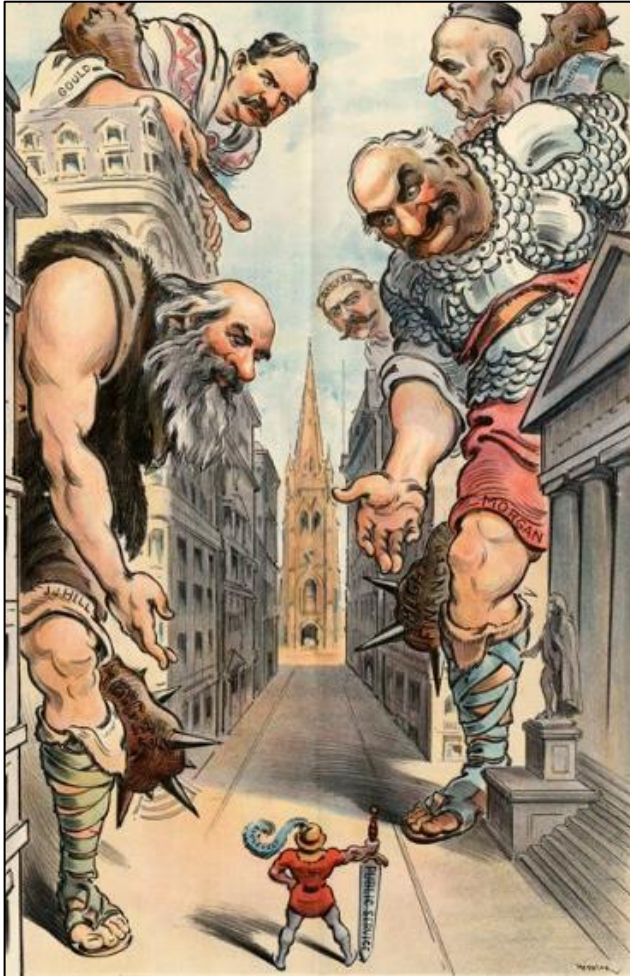


## Warm-Up: *Jack and Wall Street Giants*



This Gilded Age cartoon by Joseph Keppler shows prominent businessmen such as JP Morgan and Rockefeller as giants squaring off against Theodore Roosevelt. The size of the corporate bosses compared to Roosevelt implies that America was ruled by the men on Wall Street rather than the government. In fact, in the Gilded Age, these men and their corporations were allowed to go unchecked by a government that did not make attempts to control them.

In the light of the 1904 presidential election, Theodore Roosevelt campaigned to take on these “Wall Street Giants” to fight for the rights of the common men who were exploited by these corporate giants. The sword he carries represents the public service he intends to perform by protecting both workers and

consumers from big business practices. The expressions of the giants show that Roosevelt is unwelcome; however, the posture and demeanor of Roosevelt’s stance show that he will not be deterred from his goal.

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1. Who do the giants in the cartoon represent? What does their size symbolize?
2. Who is the small individual in the cartoon? What does the sword in his hand symbolize?
3. What campaign promise did Roosevelt make in 1904?
4. Does the cartoonist support or oppose the actions of the monopolists? Explain your answer.