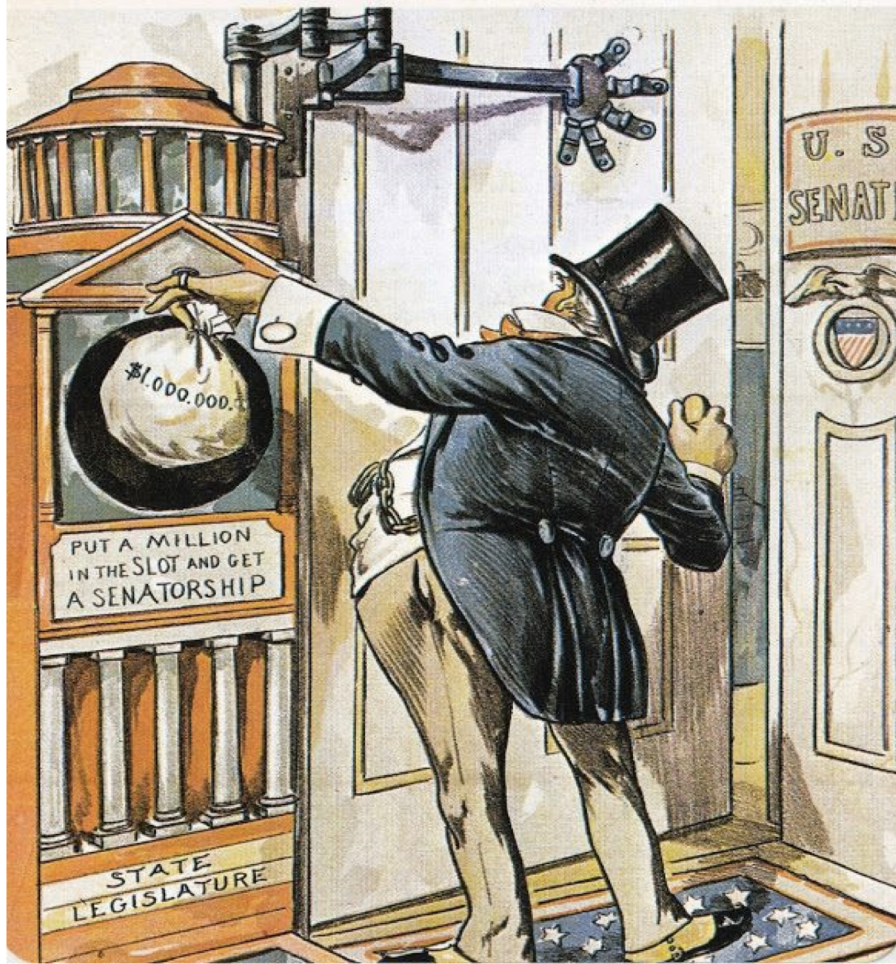


# SSUSH13: EVALUATE EFFORTS TO REFORM AMERICAN SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE PROGRESSIVE ERA.



***ELEMENT D: Describe Progressive legislation actions including empowerment of the voter, labor laws, and the conservation movement.***

# Progressivism



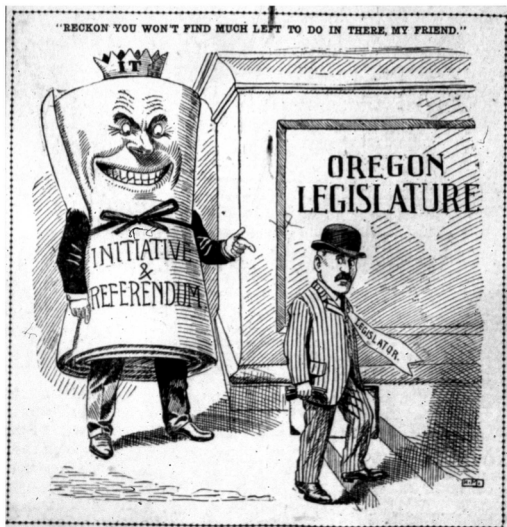
- ❑ In the early 20th century, Progressivism emerged as a movement to improve American democracy, to achieve social and economic justice, and to correct the evils of industrialization and urbanization.
- ❑ The Progressive Movement was generally made up of the educated middle class who saw reform as a civic duty.
  - Politically, the Progressives planned to attack graft, the political machine, and the influence of big business in government.
  - The Progressive Movement also planned to create new political procedures that would enable greater political participation.
  - To attack poverty, the Progressives planned to lobby for greater governmental regulations to empower voters and to protect consumers, workers, and the environment.

# Progressivism

- ❑ There were a number of political reforms attributed to the Progressive Movement.
  - Some were aimed at the federal level and some were focused on local and state reform.



- ❑ Federal political reforms of the Progressive Era included the passage of the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
  - This amendment provides for the direct election of United States Senators.
    - The change instituted with the Seventeenth Amendment ended the state legislative cronyism previously responsible for the appointment of Senators.
    - With the change, more political power was given directly to the voters.
- ❑ Voters were also afforded more political power at the local and state levels during the Progressive Era.

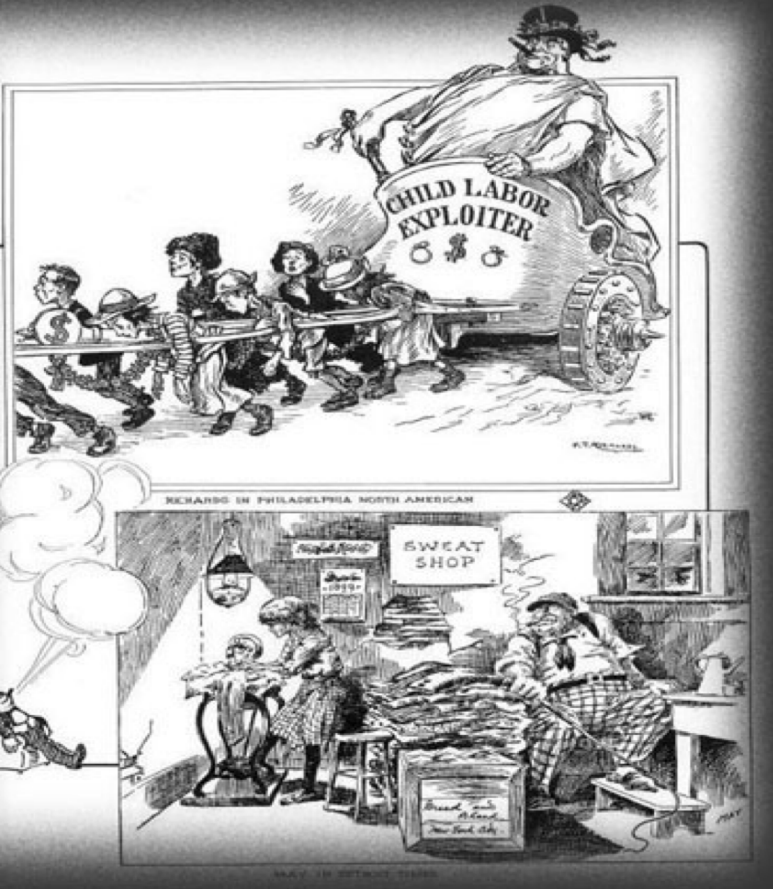


- The policies passed included the initiative/referendum and recall votes.
  - Initiative/referendum allows voters to suggest and approve laws directly without the statute having to go through the state legislature.
  - The people vote on an issue directly rather than representatives voting on the issue in the state legislature.
  - The recall vote provision allows voters to remove politicians from office who are unsatisfactory, without having to wait for the person's term in office to end.
- In each of these new political reforms, more power is given directly to the people.

# Labor Laws

❑ Workers were also empowered by Progressive reform with the passage of new labor laws that restricted the power of business owners.

- For example, new child labor laws set a minimum age for employment and restricted the types of jobs children could hold.
- Laws were also created to protect women in the workplace by setting a minimum wage and maximum work hours.
- Business owners were also required under new Progressive reform laws to complete work site inspections to ensure health, safety, and sanitation.
- Worker's compensation laws were also passed that required financial assistance for workers injured on the job.



# Conservation Movement

Czar Pinchot and His Cossack Rangers Administering the Forest Reserves



Typical anti-Pinchot cartoon, from the Rocky Mountain News, September 20, 1908.

Courtesy Denver Public Library, Conservation Library Center



Theodore Roosevelt and His Distinguished Party Before the "Grizzly Giant" Big Trees of California - 1903

- Another key area of Progressive reform was the conservation movement, which began in the 1870s.
  - There were three schools of conservation thought at the time:
    1. First, business supported a laissez-faire approach believing that business should be allowed to do as they wished with public lands.
    2. Second, there was the Environmentalist approach led by John Muir.
      - The Environmentalists believed that nature was sacred and humans were the intruders.
      - They also believed that humans should make a minimal impact on nature and that preservation of the environment in its undisturbed form was most desirable.
    3. Theodore Roosevelt and his mentor, Gifford Pinchot, supported the Conservationist approach.
      - They believed that nature could be used responsibly but it should also be protected.

# President Theodore Roosevelt



- ❑ Theodore Roosevelt was a life-long naturalist, who majored in Natural History at Harvard. He was also an avid hunter.
- ❑ Roosevelt saw the continued despoliation of land for timbering and mining would result in the loss of key habitats needed for hunting and future economic development.
- ❑ Throughout his presidency, Roosevelt increased national reserves of forests, mineral lands, and hydropower sites.
  - During his tenure in office, Roosevelt created the National Forest Service, five new national parks, 18 new U.S. national monuments, 51 bird reserves, four game preserves, and 150 national forests.
  - This emphasis on conservation also encouraged states to follow the lead of the national government.
- ❑ Legislative action during the Progressive Era took many forms. Voters, workers, and environmental conservationists were all empowered by laws that were passed.