

Late 19th, early 20th Century National Labor Organizations

	Knights of Labor (1869 to late 1880s)	American Federation of Labor (AFL) (1880s-present)	Socialist Party of America (1900 – present)
Leaders	Uriah Stephens Terrence Powderly	Samuel Gompers	Eugene Debs
Type of Organization	Industrial Union	Trade Union	Political Party
Who could join?	Skilled and Unskilled, Women, blacks, immigrants	Skilled only. Locals often discriminated	Anyone
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -better working conditions - higher wages -bureau of labor statistics - worker owned factories - Consumer cooperatives - child labor laws 	Embraced capitalism but concerned about <u>“Bread and Butter”</u> issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher wages - Shorter hours - Better conditions 	Same as KL and AFL Also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -progressive income tax (wealthier people pay higher percentage of income than moderate and lower income people) -minimum wage laws -pensions for employees - government ownership of key industries like railroads and utilities
Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -collective bargaining - arbitration (have disputes settled by independent third party) - demonstrations - opposed using strikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collective bargaining - strikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - run candidates for office, win elections, influence government
Decline	After public blamed Knights for 1885 Haymarket bombing which killed police officers (they weren't responsible) , Union rapidly declined	Still around – merged with CIO during 1950s	Reached height around 1912 with Debs receiving nearly 1 million votes. Declined during and following WWI as a result of anti-radical crusades and resurgence of economic conservatism

1. Which union was the most open to different types of people? What would be the advantage of being more welcoming?
2. Which organization had the most extreme or radical goals? Which was most conservative with regards to goals? Explain.
3. Which organization was most extreme with regards to tactics? Most conservative? Explain.
4. Which organization was the most idealistic? The most realistic? Explain.
5. Which organization do you think had the best approach to helping workers? Explain.