



SOCIAL CLASS REFORM

UNIT V: INDUSTRIALISM AND URBANIZATION



SOCIAL CLASS CHANGES

- Middle Ages (5th-15th centuries): two classes – nobles and peasants.
- 1600s: middle class emerged.
- Industrial Revolution adds complex layers
 - Upper class consisted of very rich industrial and business families who often married other wealthy members.
 - Upper middle class emerged consisting of lawyers, doctors, and business professionals.
 - Lower middle class of teacher, office workers, shop owners, and clerks.
 - At the bottom of the class structure were the factory workers and peasants.
- Harsh working conditions and lived in overcrowded cities
 - No rights (organization, work hours, contracts, etc.)
 - No insurance (unemployment, disability, maternity/paternity leave)

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE – “GILDED” AGE

- People moved from small villages and towns to work in factories located in cities.
- Cities were overcrowded and unsanitary.
- Factory work hours were long.
- Men, women, and children worked 12 to 16 hours a day.
- Mass production methods led to work that was boring.
- Many machines were dangerous.
- The social roles of men and women changed.
- On the farm, men and women worked together.
- Under the new industrial society, the workplace and home were separate.
- Men worked at a factory while women usually worked at home.
- Upper middle class children had a chance of being educated while lower class children did not.
- Women's often worked in factories and then cared for their children after work.

“GOSPEL OF WEALTH”

"By taxing estates heavily at death the State marks its condemnation of the selfish millionaire's unworthy life. It is desirable that nations should go much further in this direction."

-Andrew Carnegie

- **Andrew Carnegie**
 - Living a lavish lifestyle was wrong
 - Wealth should create more wealth, but spread amongst population
 - Avoided aristocratic lifestyle (in his own mind)
- **Russell Conwell**
 - Wealth is a blessing from God
 - It is the duty of people to amass wealth to share

"Money is power, money is force...Money printed your bible, money builds your churches, money sends your missionaries, and money pays your preachers. The man who gets the largest salary can do the most good with the power that has been furnished to him."

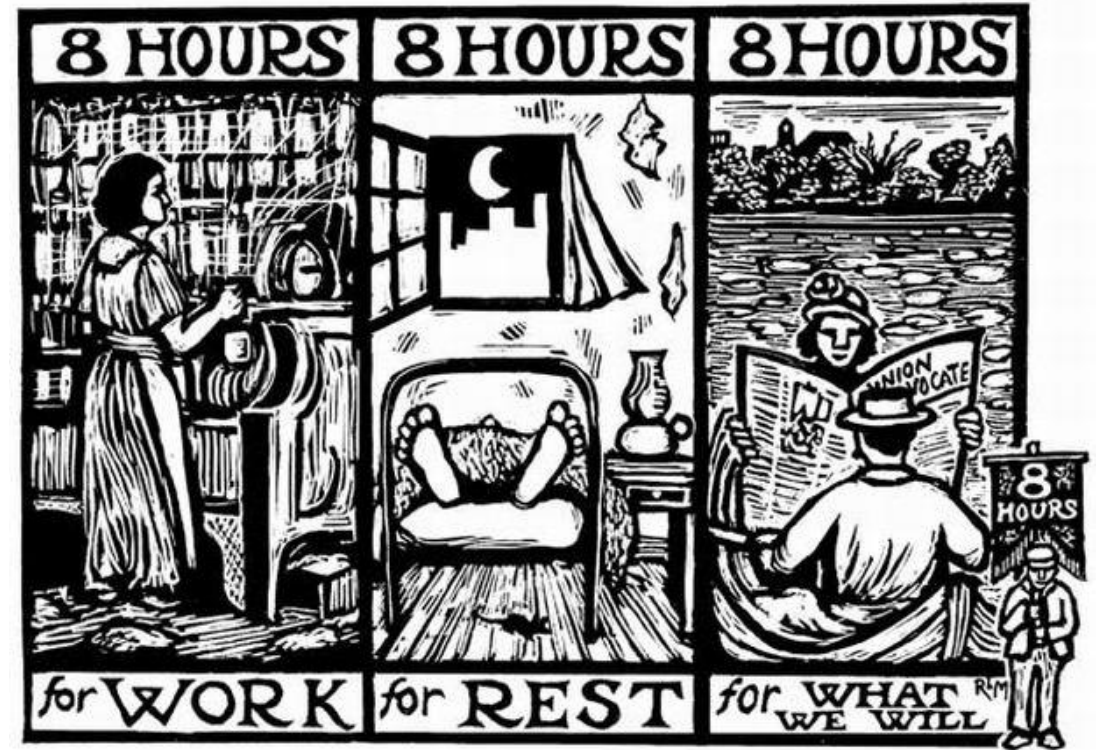
-Russell Conwell

LABOR UNIONS FORM



NATIONAL LABOR UNION

- First labor federation in United States – 1866 – 1874
- Led by William Sylvis
- **GOALS:**
 - Organize all national labor federations regardless of craft
 - Agrarian, industrial & male or female
 - Fight for eight-hour day
 - Create National Labor Party (political)
 - **Arbitration** (not strikes)
- **EFFECTIVENESS:**
 - Successfully unites workers
 - Strength in the hundreds of thousands (numbers are contested)
- Downfall due to legal loopholes and rise of Knights of Labor

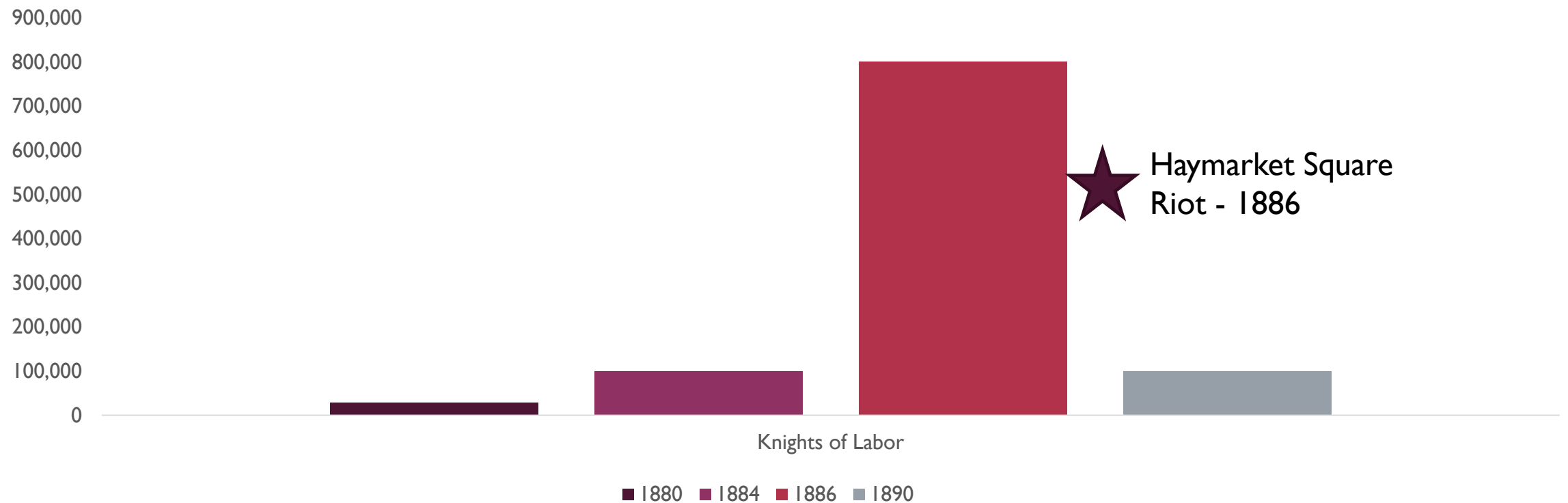


KNIGHTS OF LABOR

- Founded in 1869 and led by Terence Powderly
- Replaced NLU
- **GOALS:**
 - Continued fight for eight-hour day
 - End child and convict labor
 - Establish **cooperatives** (workplaces owned by workers)
 - **Georgism** – Wealth gained from natural resources is shared to all
- **EFFECTIVENESS:**
 - Creation of labor songs
 - United different racial/ethnic groups
- Downfall due to political problems and association to the Haymarket Riot of 1886
- Last group - 1949



MEMBERSHIP: KNIGHTS OF LABOR



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

- Founded in 1866 from defectors of the K.o.L.
- Led by *elected* leader, **Samuel Gompers**
- Exclusive to “skilled” and “craft” workers, whites, and males
- **GOALS:**
 - Convince companies to recognize unions
 - Increase **collective bargaining**
 - Support push for **closed shops** – only hiring within union
- **EFFECTIVENESS:**
 - Largest union in the country
- Gains more power with mergers in 20th century
- **“Bread and Butter Unionism”** – Better wages, hours and working conditions



SAMUEL GOMPERS

- 1850-1924
- American Cigar maker
- Supporter of Georgism / Collective Bargaining
- Unions should elect “friends” to “defeat enemies” in political arena



The worst crime against working people is a company which fails to operate at a profit.

Show me the country that has no strikes and I'll show you the country in which there is no liberty.

Do I believe in arbitration? I do. But not in arbitration between the lion and the lamb, in which the lamb is in the morning found inside the lion.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

- Founded in 1905
- “Wobblies” were the most radical
- Led by Big Bill Haywood
- Dual union-ship was allowed
 - IWW and AFL for example
- **GOALS:**
 - Supplant (take over) business owners and capitalist system
 - Establish grassroots control – elect own management
- **EFFECTIVENESS:**
 - Largest union in the country at time
 - Direct actions over peaceful protest at times
- Still exists today in Seattle, Chicago, and even NYC

