

The Organized Assault on *Laissez Faire* in the Late Nineteenth Century

"Despite the barren political record of the post Civil War era, the basis for [rather than actual] reform was laid during those years. Those responsible were farmers (the Grange), workers (unions), reform groups, and new political parties driven to rebellion by the growing power of Big Business. These organizations were inspired to organize and support a new theory--government should assume a positive role in men's lives. If railroad rates were too high, they argued, the government should force roads to lower their fees; if a business became so monopolistic that it could charge unreasonable prices, it should be broken down into competing units; if working conditions were dangerous, laws should be enacted to protect workers. The gradual acceptance of this theory revolutionized society and political thought, for Americans had long maintained that private property was immune to government interference. With this activity, we will examine the most famous of the groups organized during this period to challenge business

Question	The National Labor Union, 1866-1872	The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, 1867-	The Knights of Labor, 1871-1890s	The American Federation of Labor, 1886-Today	The Industrial Workers of the World (The IWW; Wobblies), 1905-	Populist Party, 1884-1908
Who joined the organization?						
What were the goals of the organization?						
What were the methods used to achieve the goals of the organization?						
What were the significant events and who were the individuals associated with the organization?						
What was the public's perception of the organization?						
How successful was the organization?						

Which Union was the most successful, and why?

