



>> Progressives worried about the unhealthy conditions facing children who lived in urban slums. These children are playing near a dead horse.

 **Interactive Illustration**



>> Muckrakers such as Nelly Bly wrote news articles that stirred public opinion in favor of Progressive causes.

? LIST Which areas of society did Progressive reformers wish to change?

The Impact of Muckrakers

Socially conscious journalists and other reformers dramatized the need for reform. Their sensational investigative reports uncovered a wide range of problems afflicting America in the early 1900s. Even Theodore Roosevelt agreed with much of what they said, he called these writers **muckrakers** because he thought them too fascinated with the ugliest details of things. (A muckrake is a tool used to clean manure out of animals' stables.) The writers were admired at first but in time took up Roosevelt's taunting name as a badge of honor.

The muckrakers' articles appeared in magazines and newspapers that entered millions of American homes. People across the nation were horrified by the conditions that muckrakers revealed. Muckrakers' accounts prompted Americans to push for reforms to correct these ills.

Journalists Uncover Injustices One leading muckraker was **Lincoln Steffens**. He was the managing editor at *McClure's*, a magazine known for uncovering social problems. In 1903, Steffens published *The Shame of the Cities*, a collection of articles exposing political corruption in the nation's cities. His reports exposed how the government of Philadelphia let utility companies charge their customers excessively high fees. He showed how corrupt politicians won elections by bribing and threatening voters, and revealed how political corruption affected all aspects of life in a city.

The visitor [to St. Louis] is told of the wealth of the residents, of the financial strength of the banks, and of the growing importance of the industries; yet he sees poorly paved, refuse-burdened streets, and dusty or muck-covered alleys; he passes a ramshackle firetrap crowded with the sick and learns that it is the City Hospital. . . . Finally, he turns a tap in the hotel to

see liquid mud flow into [the] wash basin or bathtub.

—Lincoln Steffens and Claude Wetmore, "Corruption and Reform in St. Louis," *McClure's Magazine*, October 1902

Another influential muckraker was **Jacob Riis**, a photographer for the *New York Evening Sun*. Riis turned his camera on the crowded, unsafe, rat-infested tenement buildings where the urban poor lived. Between 1890 and 1903, he published several works, including *How the Other Half Lives*, that shocked the nation's conscience and led to reforms.

Other outraged writers joined Riis and Steffens. In *The History of Standard Oil*, Ida Tarbell reported that John D. Rockefeller used ruthless methods to ruin his competitors, charge higher prices, and thereby reap huge profits. Others proclaimed the need to improve schools or warned of the breakdown of family life because mothers had to work long hours in factories. John Spargo focused attention on the dangerous and difficult lives of child workers.

Novelists Highlight Social Issues Fiction writers put a human face on social problems. They developed a new genre — the naturalist novel — that honestly portrayed human misery and the struggles of common people. Theodore Dreiser, a midwesterner raised in poverty, published *Sister Carrie* in 1900. His provocative novel traces the fate of a small-town girl drawn into the brutal urban worlds of Chicago and New York.

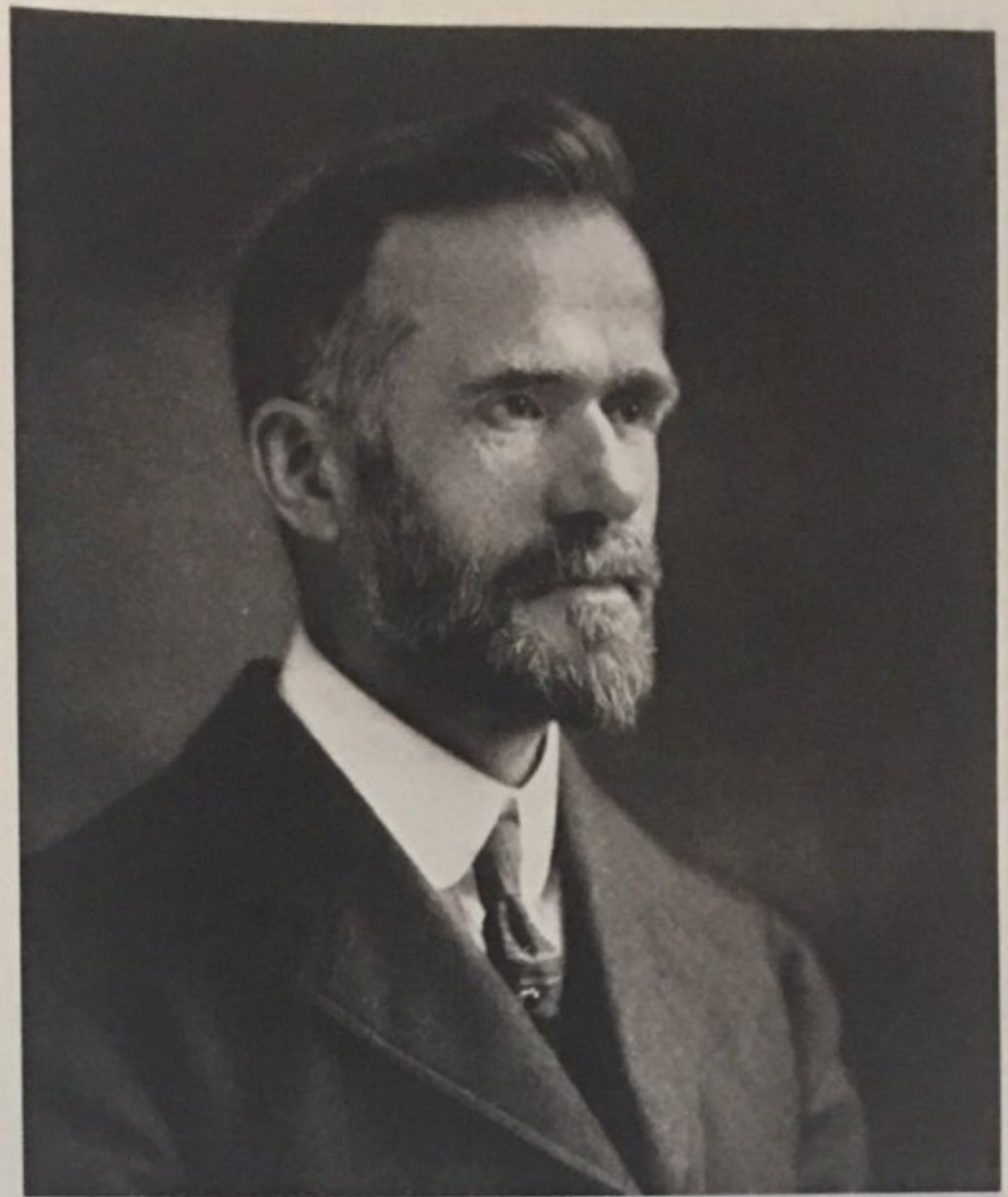
Naturalist novels became very popular. Frank Norris's *The Octopus* fascinated readers by dramatizing the Southern Pacific Railroad's stranglehold on struggling California farmers.

In *The Jungle*, **Upton Sinclair** related the despair of immigrants working in Chicago's stockyards and revealed the unsanitary conditions in the industry. Sinclair's account eventually prompted regulations to protect food safety. African American author Frances Ellen Watkins portrayed some of the struggles of black Americans in her 1892 novel *Iola Leroy*.

2 RECALL Who were the muckrakers and what did they accomplish?

Reformers Impact Society

The work of the muckrakers increased popular support for Progressivism. Progressive activists promoted laws to improve living conditions, public health, and schools. They urged government to regulate businesses. They worked as volunteers living among the people



>> Walter Rauschenbusch became the leading proponent of the Social Gospel movement with the publication of his 1907 work *Christianity and the Social Crisis*.

they sought to help. They believed that careful social planning would make American life better.

Issues Affecting the Social Gospel Many reformers, like Walter Rauschenbusch, thought that Christianity should be the basis of social reform. A child of German immigrants, Rauschenbusch had become a Baptist minister. He blended ideas from German socialism and American Progressivism to form what he called the **Social Gospel**. By following Bible teachings about charity and justice, he explained, people could make society "the kingdom of God;" that is, make life on earth closer to the promised paradise of heaven by helping others and making the world more just.

Many Protestant leaders followed Rauschenbusch's program. Many churches already provided community support and help. Issues such as child labor and long working hours led social Gospel adherents to call for the end of child labor and a shorter workweek. They also pushed for the federal government to limit the power of corporations and trusts.

Jane Addams Contributes to the Settlement House Movement An important goal of many Progressives, including those influenced by religious ideals, was to improve the lives of poor people in the cities. One approach was the **settlement house**, a

community center that provided social services to the urban poor. Most settlement houses were privately funded and run by volunteers. Settlement house workers gave mothers classes in child care and taught English to immigrants. They ran nursery schools and kindergartens. They also provided theater, art, and dance programs for adults.

A woman named **Jane Addams** became a leading figure in the settlement house movement. While visiting Europe, she was inspired by the work at Toynbee Hall, a settlement house in London. In 1889, Addams opened Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago. Over the years, Hull House grew to include 13 buildings. Through Hull House's programs, Addams made significant social and economic contributions to the lives of the people living in its poor Chicago neighborhood. By educating poor children and adults, these programs increased their earning power.

Furthermore, the success of Hull House inspired other college-educated, middle-class women to become social workers. By 1911, the country had more than 400 settlement houses. Addams was also politically active. She supported the Progressive party candidacy of Theodore Roosevelt in 1912 and later helped found the American Civil Liberties Union. She worked closely with labor and other reform groups seeking to use political means to improve working conditions for the urban poor.

Using Hull House as a base, Addams also worked to accomplish political goals, including laws regarding labor and tenement houses. In addition, she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

Religious organizations such as the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) also provided services to the urban poor. In addition to its goal of promoting Christian values, the YMCA offered classes, dances, and sports.

Progressive-Era Issues Affecting Children

Progressives also tried to help children. Leading effort was a lawyer named Florence Kelley. Kelley helped convince the state of Illinois to ban child labor, and other states soon passed similar laws. In 1906, Kelley helped form the National Child Labor Commission, which successfully lobbied the federal government to create the U.S. Children's Bureau in 1912. This agency examined any issue that affected the health and welfare of children. The agency still works to protect children today.

But progress in children's rights had a long way to go. In 1916, Congress passed the Keating-Cover Act, which banned child labor in all states. However, two years later, the Supreme Court ruled the act unconstitutional. It was not until 1938 that Congress would end child labor for good.

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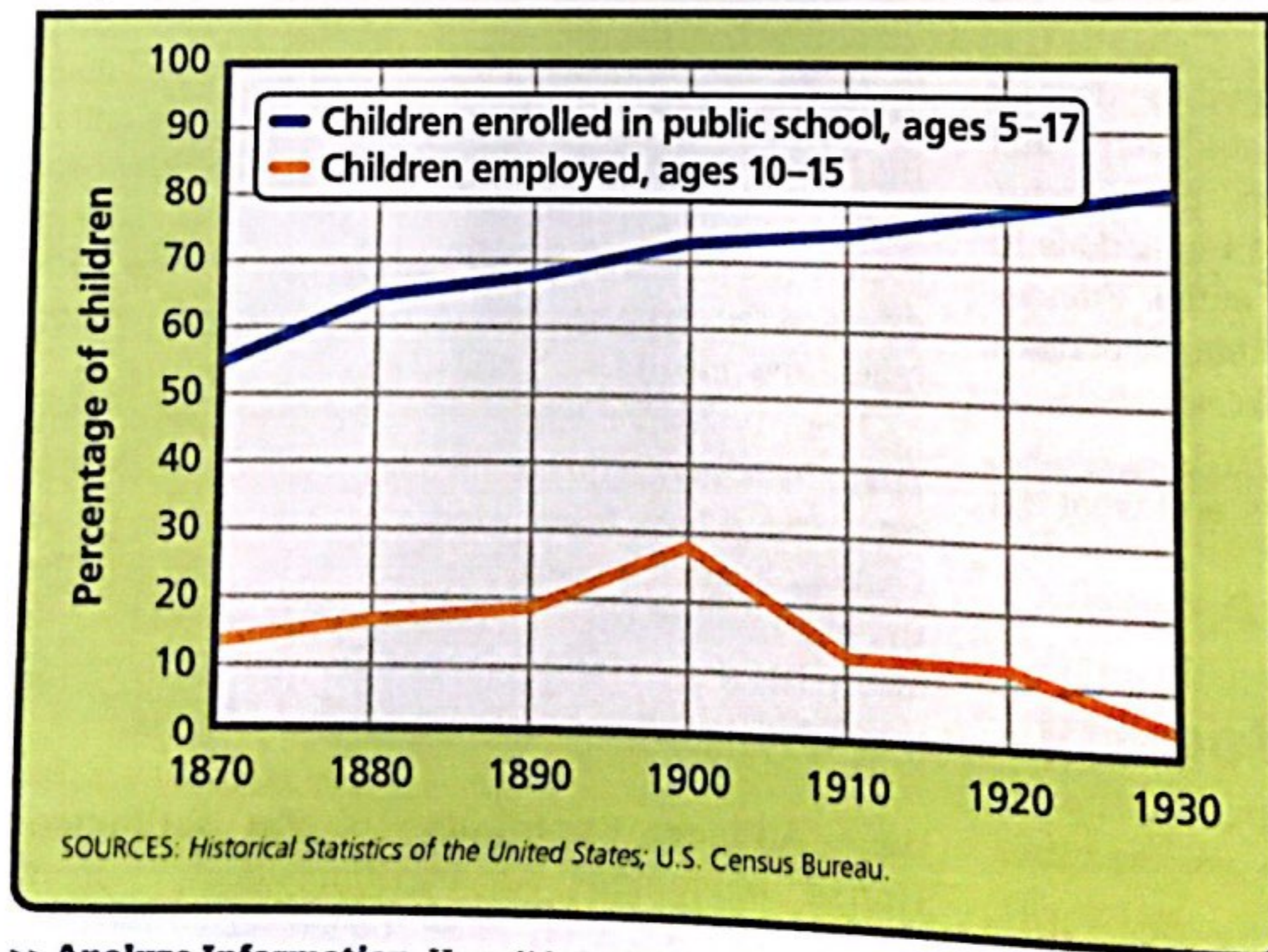
In March Factory in focused attention Workers in terrifying fire exits. The fire Jewish workers desperation found many sewing machines

After their calls workplaces suit. Many laws, which on the job.

Progressive laws limited efforts Supreme Court ruled were unconstitutional against many work towns

RECALL urban population

Improvements for Children in the Progressive Era



>> Analyze Information How did child labor laws affect children's employment levels during the Progressive Era?

Progressives also tried to better children's lives by improving education. A number of states passed laws that required children to attend school until a certain age. However, there were heated debates about what children should learn and how they should learn. Some argued that they should be taught only work skills. Others said they should learn to appreciate literature and music. Most educators agreed that girls should learn different things from boys.

Educator John Dewey criticized American schools for teaching children to memorize facts but not to think creatively. Dewey wanted schools to teach new subjects such as history and geography, as well as practical skills like cooking and carpentry. His ideas were not adopted at once, but in later years, many states put them into effect.

Reforms in the Workplace In the early 1900s, the United States had the highest rate of industrial accidents in the world. Long hours, poor ventilation, hazardous fumes, and unsafe machinery threatened not only workers' health but also their lives. Each year some thirty thousand workers died on the job, while another half a million were injured.

In March 1911, a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City shocked Americans and focused attention on the need to protect workers. Workers in the factory had little chance to escape the raging fire because managers had locked most of the exits. The fire killed 146 workers, most of them young Jewish women. Many jumped from the windows in desperation. Inside the smoldering ruins, firefighters found many more victims, "skeletons bending over sewing machines."

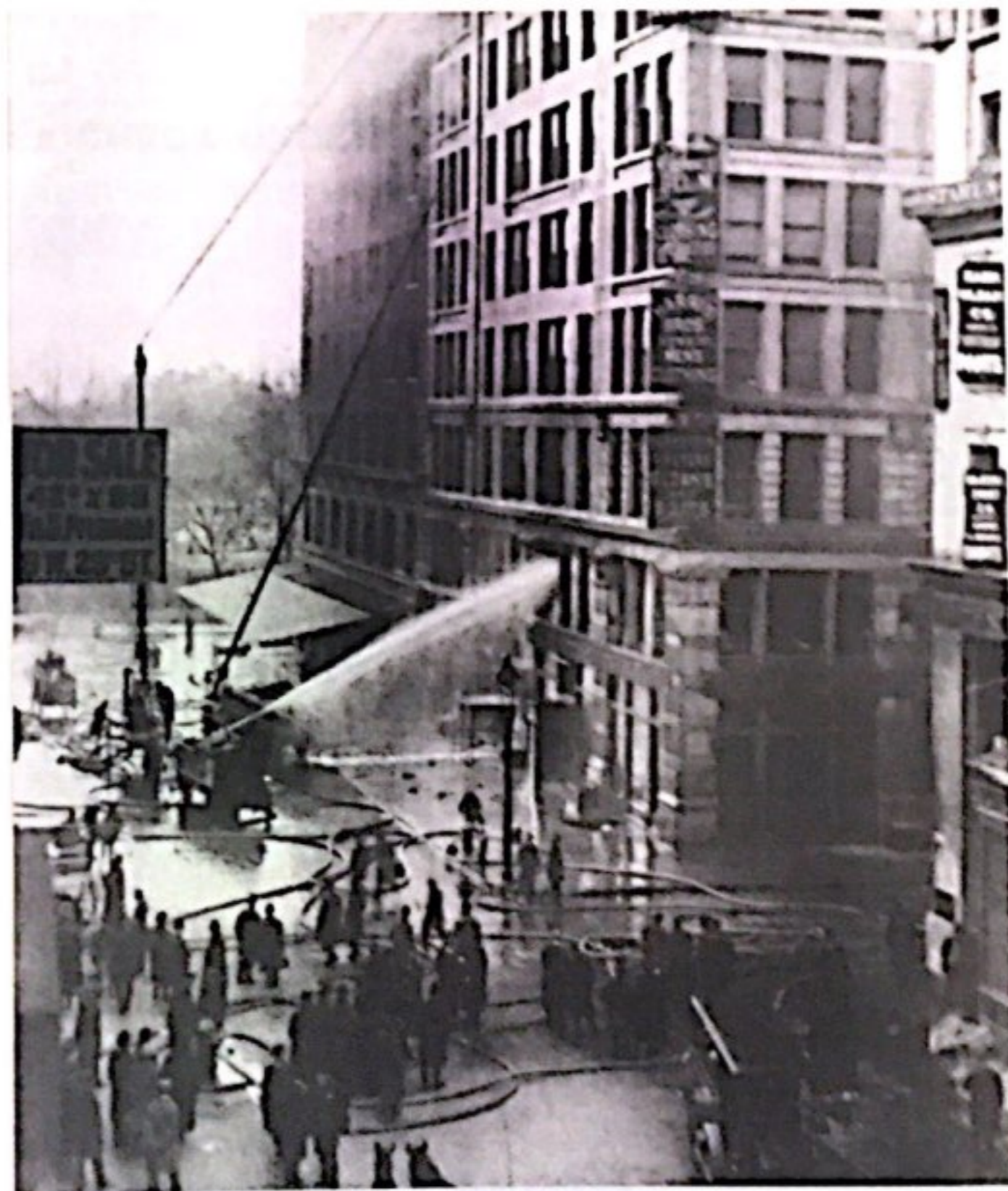
After the blaze, outraged Progressives intensified their calls for reform. New York passed laws to make workplaces safer, and other cities and states followed suit. Many states also adopted workers' compensation laws, which set up funds to pay workers who were hurt on the job.

Progressives also persuaded some states to pass laws limiting the workday to ten hours. However, their efforts suffered a blow in 1905 when the Supreme Court ruled in *Lochner v. New York* that such laws were unconstitutional. Until the 1930s, the court ruled against many labor laws, but Progressives continued to work towards the goal of protecting workers.


RECALL How did Progressives work to help the urban poor?



>> Jane Addams founded one of the nation's first settlement houses, Hull House, in 1889. Here, she sits with a group of children visiting Hull House in 1935.



>> Firefighters fought to extinguish the catastrophic Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. **Draw Conclusions** How did accidents like this fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in 1911 lead to improvements in working conditions?

 **Interactive Gallery**

calls for improvements in education, reforms of corrupt government, and labor reforms such as the passage of child labor laws. These activists presented suffrage as not only an expansion of the democratic process but also as a way to help solve many of society's other ills. This strategy linked the women's suffrage movement with the powerful wave of Progressive reform.

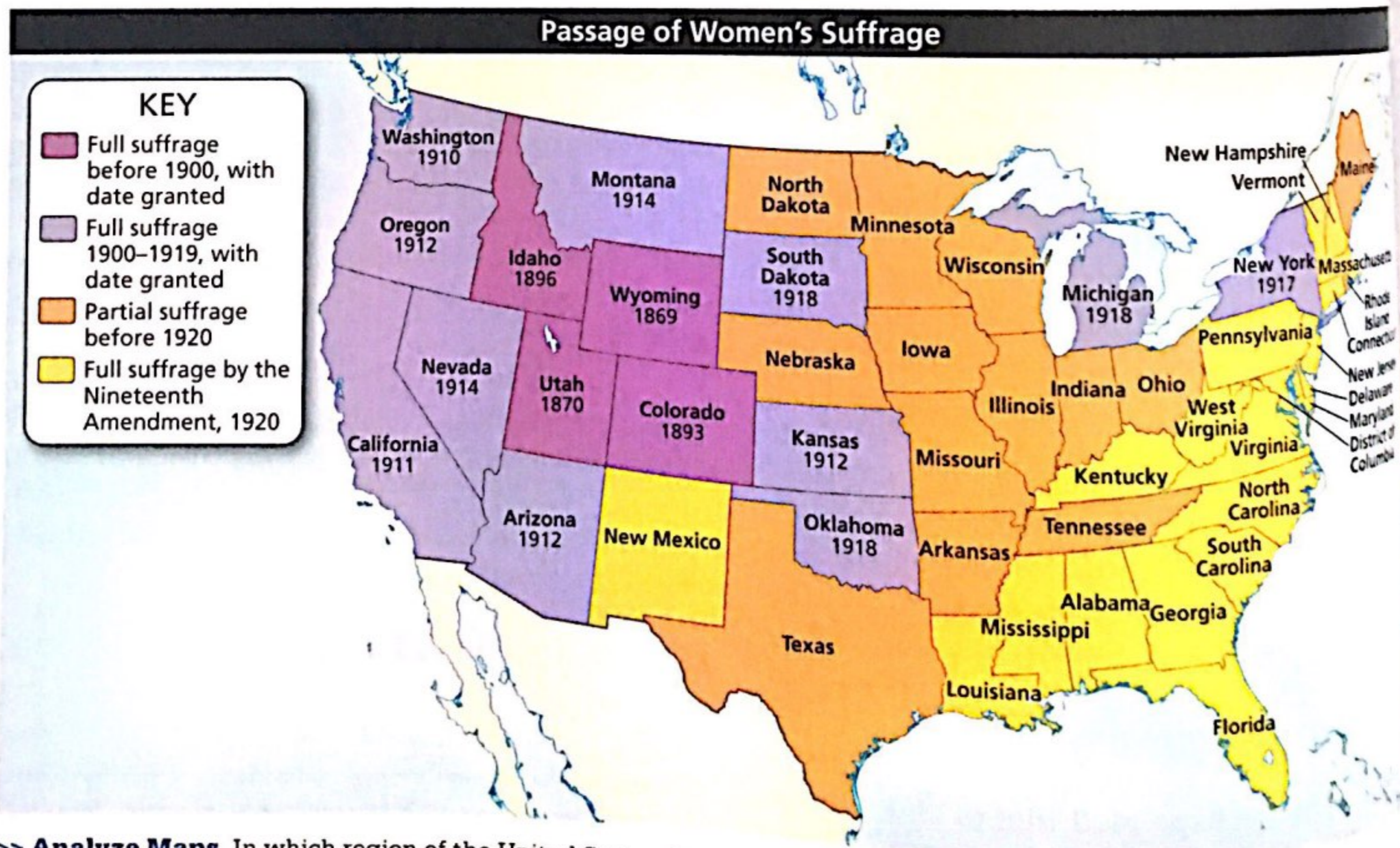
The suffrage movement's new goals also helped it grow by making it more appealing to working women. The rising number of college-educated women flooded into the movement as well. Some women, known as social activists, took to the streets, organizing mass parades and rallies. Catt, while cautious about these new methods, added them to her tactics at the NAWSA. Some women social activists grew even more daring in their strategies to win the vote.

Alice Paul, their best known leader, was raised in a Quaker home where she was encouraged to be independent. Paul attended a Quaker college and the New York School of Social Work before earning a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1912. She believed that drastic steps were needed to win the vote. By 1913, she was organizing women to recruit others across the nation. They drew in women of many backgrounds, from Maud Younger, known as the "millionaire waitress" because she organized California's first waitresses' union, to Nina Otero-

State Board of Health

By 1917, Paul had formed the National Woman's Party (NWP), which used public protest marches. The NWP became the first group to march with signs outside the White House. Hundreds of women were arrested in these protests. Some went on hunger strikes, stating that they would not eat until they could vote. While in jail, some women, including Paul, were force-fed to end their hunger strikes. These methods angered many people, including women in other suffrage groups. Nevertheless, they drew attention to their cause and made less radical groups like the NAWSA look tame by comparison.

The Nineteenth Amendment Expands Political Rights In the 1916 presidential election, both the Democratic and the Republican parties campaigned for extending the right to vote to women. As the movement gained support, however, opposition also increased. The liquor industry strongly opposed women's suffrage because of women's support for temperance. The textile industry also opposed suffrage because it feared women would favor laws limiting child labor. Even some women worked against the movement. The National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (NAOWS) believed that the effort



>> Analyze Maps In which region of the United States did the majority of states achieve full suffrage for women before the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment?

war the vote... away from
many and volunteer work that benefited society in
many ways. But as pressure for women's suffrage grew,
the NAOWS faded away.

When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that "the world must be made safe for democracy." Suffragists were astounded.

How could America be a democracy, they wondered, if women could not vote? Nevertheless, Carrie Catt and Florence Kelley led the NAWSA to support the war effort. Their actions and those of the NWP convinced a growing number of legislators to support a women's suffrage amendment.

In June 1917, envoys from Russia visited President Wilson. Alice Paul and her activists saw a golden opportunity. The Russians had just overthrown their czar, established a republic, and granted women the right to vote. As the envoys neared the White House, the suffragists stunned an embarrassed Wilson by unveiling a banner that proclaimed America was not a democracy. In 1918, an amendment to extend the vote to women was once again considered by Congress. It passed in the House of Representatives but was narrowly rejected in the Senate.


The following year, the amendment was offered in Congress once again. In June 1919, Congress finally approved the **Nineteenth Amendment**, which stated that the right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex."

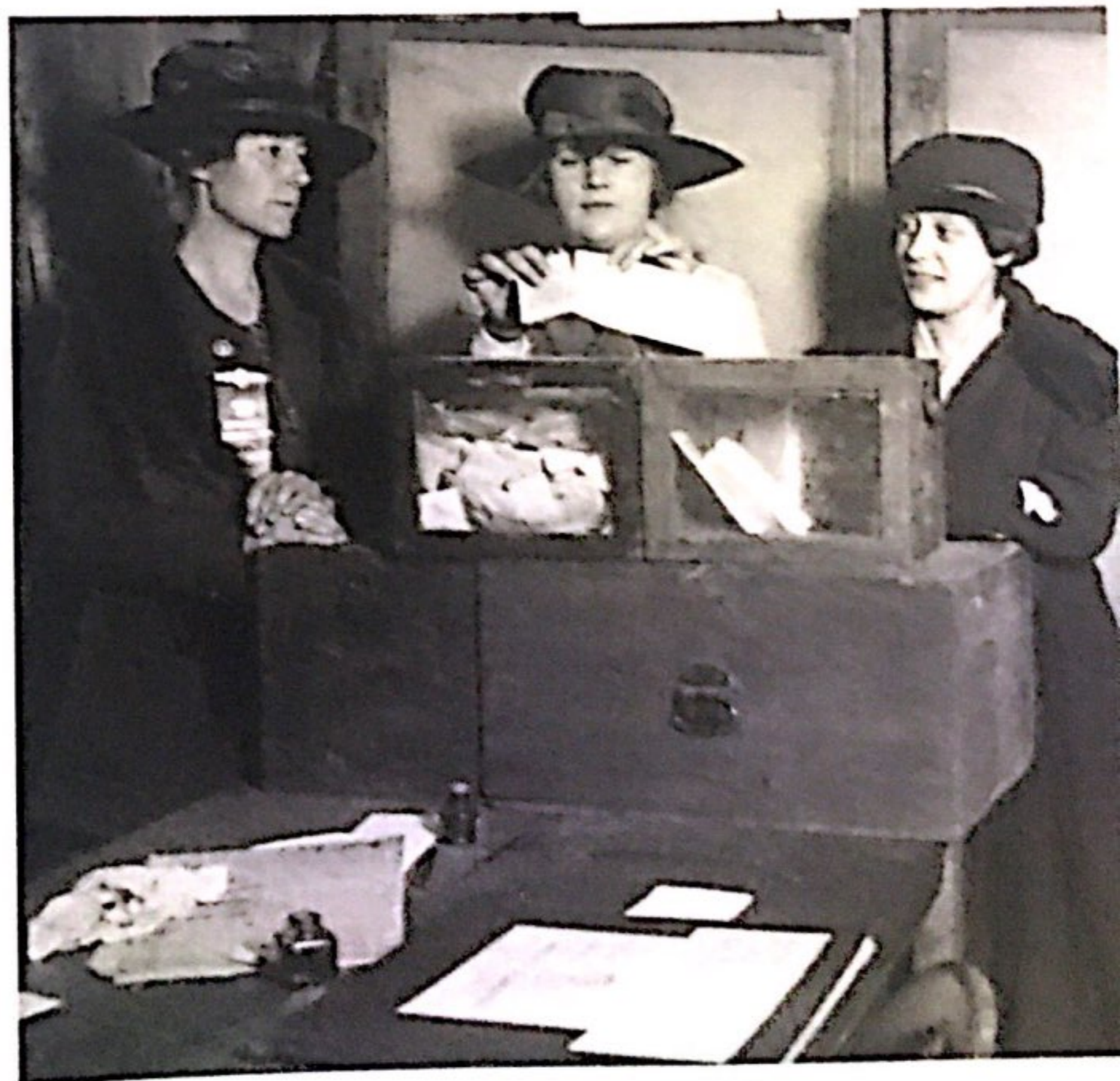
On August 18, 1920, the Tennessee State House of Representatives passed the amendment by one vote. With Tennessee's ratification, enough states had passed the amendment that it became official. Alice Paul and Carrie Catt both claimed responsibility for the victory. In fact, according to historian Nancy Cott, "neither the shocking militancy of the National Women's Party nor the ladylike moderation of NAWSA was so solely responsible for victory as each group publicly claimed." The rival groups both contributed to the triumph of the women's suffrage movement, which also gave a boost to the budding civil rights movement of the twentieth century. The impact of the Nineteenth Amendment was felt immediately. On November 2, 1920, Catt, Paul, and millions of other American women voted for the first time in a U.S. presidential election.

2 CHECK UNDERSTANDING How did the Nineteenth Amendment expand participation in the democratic process?



>> Women who protested their lack of suffrage often landed in jail, where they continued to protest despite the limitations of their environment.

 **Interactive Timeline**



>> Millions of women voted for the first time after the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment prohibited states from denying the right to vote based on sex.