

Summary: Changes for the Better

The Progressives

In the early 1900s, industrialization led many adults and children to work in unsafe factories. Factories polluted cities. Progressives wanted to make factories and cities safer. They fought for labor laws to end child labor and protect factory workers.

Upton Sinclair was a muckraker. He wrote a book about the dangers of meat factories. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt worked with Congress to pass two laws. The Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act said that medicine and foods had to be made without harmful chemicals and in clean factories.

President Theodore Roosevelt also set aside millions of acres of land for national parks and wilderness areas. Austin Peay, a reform-minded governor of Tennessee, pushed for legislation to buy land for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Working for Equal Rights

Women fought for many years for the right to vote. One woman, Anne Dallas Dudley of Tennessee, gave speeches and wrote letters to lawmakers. In 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment passed, giving women the right to vote.

In the early 1900s, African Americans, Mexican Americans, American Indians, and Asian Americans faced prejudice when they tried to get jobs or places to live. Some states did not allow African Americans and other groups to vote and forced their children to go to different schools.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded. “Colored People” was a term then used for African Americans. The NAACP worked for equality. It wanted African Americans to be treated fairly. W.E.B. Du Bois wrote about African American life. He helped people see why laws should be changed. Ida B. Wells, a newspaper writer in Tennessee, wrote about the unfair treatment of African Americans. Booker T. Washington started a school to educate African Americans.

Between 1910 and 1930, about 1.5 million African Americans moved to northern cities to work in factories and businesses. This was called the Great Migration.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

industrialization *noun*, the growth of industry

progressives *noun*, reformers who thought governments should make labor laws

labor laws *noun*, laws that protect workers

muckraker *noun*, someone who “rakes up,” or points out, unpleasant truths

After You Read

REVIEW What did the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act do to make food safer? Circle the sentence that tells you the answer.

REVIEW What is the NAACP and what is its purpose? Circle the words that tell what NAACP means. Underline two sentences that say what the NAACP worked for.