

US History Progressive Politicians

Learning Target:

I can identify the reasons for the growth of American public education and examine the role it had in early civil rights.

8. Progressivism & Education

Expanding Public Education

Schools for Children

- Most states had established public schools by the Civil War but many children did not attend
- As US industrialized more children began to attend school
- By 1895 most states required 12-16 weeks of school for children 8-14
- By 1880 62% of white children attended elementary school but only 34% of black children

Growth of High Schools

- High schools became more popular as more employees were needed with advanced skills
- Carnegie pointed out that to keep workers loyal to capitalism society had to “provide ladders upon which the aspiring can rise”
- By 1900 more than half a million students attended high school which traditional courses
- Other courses offered: drafting, carpentry, mechanics, stenography, bookkeeping (industrial and office jobs)

Public Education for Immigrants

- Immigrants were encouraged to attend school for Americanization
- Taught English and many patriotic verses about Washington & Lincoln
- Some immigrants resented suppression of native language and religion / Led to Catholic schools

Public Education for African Americans

- Blacks mostly excluded from public secondary education
- By 1890 fewer than 1% of blacks attended high school and by 1910 about 3% did
- Most attended private not public schools
- Many black colleges founded like Howard and Bethune-Cookman

Expansion of Higher Education

- By 1900 only 2.3% of Americans attended college / By 1920 that quadrupled
- Industrialism led to higher educational needs similar to expansion of high school

Booker T. Washington vs. W.E.B. Du Bois

Booker T. Washington

- Born a slave and graduated from Virginia’s Hampton Institute
- Believed racism would end once blacks acquired useful skills & proved their economic value
- Believed in a gradual end to racism

- Started the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute
 - Aimed to equip blacks with teaching diplomas and skills in labor
 - Said “No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem”

W.E.B. Du Bois

- First African American to receive doctorate from Harvard
- Strongly disagreed with Washington's gradual approach to racism
- Started the Niagara Movement (1905)
 - Insisted blacks should obtain college degrees to have strong leadership in the black community
 - Consisted of 29 black intellectuals who secretly composed a civil rights manifesto
 - Proposed the most talented tenth of blacks seek immediate inclusion in US society