

Workers Unite!

- © Before Civil War - 1.3 million factory workers
 - © By 1900 - 5.3 million (+ 4 million more in construction and transportation)
- © Biggest change for workers in industrial age - machine operators instead of artisans
 - © Required less skill - means less job satisfaction & easily replaced
- © Heavy emphasis on maximum production
 - © Many causes for workers' complaints
 - © Loss of freedoms
 - © No talking, joking, singing, etc., on factory floor
 - © Loss of Identity
 - © Each worker one of many - only a number to the boss
 - © Long hours, low pay
 - © 12hrs@6days - no vacation, sick pay, unemployment pay
 - © Wage - \$3-&12 per week
 - © Cost of living in 1864 for family of 6 - \$18.50/wk
 - © Cost before any type of entertainment or clothes
 - © Dangerous working conditions
 - © No workman's comp.
 - © Employers did little to prevent injury
 - © See pg. 457 of text (quote by reporter)
 - © Child labor
 - © Many parents liked their children working
 - © Kept them out of trouble & earned \$ for family
 - © By 1910 - 1 in 5 children working - some at age 5
 - © Child labor also meant no school - hurt them later
 - © Sweatshop labor
 - © Piecework done outside of factories in small shops
 - © Workers were paid by the completed good
 - © Avg. pay was \$5 per 100hrs of work
 - © Company towns
 - © Company owned the town - employees lived there

- © Workers paid rent to company, shopped only in company stores
 - © Town run by company (incl. police)
 - © Spies reported employees who complained
 - © Example: Pullman, Illinois
- © These & other things drove workers to unionize to protect themselves against abuses
 - © **First national union - The National Labor Union (1866)**
 - © Worked for change (8-hour day) through politics
 - © **First nation-wide strike was against the railroads in (1877)**
 - © Was over wage cuts
 - © Started small but sympathy strikes broke out
 - © Most strikers lost their jobs
 - © Other large unions include the Knights of Labor, the American Federation of Labor, and the International Workers of the World
 - © IWW prone to violence & included non-skilled workers
- © **Women also involved in labor strikes**
 - © **Mary Harris Jones (Mother Jones)** involved in organizing efforts in mining and textile industries
 - © Instrumental in the passage of child labor laws
 - © Many other women involved - they often worked under dangerous conditions
 - © **Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire of 1911 - 146 killed**
 - © Result was tougher safety codes, shorter hours, minimum age for child labor
- © **Govt. often supported management in the strikes**
 - © Commonly sent out federal troops to break strikes
 - © Issued court injunctions to force workers back to work
- © Would be decades before unions were strong enough to consistently win changes for the workers