

SOCIAL DARWINISM VS. SOCIAL GOSPEL

The Progressive Movement During the
American Industrial Revolution

Do Now

- During the Industrial Revolution many people had ideas on how to improve society.
- Who's job do you think is it to help the poor and fix the problems in society (ie government, churches, people themselves)? Explain your answer.

Standard:

- **US 8** Explain the concepts of social Darwinism and the Social Gospel.

Objective:

- Students will be able to analyze the similarities and differences between the ideologies of **Social Darwinism** and **Social Gospel**

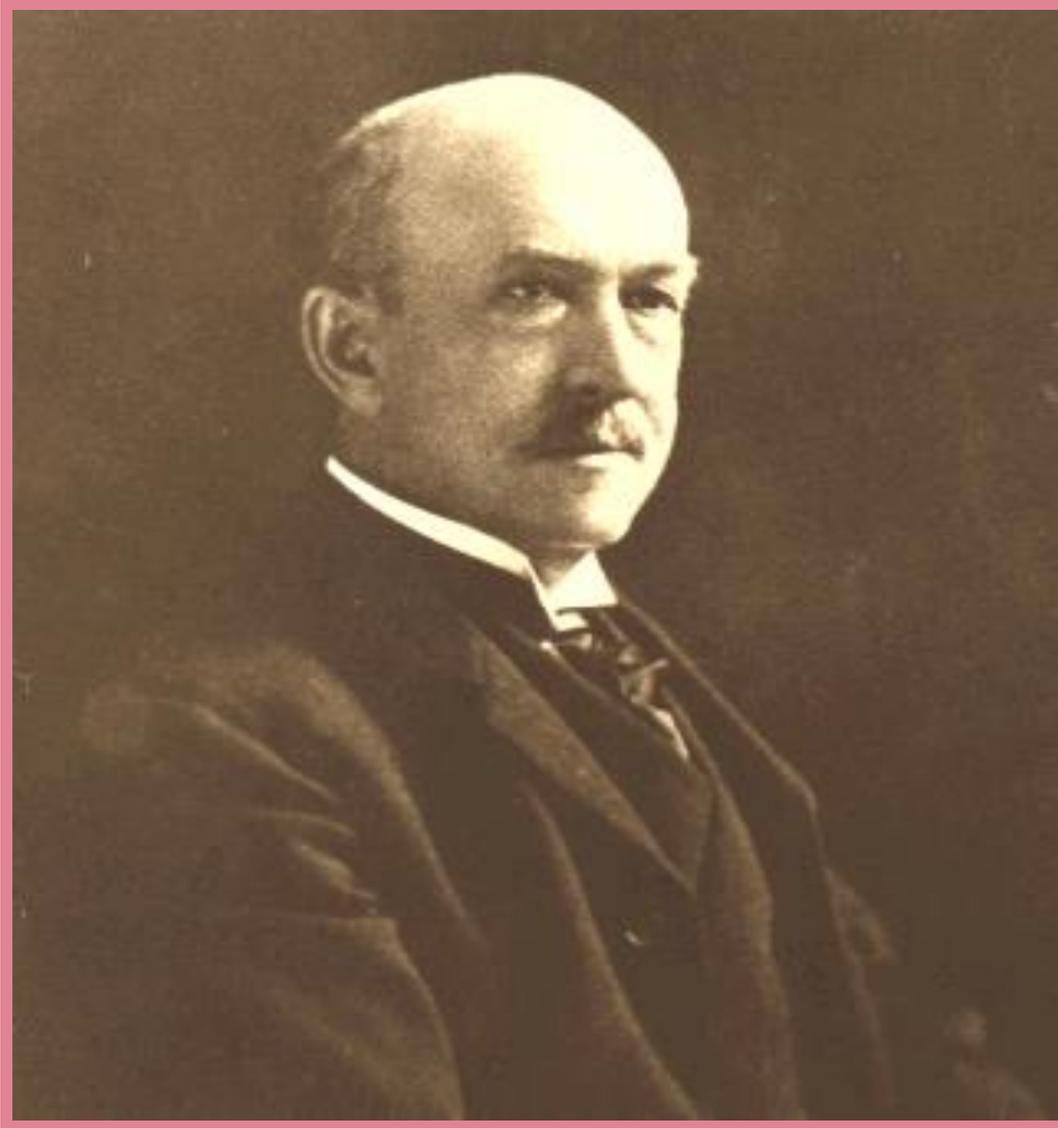
Important Words

- **Ideology:** An organized collection of *ideas*.
- **Social Reform:** *Changes* in society for the better
- **Natural Selection:** Process that living things *survive* due to their favorable traits

Social Darwinism

- Definition: Applying Darwin's theory of natural selection to *Human Society*.
- **Competition** is essential in a free-market society.
 - (*ie. The rich industrialists used the excuse of Social Darwinism for why they were so rich.*)

William Graham Sumner



- 1840-1910)
- was a leading American social scientist of the late 19th century
- Yale Professor
- Defended radical *laissez-faire* as being justified by laws of evolution
- He heavily criticized socialism/communism

Social Gospel

- Definition: A religious movement to solve problems of society, child labor, crime, poor working conditions and poor schooling resulting from the Industrial Revolution.

- (ie. YMCA, Salvation Army)

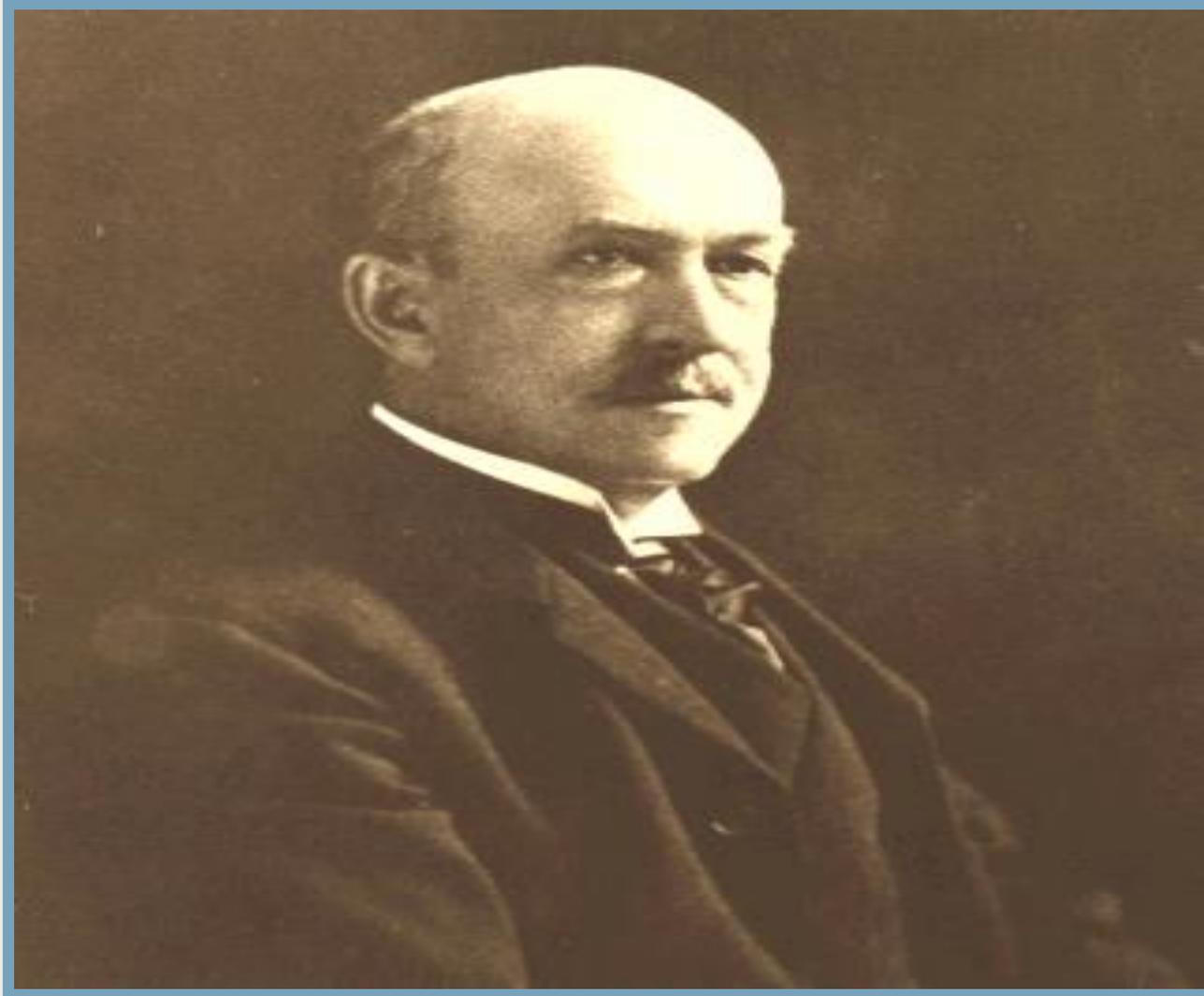
Activity: Social Darwin or Social Gospel?

- As you read the quote or the autobiographies, try to figure out if they believe in the ideology of Social Gospel or Social Darwinism.

“Before the tribunal of nature a man has no more right to life than a rattlesnake; he has no more right to liberty than any wild beast; his right to pursuit of happiness is nothing but a license to maintain the struggle for existence...”

—William Graham Sumner, *Earth-hunger, and other essays*, p. 234.

William Graham Sumner



Social Darwinist

William Sunday

- Sunday was a lifelong Republican, and he espoused the mainstream political and social views of his native Midwest: individualism, competitiveness, personal discipline, and opposition to government regulation. Writers such as Sinclair Lewis, Henry M. Tichenor, and John Reed attacked Sunday as a tool of big business, and poet Carl Sandburg called him a "four-flusher" and a "bunkshooter." Nevertheless, Sunday sided with Progressives on some issues. For example, he denounced child labor and supported urban reform and women's suffrage. Sunday condemned capitalists "whose private lives are good, but whose public lives are very bad," as well as those "who would not pick the pockets of one man with the fingers of their hand" but who would "without hesitation pick the pockets of eighty million people with fingers of their monopoly or commercial advantage." He never lost his sympathy for the poor, and he sincerely tried to bridge the gulf between the races during the zenith of the Jim Crow era, although on at least two occasions in the mid-1920s Sunday received contributions from the Ku Klux Klan.

William Sunday



Social Gospel

William Gladden

- In 1875, Gladden became the Congregationalist pastor in Springfield, Massachusetts. He published *Working People and their Employers* in 1876, which advocated the unionization of employees; Gladden was the first notable U.S. clergyman to approve of unions. Gladden did not support socialism or laissez faire economics, advocating instead the application of "Christian law" to issues. He was a charter member of the American Economic Association.

Washington Gladden

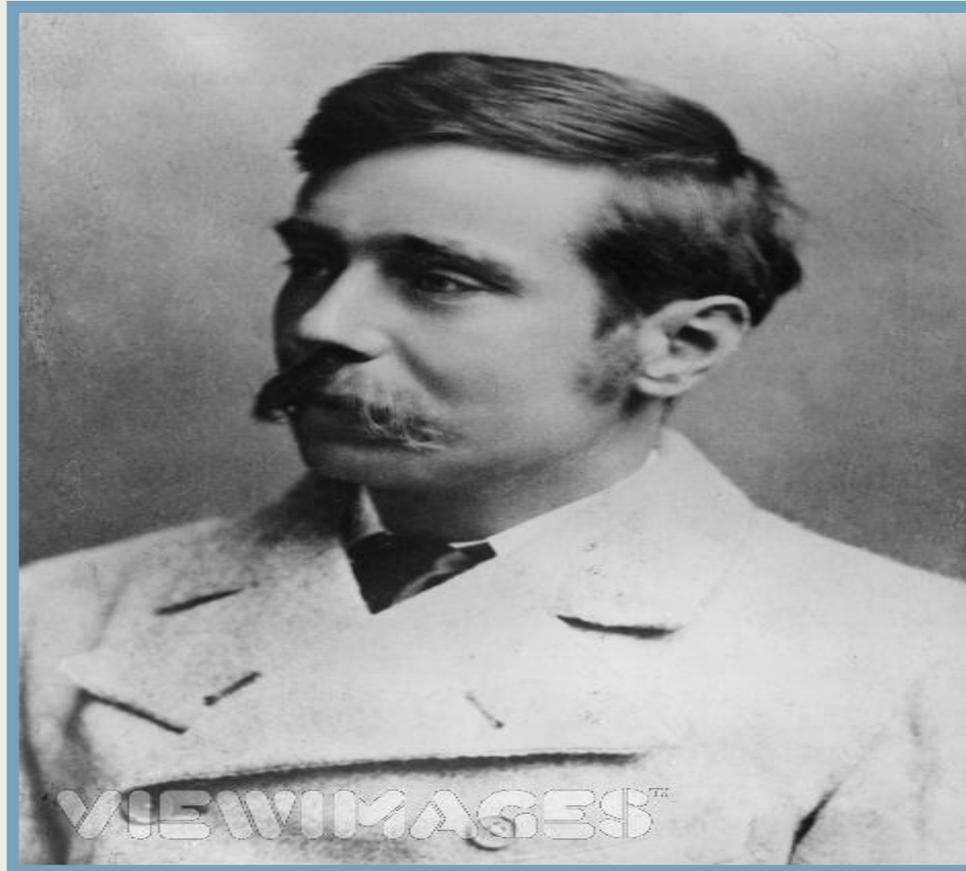


Social Gospel

HG Wells

- Wells contemplates the ideas of nature and nurture and questions humanity in books such as *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.
- Not all his scientific romances ended in a Utopia, and Wells also wrote a dystopian novel, *When the Sleeper Wakes* (1899, rewritten as *The Sleeper Awakes*, 1910), which pictures a future society where the classes have become more and more separated, leading to a revolt of the masses against the rulers.
- *The Island of Doctor Moreau* is even darker. The narrator, having been trapped on an island of animals vivisected (unsuccessfully) into human beings, eventually returns to England; he finds himself unable to shake off the perceptions of his fellow humans as barely civilized beasts, slowly reverting to their animal natures.

H.G. Wells



Social Darwin

Dwight Moody

- "If this world is going to be reached, I am convinced that it must be done by men and women of average talent."
- With his boundless physical energy, natural shrewdness, self-confidence, and eternal optimism, Dwight Lyman Moody could have become a Gilded Age industrial giant like John D. Rockefeller or Jay Gould. Instead, he became one of the great evangelists of the nineteenth century.

Dwight L. Moody



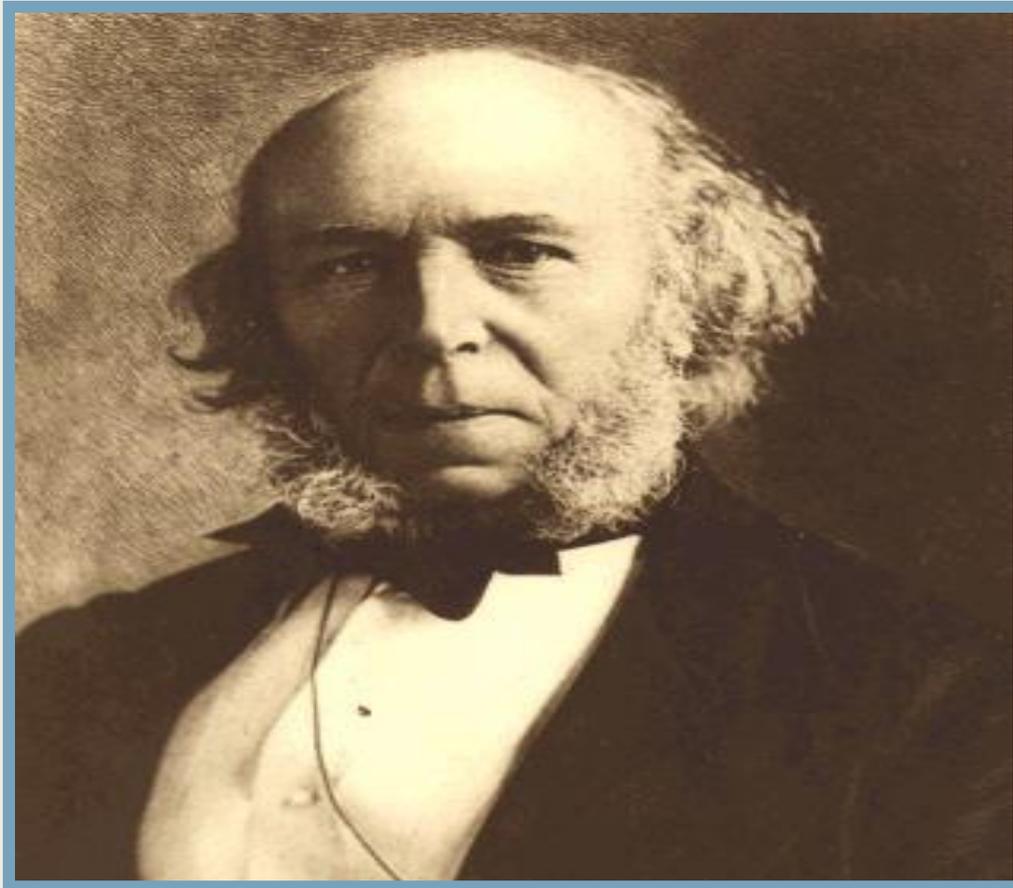
Social Gospel

Herbert Spencer

- Spencer is best known for coining the expression "survival of the fittest", which he did in *Principles of Biology* (1864), after reading Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*.
- This term strongly suggests natural selection, yet as Spencer extended evolution into realms of sociology and ethics

Herbert Spencer

Coined the phrase
“survival of the fittest”



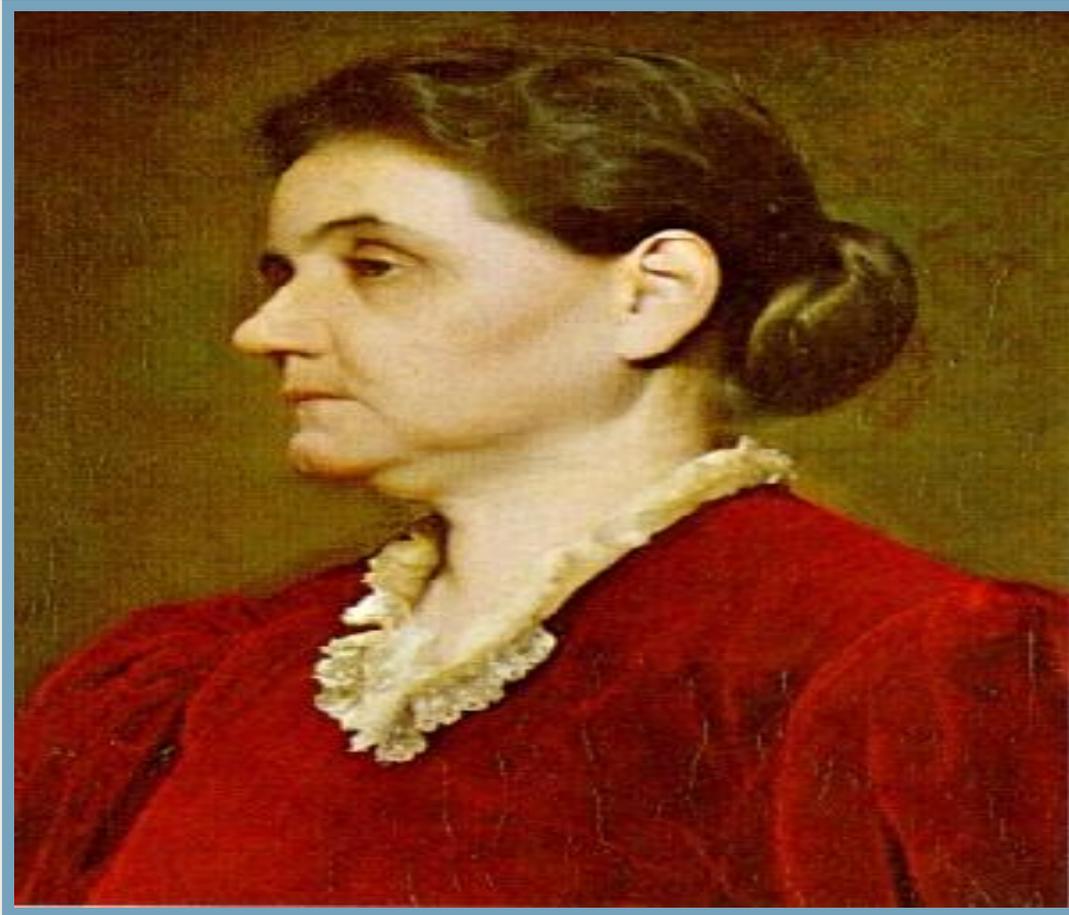
Social Darwin

Jane Addams

- a pioneer American settlement social worker, public philosopher, sociologist, author, and leader in women's suffrage and world peace.
- In an era when presidents such as Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson identified themselves as reformers and social activists, Addams was one of the most prominent reformers of the Progressive Era.
- She helped turn America to issues of concern to mothers, such as the needs of children, local public health, and world peace. She said that if women were to be responsible for cleaning up their communities and making them better places to live, they needed the vote to be effective in doing so. Addams became a role model for middle-class women who volunteered to uplift their communities.

- In 1931 she became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- and is recognized as the founder of the social work profession in the United States.
- In 1889 Addams and her college friend and intimate partner Ellen Gates Starr co-founded a settlement house, the Hull House, in Chicago, Illinois. Hull House offered a comprehensive program of civic, cultural, recreational, and educational activities

Jane Addams



Social Gospel

Exit Ticket:

- What are the similarities and differences between the ideologies of Social Darwinism and Social Gospel?