

APUSH – Progressive Era 1901-1912

The **progressive movement** started at the beginning of the 20th Century. It sought to use the government to improve human welfare, and they fought monopolies, corruption, inefficiency, and social injustice.

Targeted social issues...economic issues...political corruption

Progressive Roots

Henry Demarest Lloyd was critical of the Standard Oil Company in 1894 with his book, **Wealth Against Commonwealth**. Jacob A. Riis shocked middle-class Americans in 1890 with **How the Other Half Lives**, which described the slums of New York.

Socialists and feminists were at the front of social justice.

Raking Muck with the Muckrakers

Muckrakers were reform-minded journalists who wrote articles in magazines that exposed corruption and scandal. President Roosevelt coined this term. These reporters went after trusts and politicians.

Lincoln Steffens wrote "**The Shame of the Cities**" which unmasked the corrupt alliance between big business and municipal government.

Ida M. Tarbell published a devastating depiction of the Standard Oil Company.

David G. Phillips published a series, "**The Treason of the Senate**" in *Cosmopolitan* that charged that 75 of the 90 senators did not represent the people, but they rather represented railroads and trusts.

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*, the Meat Packing industry

Ray Stannard's Some of the most effective attacks of the muckrakers were directed at social evils. The suppression of America's blacks was shown *Following the Color Line* (1908).

John Spargo wrote of the abuses of child labor in *The Bitter Cry of the Children* (1906).

Political Progressivism

Progressive reformers were mainly middle-class men and women felt squeezed between wealthy and the poor (immigrants...socialism, anarchy, cheap labor)

The progressives sought **2 goals**:

- 1) To use state power to control trusts;
- 2) To improve the common person's conditions of life and labor.

Progressives Focused on Grass Root level but challenged State and national governments as well

"**initiative**" so that voters could directly propose legislation,

"**referendum**"

"**recall**," which allowed voters to directly vote on laws to remove corrupt elected officials,

The progressive reformers convinced Congress to pass the

17th Amendment in **1913**. It established the direct election of U.S. senators...

18th Amendment in **1919**, The Prohibition of alcohol, (The **Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)** was a large anti-alcohol women's

19th Amendment in 1920, women's suffrage

Progressive Women

(club movement). Some of these included the

Women's Trade Union League and the **National Consumers League**.

Florence Kelley took control of the **National Consumers League** in **1899** and mobilized female consumers to pressure for laws safeguarding women and children in the workplace.

Muller vs. Oregon (1908), the Supreme Court ruled that it was constitutional to enact laws that specifically protected women factory workers.

Lochner vs. New York (1905) invalidated a New York law that limited the work day to 10 hours for bakers.

Triangle Shirtwaist Fire (1911) 146 young women die in fire due locked doors, and poor working conditions

TR's Square Deal for Labor

Theodore Roosevelt progressive reform. "**Square Deal**" program

- 1) control of the corporations
- 2) consumer protection
- 3) conservation of natural resources.

In **1902**, coal miners in Pennsylvania went on strike and demanded a 20% raise in pay and a workday decrease from 10 hours to 9 hours. When mine spokesman, George F. Baer refused to negotiate, President Roosevelt stepped in and threatened to operate the mines with federal troops. A deal was struck in which the miners received a 10% pay raise and 9 hour workday.

The increasing hostilities between capital and labor forced Congress to create the **Department of Commerce** in **1903**. This department provided oversight of businesses engaged in interstate commerce.

TR Corrals the Corporations

Interstate Commerce Commission was created in 1887, railroads were able to delay the commission's decisions by appealing to the federal courts.

In **1902**, President Roosevelt challenged the **Northern Securities Company**, a railroad trust company that sought to achieve a monopoly of the railroads in the Northwest. The Supreme Court upheld the President and the trust was forced to be dissolved

Elkins Act of 1903, which fined railroads that gave rebates and the shippers that accepted them.

Hepburn Act of 1906, which restricted free passes and expanded the Interstate Commerce Commission. (**Free passes**: rewards offered to companies, in the form of free shipments; given to companies to encourage future business.)

Caring for the Consumer

Meat Inspection Act of 1906. The act stated that the preparation of meat shipped over state lines was subject to federal inspection.

Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 was designed to prevent the adulteration and mislabeling of foods and pharmaceuticals.

Conservation

Desert Land Act of 1887, in which the federal government sold dry land cheaply on the condition that the purchaser would irrigate the soil within 3 years.

Forest Reserve Act of 1891. It authorized the president to set aside public forests as national parks and other reserves.

Carey Act of 1894 distributed federal land to the states on the condition that it be irrigated and settled.

In **1900**, Roosevelt, attempting to preserve the nation's shrinking forests, set aside 125 million acres of land in federal reserves

Newlands Act of 1902, which authorized the federal government use money from the sale of public lands in western states to develop irrigation projects.

Under President Roosevelt, professional foresters and engineers developed a policy of "**multiple-use resource management.**" This policy sought to **sustainably** use federal lands for recreation, logging, watershed protection, and cattle grazing.

The "Roosevelt Panic" of 1907

Theodore Roosevelt was re-elected as president in **1904**.

Panic of 1907 was a short economic downturn that resulted in financial reforms.

Election of 1908

During Roosevelt's presidency, Roosevelt greatly enlarged the power of the presidential office, and he helped shape the progressive movement. He also opened the eyes of Americans to the fact that they shared the world with other nations.

Republican Party chose William Howard Taft, secretary of war to Theodore Roosevelt.

Democratic Party chose William Jennings Bryan.

William Howard Taft won the election of 1908.

Taft: A Round Peg in a Square Hole

President Taft was not an adept political leader, such as Roosevelt. He generally adopted an attitude of passivity towards Congress.

The Dollar Goes Abroad as a Diplomat

Dollar diplomacy Taft encouraged Wall Street bankers to invest in foreign areas of strategic interest to the United States.

Taft and the Trusts

Taft brought 90 lawsuits against trusts during his 4 years in office, as opposed to Roosevelt's 44 suits in 7 years.

In **1911**, the Supreme Court ordered the dissolution of the **Standard Oil Company**, stating that it violated the **Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890**.

Also in **1911**, the Supreme Court laid out its "**rule of reason**" doctrine. This stated that a trust was illegal only if it unreasonably restrained trade.

Taft Splits the Republican Party

President Taft signed the **Payne-Aldrich Bill** in **1909**, which placed a high tariff on many imports.

Taft was a strong conservationist, but his conservationist record was tarnished in **1910** when he fired the chief of the Agriculture Department's Division of Forestry, Gifford Pinchot, for insubordination.

(Ballinger-Pinchot quarrel) Pinchot was liked by conservationists.

By the spring of **1910**, the reformist wing of the Republican Party was furious with Taft, causing the **Republican Party** to **split**.

The Republican Splitthe Bull Moose Party....and Democratic Victory

In **1911**, the **National Progressive Republican League** was formed with La Follette as its leading candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. La Follette was chosen because it was assumed that Roosevelt would not re-run for election.

Theodore Roosevelt **Bull Moose** decided to challenge Taft for the Republican presidential nomination. (La Follette was replaced by Roosevelt.) Roosevelt and Taft became opponents because Roosevelt felt that Taft had discarded many of Roosevelt's policies.

Taft won the Republican nomination after Roosevelt Republicans refused to vote at the 1912 Republican convention, claiming fraud. Roosevelt continued on as a 3rd-party candidate.

The split in the Party gave Woodrow Wilson, a Progressive Reform Democrat the Presidency