

## Rise of the Union Movement



### Three main goals of the union movement:

1. better wages and benefits
  - a. shorter hours
  - b. higher wages
  - c. better working conditions
2. Political Reform
  - a. Progressive legislation
    - i. BLS
    - ii. Progressive income tax
  - b. *Sometimes* inclusive membership
  - c. suffrage
  - d. Eugene Debs (a founder of IWW) was a five-time candidate for the Socialist Party of America.
3. unity with other unions
  - a. one union representing all in one trade
  - b. a mega-union representing many trades

### Differing goals:

1. “pure and simple unionism” vs. progressive program
2. craft unions vs. all-inclusive or industrial workers

### Major Unions:

Knights of Labor

American Federation of Labor

International Workers of the World

### Problems:

1. association with violent political groups
2. when violence occurred, public stopped supporting them and law enforcement intervened
3. role of judges (with antitrust legislation); 1889 definition of corporations as persons, to be protected by 14<sup>th</sup> amendment
4. role of troops (to quell strikes)
5. exclusive orientation took a long time to overcome