The Progressive Movement- Notes

* Child Labor
	+ There were 2 million child laborers in the US
	+ Most of the unskilled workers in factories (cotton mills) were children
	+ No enforced age limit or working hours
* Muckrakers
	+ They demand social improvement through political action
	+ The main tactic of the movement was to get the public involved and government intervention to stop the worst offenders
	+ There had always been muckrakers but the photograph changed the impact b/c there was evidence, not opinion
* Upton Sinclair
	+ Upton Sinclair’s “The Jungle”
	+ Wrote about meat packing plants
	+ This book describes the filthy conditions of stored meat and danger to the workers
	+ The conditions horrified the public into demanding changes in the industry
* Jacob Riis
	+ The book describes the poverty, disease and crime of NY
	+ Rich citizens donated $ and put public pressure on politicians to make changes
* Garment Strikes
	+ Nov. 23, 1909, more than 20,000 Slavic/ Jewish immigrants (mostly women, teens/ 20s) launched an 11 week strike against the NY garment industry
	+ Bail averaged $2,500 a day, court fines of $5,000
	+ One striker had 6 broken ribs from police, a 10 year old girl was sent to a workhouse for 5 days w/out a trial
	+ The strike cost the factory over $100,000 in profits
	+ The women won only a few demands but started a 5 year campaign for better working conditions
* Triangle Shirtwaist fire
	+ Fire engulfed top 3 floors—200 workers trapped on 8th floor
	+ 146 people died, mostly teenage girls—smoke inhalation, burned, jumped
	+ 3 days to identify bodies
	+ Owners tried for manslaughter—not guilty; no laws to break
	+ Factory opened within weeks
* *Outcomes of Triangle Fire*
	+ Could not ignore reality of sweatshops any longer
	+ Concerned citizens, politicians, business leaders led the fight
	+ Tammany Hall saw political benefits of allowing change