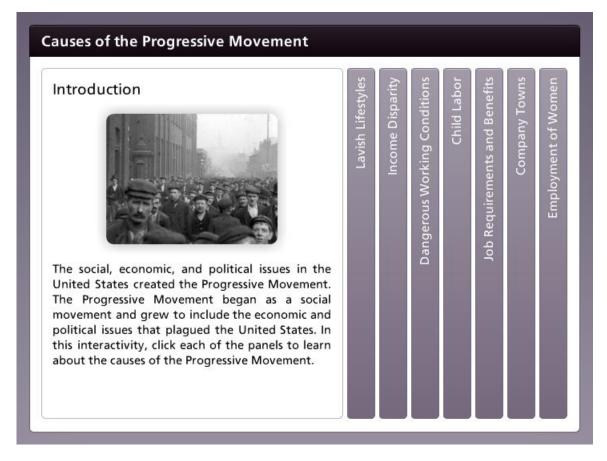
Introduction



The social, economic, and political issues in the United States created the Progressive Movement. The Progressive Movement began as a social movement and grew to include the economic and political issues that plagued the United States. In this interactivity, click each of the panels to learn about the causes of the Progressive Movement.



Lavish Lifestyles

Lavish Lifestyles	Disparity	ditions	Labor	enefits	Towns			
	Income Di	angerous Working Con	Child	Requirements and B	Company	At the second of M		
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Income Disparity

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Image: Andrew Carnegie's mansion



Dangerous working conditions

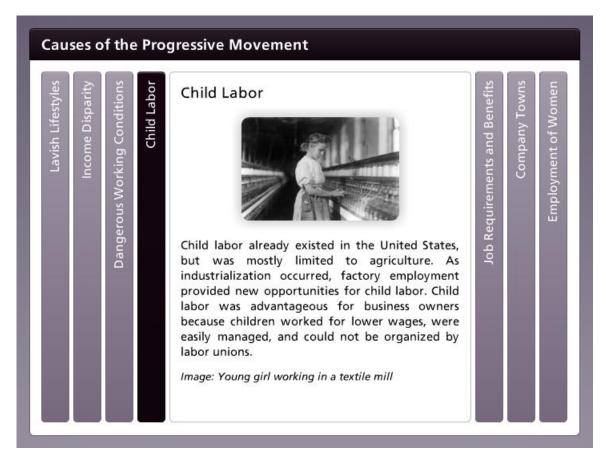
Income Disparity Dangerous Working Conditions	Dangerous Working Conditions Working conditions in the later Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century were not ideal for workers in factories, mills, and mines. Unsafe machines, moving belts, molten steel, and furnaces all posed potential risks for workers. Workers were in danger of making mistakes that could lead to injury or death	Child Labor	Job Requirements and Benefits	Company Towns	Fmnlovment of Women
	Workers were in danger of making mistakes that could lead to injury or death. Image: Young coal miners, 1908				

Working conditions in the later Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century were not ideal for workers in factories, mills, and mines. Unsafe machines, moving belts, molten steel, and furnaces all posed potential risks for workers. Workers were in danger of making mistakes that could lead to injury or death. Work-related illnesses were also common. For example, many coal miners developed lung disease from inhaling too much mining dust.

Image: Young coal miners, 1908



Child labor

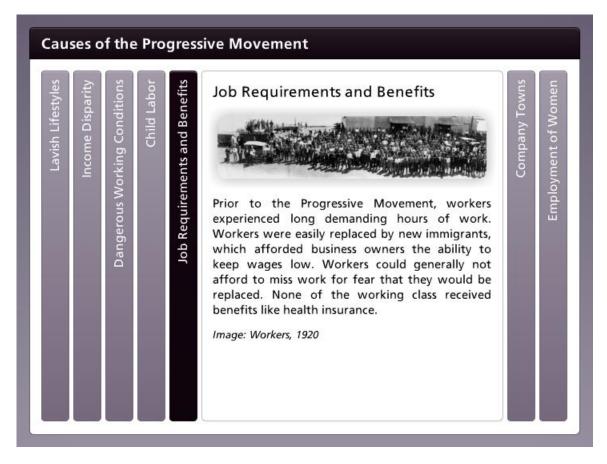


Child labor already existed in the United States, but was mostly limited to agriculture. As industrialization occurred, factory employment provided new opportunities for child labor. Child labor was advantageous for business owners because children worked for lower wages, were easily managed, and could not be organized by labor unions. Child labor was a social injustice that helped cause the Progressive Movement.

Image: Young girl working in a textile mill



Job requirements and benefits

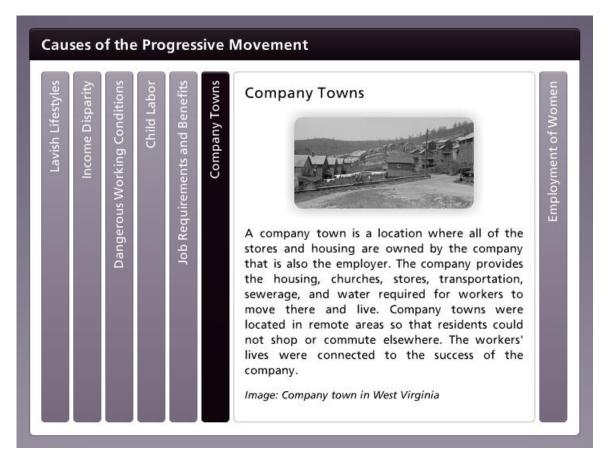


Prior to the Progressive Movement, workers experienced long demanding hours of work. Workers were easily replaced by new immigrants, which afforded business owners the ability to keep wages low. Workers could generally not afford to miss work for fear that they would be replaced. None of the working class received benefits like health insurance or workingmen's compensation. Workers that got sick or injured on the job would be replaced.

Image: Workers, 1920



Company Towns

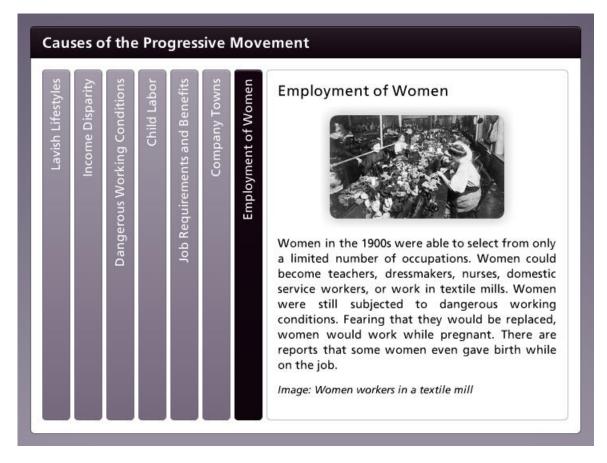


A company town is a location where all of the stores and housing are owned by the company that is also the employer. The company provides the housing, churches, stores, transportation, sewage, and water required for workers to move there and live. Company towns were located in remote areas so that residents could not shop or commute elsewhere. The workers' lives were connected to the success of the company. The way companies used company towns to control their workers' living conditions is another example of a social injustice which contributed to the Progressive Movement.

Image: Company town in West Virginia



Employment of Women

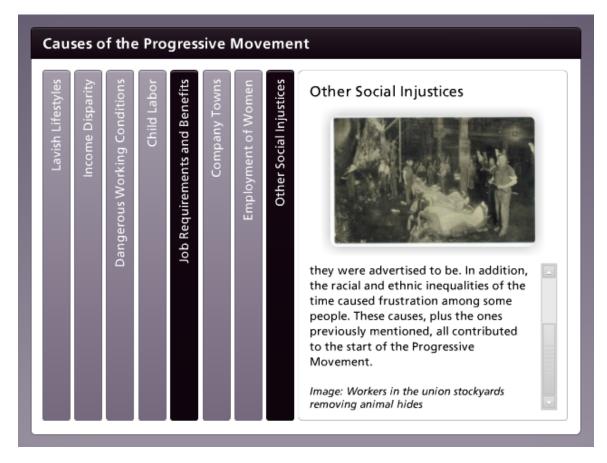


Women in the 1900s were able to select from only a limited number of occupations. Women could become teachers, dressmakers, nurses, domestic service workers, or work in textile mills. Women were still subjected to dangerous working conditions. Fearing that they would be replaced, women would work while pregnant. There are reports that some women even gave birth while on the job. The lack of gender equality found at this time was another social injustice which helped cause the Progressive Movement.

Image: Women workers in a textile mill



Other Social Injustices



There were other causes that contributed to the rise of the Progressive Movement. For example, many people were fed up with the lack of consumer protections available. Food and drugs were not always what they were advertised to be. In addition, the racial and ethnic inequalities of the time caused frustration among some people. These causes, plus the ones previously mentioned, all contributed to the start of the Progressive Movement.

Image: Workers in the union stockyards removing animal hides

