Chapter 28

Progressivism and the Republican Roosevelt, 1901–1912

Progressivism and the Republican Roosevelt

**PROGRESSIVES**

**1890 to 1917**

“Progressives were reformers who attempted to solve problems caused by industry, growth of cities and laissez faire.”

**PROGRESSIVES**

Reform = Progress

- Always possible and good
- Progress not inevitable but blocked by ignorance and corruption
- Everyone / everything can be improved
- Traditions = automatically suspect
- Experts can **ALWAYS** find one best way
- Education & Purity always = progress.
- Mission = Progress for world

**PROGRESSIVES**

When did the movement begin?

- Farmers organize during the 1870’s
  - The Grange—1867—local level
  - Farmer’s Alliance—state level
  - Populist Party—national level
  - People’s Party

**PROGRESSIVES**

- White Protestants
- Middle class and native born.
- College Educated Professionals
  - Social workers
  - Scholars
  - Politicians
  - Preachers
  - Teachers
  - Writers

“Progressives were reformers who attempted to solve problems caused by industry, growth of cities and laissez faire.”
**Adopt Populist Ideas**

- Move away from laissez faire with government regulating industry
- Make US government responsive to the people (voting)
- Limit power of the political bosses.
- Improve worker’s rights, conditions for poor and immigrants
  - Clean up the cities
  - End segregation and Jim Crow

**Populists vs Progressives**

- Populists --- rural
- Progressives --- cities

- Populists were poor and uneducated
- Progressives were middle-class and educated.

- Populists were too radical
- Progressives stayed political mainstream.

- Populists failed
- Progressives succeeded

**Areas to Reform**

- Social Justice
- Political Democracy
- Economic Equality
- Conservation

**Social Justice**

Improve working conditions in industry, regulate unfair business practices, eliminate child labor, help immigrants and the poor

**Economic Justice**

- Fairness and opportunity in the work world, regulate unfair trusts and bring about changes in labor.
- Demonstrate to the common people that U.S. Government is in charge and not the industrialists.

**Political Democracy**

Give the government back to the people, get more people voting and end corruption with political machines.
I. Progressive Roots

— Progressive ideas and theories:
  • Old philosophy of hands-off individualism seemed out of place in modern machine age
  • Progressive theorists insisted society could no longer afford luxury of limitless “let-alone” (laissez-faire) policy
  • The people, through government, must substitute mastery for drift

— Politicians and writers began to pinpoint targets:
  • Bryan, Altgeld, and Populists branded “bloated trusts” with stigma of corruption and wrongdoing
I. Progressive Roots (cont.)

- 1894: Henry Demarest Lloyd criticized Standard Oil Company in his book *Wealth Against Commonwealth*
- Thorstein Veblen assailed new rich in his *The Theory of the Leisure Class* (1899):
  - Attacked “predatory wealth” and “conspicuous consumption”
  - In his view, parasitic leisure class engaged in wasteful “business” rather than productive “industry”
  - Urged social leadership pass from superfluous titans to useful engineers
- Jacob A. Riis shocked middle-class Americans in 1890 with *How the Other Half Lives*
What the United States Government says about CHILD LABOR IN TENEMENTS

Extracts from the report just published by the United States Bureau of Labor

Compiled by Oscar A. Hass, Director New York Child Labor Commission

This page is the second of the Washington] American, October 6, 1919. The number of the Washington American has been increased to four pages. The name is the result of a change that was announced in the Washington American, May 24, 1919.
I. Progressive Roots (cont.)

- Damning indictment of dirt, disease, vice, and misery in New York slums
- Book deeply influenced Theodore Roosevelt

- Novelist Theodore Dreiser:
  - Used his blunt prose to batter promoters and profiteers in *The Financier* (1912) and *The Titan* (1914)

- Socialists registered appreciable strength at ballot box (see Thinking Globally section)

- Social gospel movement:
  - Promoted a brand of progressivism based on Christianity
  - Used religious doctrine to demand better housing and living conditions for urban poor

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Charity Organization Movement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Decided who was worthy of help</td>
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<td>• Wanted immigrants to adopt American, middle-class standards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Offered charity and justice to society’s problems.</td>
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<tr>
<th>The Social Gospel Movement</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Sought to apply the gospel teachings of Christ. Preached salvation through service to poor</td>
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<th>The Settlement Movement</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Social welfare reformers work to relieve urban poverty</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Moved into poor communities</td>
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<td>• Their settlement houses served as community centers and social service agencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Hull House, founded by Jane Addams a model settlement house in Chicago, offered cultural events, classes, childcare, employment assistance, and health-care clinics.</td>
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</table>
I. Progressive Roots (cont.)

• Other reformers:
  – University-based economists urged new reforms modeled on European examples
  – Feminists added social justice to suffrage on list of needed reforms
  – Urban pioneers entered fight to improve lot of families living and working in festering cities

The muckrakers were very active and prolific...

• Lincoln Steffens wrote "The Shame of the Cities" (1902) which exposed city corruption in cahoots with big business.

• Ida Tarbell wrote an exposé in McClure's that laid bare the ruthless business tactics of John D. Rockefeller and the Standard Oil Company. Some thought she was just out for revenge because her father's business had been ruined by Rockefeller. But, all of her facts checked out.

• Thomas Lawson exposed the practices of stock market speculators in "Frenzied Finance" (1905-06), published in Everybody's. (He'd made $50 million himself playing the market.)

• David Phillips wrote "The Treason of the Senate" (1906) in Cosmopolitan. He said that 75 of the 90 U.S. senators represented big businesses rather than the people. He backed up his charges with enough evidence to also impress Teddy Roosevelt.

• Henry Demarest Lloyd wrote Wealth Against Commonwealth (1894) which struck at the Standard Oil Company.

• Thorstein Veblen wrote The Theory of the Leisure Class (1899) criticizing people who made money seemingly for money's sake. He spoke of "predatory wealth" and "conspicuous consumption."

• Jacob Riis wrote How the Other Half Lives (1890) about the lives of the poor. He wanted to divert attention from America's infatuation with how the rich live and show the life of squalor in the New York slums. This book would influence Teddy Roosevelt, a future New York police commissioner.

• Theodore Dreiser made his points through his realist fiction. In The Financier (1912) and The Titan (1914) he criticized promoters and profiteers.

• John Spargo wrote The Bitter Cry of the Children (1906) exposing, and critical of child labor.

• Ray Stannard Baker wrote Following the Color Line (1908) about the still-sorry state of life for Southern Blacks.

• Dr. Harvey Wiley (the "crusading chemist") criticized patent medicines which were largely unregulated, habit-forming, and normally did more bad than good. He and his "Poison Squad" used themselves as guinea pigs for experiments.

• Muckrakers were loud about the ills, but didn't offer cures. To the muckrakers, the cure for societal ills was democracy. They had no faith in politicians leading the charge but wanted to get the story out to the public. Muckrakers believed that the public conscience would eventually remedy the problems.
Muckrakers were journalists and photographers who exposed the abuses of wealth and power. They felt it was their job to write and expose corruption in industry, cities and government. Progressives exposed corruption but offered no solutions.

Raking Muck with the Muckrakers

Around 1902, a new group of social critics emerged—the muckrakers. They typically exposed what they saw as corruption or injustice in writings. Favorite outlets for the muckrakers were liberal, reform-minded magazines like McClure’s, Collier’s, Cosmopolitan, and Everybody’s.

- They were called “muckrakers” first by Teddy Roosevelt. Though he considered their exposés important in enlightening the ills of society, it was actually a derogatory term—him being unimpressed with their tendency to focus on the negatives (raking through the muck) of society but without offering any practical solutions to these problems.

II. Raking Muck with the Muckrakers

- Popular magazines—McClure’s, Cosmopolitan, Collier’s and Everybody’s:
  - Dug deep for dirt the public loved
  - Editors financed extensive research
  - President Theodore Roosevelt called them muckrakers
  - Reformer-writers Lincoln Steffens and Ida M. Tarbell targeted:
    - Corrupt alliance between big business and municipal government
    - Exposé of Standard Oil Company
    - Malpractices of life insurance companies, tariff lobbies, trusts, etc.
    - Some of most effective fire by muckrakers directed at social evils:

II. Raking Muck with the Muckrakers (cont.)

- Immoral “white slave” traffic in women, rickety slums, appalling number of industrial accidents, subjugation of blacks, and abuse of child labor
- Vendors of patent medicines also criticized

- Muckrakers signified much about nature of progressive reform movement:
  - Long on lamentation but stopped short of revolutionary remedies
  - Counted on publicity to right social wrongs
  - Sought not to overthrow capitalism, but to cleanse it
  - Cure for ills of American democracy was more democracy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muckraker</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Nast</td>
<td>Political Cartoons</td>
<td>Political corruption by NYC’s political machine, Tammany Hall, led by Boss Tweed.</td>
<td>Tweed was convicted of embezzlement and died in prison.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Riis</td>
<td>How the Other Half Lives (1890)</td>
<td>Living conditions of the urban poor; focused on tenements.</td>
<td>NYC passed building codes to promote safety and health. Ending child labor and increased enrollment in schooling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Spargo</td>
<td>The Bitter Cry of the Children</td>
<td>Child labor in the factories and education for children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upton Sinclair</td>
<td>The Jungle (1906)</td>
<td>Investigated dangerous working conditions and unsanitary procedures in the meat-packing industry.</td>
<td>In 1906 the Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act were passed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Norris</td>
<td>The Octopus (1901)</td>
<td>This fictional book exposed monopolistic railroad practices in California.</td>
<td>In Northern Securities v. U.S. (1904), the holding company controlling railroads in the Northwest was broken up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida Tarbell</td>
<td>“History of Standard Oil Company” in McClure’s Magazine (1904)</td>
<td>Exposed the ruthless tactics of the Standard Oil Company through a series of articles published in McClure’s Magazine.</td>
<td>In Standard Oil v. U.S. (1911), the company was declared a monopoly and broken up.</td>
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**Social Reformers**

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<tr>
<th>Social Gospel</th>
<th>Jane Addams</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pioneer in the field of social work who founded the settlement house movement through the establishment of Hull House in Chicago, Illinois.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Sanger</td>
<td>Educated urban poor about the benefits of family planning through birth control. She founded the organization that became Planned Parenthood.</td>
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**Progressives**

**Political Democracy**

Give the government back to the people, get more people voting and end corruption with political machines.

**Goal:** Reform local and state governments by introducing direct involvement of the people. At the national level, women’s suffrage and direct election of the U.S. Senate

- Local Level 🟢
- State Level 🟢
- National Level 🟢

**III. Political Progressivism (cont.)**

- “Who were the progressives?”
  - Militarists—Theodore Roosevelt
  - Pacifists—Jane Addams
  - Female settlement workers, labor unionists, and enlightened businessmen
  - Sought to modernize American institutions to achieve two goals:
    - Use state to curb monopoly power
    - Improve common person’s conditions of life and labor
III. Political Progressivism (cont.)

– Emerged in both political parties, in all regions, and at all levels of government
– Regain power from corrupt “interests” by:
  • Direct primary elections to undercut party bosses
  • Initiative so voters could directly propose legislation
  • Referendum would place laws on ballot for final approval by people
  • Recall would enable voters to remove corrupt officials beholden to lobbyists

Political Progressivism

– The progressives generally came from the middle class. They felt somehow sandwiched between the big business trusts and tycoons on the top and the immigrant, working class on the bottom.

– Progressives pushed for a variety of political reforms to help their cause. They favored and generally got the following accomplished:
  • The initiative where voters could initiate laws, rather than waiting and hoping a legislator might do it.
  • The referendum where voters could vote proposed bills into law, circumventing unresponsive legislators altogether.
  • The recall where voters could remove elected officials rather than waiting for his term to expire. The thought was, “We voted them in, we can vote them out.”
  • The secret ballot, called the Australian ballot, to help get a true vote and avoid intimidation at the polls.
  • The direct election of senators by the people. At the time, U.S. senators were chosen by state legislators, not the people. This became reality in 1913, with the 17th Amendment.

• And female suffrage? This would have to wait a bit longer (until 1920).

III. Political Progressivism (cont.)

– Rooting out graft became a prime goal
– Introduced secret Australian ballot to counteract boss rule
– Direct election of senators a favorite goal achieved by constitutional amendment:
  • Seventeenth Amendment, approved in 1913, established direct election of U.S. senators
– Woman suffrage received growing support:
  • States like Washington, California, and Oregon gradually extended vote to women
Thomas Nast was the artist for Harper's Weekly in the late 1800s.

- "He has been called, the Father of American Caricature."
- Nast's campaign against New York City's political boss William Tweed is legendary
- Nast's cartoons depicted Tweed as a sleazy criminal
- Tweed was known to say, "Stop them damn pictures. I don't care what the papers write about me. My constituents can't read. But, damn it, they can see the pictures."

City Reforms

| City Commissioner Plan | Cities hired experts in different fields to run a single aspect of city government. For example, the sanitation commissioner would be in charge of garbage and sewage removal. |
| City Manager Plan | A professional city manager is hired to run each department of the city and report directly to the city council. |

State Reforms

| Recall | Allows voters to petition to have an elected representative removed from office. |
| Initiative | Allows voters to petition state legislatures in order to consider a bill desired by citizens. |
| Referendum | Allows voters to decide if a bill or proposed amendment should be passed. |
| Secret Ballot | Privacy at the ballot box ensures that citizens can cast votes without party bosses knowing how they voted. |
| Direct Primary | Ensures that voters select candidates to run for office, rather than party bosses. |

Australian Ballot

- Given out only at the polls
- Vote in secret
- Printed at public expense
- Lists names of all candidates and their parties

Political Democracy

1790 to 1828

- Caucus—small group of individuals who would choose a candidate

1828 to 1900

- Convention—members from the political parties nominate a candidate

Current System Used

- Direct Primary—allow registered voters to participate in choosing a candidate

Which of these nominating processes would be the most democratic way to nominate candidates and narrow the field of candidates for the general election?
Preparing the Way for Suffrage

- American women activists first demanded the right to vote in 1848 at the Seneca Falls Convention in New York.
- The movement eventually split into two groups:
  - The National Woman Suffrage Association fought for a constitutional amendment for suffrage.
  - The American Woman Suffrage Association worked to win voting rights on the state level.
- In 1890, Wyoming entered the union and became the first state to grant women the right to vote.
- In 1872, in an act of civil disobedience, a suffrage leader, Susan B. Anthony, insisted on voting in Rochester, New York. She was arrested for this act.

Suffragist Strategies

**NWSA**
- **Constitutional Amendment**
  - Winning suffrage by a constitutional amendment
  - The first federal amendment was introduced in Congress in 1868 and stalled.
  - In 1878, suffragists introduced a new amendment.
  - Stalled again, the bill was not debated again until 1887. It was defeated by the Senate.
  - The bill was not debated again until 1913.

**AWSA**
- **Individual State Suffrage**
  - Winning suffrage state by state
  - State suffrage seemed more successful than a constitutional amendment.
  - Survival on the frontier required the combined efforts of men and women and encouraged a greater sense of equality.
  - Western states were more likely to allow women the right to vote.

A New Generation Women’s Suffrage

- Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, leaders of the suffrage movement, died without seeing the victory of women’s suffrage.
- At the turn of the century, Carrie Chapman Catt became the leader of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).
- She led the movement from 1900 to 1904 and again after 1915.
- In March 1913 Alice Paul and Lucy Burns organized a parade of 5,000 women in Washington, D.C.

A New Generation Women’s Suffrage

19th Amendment provides full suffrage to women in all the states, 1920.
After Reconstruction, there were several ways that Southern states kept Blacks from voting and segregated, or separating people by the color of their skin in public facilities.

- poll taxes
- literacy tests
- grandfather clause

Jim Crow laws, laws at the local and state level which segregated whites from blacks and kept African Americans as 2nd class citizens and from voting.

Plessy vs. Ferguson, 1896

Supreme Court legalized segregation throughout the nation.

- "Separate but Equal" as long as public facilities were equal

- Problem: Black facilities never equal to White facilities

US would be segregated until the 1960’s.
**Booker T. Washington**

*How do Black Americans overcome segregation?*

**Southern Perspective**

- Former slave
- Wrote a book, *Up From Slavery*
- Don't confront segregation head on
- Before you are considered equal in society, must be self sufficient like most Americans
- Stressed vocational education for Black Americans
  - Gradualism and economic self-sufficiency
  - Founder of Tuskegee Institute

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**W.E.B. DuBois**

*How do Black Americans overcome segregation?*

**Northern Perspective**

- Fought for immediate Black equality in society
- Talented 10%: Demanded the top 10% of the talented Black population be placed into the “power positions”
- Gain equality by breaking into power structure
- Founder of NAACP
  - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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**Atlanta Compromise**

Speech given by Booker T. Washington in Atlanta, Sept. 18, 1895, at the Atlanta World Exposition.

- Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute, was a black leader in education in the South.
- Many of those who viewed this speech saw it as a willingness on the part of Washington to accept social inequality in return for economic equality and security for the southern blacks.
Begins in 1906 in a meeting at Niagara Falls, Canada in opposition to Booker T. Washington’s philosophy of accepting segregation.

1. Encourage of Black pride
2. Uncompromising demand for full political and civil equality
3. No acceptance of segregation—opposed Booker T. Washington’s “gradualism”.
4. Gain acceptance of white reformers.
5. Formation of the NAACP in 1906 with Dubois as the editor of the NAACP’s journal, The Crisis
6. Other Black groups formed to support Dubois, National Urban League in 1911

Improving Conditions for African Americans

Lynching – Ida Wells – The Red Record.

Marcus Garvey

- Born in Jamaica
- Pan-African philosophy to inspire a global mass movement focusing on Africa known as Garveyism
- Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)
IV. Progressivism in the Cities and States

- Progressives scored impressive gains in cities:
  - Galveston, Texas appointed expert-staffed commissions to manage urban affairs
  - Other communities adopted city-manager system
  - Urban reformers attacked “slumlords,” juvenile delinquency, wide-open prostitution
  - Looked to German and English cities for examples of how to improve services:
    • Clean up water supplies

- Looked to German and English cities for examples of how to improve services:
  - Clean up water supplies
  - Light streets
  - Run trolley cars
  - Support for public ownership of utilities grew

- Reforms bubbled up to states, like Wisconsin:
  - Governor Robert (“Fighting Bob”) La Follette a crusader and militant progressive Republican leader
    • Wrenched considerable control from crooked railroad and lumber corporations and returned it to the people
    • Perfected a scheme for regulating public utilities

- Wisconsin was the Progressive leader for states. Led by Gov. Robert “Fighting Bob” La Follette, Wisconsin was able to grab power back from the big businesses and return it to the people.

- Other states marched toward progressivism:
  - Undertook to regulate railroads and trusts by way of public utility commissions
  - Leaders:
    • Hiram W. Johnson of California
    • Charles Evans Hughes of New York

Social Justice

- Hiram Johnson—Governor of Calif.
  • Worker’s compensation
  • State insurance supported workers injured on the job

- Robert La Follette—Gov. of Wisconsin
  • Wisconsin Idea = La Follette Plan
  • Taxes on incomes and corporations
Progressive Women

Women were an indispensable catalyst in the Progressive army. They couldn’t vote or hold political office, but were active none-the-less. Women focused their changes on family-oriented ills such as child labor.

Court decisions impacted women.

- The Supreme Court case of Muller v. Oregon (1908) said that laws protecting female workers were indeed constitutional. The case was successfully argued by attorney Louis Brandeis saying women’s weaker bodies suffered harmful effects in factory work.
  - This victory, however, came with a cost to women. Brandeis’ own argument of weaker female bodies would later be used to keep women out of certain “male” jobs.
- A loss occurred in the case of Lochner v. New York (1905). In the case, the Supreme Court struck down a 10-hour workday for bakers.

- Women reformers gained speed after the Triangle Shirtwaist Company burnt down in 1911, trapping and killing 146 mostly young, women workers. The tragedy gained much attention and gave the women momentum.

- The public outcry prompted many states to pass laws regulating hours and conditions in such “sweatshops” and to pass workers’ compensation laws.
• Alcohol had long been under fire by women. During the Progressive era, temperance would reach its peak.

• Francis Willard, founder of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) got 1 million women to join the cause against alcohol. The WCTU was joined by the Anti-Saloon League. They were well-organized and well-financed.

• Many states and counties went "dry." In 1914, 1/2 of Americans lived in dry areas.

• The movement culminated in 1919 with the 18th Amendment (AKA Prohibition) that banned alcohol's sale, consumption, and possession.

V. Progressive Women (cont.)

• Corner saloons attracted ire of progressives:
  – Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) mobilized nearly one million women
  – Some states and counties passed “dry” laws to control, restrict, or abolish alcohol
  – Big cities generally “wet” because immigrants accustomed in Old Country to free flow of alcohol
  – By World War I (1914), nearly half of U.S. population lived in “dry” territory

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WOMEN’S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

Founded in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1874, it used educational, social, and political means to promote legislation which dealt with issues ranging from health and hygiene, prison reform and world peace.

- protection of women and children at home and work
- women’s right to vote
- shelters for abused women
- support from labor movements such as the Knights of Labor
- the eight-hour work day
- equal pay for equal work
- founding of kindergartens
- assistance in founding of the PTA
- federal aid for education
- stiffer penalties for sexual crimes against girls and women
- uniform marriage and divorce laws

Most successful work was in alerting the nation of the evils of alcohol and promoting legislation to outlaw it.

• Passage of the 18th Amendment in 1919 to outlaw alcohol.

WOMEN’S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

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- prison reform, police matrons and women police officers
- homes and education for wayward girls
- pure food and drug act
- legal aid
- world peace
- opposed and worked against
  - the drug traffic
  - the use of alcohol and tobacco
  - white slavery and child labor
  - army brothels
Most successful and well known WCTU reformer was Carrie Nation.

She would march into a bar and sing and pray, while smashing bar fixtures and stock with a hatchet.

Between 1900 and 1910 she was arrested some 30 times, and paid her jail fines from lecture-tour fees and sales of souvenir hatchets.

Changed her name to Carry A. Nation and referred to herself as “A Home Defender”.

18th Amendment: Prohibition (1919)

Banned manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages

Movement begins at the local, state levels and eventually effects the national level.....

WCTU or Women's Christian Temperance Union founded in 1874 in Cleveland, Ohio

Frances Willard
Carrie Nation
Anna Howard Shaw
Anti-Saloon League
TR believed in the “capitalistic system” but believed that the system must be regulated by US Govt.

TR was a Hamiltonian but for the betterment of the “common man” as opposed to benefit the elite.

TR believed the U.S. Government was running the country and not the rich and corrupt industrialists. .

U.S. Government involvement with “regulatory agencies”....Similar to “checks and balances”.

TR, the “Trustbuster”
- Department of Labor
- Bureau of Corporations
- Filed more than 40 anti-trust suits using the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.
- Northern Securities
- Standard Oil
- Swift Beef

TR feared public interest being submerged at home:
- As a progressive, he called for a “Square Deal” for capital, labor, and public at large
- His program embraced three C’s:
  - Control of corporations
  - Consumer protection
  - Conservation of natural resources
- First test came in coal mines of Pennsylvania (1902)
  - Exploited workers struck for better pay and hours
  - TR threatens to send in troops to run mines
  - Owners back down and TR becomes the “hero” of the common working man.

Importance: First time US Govt. took the side of labor in a dispute.

VI. TR’s Square Deal for Labor

- Roosevelt finally threatened to seize mines if owners would not agree to arbitration with workers
  - First threat to use U.S. troops against owners, as opposed to against workers
- Roosevelt urged Congress to create new Department of Commerce and Labor (1903)
  - Ten years later it was separated in two
- New agency included a Bureau of Corporations authorized to investigate businesses engaged in interstate commerce:
  - Bureau helped break stranglehold of monopoly
  - Cleared road for era of “trust-busting”
VII. TR Corrals the Corporations

• First—railroads:
  – Elkins Act (1903) aimed at railroad rebates:
    • Heavy fines imposed on railroads that gave rebates and on shippers that accepted them
  – Hepburn Act (1906):
    • Free passes severely restricted
    • Interstate Commerce Commission expanded:
      – Included express companies, sleeping-car companies and pipelines
      – Commission could nullify existing rates and stipulate maximum rates

VII. TR Corrals the Corporations (cont.)

Trusts a fighting word in progressive era

– Roosevelt believed trusts here to stay:
  • Some were “good” trusts with public consciences
  • Some were “bad” trusts that lusted greedily for power
– First burst into headlines with legal attack on Northern Securities Company (1902):
  • Railroad holding company organized by financial titan J.P. Morgan and empire builder James J. Hill
  • They sought a virtual monopoly in Northwest
  • TR challenged potentates of industrial aristocracy

VII. TR Corrals the Corporations (cont.)

• Supreme Court upheld TR’s antitrust suit and ordered Northern Securities Company to dissolve:
  – Northern Securities decision jolted Wall Street
  – Angered big business
  – Enhanced Roosevelt’s reputation as trust smasher
• TR initiated over forty legal proceedings against giant monopolies:
  – Supreme Court (1905) declared beef trust illegal
  – Fist of justice fell upon monopolists controlling sugar, fertilizer, harvesters, and other key products
• TR’s real purpose was symbolic: prove conclusively that government, not private business, ruled country

VII. TR Corrals the Corporations (cont.)

– TR believed in regulating, not fragmenting, big business combines
– He hoped to make business leaders more amenable to federal regulation
– He never swung trust-crushing stick with maximum force
– Industrial behemoths more “tame” by end of TR’s reign
• His successor, William Howard Taft actually “busted” more trusts than TR
  – Taft launched suit against U.S. Steel (1911) but it caused a political reaction by TR
Economic Justice

• Fairness and opportunity in the work world, regulate unfair trusts and bring about changes in labor.
• Demonstrate to the common people that U.S. Government is in charge and not the industrialists.

## Progressive Era Federal Legislation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Reclamation Act (1902)</td>
<td>Encouraged conservation by allowing the building of dams and irrigations systems using money from the sale of public lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elkins Act (1903)</td>
<td>Outlawed the use of rebates by railroad officials or shippers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pure Food and Drug Act (1906/1911)</td>
<td>Required that companies accurately label the ingredients contained in processed food items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat Inspection Act (1906)</td>
<td>In direct response to Upton Sinclair’s <em>The Jungle</em>, this law required that meat processing plants be inspected to ensure the use of good meat and health-minded procedures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VIII. Caring for the Consumer

Roosevelt backed a measure (1906) that benefited both corporations and consumers:

- Even meat packing industry called for safer canned products
- Uproar from Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle* (1906):
  - Intended to focus on plight of workers
  - Instead appalled public with description of disgustingly unsanitary preparation of food products
  - Described Chicago’s slaughterhouses

Roosevelt induced Congress to pass:

- **Meat Inspection Act (1906):**
  - Decreed that preparation of meat shipped over state lines subject to federal inspection from corral to can
- **Pure Food and Drug Act (1906):**
  - Designed to prevent adulteration and mislabeling of foods and pharmaceuticals

Upton Sinclairs, *The Jungle*, exposed the filthy, unsanitary working conditions and corruption in a meatpacking company in Chicago
President Roosevelt proposed legislation to clean up the meatpacking industry after reading The Jungle.

- **Food and Drug Act**
- **Meat Inspection Act**

Reading *The Jungle*, TR brought about reform in proposing and signing into law the **Meat Inspection Act, 1906**

- All meat sold must be inspected
- Must be marked by Federal inspectors and graded.
- Meat industry cleaned up.
- Fish is regulated.

**Pure Food and Drug Act, 1906**

- Federal inspection to all packaged foods and drugs.
- Labels with medicine as well as food.
- Contents of food and drug packages must be listed.
- All additives/chemicals must be listed on labels.
- FDA today or Food and Drug Administration.
CONSERVATION

Preserve natural resources and the environment

TR's Conservation Policy

• 125,000 acres in reserve
• National Reclamation Act 1902
  • 25 water projects
• Founding of the National Park System

IX. Earth Control

• Steps to conserve U.S. natural resources:
  – Desert Land Act (1877):
    • Whereby federal government sold arid land cheaply on condition that purchaser irrigate soil within three years
  – Forest Reserve Act (1891):
    • Authorized president to set aside public forests as national parks and other reserves
    • Some 46 million acres rescued from logging in 1890s

• National Reclamation Act gave birth to the Newlands Irrigation Project.
  • Free land to Homesteaders who wanted to farm Lahontan Valley.
  • Dairy farming, hay, beef and sugar beets
  • Lake Lahontan and dam built in operation by 1914
IX. Earth Control (cont.)

– Carey Act (1894) distributed federal land to states on condition that it be irrigated and settled
– New day for conservation dawned with Roosevelt (see “Makers of America: The Environmentalists”)
  • TR seized banner of conservation leadership
  • Congress responded with landmark Newlands Act (1902):
    – Washington authorized to collect money from sale of public land in western states
    – Use funds for development of irrigation projects
    – Roosevelt Dam, constructed on Arizona’s Salt River, dedicated by Roosevelt in 1911

• TR worked to preserve nation’s shrinking forests:
  – Set aside some 125 million acres in federal reserves
  – Earmarked millions of acres of coal deposits, and water resources useful for irrigation and power
• Conservation and reclamation were Roosevelt’s most enduring tangible achievements
• Disappearance of frontier—believed to be source of national characteristics (individualism and democracy) encouraged popular support for conservation
• As did Jack London’s Call of the Wild (1903)
IX. Earth Control (cont.)

- Organizations:
  - Boy Scouts of America became largest youth group
  - Audubon Society tried to save wild native birds
  - Sierra Club (1892) dedicated to preserve wildness of western landscape

- Losses:
  - (1913) San Francisco built dam in Hetch Hetchy Valley
    - Caused deep division between preservationists (John Muir) and conservationists that persists to present day

- Roosevelt's chief forester, Gifford Pinchot, believed "wilderness was waste"
- Pinchot and TR wanted to use nation's natural endowment intelligently—thus two battles:
  - One with greedy commercial interests that abused nature
  - Other with romantic preservationists in thrall to simple "woodman-spare-that-tree" sentimentality
- National policy developed "multiple-use resource management"
  - Try to combine recreation, sustained-yield logging, watershed protection, and summer stock grazing on same expanse of federal land

IX. Earth Control (cont.)

- Westerners learned how to work with federal management of natural resources:
  - New agencies, such as Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation
  - Worked with federal programs devoted to rational, large-scale, and long-term use of natural resources
  - Single-person enterprises shouldered aside, in interest of efficiency, by combined bulk of big business and big government
X. The “Roosevelt Panic” of 1907
• Roosevelt’s second term (1905-1909):
  – Called for regulating corporations, taxing
    incomes, and protecting workers
  – Declared (1904) under no circumstances would
    he be a candidate for a third term
  – Suffered sharp setback (1907) when short panic
    descended on Wall Street:
    • Frightened “runs” on banks
    • Financial world blamed Roosevelt
    • Conservatives called him “Theodore the Meddler”

X. The “Roosevelt Panic” of 1907 (cont.)
– Results of 1907 panic:
  • Paved way for long-overdue monetary reforms
  • Currency shortage showed need for more elastic
    medium of exchange
  • Congress (1908) responded with Aldrich-Vreeland Act:
    – Authorized national banks to issue emergency currency
      backed by various kinds of collateral
  • Path smoothed for momentous Federal Reserve Act of
    1913 (see Chap. 29)

XI. The Rough Rider Thunders Out
• Roosevelt in 1908:
  – Could have won second presidential nomination
    and won election
  – However, he felt bound by promise of 1904
  – Sought successor who would carry out “my
    policies”:
    • Selected William Henry Taft, secretary of war and a
      mild progressive
    • He often served when Roosevelt away

XI. The Rough Rider Thunders Out (cont.)
• In 1908 TR “steamrolled” convention to get Taft’s
  nomination on first ballot
• Democrats nominated William Jennings Bryan again
  – Campaign of 1908:
    • Taft and Bryan both tried to claim progressive TR’s
      mantle
    • Majority chose stability with Roosevelt-endorsed Taft,
      who polled 321 electoral votes to 162 for Bryan
    • Socialists amassed 420,793 votes for Eugene V. Debs
      (see Chap. 26)

XI. The Rough Rider Thunders Out (cont.)
• Roosevelt branded by adversaries as wild-eyed
  radical
• Number of laws he inspired not in proportion
  to amount of noise he made
• Attacked by reigning business lords, but they
  knew they had a friend in White House
  – Should first and foremost be remembered as
    cowboy who tamed bronco of adolescent
    capitalism, thus ensuring it a long adult life
XI. The Rough Rider Thunders Out (cont.)

- Roosevelt's achievements and popularity:
  - His youthfulness appealed to young of all ages
  - Served as political lightning rod to protect capitalists against popular indignation and against socialism
  - Sought middle road between unbridled individualism and paternalist collectivism

- In conservation crusade, he tried to mediate between:
  - Romantic preservationists and rapacious resource-predators
  - Probably his most typical and his most lasting achievement

- Other contributions of Roosevelt:
  - Greatly enlarged power/prestige of presidency
  - Helped shape progressive movement and later liberal reform
  - Opened eyes of Americans to fact that they shared world with other nations and needed to accept responsibilities of a great power

XII. Taft: A Round Peg in a Square Hole

- William Howard Taft:
  - Enviable reputation as lawyer and judge
  - Trusted administrator under Roosevelt
  - Suffered from lethal political handicaps:
    - Not a dashing political leader like TR
    - Recoiling from controversy, Taft generally adopted attitude of passivity toward Congress
    - Taft a poor judge of public opinion

- His candor made him chronic victim of "foot-in-mouth" disease
  - A mild progressive, but at heart wedded to status quo rather than change
  - His cabinet did not contain a single representative of party’s "insurgent" wing

XIII. The Dollar Goes Abroad as a Diplomat

- Taft's foreign policy:
  - Use investments to boost American political interests abroad—dollar diplomacy:
    - Encouraged Wall Street to invest in foreign areas of strategic concern to U.S.A.
      - Especially Far East and Panama Canal
    - Thus bankers would strengthen American defenses and foreign policies—bring prosperity to homeland
    - Almighty dollar supplanted TR's big stick
    - Railroad investments in Manchuria were Taft's most spectacular effort, but Russia and Japan blocked effort
XIII. The Dollar Goes Abroad as a Diplomat (cont.)

– New trouble spot in revolution-riddled Caribbean:
  • Wall Street encouraged to pump dollars into financial
    vacuums in Honduras and Haiti to keep foreign funds
    out
  • Sporadic disorders in Cuba, Honduras, and Dominican
    Republic brought American forces to restore order and
    protect American investments
  • 2,500 marines (1912) landed in Nicaragua
  • Remained in Nicaragua for 13 years (see Map 29.1)

XIV. Taft the Trustbuster

• Taft gained some fame as smasher of monopolies:
  – Brought 90 suits against trusts during his four
    years compared to 44 for Roosevelt in 7½ years
  – Biggest action came in 1911 when Supreme Court
    ordered dissolution of Standard Oil Company:
    • Judged to be a combination in restraint of trade in
      violation of Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890

XIV. Taft the Trustbuster (cont.)

– Supreme Court also handed down its famous “rule
  of reason”:
  • Doctrine—only those combinations that
    “unreasonably” restrained trade were illegal
  • Doctrine tore big hole in government’s antitrust net
– 1911: antitrust suit against U.S. Steel Corporation:
  • Infuriated Roosevelt who had encouraged merger
  • Once Roosevelt’s protégé, President Taft increasingly
    took on role of his antagonist

XV. Taft Splits the Republican Party

• Progressives in Republican Party wanted
  lower tariffs:
  – Thought they had a friend in Taft
  – House passed moderately reductive bill
  – Senate added numerous upward tariff revisions
  – Much to dismay of supporters, Taft signed Payne-
    Aldrich Bill and called it “best bill that the
    Republican Party ever passed”

XV. Taft Splits the Republican Party (cont.)

• Taft proved to be dedicated conservationist:
  – Established Bureau of Mines to control mineral
    resources
  – His accomplishments overshadowed by Ballinger-
    Pinchot quarrel (1910):
    • Secretary of Interior Richard Ballinger opened public
      lands in Wyoming, Montana, Alaska to corporate use
    • Ballinger sharply criticized by Gifford Pinchot, chief of
      Agriculture Department’s Division of Forestry and a
      stalwart Rooseveltian

XV. Taft Splits the Republican Party (cont.)

• Taft dismissed Pinchot on charges of insubordination
  – Widened rift between Roosevelt and Taft
• Reformist wing of Republican party up in arms:
  • Taft being pushed into arms of Old Guard
  • By 1910 Grand Old Party split wide-open, largely due
    to clumsiness of Taft
  • Roosevelt returned in 1910 and stirred up tempest by
    giving flaming speech at Osawatomie, Kansas
  • Announced doctrine of “New Nationalism:”
    – Urged national government to increase its power to remedy
      economic and social abuses
XV. Taft Splits the Republican Party (cont.)

- Results of divisions within Republican Party:
  - Lost badly in congressional elections of 1910
  - Democrats emerged with 228 seats, leaving once-dominant Republicans with only 161
  - A socialist representative, Victor L. Berger, elected from Milwaukee
  - Republicans, by virtue of holdovers, retained Senate, 51 to 41:
    - but even there reformers challenged Old Guard

XVI. The Taft-Roosevelt Rupture

- Now a full-fledged revolt:
  - 1911: National Progressive Republican League formed
    - Fiery Senator La Follette (Wisconsin) became leading presidential candidate for group
  - February 1912, Roosevelt wrote to seven governors that he was willing to accept Republican nomination
    - His reasoning—third-term tradition applied to three consecutive elective terms
    - Roosevelt entered primaries, pushing La Follette aside

XVI. The Taft-Roosevelt Rupture (cont.)

- Taft-Roosevelt explosion near in June 1912, at Republican convention in Chicago
  - Rooseveltites about 100 delegates short of winning nomination
  - Challenged right of some 250 Taft delegates to be seated
  - Most of the contests settled for Taft
  - Roosevelt refused to quit game:
    - Having tasted for first time bitter cup of defeat, TR led a third-party crusade

TR forms his own party called the Progressive “Bull Moose Party”.......

• As a result, TR splits the Republican Party and Woodrow Wilson (Democrat) will be elected.

**GOP Divided by Bull Moose Equals Democratic Victory!**

Roosevelt's Campaign Slogan

*New Nationalism*: Favored an active government role in economic and social affairs.

- Good vs. bad trusts which were regulated by the U.S. Govt.
- Continuation of his *Square Deal* policies.

- Direct Election of Senators
- Tariff reduction
- Presidential primaries
- Regulation of monopolies
- End child labor
- Women's suffrage

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**No Third-Term Principle**

- Favored an active role in economic and social affairs.
- Favored small businesses and the free functioning and unregulated and unmonopolized markets.
- Tackle the *triple wall of privilege*: the tariff, the banks, and the trusts.
- Similar to Roosevelt's *New Nationalism*.
Wilson’s Slogan

- **New Freedom**: restore the free competition and equal opportunity but not through big government…
- Tackle the “triple wall of privilege”: the tariff, the banks, and the trusts.

Wilson passes quite a bit of legislation which was similar to Roosevelt’s New Nationalism…
- Federal Trade Commission
- 16th Amendment
- Underwood Tariff Bill
- Federal Reserve Act
- Clayton Anti-Trust Act
- Keating-Owen Act

Progressive Movement ends in 1917 with US entrance into WWI.

XVII. The “Bull Moose” Campaign of 1912

- Democrats jubilant over Republican divisions
  - Assumed could win in 1912 with a strong reformer
- Governor Woodrow Wilson seemed good fit:
  - Scholar of government who became reformist president of Princeton University in 1902
  - Elected governor of New Jersey in 1910, Wilson campaigned against “predatory” trusts
  - Once elected, Wilson drove through legislature a number of progressive reforms

XVII. The “Bull Moose” Campaign of 1912 (cont.)

- Democrats met at Baltimore (1912):
  - Nominated Wilson, aided by William Jennings Bryan’s switch to his side
  - His progressive reform platform dubbed **New Freedom**
- Progressive Republican ticket:
  - Third-party with Roosevelt as its candidate for president
  - Pro-Roosevelt supporters held convention in Chicago in August 1912
XVII. The “Bull Moose” Campaign 1912 (cont.)

– Settlement-house pioneer Jane Addams placed Roosevelt’s name in nomination for presidency:
  - Symbolized rising political status of women as well as Progressive support for social justice
– TR received thunderous applause when he declared “We stand at Armageddon, and we battle for the Lord!”
– Roosevelt said he felt “as strong as a bull moose” thus bull moose symbol

XVII. The “Bull Moose” Campaign 1912 (cont.)

• Big issue of campaign was two versions of reform:
  - TR and Wilson agreed on more active government, but disagreed on specific strategies
• Roosevelt’s New Nationalism:
  - Based on ideas of progressive thinker Herbert Cody in his book The Promise of American Life
  - Favored continued consolidation of trusts and labor unions
  - Paralleled by growth of powerful regulatory agencies
  - Campaigned for woman suffrage

XVII. The “Bull Moose” Campaign 1919 (cont.)

• Broad program of social welfare, including minimum wage laws and publicly supported health care
• TR’s Progressives looked forward to comprehensive welfare state of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal
• Wilson’s New Freedom:
  - Favored small enterprise, entrepreneurship
  - Free functioning of unregulated, unmonopolized markets
  - Shunned social welfare proposals
  - Pinned economic faith on competition—the “man on the make,” as Wilson put it

XVII. The “Bull Mouse” Campaign 1919 (cont.)

• Banking reform and tariff reduction
• Keynote of Wilson’s campaign not regulation but fragmentation of big industrial combines
  - Chiefly by vigorous enforcement of antitrust laws
• Election of 1912 offered voters a choice not merely of policies but of political and economic philosophies—a rarity in U.S. History

XVII. The “Bull Mouse” Campaign 1919 (cont.)

• Election’s returns:
  - Wilson won with 435 electoral votes and 6,296,547 popular votes (41% of total)
  - Roosevelt finished second with 88 electoral votes and 4,118,571 popular votes
  - Taft won only eight electoral votes and 3,484,720 popular votes (see Map 28.1)
  - Socialist candidate, Eugene V. Debs, rolled up 900,672 popular votes, 6% of total cast
XVII. The “Bull Mouse” Campaign 1919 (cont.)

– Taft himself had a fruitful old age:
  • Taught law for eight years at Yale University
  • In 1921 became chief justice of Supreme Court—a job
    for which he was far better suited than presidency