

The Progressive Era



By the end of the nineteenth century, the United States had become the world's leading industrial nation, providing over one-third of the world's manufacturing goods and services. At the same time, great wealth became concentrated in the hands of a few business leaders. But while some became rich, others sank into poverty. Many saw the need for improvements in social justice and the regulation of businesses. During this time, Georgia and Georgians played a significant role in the nation's development.



Left: During the late 1800s, Thomasville was a popular resort for wealthy northerners. The Lapham-Patterson House was built in 1884 in Thomasville by Chicago industrialist C. W. Lapham as a winter retreat.

Chapter Preview

Georgia character word:

Generosity

Terms: progressive movement, muckraker, chain gang, labor union, strike, sweatshop, prohibition, Eighteenth Amendment, suffragette, Nineteenth Amendment, Populist party, Australian ballot, Rural Free Delivery bill, poll, Smith-Lever Act, Agricultural Extension Service, Smith-Hughes Act, county unit system, plurality, civil rights, Jim Crow laws, injunction, Atlanta Compromise speech, lynching, grandfather clause, poll tax, gerrymander, martial law, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Urban League, scrip, World War I, neutral, propaganda, armistice

People: Carrie Nation, Mary Harris Armor, Nathaniel E. Harris, Tom Watson, Hoke Smith, Joseph M. Brown, Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, John Hope, Lugenia Hope, Leo Frank, Mary Phagan, Morris Rich, John Styth Pemberton, Asa Candler, Robert Woodruff, Alonzo Herndon

Places: Warren County, Richmond County, Atlanta University Center

Section 1 The Progressive Movement

Section 2 Southern Politics in Action

Section 3 The Continuing Fight for Civil Rights

Section 4 Business in Georgia

Section 5 World War I

Signs of the Times

1889-1919

Population: 92.5 million in 1910

Costs of Living: The average annual salary ranged from \$400 a year at the beginning of the period to about \$750 a year at the end of the period. In 1902, sugar cost \$0.04 a pound, eggs were \$0.14 a dozen, and coffee was \$0.15 a pound. Sears offered a baseball for \$0.55, a 100-piece set of china for under \$6.00, and a wood-and-coal stove for less than \$15.00.

Art/Architecture: The first skyscraper in New York was the 21-story Flatiron Building, finished in 1902. People could buy homes as well as furnishings from the Sears Company's *Book of Modern Homes and Building Plans*. Norman Rockwell painted his first cover for the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1916.

Leisure Time: Basketball and ice hockey were introduced. The first running of the Belmont Stakes and Kentucky Derby horse races took place. The first annual indoor track and field meet was held by the New York Athletic Club. The first professional baseball team was formed—the Cincinnati Red Stockings. The first intercollegiate football game was played with Rutgers beating Princeton 6 to 4.

Life Expectancy: In 1900, women could expect to live 47.3 years; by 1919, that was 51.8 years. In 1900, men could expect to live 46.3 years; in 1919, that was 48.4 years.

Music: Hit songs of the period included "Sweet Adeline," "Bill Bailey Won't You Please Come Home," "Danny Boy," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "In the Good Old Summer-time," "Lift Every Voice and Sing," "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee," and "I'll Walk Alone."

Literature: Books published during this period included *The Virginian* by Owen Wister, *The Wonderful World of Oz* by L. Frank Baum, *Tarzan of the Apes* by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Rudyard Kipling's *Captains Courageous*, Alice Rice's *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, and Jack London's *White Fang*, *The Call of the Wild*, and *The Sea Wolf*.

Fads/Fashions: Hit toys of the period included erector sets, tinker toys, Lincoln logs, teddy bears, and Ouija boards. Dance crazes included the fox trot and the tango. Lightweight, cotton knit shirts became popular for men. Women wore corsets and narrow skirts. Skirts grew shorter to allow them to step into trolleys and automobiles.

Science/Inventions: Michael Owens invented a bottle-making machine. Kodak produced the first box camera for mass use. Electric washing machines were introduced in 1910. Western Union invented a jamming device for interfering with wartime enemy radio signals. The first moving assembly line began in 1914 at Ford Motor Company.

Education: John Dewey wrote *The School and Society*, arguing that education begins with actual experiences rather than learned traditional subjects. Maria Montessori became known for new teaching methods. Waves of immigrants caused overcrowding in schools at all levels.

Religion: “Blue laws,” which prohibited sports events on Sundays, were common. The Gideon Association was founded by traveling salesmen in 1899. It began placing Gideon Bibles in hotels in 1908.

Transportation: In 1908, when Ford introduced the “Model T,” it cost \$850. Ocean liners were popular as new floating hotels, but the *Titanic* sank during this era. The Wright Brothers made their famous flight at Kitty Hawk. The first cross-country auto trip took 52 days in a Packard. New York began subway service. Airmail service began coast to coast.

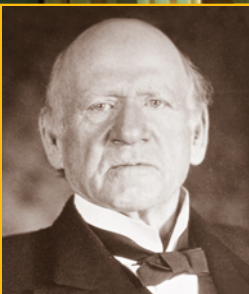
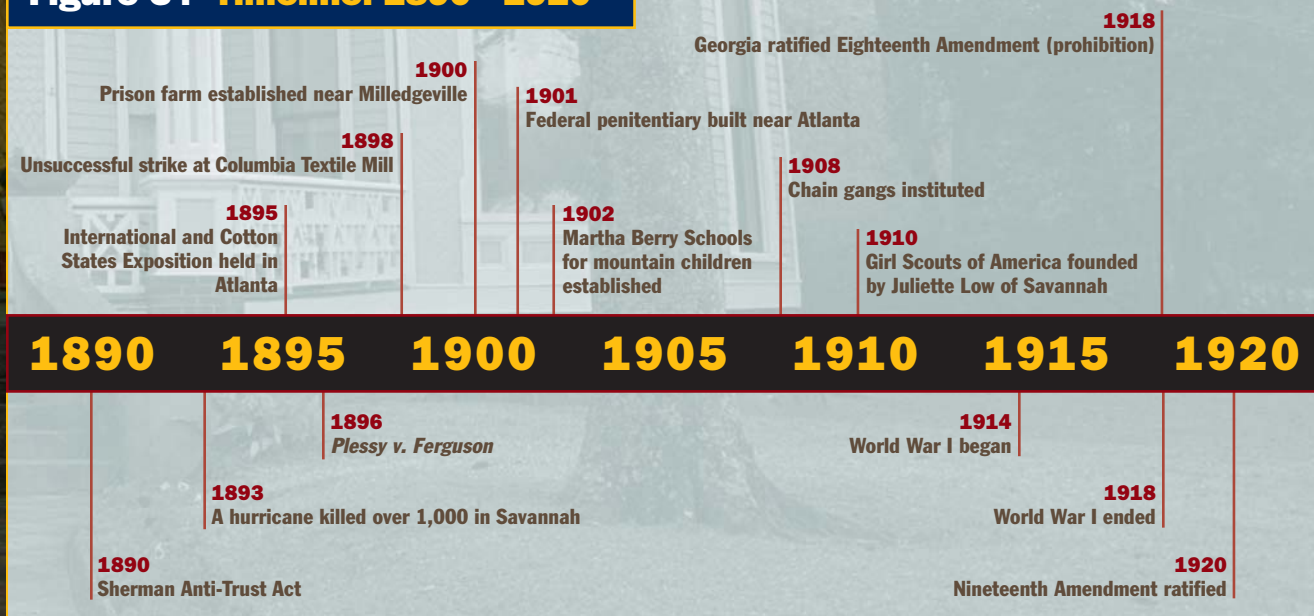


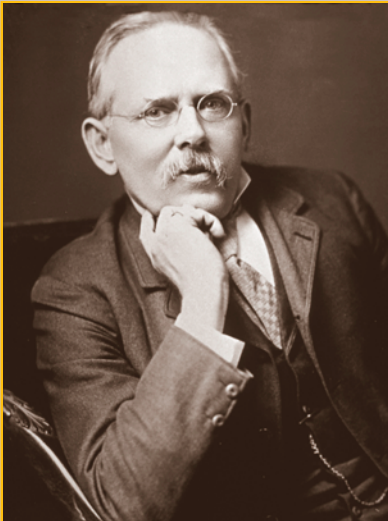
Figure 34 Timeline: 1890 – 1920



Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the purpose of the progressive movement,
- the muckrakers,
- the major areas for which progressives wanted reforms, and
- **vocabulary terms:** progressive movement, muckraker, chain gang, labor union, strike, sweatshop, prohibition, Eighteenth Amendment, suffragette, and Nineteenth Amendment.



Section 1

The Progressive Movement

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the **progressive movement** swept the country. Progressives believed that government—local, state, and national—was best equipped to correct the ills of society. They had faith in the idea of *progress*, the belief that humans could keep improving society to make it better and better.

The progressive movement was actually a series of movements. It worked to reform society in three main ways. (1) Progressives wanted government to fight poverty and improve the living conditions of its citizens. Progressives worked hard to reform prisons, improve working conditions, outlaw alcohol, and extend voting rights to women. (2) Progressives wanted to break up large corporations and regulate business. They hoped to decrease corporations' voice in government. (3) Progressives wanted voters to have more influence in government. They believed that people could improve society if they only had a greater voice. Strangely, however, progressives also justified the disfranchisement of African Americans on the ground that the black vote could be bought.

The reform movements were largely due to changes in industry and agriculture. Many people left farms to work in manufacturing plants in the cities. Overcrowding often resulted in slum conditions. Books, newspapers, and magazines such as *Collier's*, *McClure's*, and *Everybody's* printed stories about dishonesty in business, corruption in government and politics, and the horrors of being poor. In a 1906 speech, Theodore Roosevelt said these writers "raked filth for their reports." From then on, writers who wrote about the problems of American life in the early twentieth century were called **muckrakers**.

One of the most famous muckrakers was Upton Sinclair. His novel *The Jungle* described the horrible working conditions at Chicago's meat-packing plants. As a result of this book, Congress passed the 1907 Meat Inspection Act, which required federal inspection of meat-packing plants. Ida Tarbell and Henry Demerest wrote of the greed and power plays of the Standard Oil Company and tycoon John D. Rockefeller. In his books *The Shame of the Cities* and *Tweed Days in St. Louis*, Lincoln Steffens described the corruption of many city governments. Jacob Riis,

an immigrant from Denmark, wrote of life in the slums of New York in *How the Other Half Lives*. *The Bitter Cry of the Children* by John Spargo told of the ugly conditions in factories where young children worked 12-hour days for pennies.

Inventions of the late 1800s and early 1900s made it easier for reformers to spread the word about conditions they felt needed correction. Reformers now had at their disposal typewriters, telephones, and wireless telegraph. All of these were put to use to deliver the calls for reform quickly across the country.

Prison Reform

As you learned in Chapter 9, Georgia, as well as some other southern states, had a convict lease system. A special legislative committee formed in 1880 to look into the handling of leased prisoners, but major changes were not made until 1897. At that time, a prison farm was established to separate young offenders and old or sick inmates from other prisoners. The farm, located near Milledgeville, was built in 1900. On the farm, prisoners grew their own food and built and kept up their living quarters. Another prison was set aside for females. In 1910, a large federal penitentiary was built in nearby Atlanta.

Chain Gangs Replace Convict Lease System

Georgia's Rebecca Latimer Felton worked hard to bring about reform in the state's prison system. As a columnist for the *Atlanta Journal*, she spoke out against abuses started by the Bourbon Redeemers.

In 1908, the convict lease system was eliminated completely and replaced with county work camps or **chain gangs**. Prisoners in chain gangs wore distinctive black-and-white-striped uniforms and were chained at their wrists and ankles so they could not escape. The work they did was hard, and whippings were common. There was no training or any other effort to prepare them for life after they had served their prison sentences. Housing, sanitary conditions, and the quality of food were often poor.

Juvenile Court System

Georgia's ways of dealing with criminals did not improve greatly until the early 1940s, when modern equipment replaced chain gang workers. However, one positive change was made during the Progressive Era. In 1915, at the urging of social reformers, the Georgia General Assembly created the juvenile court system. For the first time, young offenders were tried and punished differently from adults.

Did You Know?

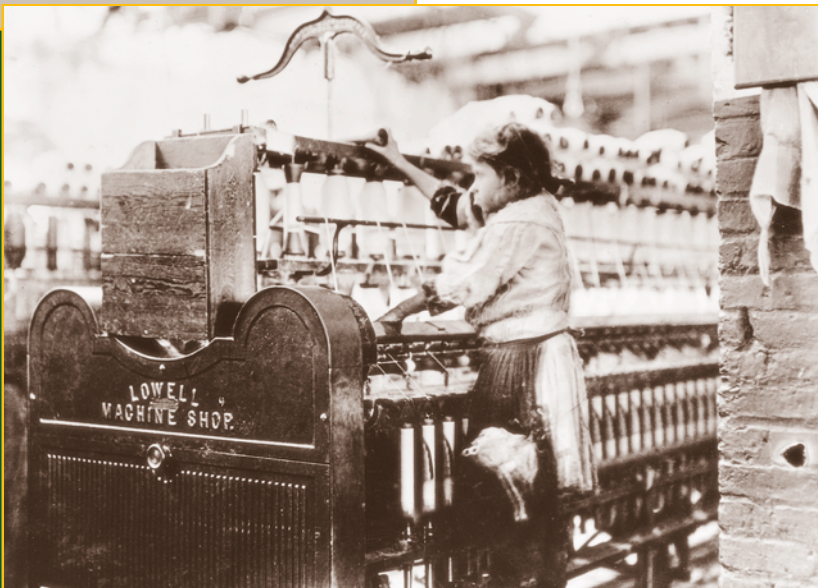
Prisoners in **chain gangs** were housed in **camps**.
By **1929**, Georgia had **140** prison camps.



Above: The chain gang is building a road near Atlanta. **Opposite page above:** Jacob Riis was a police reporter when he set out to document some of the misery he had seen on the streets of New York. **Opposite page below:** Riis took this photograph of young children sleeping on the streets of New York.

Did You Know?

At the **turn of the century**, the length of the **work week** began to **decrease**. By **1920**, the typical work week of **59 hours** had dropped to **48-50 hours**.



Above: This young girl, working at a textile mill in Macon before child labor laws were passed, was so small she had to climb up on the spinning frame to mend the broken thread.

Labor Reforms

In 1900, unskilled employees in factories and manufacturing plants were earning ten cents an hour and working twelve-hour days. Many of these workers were children. Across the nation, weekly pay was less than \$10. Workers could hardly provide for their families and had little hope of things getting better.

Labor Unions

Factories were often unsafe, and job-related accidents and deaths were common in both factories and mines. People who tried to form labor unions were often punished or fired. A **labor union** is an organization of workers formed to improve their wages, benefits, and working conditions. One labor union, the American Federation of Labor (AFL), was successful in organizing workers in the late 1800s.

During the Progressive Era, Georgians, like most other southerners, did not support unions. Often, industries were locally owned, and workers lived in the community. They attended church, social activities, and ball games with the factory, mill, or mine owners. In Georgia's mill towns, the homes of many workers and many of the town stores belonged to mill owners. Most

workers thought that if they caused trouble or took part in unions, they would lose their jobs and the houses in which they lived.

In 1898, Prince W. Greene organized workers at the Columbus Textile Mill and led them in a strike against the company. A **strike** is a work stoppage in protest over some grievance. This strike and efforts by workers in Atlanta and Augusta to promote membership in the National Union of Textile Workers, part of the AFL, were not successful. By the early 1900s, while unions were gaining influence in other parts of the country, attempts to form unions ended in Georgia.

Child Labor Laws

In 1900, over one million children under the age of sixteen worked thirteen or more hours a day in northern **sweatshops** (factories with especially harsh working conditions) or in southern cotton fields and textile plants. Most made only a few cents an hour. Child labor reform, however, was slow. Over time, state legislatures, including Georgia's, set minimum wages for children. Other laws required school attendance and forbade children working in dangerous places, such as around fast-moving machines or in some types of mining. However, it was the 1930s before there was adequate legal protection for child workers.

The Temperance Movement

Ever since colonial days, groups had tried to end the production and use of alcoholic beverages. In 1873, some women in Hillsboro, Ohio, heard a lecture by a health authority and began a crusade to close the town's saloons. The campaign spread to other communities, and within two months twenty states had become "dry" (alcohol-free) without any laws being passed.

By November 1874, women from seventeen states had gathered in Cleveland, Ohio, and formed a permanent organization against the use of alcoholic beverages. It was called the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). Led by Frances Willard, the WCTU grew rapidly. In 1893, a second group, called the Anti-Saloon League, formed to force saloons to close.

Carrie Nation

One of the most colorful people in the temperance movement was Carrie Nation. On June 7, 1900, the 6-foot-tall woman entered Dobson's Saloon in Kiowa, Kansas. Armed with rocks, she took careful aim at the bottles behind the bar.

Within minutes, the floor was covered with broken glass. Looking at the speechless bar owner, Nation is reported to have said, "Now, Mr. Dobson, I have finished! God be with you." She walked out of the bar and, with a buggy load of rocks, went down the street and wrecked two other saloons. Mrs. Nation demanded that the sheriff arrest her, but the shocked lawman just asked her to leave town quickly.

As president of the local WCTU, Nation then started a series of raids on saloons in Topeka and Wichita. For those, she carried a hatchet in one hand and a Bible in the other. Her "hatchetations" continued in other parts of Kansas and in such cities as New York, Washington, and San Francisco. Nation was arrested more than thirty times. She raised money to pay her fines by making speeches and selling tiny silver hatchets as souvenirs.

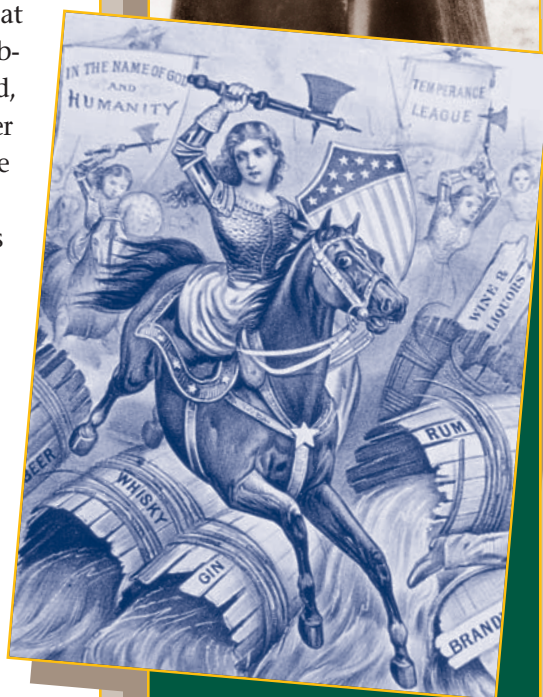
Georgia Women Speak Out

About the same time, Georgia reformer Mary Harris Armor was also speaking against "demon rum." She was a skillful speaker and fundraiser for the temperance movement. Armor spoke to conventions in Boston, London, Glasgow, and Toronto. During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson asked her to be the U.S. representative to the World Congress on Alcoholism in Milan, Italy.

Armor and Rebecca Latimer Felton joined hundreds of Georgia women in the WCTU. As the movement grew stronger, temperance leaders persuaded the Georgia General Assembly to outlaw the sale of liquor in areas near schools and churches. This was followed by laws that called for each county to decide if it wanted to be "wet" (to allow alcohol) or "dry" (to ban alcohol).

Georgia Bans the Use of Alcohol

By 1881, forty-eight Georgia counties had banned the sale of alcohol. A state temperance conference was held in Atlanta in July 1881 during which



Top: Standing at nearly 6 feet tall and weighing 180 pounds, Carrie Nation was an imposing figure. Wielding a hatchet, she was downright frightful.

Above: This 1874 temperance poster by Currier & Ives is titled "Women's Holy War."

Did You Know?

Near beer was the term used for beverages that resembled beer but that had very little alcohol in them. The most popular near beer was **Bevo**, brewed by the Anheuser Busch Company.



Above: This 1908 cartoon shows “Carrie Nation cadets” marching through Georgia.

the attendees committed themselves to making the entire state dry. By 1885, **prohibition** (the banning of alcohol) was one of the main topics of conversation in churches, political meetings, and at many dinner tables. Ninety-one counties had voted to go dry.

In 1887, however, the tide started to turn against prohibition. Businesses that depended on the sale of alcohol formed an antiprohibition group, and temperance forces in Fulton County lost. By the end of 1888, twenty-seven counties were again wet.

Prohibitionists tried to get rid of distilleries (places where alcohol is made); in 1900, there were 135 of them in the state. But the distilleries paid taxes and provided \$150,000 for education in the state. In 1907, with the support of

Governor Hoke Smith, the legislature passed a law prohibiting alcohol. The law was hard to enforce, however, and saloons selling “near beer” began to open. Soon, they were selling liquor, and officers of the law paid little attention. Individuals could also buy liquor outside the state and bring it into Georgia. It was not long until the loading platforms at railroad stations were filled with boxes of liquor.

In 1913, the U.S. Congress passed a law making it illegal for railroads to carry alcohol into dry states. Nevertheless, the near-beer saloons and clubs that kept liquor on hand for members grew in number. In 1914, Georgians elected Nathaniel E. Harris as governor. Harris called a special legislative session and pushed through a bill to close the near-beer saloons and private clubs. By 1919, it was illegal for a Georgian to have any alcoholic beverage at all.

Also in 1919, the states ratified the **Eighteenth Amendment** to the Constitution. This amendment prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transportation of “intoxicating beverages.” For the next fourteen years, the nation was legally dry. Carrie Nation could put away her hatchet.

Woman’s Suffrage

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, there had been little difference between the roles of men and women. Women who moved west with their families were equal pioneers with their husbands. In the industrialized North, factory jobs and teaching positions were filled by both men and women. However, by 1830, “a woman’s place was in the home.” Married women had few chances to earn money, and what they had was controlled by their husbands. There was little hope that a woman could be a political or business leader.

In July 1848, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and three other women met at the Stanton home in Seneca Falls, New York, and decided to get others involved in the cause of women’s rights. On July 19, more than

American Spotlight

Juliette Gordon Low

Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon, “Daisy” to her friends, was born on Halloween in 1860. She was an adventurous child who rarely held back her opinions. When she was four, she met Union General O. O. Howard and commented on how he lost his arm, “Well, I shouldn’t wonder if my papa did it. He has shot lots of Yankees.”

As a young woman, she traveled throughout the United States and Europe where she loved introducing her European friends to Southern favorites like grits, sweet potatoes, and cucumber pickles. In 1886, Daisy married a British cotton heir, William “Willie” MacKay Low. Although the couple settled at the family home in Lafayette Square, they spent most of their time in England, where she made many friends in British society. Although she enjoyed her life of travel and leisure, all was not well in her marriage. In 1904, Willie left Daisy, much to the horror of Savannah society. Before the divorce was final, Willie died.

During the next few years, Daisy traveled. She wrote, “I am just an idle woman of the world with no real work or duties.” That, however, was about to change. In 1911, she was introduced to Lord Robert Baden-Powell, who had founded the British Boy Scouts. She began working with the Girl Guides, which was led by Baden-Powell’s sister Agnes. Low set up a group at her Scotland estate and two troops in England. Daisy, who had been somewhat of a tomboy in her youth, enjoyed working with the girls and found a new sense of direction.



Above: Juliette Gordon Low was named a Georgia Woman of Achievement in 1992. **Below:** Low presents a scout with a Golden Eaglet.

When she returned to Savannah, she phoned a friend and said, “Come right over. I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah and all America and all the world and we’re going to start it tonight!” On March 12, 1912, the first Girl Guide Patrol, or troop, was founded with her namesake and niece as its first member.

The following year, the Guides became the Girl Scouts. Low committed herself, her time and money, and her friends’ money to helping young girls come into their own. Through her efforts, the organization gained national and international recognition. She helped develop the Girl Scout Handbook, *How Girls Can Help Their Country*, and was instrumental in organizing the first World Girl Scout Camp in the United States in 1926. In 1927,

Juliette Gordon Low died from cancer. She was buried in the scouting uniform of which she was so proud.



three hundred people, including black publisher Frederick Douglass, gathered in the Seneca Falls Methodist Church. The group talked about a variety of subjects including property rights, divorce laws, and voting rights. As word of the convention spread, thousands of women joined the movement to demand that the right to vote be given to women and blacks.

The Fifteenth Amendment, ratified in 1870, had given black men the right to vote, but did nothing for women. The **suffragettes**, as those fighting for women's right to vote were called, felt they were getting somewhere when, in 1869, the Territory of Wyoming gave women the right to vote. When the territory applied for statehood, some Congressmen asked them to change the suffrage law. Wyoming leaders wired their answer: "We will remain out of the Union 100 years rather than come in without the women." In 1890, it became the first "women's suffrage state." By 1900, women could also vote in Utah, Colorado, and Idaho.

In 1914, W. G. Raoul, Mary Raoul, and Emily MacDougald formed Georgia's Equal Suffrage party to gain support for the **Nineteenth Amendment** giving women the right to vote. Within one year, the group had grown to over 2,000 members. In November 1915, the group marched in Atlanta's annual Harvest Festival parade. However, their assigned place in the parade

Did You Know?

Georgia finally ratified the Nineteenth Amendment on February 20, 1970.

By the Side of the Road

Another "first" for women in Georgia came as Alice Harrell Strickland became Georgia's first woman mayor in 1922 in the city of Duluth. She was a civic and political leader of the community and even opened her home as a clinic for children because there was no available hospital. If you visit Duluth, you will find a historical marker honoring Mrs. Strickland on Buford Highway.



Home of Alice Harrell Strickland - Georgia's First Woman Mayor

Alice Harrell Strickland (1859-1947) and her husband Henry built this home in 1898. The Stricklands raised seven children before Henry's death in 1917. Mrs. Strickland then became a community leader. With her service as Mayor of Duluth in 1922-23, she became Georgia's First Woman Mayor. Additionally, she served as Civic Club president, opened her home as a children's clinic since there was no hospital facility available, and led the community in forestry conservation with the donation of land for a community forest. Mrs. Strickland lived here until her death.

Erected by The Georgia Historical Society and
the City of Duluth

1999.11

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Above: These early Georgia suffragettes are taking part in a parade in Atlanta.

indicated the support they had among the politicians—they marched at the end of the parade behind the city trash carts.

Thirty-six states had to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment for it to become law. On Wednesday, August 18, 1920, the Tennessee legislature met to consider the amendment and gave it the final ratifying vote needed to make it the law of the land. Georgia was one of five states that did not ratify the amendment. Suffragette Rebecca Felton said, “It is embarrassing to apologize for the ignorance and stupidity of the state legislature.” Without Georgia’s help, women received the right to vote in 1920.

It's Your Turn

1. What prison method replaced the convict lease system?
2. What did the juvenile court system accomplish?
3. Why do you suppose many Georgians did not support labor unions?
4. What did the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibit?
5. Which amendment gave women the right to vote?

On the Road Again

Berry College

In Rome, sixty-five miles northwest of Atlanta and sixty-five miles south of Chattanooga, sits Berry College, in the midst of 28,000 acres of rolling hills. Berry is one of the largest college campuses in the world, and it has certainly fulfilled its founder's vision of making "beauty a part of education." In 2004, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Berry College as the No. 2 undergraduate comprehensive college in the South. That is quite an honor for the 104-year-old school founded by Martha McChesney Berry.

Martha was born into wealth and social prestige near Rome on October 7, 1866. From Oak Hill, the family plantation, Martha often helped her father deliver food and cloth-





Above: The overshot waterwheel at the Old Mill on the Mountain Campus is one of the largest in the world, measuring 42 feet in diameter. **Opposite page, above:** Martha Berry shown here writing at her desk. **Opposite page, below:** Clara Hall (foreground) and Ford Hall (right), two of the buildings on the Berry College Campus.

ing to the poor. At an early age, she understood the feeling of satisfaction that comes from helping others.

Berry's study, where she liked to write, was a log cabin on the plantation. One Sunday afternoon, three boys in ragged overalls were playing outside the study. Martha asked them to come in, gave them apples, and told them Bible stories. The next Sunday, the boys brought their brothers and sisters. Soon, parents came for Berry's weekly "Sunday School." When the group outgrew the cabin, they moved to an old church building at Possum Trot. When there were too many people to get in that building, Berry began other Sunday Schools in nearby communities. In addition to sharing Bible stories, Martha taught reading, singing, and good health practices. The people of the area called Martha Berry the "Sunday Lady of Possum Trot."

In 1901, Berry used \$1,000 of her own money and 83 acres of land to establish a school. She built a small school-

house across the road from her home. The next year, a dormitory was added. There was no tuition, but each student worked. They grew vegetables, raised cattle, and helped build roads and other school structures as needed. Berry called the entrance to the school the "Gate of Opportunity." Here, poor young boys of the mountain area learned to read, write, and do arithmetic. They also got job training that would help them find work when school days were over. From its beginnings, Martha Berry's mission was to integrate head, heart, and hand, and she chose as the school's motto "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister." She promised "to give her students to America, strong of heart, mind, and soul."

Like the Sunday classes, the school quickly became overcrowded. Berry asked for and got help from some of America's wealthiest businessmen. In 1909, she started a girls' division of the school and renamed it The Berry Schools. In 1926, Berry opened Berry Junior College to train teachers. By 1932, the small college had become a four-year institution.

On February 27, 1942, Martha McChesney Berry died at St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta. In her book about Miss Berry, Georgia author Joyce Blackburn calls her "A woman of courageous spirit and bold dreams."

Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the Populist party,
- legislation introduced by Georgia politicians, and
- **vocabulary terms:** Populist party, Australian ballot, Rural Free Delivery bill, poll, Smith-Lever Act, Agricultural Extension Service, Smith-Hughes Act, county unit system, and plurality.



Above: During the 1880s and 1890s, Tom Watson of Thomson supported the interests of the poor farmers of the state.

Southern Politics in Action

A bridge between the New South era and the Progressive era was a grassroots political movement called populism. As big business continued to dominate America's economy, a growing group of poor farmers and hourly wage workers demanded to be heard.

The People's Party

The term *populism* refers to a political doctrine "that supports the rights and powers of the common people in their struggle with the privileged elite." At the end of the Reconstruction period, two organizations formed to help farmers—the Grange and the Farmers' Alliance.

The Alliance's political influence grew along with its membership. In 1890, forty-five "Alliancemen" were elected to Congress. Alliance-backed men became governors in several southern states. Encouraged, the Alliance talked about selecting the president of the United States in the 1892 election.

Members of labor organizations joined with the Alliance to form a new political party in 1891. They named it the People's party, but it was usually called the **Populist party**. The first Populist party nominating convention met in Omaha, Nebraska, in July 1892. The platform contained many "futuristic" reforms including an eight-hour workday, a graduated income tax, restrictions on immigration, and government ownership of railroads and telephone and telegraph services. The platform also called for the "free" or unlimited coinage of silver into dollars, the direct election of U.S. senators, a reduction of tariffs, and finally, the use of the **Australian ballot**. An Australian ballot is printed by the government (rather than by a political party), distributed at voting places, and collected there in sealed boxes so that the votes are kept secret.

The Populist candidate for president in the 1892 election was James B. Weaver. Although Weaver lost to Democrat Grover Cleveland, he received over a million popular votes and twenty-two electoral votes. But by courting African American votes, the Populists lost much of their support in the South. Nevertheless, the party's platform of reform paved the way for future changes.

Georgia's Best-Known Populist

A controversial national leader of the Populist party was Thomson native Tom Watson. As a young man, the slim, red-haired Watson had been an excellent student who loved to write essays and poems. He had to drop out

of Mercer University when his father went bankrupt during the economic panic of 1873. Nevertheless, Watson taught school and studied law until he passed the state bar exam in 1877, at the age of twenty-one. As a criminal lawyer, Watson was known for his “down-to-earth” style of defense.

In 1882, he was elected to the General Assembly. Even though he became wealthy, Watson was concerned about Georgia’s poor and struggling farmers. Early in his career, he was the first native southern politician to be concerned about African American farmers, many of whom were tenant farmers or sharecroppers. He realized that agrarian reform was possible if the two races came together politically. With the backing of the Farmers’ Alliance, Watson was elected to Congress in 1890 as a Democrat. He represented the 10th Congressional District, which stretched from Augusta west across the state.

A year later, Watson switched political sides and spoke for the causes of the Populist party. In one of his many congressional speeches for farmers, Watson declared, “Before I give up this fight, I will stay here ‘til the ants tote me out of the keyhole.”

Watson Introduces Rural Free Delivery Bill

Watson represented Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives for only two years. However, he gained a place in congressional history by introducing the **Rural Free Delivery (RFD) bill**, which required the U.S. postmaster general to find a way to deliver mail to rural homes free of charge. It took several years to put the system into action in rural areas. However, because of Watson’s bill, farm families no longer had to travel to the nearest post office for their mail. The first official RFD route in Georgia was in Warren County.

Did You Know?

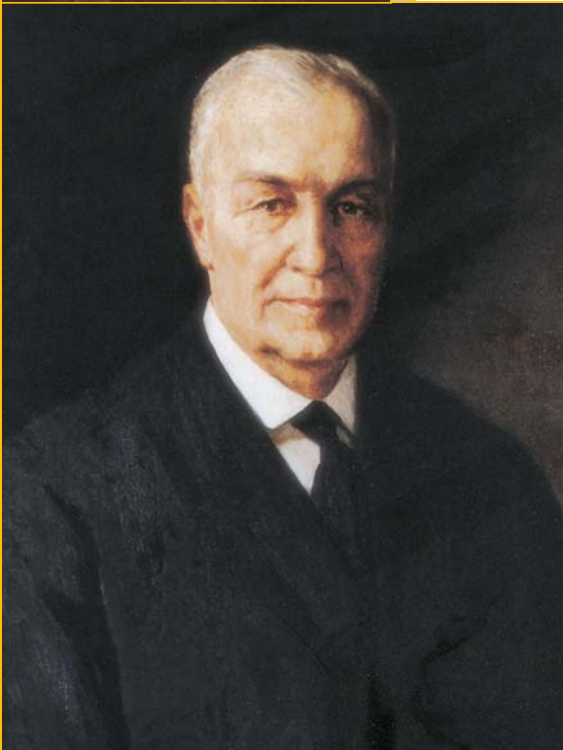
One byproduct of **rural free delivery** was the boom in the building of **roads, bridges,** and other **improvements** needed to deliver the mail to rural areas. It is estimated that **local governments** across the country spent some **\$72 million** dollars between **1897 and 1908** improving the system of roads and highways.

Below: Until the RFD system went into effect, a farmer might not pick up mail for days, weeks, or even months until a trip into town for supplies, food, or equipment was also scheduled.





Top: Clarke Howell, publisher of the *Atlanta Constitution*, was the conservative Democrat candidate for governor in 1906. **Above:** Hoke Smith, owner of the *Atlanta Evening Journal*, was the reform Democrat candidate for governor in 1906. Smith won.



Watson was known all over the country because of the RFD bill and his support of farmers. In 1892, the Democrat-turned-Populist became a candidate for re-election from the 10th District. However, the state's Democratic party wanted Watson out of Georgia politics. Because he had no organized support, Watson appealed to African American farmers to return him to Congress. By election day, there were reports of vote buying, physical attacks, and attempts to frighten African Americans to prevent their voting. When the **polls** (voting places) closed and the votes were counted, Watson had lost. Had it not been for the large number of votes cast in Augusta (Richmond County), Watson would have won re-election. Interestingly, the total vote count was twice the number of registered voters!

Watson ran for Congress again in 1894 and was again defeated. He returned to his home, Hickory Hill, near Thomson, to influence politics through the power of the press. He began two magazines—*The Weekly Jeffersonian* and the monthly *Watson's Jeffersonian*.

In 1896, Watson was the Populist party's nominee for vice president; in 1904, he was the party's nominee for president. He lost both elections. In 1905, Watson returned to the Democratic party, but his stand on civil rights had changed significantly. Fifteen years earlier, Watson had asked for African American votes. Now, he opposed all minority rights, including those for African Americans, Catholics, and Jews. In 1920, Watson ran against Hoke Smith for the U.S. Senate and won. Two years later, he died in Washington, D.C.

Georgia's Progressive-Era Governors

In 1906, two newspaper men ran against each other for the office of governor. Clarke Howell, publisher of the *Atlanta Constitution*, ran as a conservative Democrat. His opponent was attorney Hoke Smith, owner of the *Atlanta Evening Journal* (today's *Atlanta Journal*). Smith was a reform candidate. He promised that corporations and private railroad companies would no longer have any power in state government.

Both of the candidates ran as conservative white supremacists. Populist Tom Watson agreed to support Smith's campaign if Smith would support a law to disfranchise African Americans. A statement in the black-owned *Savannah Tribune* read: "God help the civilization and future of the Democratic white man if Hoke Smith represents his ideas." Nevertheless, Smith won by a landslide. His election was seen as a victory for both the state's reformers and its farmers. Smith gained farm support by promising to take political power away from the cities and return it to the rural areas. After Smith's election, rural Georgia remained the principal power base of state politics for the next fifty-six years.

"Little Joe" Brown Elected

In the 1908 governor's election, Joseph M. Brown defeated Hoke Smith. Brown, the son of Civil War Governor Joseph E. Brown, was called "Little

Joe.” He used a 1907 economic depression to blame Smith for Georgia’s problems. One of Brown’s slogans was “Hoke and Hunger; Brown and Bread.”

Another reason for Smith’s defeat was that Tom Watson changed his support to Brown. Watson’s friend Arthur Glover had been convicted of murdering a woman in Augusta and sentenced to be hanged. Watson asked Governor Smith to change the sentence to life in prison. Smith refused, and Watson withdrew his support.

Smith Re-elected

Hoke Smith was again elected governor in 1910. He still believed in white supremacy and supported antiblack laws. Under his leadership, the Georgia General Assembly passed a constitutional amendment that said a person had to own property and be able to read in order to vote. As a result, most African Americans and many poor whites were removed from the voter rolls.

At the same time, there were also positive changes during Smith’s two terms in office. The Railroad Commission became responsible for the regulation of gas lines, electric power companies, and trolley cars. Public schools received better funding, and child labor laws changed. Smith worked with the legislature to regulate lobbying groups and to place limits on campaign contributions.

In 1911, the Georgia General Assembly named Hoke Smith to succeed Joseph M. Terrell in the U.S. Senate. Smith served in the Senate until 1921, where he was responsible for two major pieces of legislation: the Smith-Lever Act and the Smith-Hughes Act. The 1914 **Smith-Lever Act** created the **Agricultural Extension Service**, which gave matching federal funds to states that spent money to teach young people better farming methods. The **Smith-Hughes Act** helped establish vocational programs in public schools across the nation. The Act also set up a federal board for vocational education to help states plan and carry out vocational training goals. By the 1920s, young people were being trained in trades, agriculture, and home economics as a result of Smith’s legislation.

The County Unit System

The 1917 Neill Primary Act established a **county unit system** for political primaries. At that time, the Democratic party was the only active political party in the state. This meant the

Figure 35 Provisions of Neill Primary Act

1. **Primary elections for major offices**—governor, U.S. senators, justices of the supreme court, court of appeals judges, and statehouse offices—would be held on the second Wednesday in September in the years of general elections.
2. **Candidates who received the largest popular vote in a county** would “carry that county” and receive all of the county’s unit votes.
3. **County unit votes** would be determined by the number of lower house representatives in the General Assembly, with counties receiving two unit votes per representative.
4. **If there was a tie between two candidates in a county’s primary election**, the unit votes for that county would be split.
5. **A majority of the county unit votes** would be required to nominate a candidate for governor or for the U.S. Senate. **If there was a tie**, the candidate who received the most popular votes would be nominated.
6. **For all other offices**, a tie would result in a second primary election, allowing the top two county unit winners to run against each other again.
7. **A plurality** (the margin of victory for the winner over the nearest rival) of county unit votes was required to elect an individual in any race except those for governor and the U.S. Senate.

Right: The county unit system gave rural areas, such as Murray County (county seat Chatsworth), considerable political power when united with other rural areas.



Figure 36 Eight Most Populous Counties, 1920

1. Fulton County	232,606
2. Chatham County	100,032
3. Bibb County	71,304
4. Richmond County	63,692
5. Muscogee County	44,195
6. DeKalb County	44,051
7. Floyd County	39,841
8. Laurens County	39,605

outcome of primary elections and general elections were usually the same. Because that was true, the county unit system, in fact, affected both elections.

Under the county unit system, the 8 most populated counties had 6 county unit votes each (total, 48). The next 30 counties had 4 county unit votes each (total, 120), and the remaining 121 counties had 2 county unit votes each (total, 242). The 38 largest counties had two-thirds of Georgia's voters, but the other 121 counties together could decide a state election.

Those who opposed the county unit system pointed out that people were elected to office without a majority of the state's popular vote. Those who supported it said the system allowed small, less-populated counties to have the same power and influence as larger ones. The county unit system was in effect until 1962, when it was declared unconstitutional.

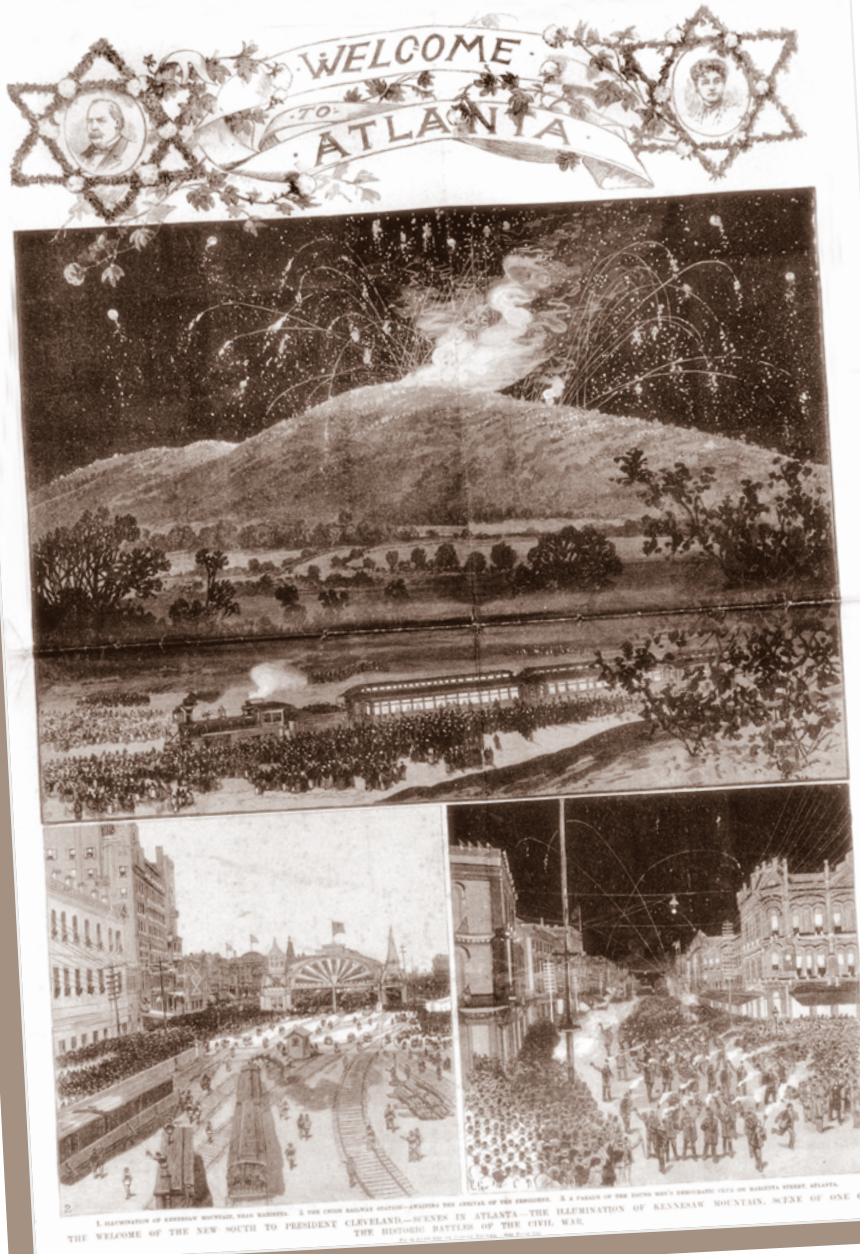
It's Your Turn

1. What farmers' organization joined with labor organizations to form the Populist party?
2. What reform supported by the Populist party was eventually implemented and is still in use today?
3. What act created the Agricultural Extension Service?
4. What were the reasons people opposed the county unit system?
5. What were the reasons people supported the county unit system?

Section 4

Business in Georgia

In 1895, Atlanta was host to 800,000 visitors during the three-month-long Cotton States and International Exposition. This exhibition was a way to showcase the economic recovery of the South (in which cotton played a large role), to highlight the region's natural resources, and to lure northern investors. At the 6,000 exhibits of the Exposition, visitors saw new machinery and learned how cotton was made into marketable products.



Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- three businesses that developed during this period and
- **vocabulary term:** scrip.

Did You Know?

John Philip Sousa wrote the “**King Cotton March**” in 1895 for the Cotton States and International Exposition. Sousa’s band played at the exposition for **three weeks**. The march was one of Sousa’s **personal favorites**, and it has become one of his **most popular**.

Left: Between 1881 and 1895, Atlanta was host to three expositions. One was the Cotton States and International Exposition in 1895. In 1887, the Piedmont Exposition brought 200,000 visitors to Atlanta, including President Grover Cleveland. This special newspaper supplement celebrates President Cleveland’s visit.

This period also saw the rise of many new businesses and a new breed of business people to run them. Among these were three Atlanta institutions—Rich’s Department Store, Coca-Cola, and Atlanta Mutual Life.

Rich’s

In 1867, a young businessman named Morris Rich moved to Atlanta and opened a small store. In 1881, Rich and his brothers opened a new and bigger store on Whitehall Street. The inside of the building was decorated in black and gold, and it featured Atlanta’s first plate glass store windows. In 1924, the store moved to the corner of Broad and Alabama streets in the heart of downtown Atlanta. There it became an Atlanta institution.

Rich’s became “the” place to shop in Georgia. Memories of the downtown Rich’s will forever be associated with the Pink Pig, the lighting of the Christmas Tree on Thanksgiving night, and Hanukkah holidays. The store with a “heart” will also be remembered for taking farmers’ produce in payment for merchandise and for accepting teachers’ **scrip** (paper money that is not legal currency) during the Great Depression.

As suburban malls and shopping centers replaced downtown megastores, Rich’s expanded through the metro-Atlanta area and in the Southeast. But it was the downtown store, which closed in 1991, that made the Rich’s legend. There shoppers wore hats and gloves to shop and have lunch in the tearoom.



Above: Hungarian immigrant Morris Rich was typical of the entrepreneurs who, through diligence and hard work, built prosperous businesses in Atlanta. **Right:** The small 1867 store of Morris Rich rapidly grew into one of Atlanta’s shopping institutions.



Spotlight on the Economy

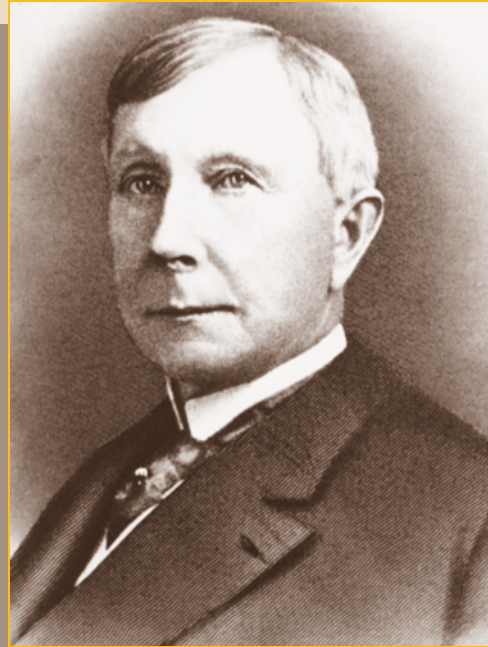
New Forms of Doing Business

As America's businesses grew, they required **capital** (money) to carry on business, build and expand factories, develop and install equipment, and hire and pay workers. Most businessmen needed outside financial help from people called *investors*. As a result, a new type of business structure called the **corporation** was developed. Corporations can sell shares of *stock* in their business to investors to raise the capital needed to operate or expand. People who invest in these corporations are called *stockholders*, and they receive a share of the corporations' profits called *dividends*.

To operate, corporations must receive a license from the state called a *charter*. Corporations are defined as being separate from the people who own them (stockholders). Legally, corporations operate almost like people. They can make deals, sign contracts, buy and sell property, or take legal action in court.

Our economy is based on the free enterprise system in which businesses compete for customers. In the 1880s and 1890, some businessmen within the same industry began to work together to control the prices of raw materials and supplies and the prices of manufactured goods. These efforts to stabilize the economy also reduced or eliminated competition.

Some businesses merged into trusts. In a **trust**, major stockholders of several companies within an industry pool their shares of stock and place them under the control



Above: John D. Rockefeller, one of the founders of the Standard Oil Company.

of a group of *trustees* who run all of the companies in the trust as though they were really just one company. Trusts not only had the power to corner all of the raw materials, to make special deals with banks for financing and with railroads for shipping, but they also had the power to run smaller companies out of business. They could undercut prices of smaller companies until those companies failed, then the trust could raise its prices to recover the profits lost. They could all but eliminate any competition within an industry.

Standard Oil Company became the nation's first trust in 1882 and soon controlled over 90 percent of the nation's refining capacity. Its main stockholder, John D. Rockefeller, amassed a fortune of

more than \$800 million by 1892.

Trusts led to **monopolies**, in which one company (or trust) controls an entire industry. These monopolies set and controlled prices for consumers as well as prices for those industries who sold to monopolies. Leaders of these monopolies gained not only great financial wealth but also great political power.

By 1890, there were so many trusts that Congress passed the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. But it was largely unenforced until President Theodore Roosevelt convinced Congress to support his "trust-busting efforts" in 1903. Under Roosevelt, the Department of Justice filed more trust-busting lawsuits against corporations than had been filed in all previous administrations.



Coca-Cola—The Headache that Created a Fortune

During the period of root beer, ice cream sodas, and ginger ale, two new soft drinks were added for America's taste buds. In 1898, in New Bern, North Carolina, pharmacist Caleb Bradham invented a soda called "Brad's Drink," which soon changed its name to "Pepsi." However, a few years before that, an Atlanta pharmacist, working in his own backyard, invented a soda that impacted not just Georgia, but the world.

Atlanta druggist John Styth Pemberton mixed and sold medicines such as Globe of Flower Cough Syrup and Triplex Liver Pills. The most popular of "Doc" Pemberton's mixtures was a tonic called "French Wine Coca," a syrup that included a considerable amount of alcohol. To keep up with the demand for his "Delightful Nerve Tonic and Stimulant That Never Intoxicates," Pemberton built a small chemical plant for \$160.

In 1885, the temperance movement swept across most of the country. Pemberton began looking for a way to remove the alcohol from his tonic and still have its good taste. He put a three-legged, thirty-gallon, brass stirring kettle over a fire and started work on a new recipe. He named his new tonic "Coca-Cola" after its two main ingredients—the coca plant and the kola nut. The tonic was put into pint beer bottles, labeled the "Intellectual Beverage and Temperance Drink," and sold for twenty-five cents in several Atlanta drugstores.

Willis Venable was the soda fountain man at Jacob's Pharmacy. One day, a customer came in with a severe

headache. He bought Coca-Cola syrup and asked Venable to mix some with water so he could take it immediately. The tap water faucet was at the other end of the counter, so Venable suggested soda water instead of plain water. The customer agreed and, after drinking the mixture, said it was much better than with plain water. Within weeks, several other drugstores began mixing the medicine with soda water rather than tap water. Within a year, production had grown from 25 to 1,049 gallons.

In July 1887, Pemberton's health began to fail. He needed money, so he sold Venable a two-thirds interest in his company. Equipment, supplies, and advertising items were moved from Pemberton's home to

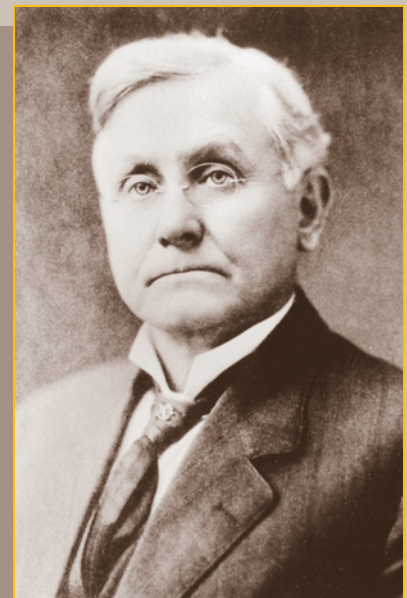


Top: After the Civil War, pharmacist John S. Pemberton settled in Atlanta and began distributing his popular "nerve tonic."

Above: Pemberton concocted the formula for Coca-Cola in the backyard of his home in Atlanta.

Did You Know?

Only a small **handful** of **executives and chemists** at **Coca-Cola** know the exact **formula** for the soft drink, and those executives are **never** allowed to all **fly together** to events or functions.



the basement of Jacob's Pharmacy. Pemberton died penniless in August 1888. But before his death, a Villa Rica native and druggist named Asa Candler bought all the Coca-Cola stock for \$2,300.

By 1892, the drink had become so popular that Candler sold his drugstore and formed the Coca-Cola Company. Candler became a wealthy man. He donated some of that wealth to establish Emory University and Hospital. He also served as mayor of Atlanta for several years without pay.

In 1919, after the death of his wife, Candler sold the company to Atlanta businessman Ernest Woodruff for \$25 million. At that time, it was the largest business deal ever made in the South. In 1923, Ernest Woodruff's son Robert became president. Robert Woodruff led the company into a multibillion-dollar international business.

Woodruff continued the clever marketing policies that had been begun earlier. The beverage's uniquely shaped green bottle and its wholesome advertisements were everywhere, both in this country and abroad. He built bottling plants in Europe during World War II. This gave American soldiers

Above left: A 1910 Coca-Cola fountain tray. **Top, left and right:** The early straight-sided bottle on the left was replaced by the familiar curved bottle on the right in 1916. **Above:** Asa Candler turned Coca-Cola into a nationally recognized brand.

Focus on the Environment

An Ecological Georgia Victory

Copper was first used 10,000 years ago as jewelry. Today, it is used as money, in watches and clocks, in printing, in shipping and rail travel, food preparation, and so on. But it must be smelted, or processed, and that is where the problem started for several Georgia communities. When copper is smelted, sulfur dioxide is formed. If you have ever smelled sulphur dioxide, you do not soon forget the stench. Neither did the people who lived in the Hiawassee, Ellijay, or Cleveland areas in the 1870s.

The 60,000-acre copper basin lies across the Georgia state line in Polk County, Tennessee. From the time copper was first mined there in 1848, Georgia was a part of the story. A rail line ran from the Ducktown mining company there to Marietta.

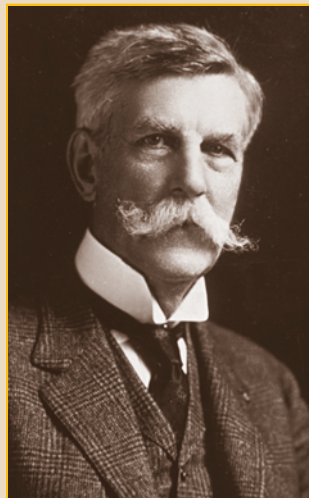
After the Civil War, the mining companies stripped the land around the basin of the timber they needed for the smelting furnaces. Mine officials started buying timber from Georgia's Fannin County and floated the logs along the Oconee River. By 1878, some 50 square miles around Fannin County had been stripped of all trees. With no trees, the topsoil was lost, along with all vegetation and animal life. In addition, the sulfur and noxious fumes were killing the apple orchards and making people in the area physically ill.

Efforts by the copper company to build 325-foot-tall smoke stacks to disperse the gases made matters worse. The state of Georgia sued on behalf of its North Georgia citizens. By 1907, the case reached the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1915, the decision came down with Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes delivering the majority opinion. Justice Holmes wrote,



Above: This abandoned pit mine near Ducktown is an example of the devastation left behind as natural resources are removed. **Below:** Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes delivered the majority opinion in *Georgia v. Tennessee Copper Co. and Ducktown Sulphur, Copper & Iron Co.*

It is a fair and reasonable demand on the part of a sovereign that the air over its territory should not be polluted on a great scale by sulphurous acid gas, that the forests on its mountains should not be further destroyed or threatened by the act of persons beyond its control, that the crops and orchards on its hills should not be endangered.



The court's decision forced the Tennessee Copper Company and the Ducktown Sulphur, Copper, and Iron Company to reduce the amount of pollution in the air. They also had to submit to inspections from a court-approved professor from Vanderbilt University. Its decision set the stage for future Georgia air quality control fights.

a little touch of home, and Europeans began to enjoy the American “pause that refreshes.”

Like Asa Candler, Robert Woodruff gave money to worthy causes. His gifts included \$105 million worth of Coca-Cola stock to Emory University. For many years, this remained one of the largest single gifts in American history.

Today, Coca-Cola products are enjoyed around the world by over 470 million people each day. What was begun by “Doc” Pemberton, soda fountain man Willis Venable, and the customer with a headache has mushroomed into a giant international company with annual sales in the billions of dollars.

Atlanta Mutual Insurance Company

Another business giant of the Progressive Era was Alonzo Herndon. In 1858, Herndon was born a slave on a Walton County plantation. He grew up in Social Circle. After the Civil War, he worked for his former master for a short time at a salary of \$25 a year.

Herndon learned to be a barber and moved to Jonesboro to open his own barber shop. Thinking that business would be better in Atlanta, he moved there and worked in a barber shop. Within six months, he owned a half interest in the business. By the early 1900s, he had opened three new shops for white customers. Herndon began buying property, and he soon owned a block of office buildings on Auburn Avenue and a hundred rental houses.

In 1905, Herndon bought a small insurance company for \$140. He knew little about insurance, so he hired African American college graduates to run the Atlanta Mutual Insurance Company.

Herndon was still president of his insurance company when he died in 1927; his son Norris took over. That company is now the Atlanta Life Insurance Company. One of the largest African American-owned businesses in the United States, Atlanta Life has a net worth of over \$200 million and operations in seventeen states. Perhaps the secret of Herndon’s success in business was best explained when he said, “Some of us sit and wait for opportunity when it is always with us.”



Above: Alonzo Franklin Herndon was one of the most astute businessmen of his time. Through hard work, Herndon built a business empire worth millions of dollars.

It's Your Turn

1. Why do you think Rich’s was successful as a “downtown” Atlanta institution?
2. How did a man’s headache prove the start of the international Coca-Cola Company?
3. What business did Alonzo Herndon found?

Of Special Interest

The Jekyll Island Club



In Chapter 1, you learned that Jekyll Island is a barrier island off the coast of Georgia near Brunswick. The island had long been known for its isolated beauty and mild climate. As winter hit the northern cities or when the daily business routine of the nation's leading industrialists became too hectic, yachts and private trains from Boston, New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia converged on the exclusive winter retreat and the Jekyll Island Club.

Hunting was a favored pastime for both men and women. To add to the wild game already on the island, pheasants were shipped from England, and quail, turkey, and deer were brought from Virginia. By 1919, however, the hunting grounds had given way to golf courses and tennis courts.

At the end of the day, as the sun set over the marshes and waterways, families retreated to their elaborate 18- to 24-room "cottages" to dress for dinner. The Victorian-styled Clubhouse (which today is a full-service hotel) had fifteen-

Above: Moss Cottage, built in 1896, was the home of George Henry Macy, president of the Union Pacific Tea Company.

foot ceilings, a columned dining room, and carved oak woodwork. Guests enjoyed the freshest seafood, game, and beef; the finest wines; and the most tempting pastries.

As the women admired each other's fashions and discussed social events and plans, the men withdrew for brandy and cigars and talked business and politics. They discussed the state of the nation's economy, which, for the most part, they personally controlled. They determined which politicians were deserving of their favors and support, and they shared ideas about America's future.

The next day was another whirlwind of activities with carriage rides around the grounds, games and sports, ponies on the beach, and lawn parties before preparations for a big costume ball scheduled for that evening. Such

were the lives of the rich and famous in the late nineteenth century.

As word spread about the Jekyll Island Club and all of the attractions available in the area, other business and industrial giants built second homes along Georgia's coastline. Cumberland Island, near St. Marys, was one favorite. Another popular Georgia retreat for northern millionaires escaping the cold weather was Thomasville, in Thomas County. Thomasville was the southernmost rail terminus at

the time, and many who came to visit ended up staying in the gracious and pleasant town.

We can only guess at the number of business transactions, marriage and social contracts, and political alliances forged at these three grand Georgia winter retreats.

Below: The National Trust for Historic Preservation named the Jekyll Island Clubhouse a National Historic Landmark in 1978 and a Historic Hotel of America.



Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the reasons why the United States entered World War I,
- the ways in which Georgians contributed to the war effort, and
- **vocabulary terms:** World War I, neutral, propaganda, and armistice.



Above: Because of his exploits during World War I and II, French President Charles de Gaulle called Eugene Jacques Bullard a French hero.

World War I

In August 1914, **World War I** broke out in Europe. President Woodrow Wilson, who had been elected in 1912, declared America a **neutral** nation. In other words, the United States would not take sides between the *Central Powers* led by Germany and Austria-Hungary and the *Allied Powers* led by France, Great Britain, and Russia.

Some Georgians, however, did take sides. They volunteered to fight for the French and British, serving as aviators, soldiers, ambulance drivers, and nurses. Some joined with other Americans and flew with the Lafayette Escadrille, a squadron of American aviators who fought for France. Another American who fought for France was Eugene Jacques Bullard.

Eugene Jacques Bullard

The first African American combat pilot was a Columbus native, Eugene Jacques Bullard. Bullard's grandfather had been a slave, and his father spoke often of countries where whites and blacks were treated as equals—countries such as France. Bullard's childhood dream was to live in France.

At 18, Bullard hitchhiked from Georgia to Virginia, where he stowed away on a ship headed for Scotland. Once there, Bullard made his way through England and into France. When the war broke out in 1914, he enlisted in the French Foreign Legion. Later, he transferred to a regular unit of the French army and was wounded twice in combat. Declared disabled by the army, Bullard applied for pilot training with the French Air Service in 1916. He became a decorated fighter pilot, flying over twenty combat missions against the Germans. He was wounded several times before being discharged again.

When the United States entered the war in 1917, Bullard volunteered his services to the Army Air Force. When his offer was rejected, he remained with the French forces. Bullard stayed in France after the war. During World War II, he worked as a member of the French underground. Bullard earned many decorations for valor in his military career in France including the Croix de Guerre and the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest medal for heroism.

Bullard returned to the United States at age forty having spent all of his adult life in France. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt heard of Bullard's experiences and saluted his courage saying, "He dreamed of better places and conditions . . . he went to better places and conditions."

The United States Enters the War

President Wilson hoped to keep the United States neutral and had based his 1916 re-election campaign on the slogan, "He kept us out of war." But a series of actions by Germany led him to ask Congress to declare war on Germany in April 1917. When President Wilson spoke to Congress, he asked Americans to fight a war "to make the world safe for democracy."

At the start of World War I, the United States was neutral. By international law, that meant the United States could trade with both warring sides. This was called “freedom of the seas.” The British tried to stop neutral countries’ trade with Germany by mining the North Sea with explosives. Germany used its submarines to sink ships trading with the British.

In May 1915, a German submarine sank the British ocean liner *Lusitania* off Ireland. Among the hundreds killed were 128 Americans. President Wilson warned Germany not to continue to violate international law, which required warships to provide for the safety of the passengers and crews of trading ships they sank. Germany apologized and stopped the submarine warfare for fear that the United States would enter the war.

Meanwhile, the United States became more committed to the Allies, who depended on the United States for food and war supplies. The British bombarded America with anti-German **propaganda** (information that is spread for the purpose of promoting some cause). Americans believed the propaganda, especially after German spies tried to sabotage American industry. Congress began preparing for war.

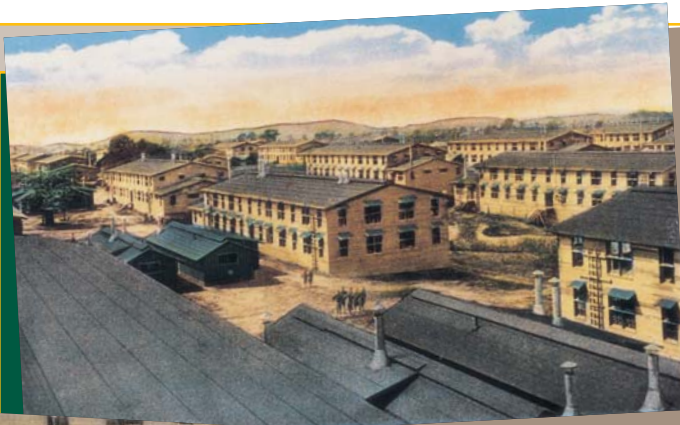
In early 1917, Germany resumed its submarine attacks, and in March 1917 German submarines sank several American ships. Meanwhile, the British intercepted and decoded a secret radio message from Germany to Mexico. In this so-called Zimmermann telegram, Germany urged Mexico to attack the United States in return for regaining the southwestern United States. This was the final blow. President Wilson asked Congress to declare war.

Georgia and World War I

When the United States declared war, between 85,000 and 100,000 of Georgia’s citizens joined the armed forces. Soldiers came from other states to be trained at military posts located throughout the state, including Camp Benning, Fort McPherson, and Camp Gordon.



Top: This captured German submarine crew is on its way to a POW camp at Fort McPherson. **Above:** American infantrymen of the Second Division fighting in France.



Top and middle: These are two postcard views of Camp Gordon during World War I.

Bottom: Although as many as 10,000 people were left homeless, no one was killed in the 1917 Atlanta fire.

Camp Benning was opened in 1917 as a result of orders from General John Pershing, the leader of the American armed forces. Located near Columbus, Camp Benning trained infantry troops. Named in honor of Confederate General Henry Benning, it became Fort Benning in 1922. During the war, a German submarine crew was imprisoned at Fort McPherson, which was just outside of Atlanta. Camp Gordon (later renamed Fort Gordon) is located outside of Augusta. These and other military installations were a major factor in the state's economy.

Georgians contributed to the war effort in other ways. Textile mills made fabric for military uniforms. Railroads carried arms, ammunition, and soldiers to ports where ships waited to sail for Europe. Farmers grew more food crops, tobacco, and livestock. Many town residents planted "victory gardens" to raise their own vegetables so there would be more food for the military. Women volunteered to work for the Red Cross, to welcome soldiers, to knit, and to help sell bonds. However, Georgia's most important contribution was the three thousand young people from all over the state who died in an effort to "make the world safe for democracy."

The entry of the United States into the war and the vast amounts of personnel, supplies, and equipment it was able to contribute helped to defeat the Central Powers. On November 11, 1918, the war officially ended when both sides signed an **armistice** (an agreement to stop fighting). For years afterward, Georgia and the rest of the nation rang church bells and held ceremonies at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month to commemorate victory and peace.

Atlanta Fire

On May 21, 1917, Atlanta's attention was briefly drawn away from the war by a local event. Early that morning, many residents were told to collect water they might need for the day because the city's water supply was to be off for a while. When a fire broke out in the west end of town, firemen had little water to put it out. Over the next 10-12 hours, more than seventy city blocks were destroyed.

Dry weather and wooden houses built close together made it easy for the fire to spread. About 1,900 houses and 1,553 other buildings were destroyed; between 6,000 and 10,000 people were left homeless.

A Final Note

The term *generosity* refers to the act of being kindly, charitable, open-handed, and giving. You can show your generosity by giving money to those in need or to a cause in which you believe. You can also be generous with your time in helping others, with your words by sharing positive comments or knowledge, or just by sharing your talents whether they range from baking cookies to playing the piano to sketching pictures.

This chapter includes a look at some famous Americans and Georgians who shared their generosity with those around them. Choose two individuals from the chapter and, for each one, list three ways that these people showed their generous nature.

Chapter Summary

- **Muckrakers** was the term applied to reform-minded journalists and writers of this period.
- The **Progressive Era** was a time of great cultural, social, economic, and political changes.
- **Social changes** included prison reforms, labor reforms, the temperance movement and prohibition, women's suffrage, and civil rights struggles.
- **Economic changes** included the development of the corporation, the growth of trusts and monopolies, and later efforts to limit trusts and monopolies.
- **Political changes** included the growth of the Populist party, the use of the Australian ballot, and establishment of Georgia's county unit system, which gave great influence to rural politicians.
- The nation ratified the **Eighteenth** (prohibition) and **Nineteenth** (suffrage for women) amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
- **During this period**, African Americans struggled against discrimination and the passage of laws that segregated public facilities and prevented them from voting.
- **Georgian Tom Watson**, who represented the state in the U.S. House of Representatives, sponsored the Rural Free Delivery bill, which required the U.S. Post Office to deliver mail to rural areas.
- **Georgian Hoke Smith**, while serving in the U.S. Senate, sponsored legislation creating the Agricultural Extension Service and vocational education programs in public schools.
- **Coca-Cola**, one of the world's largest corporations, was founded in Atlanta.
- **After several years of neutrality**, the United States entered World War I on the side of the Allied Powers. Georgia's military installations expanded during the war, which ended in 1918.

Did You Know?

In 1938, **Congress** declared **November 11** to be a legal holiday and called it **Armistice Day**. In 1954, **Congress** **changed the name** of the holiday to **Veterans Day** to honor American veterans of all wars.

It's Your Turn

1. When did the United States enter World War I?
2. Describe at least four ways Georgians contributed to the victory in World War I.
3. Do you think World War I did "make the world safe for democracy"? Why or why not?

Chapter Review

Reviewing People, Places and Terms



Use the following names or terms in a sentence about this period of Georgia's history.

1. armistice
2. Asa Candler
3. civil rights
4. corporation
5. John Hope
6. Jim Crow laws
7. labor union
8. martial law
9. prohibition
10. suffragette
8. How did the county unit system work in Georgia? What did it accomplish?
9. Explain the major conflict between civil rights leaders Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois.
10. Which U.S. Supreme Court cases of this era reinforced segregation in the nation and in Georgia's schools?
11. What were three strategies used by white supremacists to minimize African American voting powers?
12. What were two of the events that forced the United States into World War I?

Understanding the Facts



1. Name the three areas in which progressives worked for reforms.
2. Describe two major prison reforms of this era. Are those reforms still in place today?
3. What was the mission of the WCTU?
4. Who were Georgia's leaders against "demon rum"?
5. What were four reforms sought by the Populist party?
6. For what legislation is Thomas Watson best remembered?
7. What were the results of the Smith-Lever Act and the Smith-Hughes Act? How did this federal legislation help Georgia's citizens?
1. Today, many colleges have forbidden or are considering forbidding alcohol on campus to curtail students' "binge" drinking. Do you think this is a good idea?
2. Why do you think Americans took so long to give women the vote?
3. The United States was officially neutral when World War I broke out, yet Americans could not help but take sides in the war because so many citizens were recent immigrants from Europe. How do you think our immigration patterns influenced our decision-making skills during the period leading up to our entry into the war? How does our diverse, multicultural population influence our political decision-making today? In your opinion, is this influence a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

Developing Critical Thinking



Checking It Out



1. After the success of the movie *Titanic*, you probably think that you know all there is to know about the sinking of the famous ship. Use your research skills to check it out. Could the catastrophe have been avoided? How? Who were some of the rich and famous people aboard the ship on that fateful evening? How many fatalities were there? How many survivors?
2. In 2004, Berry College in Rome was selected as the nation's No. 2 comprehensive undergraduate college in the South. Use your research skills to find out who was No. 1. Then use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two schools. Do you agree with the magazine's ranking? Why or why not?
3. Average salaries in 1892 were quite different than average salaries today. For each of the following job categories, use your research skills to locate a modern-day salary equivalent. Then calculate the percentage of increase in salary for each category. (1) Factory worker, 1892 salary \$446; (2) Miner, 1892 wages \$393; (3) Clerk, 1892 salary \$885; (4) Schoolteacher, 1892 salary \$270.

Writing Across the Curriculum



1. The progressives wanted to reform society in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Write a paragraph describing some aspect of society that you would like to reform today.
2. Write an editorial that might have appeared in an Atlanta newspaper following Booker T. Washington's speech at the Cotton States and International Exposition.

Exploring Technology



1. There were many technical advancements during this era, far more than can be listed under the Signs of the Times. Go to Internet site www.enchantedlearning.com/inventors/ to find out about ten inventions or discoveries of the period. Prepare a chart that lists information for each invention or discovery you find.
2. During World War I, propaganda consisted of cartoons, patriotic photographs, patriotic slogans, and posters. Use an Internet search engine to look at some of the World War I posters supporting bonds, victory gardens, war savings stamps, saving food, and volunteering. What appeals do these posters use?



Applying Your Skills

1. Try your hand at developing a series of posters for today's citizens of Georgia. Try to enlist their support in any project your school plans or in any community improvement effort.
2. Find three newspaper articles that deal with the issue of civil rights in today's society.
3. Draw a political cartoon that deals with one of the issues discussed in this chapter.

Picture Question



This statue of Georgia's best-known populist stands at the main entrance of the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta. Who is he?