

WHAT IS A UNION?

A **trade union** or **labour union** is an organization of workers who have banded together to achieve common goals in key areas such as wages, hours, and working conditions, forming a cartel of labor.

What does that mean? (In your own words)

WHAT DO THEY DO?

The trade union, through its leadership...

- bargains with the employer on behalf of union members
- and negotiates labor contracts with employers
- Negotiate wages, work rules (Like we did in class), complaint procedures, rules governing hiring, firing and promotion of workers, benefits, workplace safety and policies.
- The agreements negotiated by the union leaders are binding on the **rank and file** members and the **employer** and in *some cases* on other **non-member workers**.
- Enforce strikes or resistance to lockouts in furtherance of particular goals.
- **Political activity:** Trade unions may *promote* legislation favorable to the interests of their members or workers as a whole. To this end they may *pursue* campaigns, undertake lobbying, or *financially support* individual candidates or parties (such as the Labour Party in Britain) for public office.

[Power point slides] "Work Safety"

Protect members against: Pass out "Factory Girl" (allow students to look at pictures)

- unemployment
- ill health
- Old age and funeral expenses
- professional training
- legal advice and representation

SOCIAL HISTORY OF EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICA

Industrialism

The **Industrial Revolution** was a period in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when major changes, more efficient modes of production, in agriculture, manufacturing, and transportation had a profound effect on the socioeconomic and cultural conditions in Britain.

What does that mean? (In your own words)

Immigration & Migration

Crowded Cities

Animals and Sanitation

Diseases: polio, small pox, etc

Racism

Little legislation on work

- Irregular wage payment
- Seasonal unemployment
- Cyclical unemployment

Crime

The Romantics: Jean Jacques Rousseau, William Wordsworth, William Blake, among others

- Back to nature
- Protest new society: under the clock, work like robots, more cities, more crime, hunger, etc.
- Rousseau: corrupt city=adults; nature=children

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