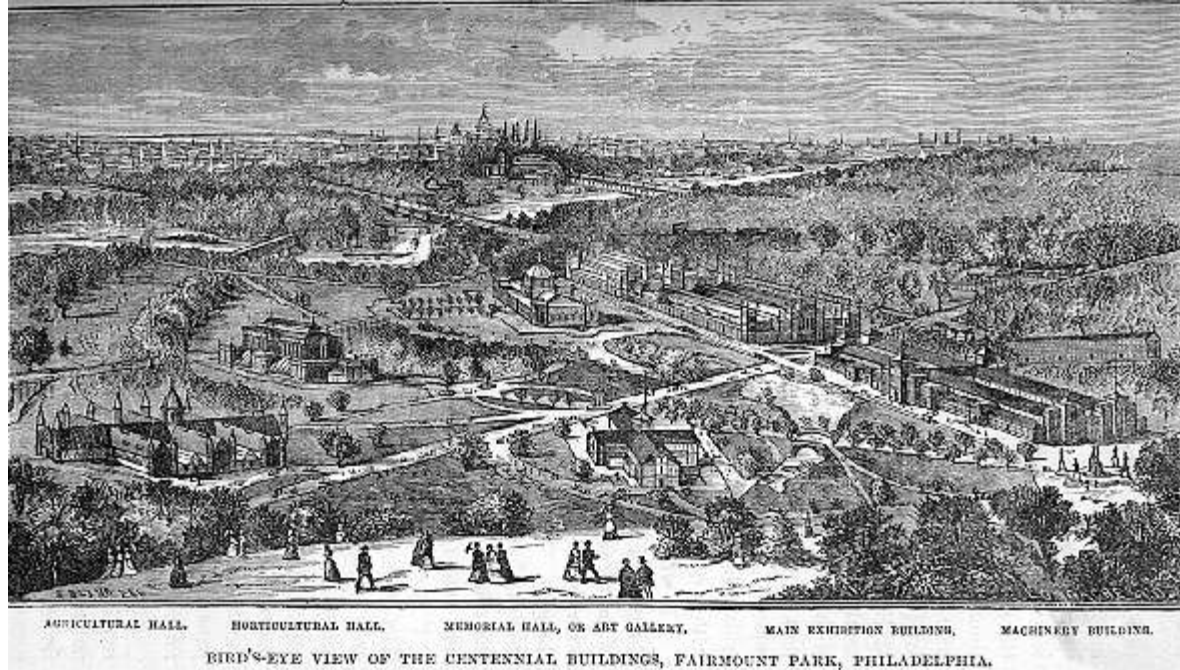
1880s

Otis Van Sweringen 1879-1936

Mantis Van Sweringen 1881-1935

Jesse Clyde Nichols 1880-1950

Franklin D. Roosevelt 1882-1945



Grounds of the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition
May 10-November 10, 1876

Industrialism and Progressivism

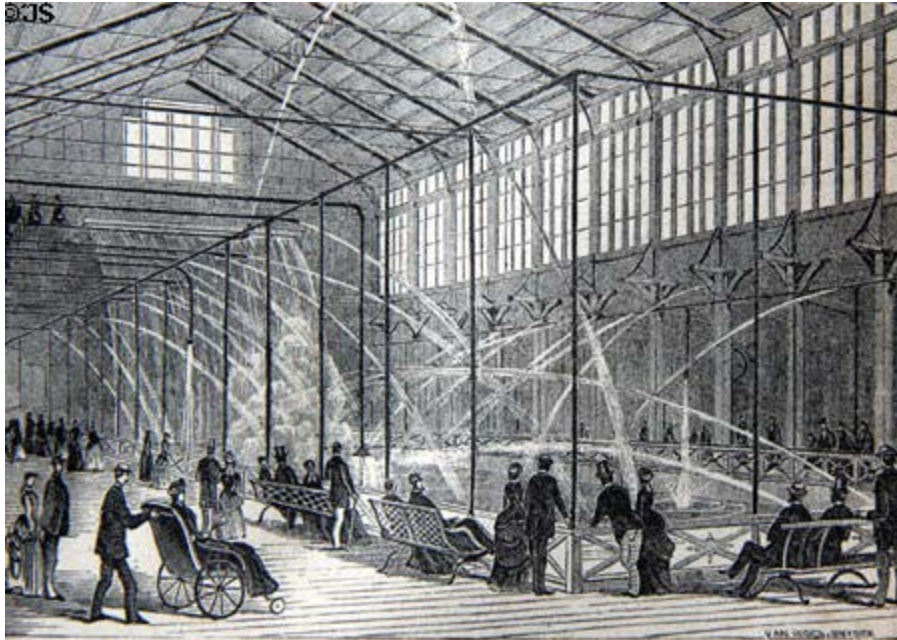
Machinery Hall

Centennial Exhibition,
Philadelphia, 1876





Machinery Hall
Centennial Exhibition,
Philadelphia, 1876

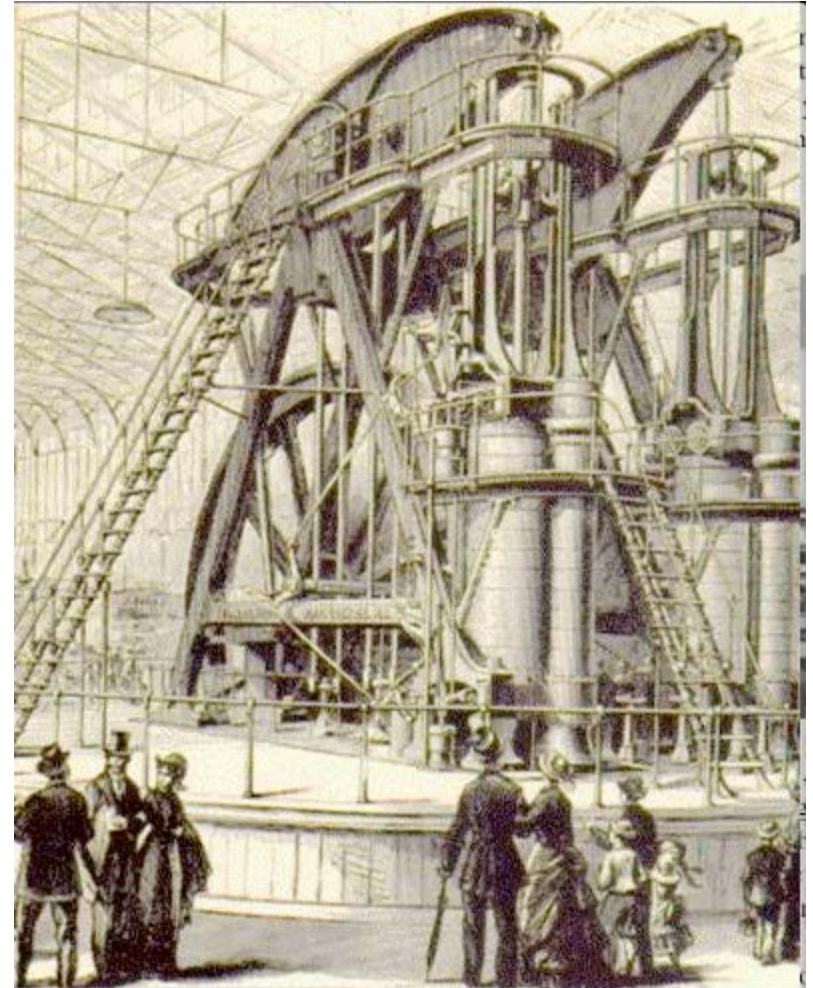


Interior Machinery Hall

Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1876



Interior Machinery Hall
Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1876



The Corliss Steam Engine
1,400 horsepower, 40 feet tall, 200+ tons

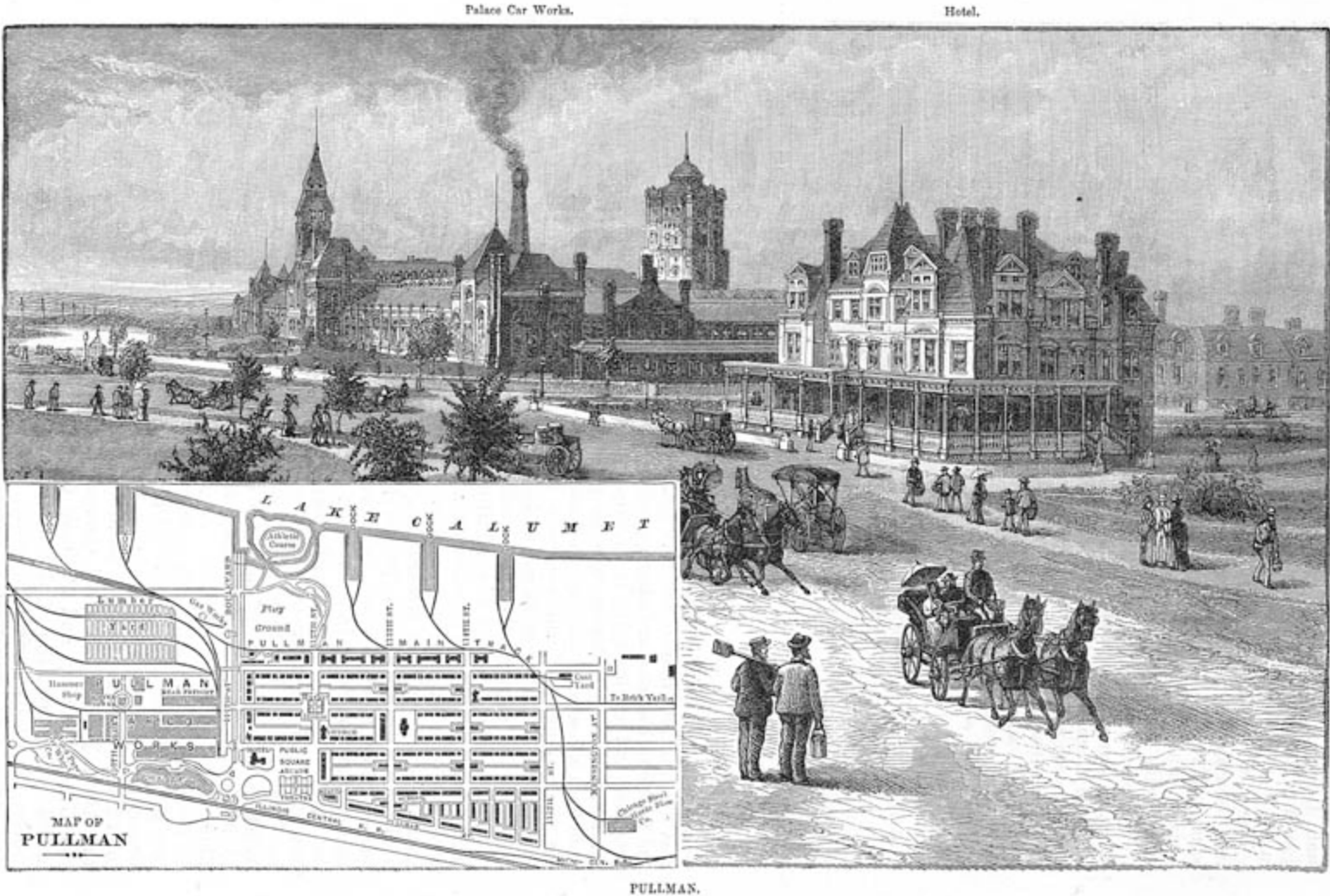
Monongahela Valley near Pittsburgh



Monongahela Valley near Pittsburgh



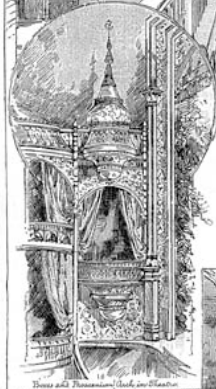
Pullman, Illinois



Pullman, Illinois

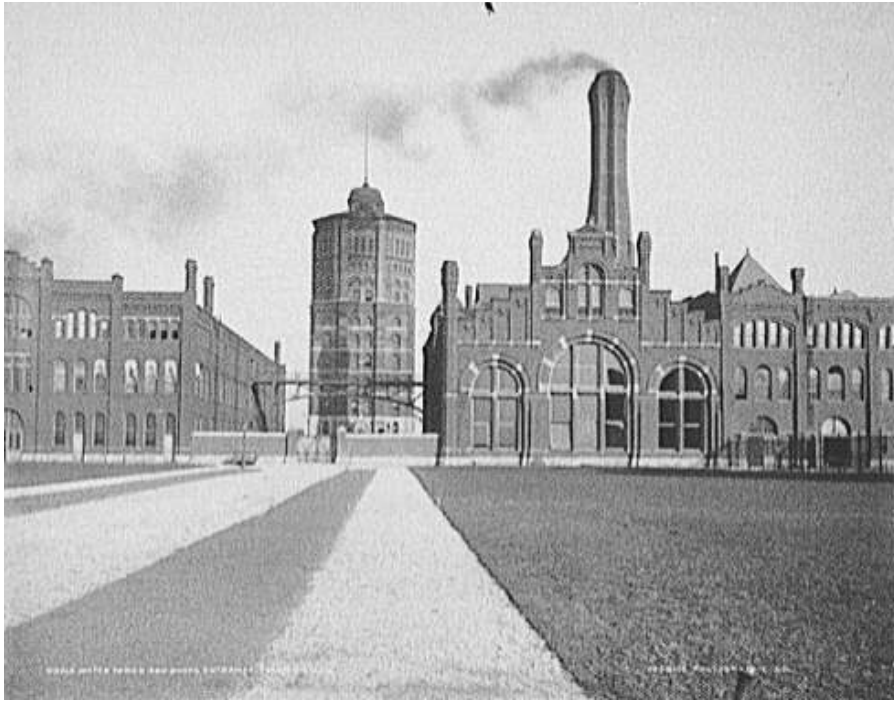


THE ARCADE AND PUBLIC SQUARE.



INTERIOR OF ARCADE—THE LIBRARY.

Pullman, Illinois



Water Tower and Shop Entrance



Factory

Industrialism and Progressivism

Pullman, Illinois

Discussion Question

How was George Pullman's model factory community an antidote for the changes seen in the Monongahela Valley?



Worker Housing

Industrialism and Progressivism

Frederick Winslow Taylor 1856-1915



Mechanical engineer

Management consultant

Father of Scientific Management

*Principles of Scientific
Management*

1911

Shop Management

1911

Industrialism and Progressivism

From *The Principles of Scientific Management* by Frederick Winslow Taylor, 1910

Under scientific management the “initiative” of the workmen (that is, their hard work, their good-will, and their ingenuity) is obtained with absolute uniformity and to a greater extent than is possible under the old system; and in addition to this improvement on the part of the men, the managers assume new burdens, new duties, and responsibilities never dreamed of in the past. The managers assume, for instance, the burden of gathering together all of the traditional knowledge which in the past has been possessed by the workmen and then of classifying, tabulating, and reducing this knowledge to rules, laws, and formulæ which are immensely helpful to the workmen in doing their daily work.

Discussion Questions

How did F. W. Taylor define “science?”

How did Taylor envisage “progress” in his proposed changes for management and workers?

Industrialism and Progressivism

From *The Principles of Scientific Management* by Frederick Winslow Taylor, 1910 Cont'd.

Perhaps the most prominent single element in modern scientific management is the task idea. The work of every workman is fully planned out by the management at least one day in advance, and each man receives in most cases complete written instructions, describing in detail the task which he is to accomplish, as well as the means to be used in doing the work. And the work planned in advance in this way constitutes a task which is to be solved, as explained above, not by the workman alone, but in almost all cases by the joint effort of the workman and the management. This task specifies not only what is to be done but how it is to be done and the exact time allowed for doing it.

Discussion Questions

How did F. W. Taylor define “science?”

How did Taylor envisage “progress” in his proposed changes for management and workers?

Industrialism and Progressivism

From *The Principles of Scientific Management* by Frederick Winslow Taylor, 1910 Cont'd.

“Well, if you are a high-priced man, you will do exactly as this man tells you to-morrow, from morning till night. When he tells you to pick up a pig and walk, you pick it up and you walk, and when he tells you to sit down and rest, you sit down. You do that right straight through the day. And what’s more, no back talk. Now a high-priced man does just what he’s told to do, and no back talk. Do you understand that? When this man tells you to walk, you walk; when he tells you to sit down, you sit down, and you don’t talk back at him. Now you come on to work here to-morrow morning and I’ll know before night whether you are really a high-priced man or not.”

Discussion Question

How would you describe his approach to training the pig-iron loader Schmidt?

Industrialism and Progressivism

Discussion Questions

What implications do Taylor's goals and methods hold for the men of *The Ironworkers' Noontime*?

How—through his use of poses, clothing, light, dark, and facial expressions—does Anshutz portray the men in the painting? What is his attitude toward them?

What does the presence of the boys add to the meaning of this painting?

Where in the painting do you see examples of technological progress?

What is Anshutz's attitude toward progress?



Thomas Anshutz, *The Ironworkers' Noontime*, oil on canvas, 1880

Christine Frederick

1883-1970

Efficiency expert

Home economist

Early exponent of Taylorism

Writer and editor for women's magazines,

including *Ladies' Home Journal*

The New Housekeeping (1913)

Selling Mrs. Consumer (1929)

“After Mr. Watson had gone, I turned eagerly to my husband. ‘George,’ I said, ‘that efficiency gospel is going to mean a great deal to modern housekeeping. . . . Do you know that I am going to work out those principles here in our home! . . . I’m going to find out about how these experts conduct investigations, and all about it, and then apply it to *my* factory, *my* business, *my* home.’”

. . . .

“The mind itself must be taken in hand, *managed* and *organized*, in order to be efficient. . . . One dare not let the mind doze and dream too much without coming to conclusions: the mind must be *commanded* and *manipulated*.”

Discussion Questions

How did Christine Frederick envisage the proper role and responsibilities of a middle-class woman?
How do you think she influenced housework?

Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, March 25, 1911



Discussion Question

How does what we have learned about “efficiency,” “progress,” and progressivism help us to understand the national impact of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in 1911?

Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, March 25, 1911



Photograph by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Discussion Question

How does what we have learned about “efficiency,” “progress,” and progressivism help us to understand the national impact of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in 1911?

In Conclusion

During this period were machines humanized more than humans mechanized or vice versa?