

December 7, 2018

Aim: What actions could workers have taken to improve their conditions during the late 19th century?

Tuesday 12/11: Review Sheet Due

Wednesday 12/12: Exam

DECEMBER 7, 1941 – “A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY”

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

Problems Faced by Workers

- Long hours
- Child labor
- Low wages
- No job security
- Unsafe working conditions
- Poor/unhealthy working conditions

What government can do

- Pass laws- child labor, minimum wage, safety

Why as individuals would workers not have much power?

What workers can do

- **Organize unions** - Organization of workers that seeks to improve conditions, wages, etc. through the collective bargaining process
- **Collective bargaining** – negotiating with employers as a group rather than as individuals
- **Create political parties** – have people run for office
- **lobbying** – trying to influence legislators who are favorable to your interests (talk to them, give them campaign contributions)
- **Raise awareness**

Organized Labor



Types of Unions

- **Trade (Crafts union)** – skilled workers all performing the same job (eg. electricians, plumbers, carpenters)
- **Industrial Union** – workers in same industry performing different jobs. Usually semi-skilled and unskilled workers. (eg. United Auto Workers)

Weapons of Unions

- Strike – refusal to work
- Picketing – parade outside workplace
- Boycott – refusal to patronize strikebound company
- Publicity – appeal for public support (newspaper, radio, television)



Bread and Butter Issues

- issues which are important to most people, because they affect them personally.

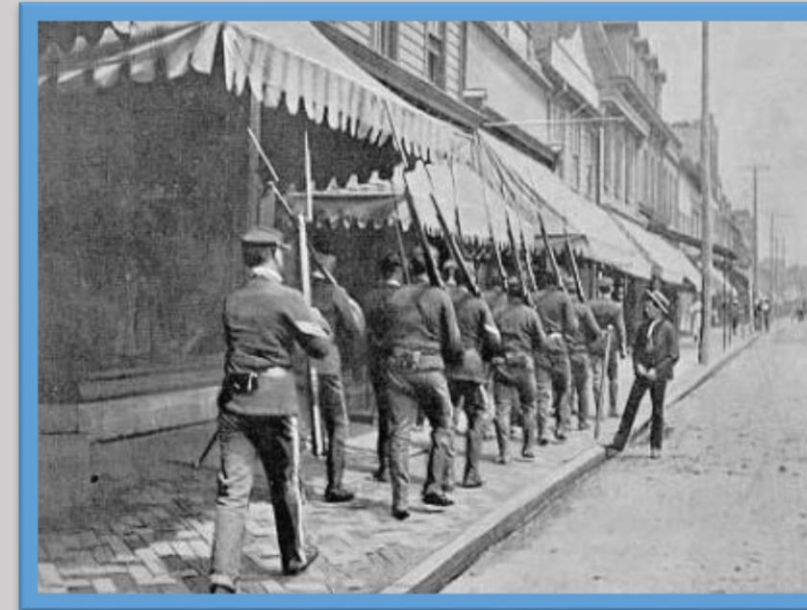
Obstacles Facing Unions

- 1. Tactics and power of Owners and Management (eg. – Homestead)**
 - Lockout - work stoppage or denial of employment
 - Replacement workers
 - Pinkertons -a private security force
 - Blacklisting - denying people employment (union, political, Whistle blowing history)
 - Yellow-dog contract - worker agrees not to remain in or join a union.
- 2. Public opinion was often against workers (eg. Haymarket Incident)**
 - Believed unions were influenced by “radical” ideas like socialism and communism
- 3. Government – often sided with management (RR Strike of 1877; Pullman Strike)**
- 4. Changing nature of workplace – Mechanization decreased need for skilled workers. Unskilled workers easier to replace**

Homestead Strike (1892)

- Wages of steelworkers cut
- Action of Labor Union?
- Calls for a strike
- Action of Industry?

Police force called the “Pinkertons” brought in to break up the strike



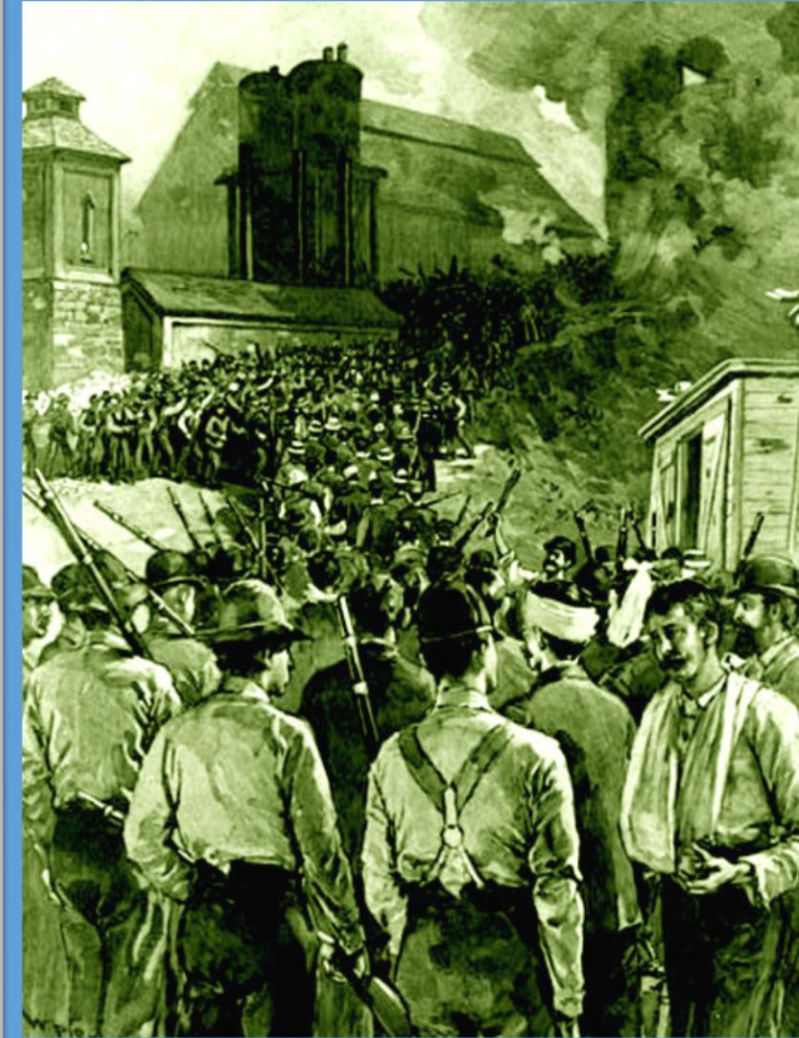
Homestead Steel Strike:

Workers went on strike for higher wages. Management refused to negotiate and locked out the workers, however the workers broke in and took control of the mill.

Management hired the Pinkerton Police, which is a private security force, to take control back. 300 Pinkertons arrived by barge and were greeted by the workers. For 12 hours a battle ensued. The end result was the Pinkertons surrendered.



- Action of Government?
- Troops & local militia sent in to calm the situation
- Effect?
- Union workers locked out
- Steelworkers lose power after calling off the strike
- Wages dropped & hours extended



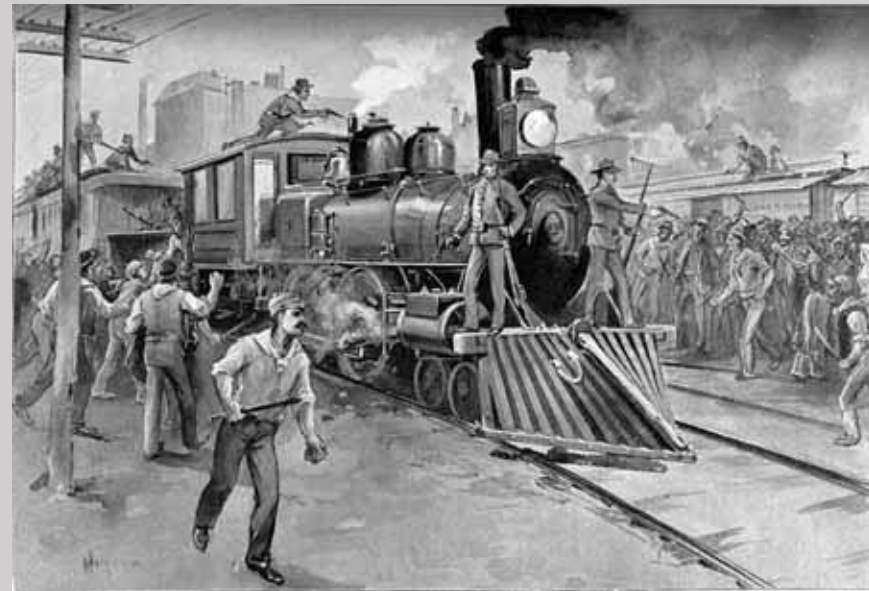
HOMESTEAD STRIKE

- **Carnegie successfully broke up the attempt to organize a union.**
- ***No labor unions in steel industry until the 1920's.***
- ***Carnegie's public image suffered***

Town of Pullman



- **Pullman Strike**
- 1893, in Chicago



- Wages of employees cut without a decrease in living costs in the company town
- Action of Labor Union?
- Called Eugene V. Debs & the American Railway Union (ARU)
- Nationwide strike, halting railroad traffic

- Actions of Industry?
- Argued that the labor union was destroying free trade
- Actions of Government?
- President Grover Cleveland sends in federal troops; Eugene V. Debs is arrested
- Effect?
- Use of court system and military to limit power of labor unions



Government – often sided with management

- **Eg. – Pullman Strike**

- President sent in troops to move trains
- Court Case – **In Re Debs** – upheld injunction (court order) requiring workers to return to the job. Said government had responsibility to insure interstate commerce occur.



Sherman Anti-Trust Act

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSN0uUNLOWw>
- Designed to combat the monopolies that were eliminating competition in American business.
- Often used against labor unions

Benjamin Harrison 23 President 1889-1893

