

DEBS' CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIALISM

U.S. History

USH.2.6 - Describe the growth of unions and the labor movement and evaluate various approaches and methods used by different labor leaders and organizations.

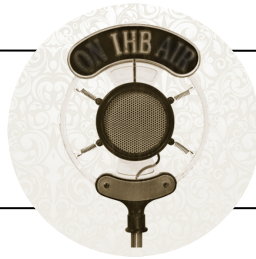
USH.3.5 - Explain the importance of social and cultural movements within the Progressive Era, including significant individuals/groups such as Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. DuBois, NAACP, muckrakers and Upton Sinclair and including movements such as the Harlem Renaissance, women's suffrage, labor movements, and socialist movement.

Indiana Studies

IS.1.11 - Describe the growth of unions and the labor movement and evaluate various approaches and methods used by different labor leaders and organizations.

Examples: Eugene V. Debs, American Railway Union Streetcar Strike of 1913

IS.4.8 - Describe the growth of unions and the labor movement and evaluate various approaches and methods used by different labor leaders and organizations in Indiana from 1870-1900.



DEBS' CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIALISM

Student Directions: Listen to the THH Episode called "Debs' Campaign for Socialism." Answer the following questions in the box underneath the question. [Here](#) is a link to the transcript if you prefer to read the content or to follow along while listening.

Teacher Note: The end of each question includes a timestamp for approximately where this question is answered for your convenience. The timestamps are not on the student assignment.

Quick Facts

1. When did Socialism begin to gain popularity in America? (4:15)

Late 19th / early 20th century.

2. How did Debs first get involved with politics? (4:45)

Through his involvement with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. OR
By campaigning for democratic candidates for president and being elected to the Indiana General Assembly.

3. On what charges was Debs arrested for in 1918? (20:03)

Espionage and Sedition / for speaking out against the war effort.

Dig Deeper

1. Identify 3 sources used for this podcast using the website's "[Show Notes](#)" section. Why is it important to have multiple sources?

Books, journal articles, blog posts, Internet archives, websites.

2. What differentiated the Socialist Party of America from the others in the 1912 presidential election? (14:06)

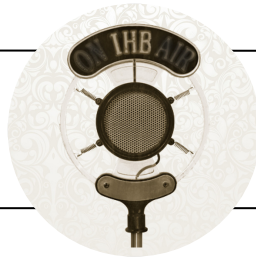
Their platform was more radically progressive. They called for collective ownership, an end to anti-trust laws, and didn't discuss tariffs.

3. What have been the lasting effects of Socialism in American politics? (20:42)

Key tenets of the Socialist Party platform were included in the platforms of the major parties. Many aspects of today's democratic party originated in Socialism.

4. What, if any, parallels can you identify between the political landscape of the late 19th/early 20th century and today?

Subjective answer, but could include the recent wave of unionizing, the perception of neither mainstream party addressing the needs of the nation, or the rise of the Democratic Socialists.



DEBS' CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIALISM

Want to get even more use out of the podcast? These quick exercises can get your students engaged with the topic in different ways.

Exercise 1: After listening to the episode, have your students write a tweet (complete with hashtags) from "Debs" about a topic in the news recently.

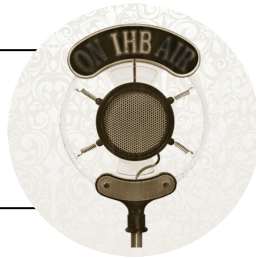
Exercise 2: After listening to the episode, have your students plan and make a TikTok video about the topic. Tag IHB @talkinghoosierhistory if you post the video!

Exercise 3: While listening to the episode, stop at 3:46, 19:20, and at the end of the episode to discuss how much influence your students think Socialism has had in American history and in the country today.

Exercise 4: After listening to the episode, have students hold a mock debate about the pros and cons of socialism.

TALKING HOOSIER HISTORY

in the classroom



Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

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(Continue to back if needed)