



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2026 Volume IV: Resistance from Aristotle to Star Wars

Bombs Dropping over Appalachia: The Battle of Blair Mountain and the Progressive Era

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by Raymond Marshall

This unit examines two of the periods of American History most associated with popular resistance: The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era. Students will learn about two of the most significant events which galvanized popular resistance in these periods, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, and the Blair Mountain War, two events which bookended the Progressive Era and led, directly or otherwise, to some of the greatest advances in workers' rights and safety in American history. Students will also learn about the impact that popular movements and resistance can have on American politics, business, and society, with an eye towards what they can do in order to create the changes they wish to see in their country.

(Developed for U.S. History, grade 11; recommended for U.S. History, World History and Government, secondary grades)

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