



# George Pullman's

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Pullman Village,  
Chicago, Illinois

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Photo courtesy of the Chicago  
Historical Society

## *Essential Question:*

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- ✦ How did the legacy of the labor movements in the 1890s have an impact on the progressive era?

# It began with an idea...

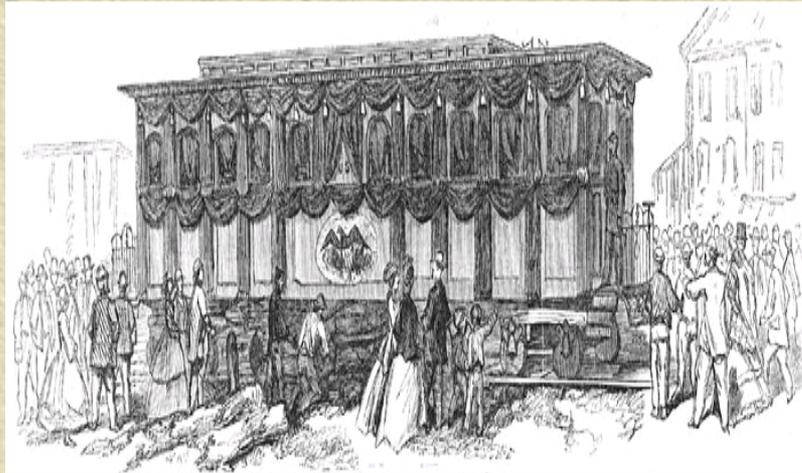
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- ✦ As George Pullman was traveling overnight from Buffalo to Westfield, New York, his accommodations were so uncomfortable, that he decided to design a new railroad car
- ✦ When he built his model car, railroad companies refused to use the car because it was too wide for platforms and bridges



# The “break” Pullman needed:

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- ✦ After President Lincoln was assassinated, his body was transported from Chicago to Springfield, Illinois using a Pullman Sleeping Car
- ✦ After people realized how comfortable the cars were, the railroad companies sprung into action to accommodate the new Pullman cars

# George Pullman creates the “perfect society”

- ✦ Pullman wanted to create a community that was both a center of industry and a place for the employees to live. He felt that if his workers were happy, they would not strike
- ✦ Pullman Village was clean and safe and included uniform brick buildings that were small but comfortable



Photo courtesy of the Chicago  
Historical Society

# Pullman Village

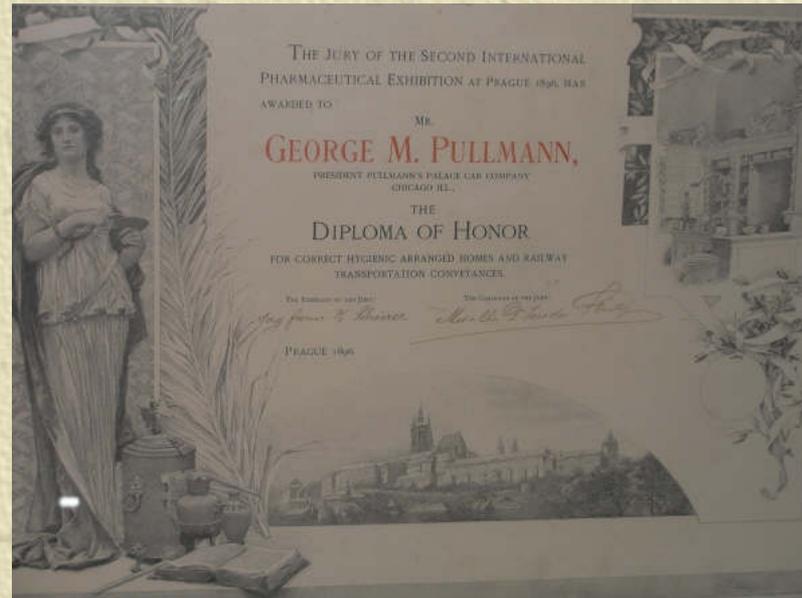
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- ✦ Pullman decided to create a “company town”—a place where the company owns the town where the workers are employed and live
- ✦ Pullman wanted to create a model society that would make his workers happy
- ✦ He hoped to forge a positive relationship between management and labor to avoid work stoppages

Photo courtesy of the Chicago  
Historical Society

# Pullman is awarded for his “model society”



# What was made at Pullman?

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- ✦ Luxury “cars” which were additions to railroad trains
- ✦ Provided comfortable and luxurious accommodations while traveling

# The Pullman Palace Car

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✦ The Pullman Palace Cars allowed tourists to travel at a quicker rate since they did not have to get off at night...the palace cars provided luxurious accommodations



Photo courtesy of the Chicago  
Historical Society

# The Disparity between Labor and Management

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1. Pullman Village included a library, however few people could utilize it because of its high membership fee:
  - ◆ 25 cents per month
2. Residents were not allowed to own their own homes—Pullman Village was a privately owned neighborhood



Photo courtesy of the Chicago  
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# The disparity continues...

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3. Pullman Village only had one church building that congregations had to rent from the Pullman Company.
4. Pullman Village was virtually an alcohol-free society

# The Hotel Florence

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- ✦ The hotel was the only location in the village that had a tavern and only tourists and company officials were allowed to drink there
- ✦ If workers wanted alcohol, they would have to walk to the next village to buy it...making it increasingly difficult to obtain the beverage



# The Pullman Strike

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- ✦ When the economy weakened in 1893-1894, Pullman decided to cut wages without cutting the rents on the homes in the company town
- ✦ The workers went to George Pullman to ask him to cut the rents and recognize their union
- ✦ When he refused, about 90% of Pullman's workers went on strike on May 11, 1894
- ✦ The boycott organized by the American Railway Union in support of the strike turned violent from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>
- ✦ Six rioters were killed

# End of the strike...

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- ✦ Federal troops intervened and the boycott was called off on July 12, 1894
- ✦ Obviously Pullman did not have the solution to the management-labor issue



# The decline of Pullman

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- ✦ George Pullman died in 1897
- ✦ In 1898 the Illinois Supreme Court forced the Pullman company to sell the land not being used for production
- ✦ 1957—Pullman factory closed

# Pullman Village today:

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Workers homes that have  
now been renovated:



# Pullman Village, 2007



# Letter:

✦ Due by Tuesday

→ Pretend you played a role in the Pullman Strike—either a laborer or business owner—based on your participation, what would you like your legacy to be?

\*I am checking off your COMPLETED worksheet tomorrow and collecting this letter...don't forget to finish them!!

# Special thank you's...

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- ✦ Chicago Historical Society for the use of their pictures
- ✦ The people of Pullman, Chicago, Illinois
- ✦ The Teaching American History Grant