

Child Labor and it's effects in America

Creators:

Justine Z, Courtney F,
Natasha H, and Ian M





Compelling Questions

- What was the impact of Child Labor on America?
- What reforms took place to end Child Labor?
- What was the impact of ending Child Labor in America?

Significance to Other Areas of Social Studies

- Economics: Some argue that poor families would be even poorer without the supplemental financial contribution of children. Challenges and perspectives of child labor - PMC (nih.gov)
- Civics: Even though there were no federal laws in place to protect children in their work environment, some states like Massachusetts were against it and in 1800's creates the first state child labor law. Timeline of Child Labor Developments in the United States – Stop Child Labor – The Child Labor Coalition



CLAIM NUMBER 1: BUSSINESSES WANTED CHILD LABOR

Evidence for claim number 1

The Cherokee Falls Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill wrote a letter to Senator E.D. Smith of South Carolina urging him to oppose the Keating-Owens Child Labor bill that was being considered in Congress. They claimed that laws preventing child labor would bring hardship on many people who depend on such labor for a living.

Letter from Operatives of Cherokee Falls
Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill in
Opposition to Keating-Owen Child Labor Bill
[DocsTeach]



CLAIM Number 2: MANY WERE FOR AND AGAINST CHILD LABOR

For:

- "... the parents frequently urge the children on to work. "Bill's lazy," one mother said of the little boy who complained that he was tired. "If he wasn't so lazy he could earn fifteen cents a day." (Little Folks Who Toil)



Against:

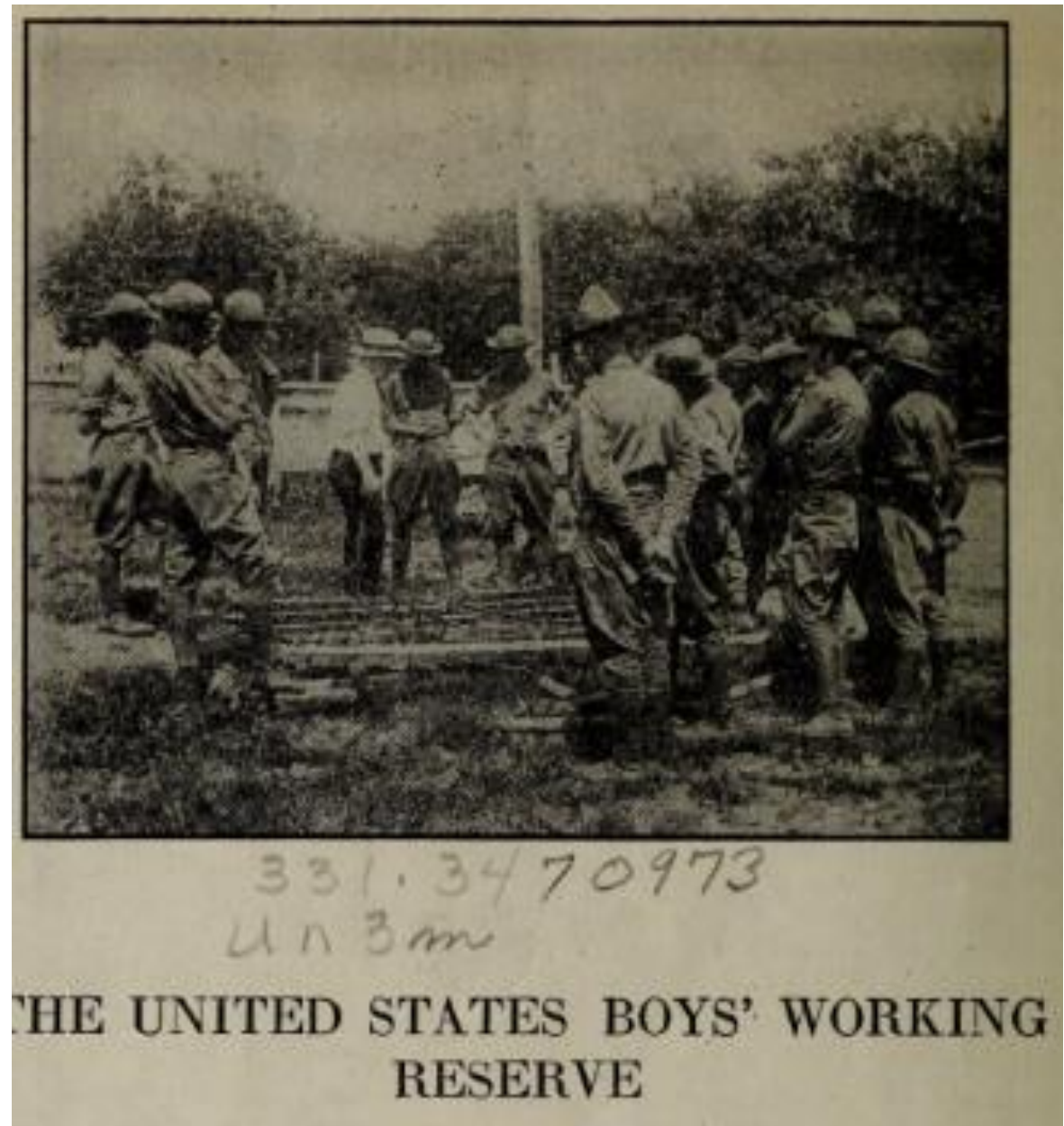
- Others argue and define Child Labor as any labor that causes harm to the child's health and deprives them of educational rights (Radfar) [Challenges and perspectives of child labor - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)



Claim 3: The Government supported child labor

The government was trying to appeal to parents and said, "It is the duty of the parents to see that their sons join the Reserve, a duty which is not only patriotic in the narrow sense of strengthening the power of the United States of America, but patriotic in the sense of supporting free and just governments all over war-weary Europe." (Making Boy Power Count)

[#1 - Making boy power count / U.S. Boys' Working Reserve, U.S. Employment ... - Full View | HathiTrust Digital Library](#)



CLAIM NUMBER 4:
Many People Were Against Child Labor

Evidence for Claim Number 4:

“Working children are deprived from a proper physical and mental development.” Having children work instead of school is not beneficial for their growth.

[Challenges and perspectives of child labor - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

“That is the sad part – constantly little victims are being fed into the maw of the great machine of labor, which presses them into shapes that will never be normal all their lives long.” (Little Folks Who Toil)

“Some people say this work can’t be bad for children, because it keeps them outdoors, but look at the place where they sleep, many of them little windowless huts, in which whole families are herded together thicker than cattle in a stable.” (Little Folks Who Toil)

[The Redwood gazette. \[volume\] \(Redwood Falls, Minn.\) 1873-1940, September 05, 1911, Image 8 « Chronicling America « Library of Congress \(loc.gov\)](#)

“Child Labor is defined as labor that harms the health of the children or deprives them of educational rights” (Radfar)

[Challenges and perspectives of child labor - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)



CLAIM 5:

Laws were put in place to protect children in the workplace.

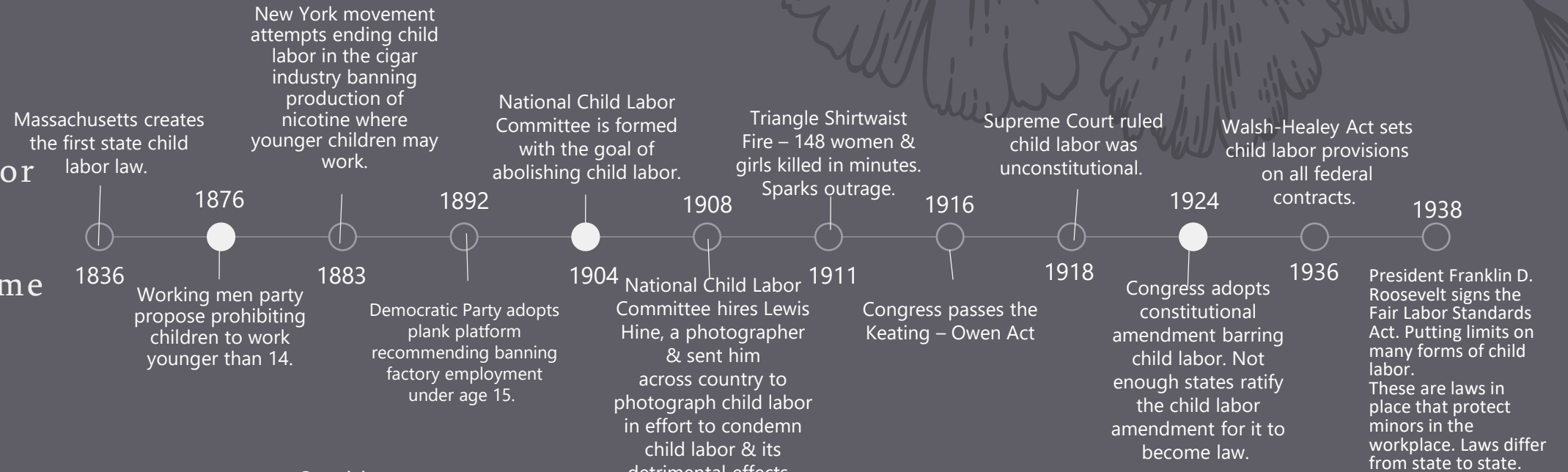
Evidence

- The Keating-Owen Child Labor Act of 1916 was one of the first federal child labor laws in the United States. The act aimed to address and regulate child labor by prohibiting the interstate shipment of goods produced in factories or mines that employed children under the age of 14, or children under 16 who worked more than eight hours a day, or at night. This law was a significant step in recognizing the need to protect children from exploitation in the workforce and paved the way for future labor laws aimed at safeguarding the rights and well-being of children.
- "In 1989, The United Nations Children's Fund was put into place to recognize children as humans as rights instead of economic assets to the parent" (Radfar).



TIMELINE AND UNRELATED EVENTS FOR CHILD LABOR IN AMERICA

Child labor in the United States timeline



World events that were happening at the same time





Collection of evidence and sources



- [Historian Inquiry](#)
- [Citation \(CAPPS and APPARTS\)](#)
- [Circle of viewpoints form](#)
- [Template for the Historian Inquiry Project 2024.docx](#)



Submission:

One of your group members will submit this assignment for your working group.

The items that need to be submitted to Blackboard are:

- the Inquiry Project (history, civics or geography) template,
 - the circle of viewpoints document,
 - the CAPPS or APPARTS documents for each primary source collected,
 - your reference list which includes all sources.
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- These documents should be submitted through the underlined title of this assignment. Your group will prepare a presentation of your project which will be shared on the Discussion Board for this class.