

Questions related to The Weakness of Radical Tactics:

1. Gompers' friend, Laurrell, had a great deal of experience in the labor movement that extended back to Europe. What were his positions on trade unionism and radicalism?
2. What major economic event precipitated the Tompkins Square demonstration?
3. Worker organizations urged the government to take specific actions to help the unemployed. In your opinion, were these demands reasonable? Explain.
4. The conduct of the New York City police both during and after the Tompkins Square demonstration was extreme. While police brutality is always inexcusable, list four factors that likely helped set the stage for a strong police response.
5. Identify five labor lessons Gompers learned from the Tompkins Square demonstration.
6. Did trade unionist goals include having the working class rule society? Explain.
7. Which did trade unionists view as labor's first priority, economic improvement for workers or political action by workers?