



The Progressive Era, 1900-1920



Topics of Discussion

- I. Shift from Gilded Age to Progressive Era Reform
- II. Four Goals of the Progressive Era Reform Movement
- III. Theodore Roosevelt and Republican Progressivism
- IV. William H. Taft, Roosevelt's protégé outdoes his boss
- V. The Election of 1912 – Progressives battle each other
- VI. Woodrow Wilson's Progressivism



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I. Shift from Gilded Age to Progressive Era

- A. Gilded Age: whether to reform?
- B. Progressive Era: how to reform?
- C. Gilded Age: Labor: Agrarian Revolt, Mugwumps
- D. Progressive Era: **coalition** of reformers.
- E. Reform less focused, aims less clear, little violence
- F. Classical Liberalism to Modern Liberalism





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II. Four Goals of the Progressive Era Reform Movement

A. Greater Democracy

1. Herbert Croly, *The Promise of American Life* (1909)
2. State Action: Initiative, Referendum, Recall
3. Federal Action: 17th Amendment, 19th Amendment – 16th Amendment





Suffragettes During March for the Vote, New York, New York, 1912

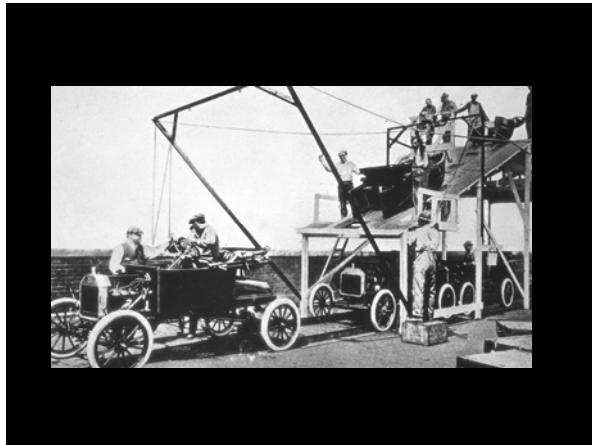
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II. Four Goals of the Progressive Era Reform Movement

B. Greater Efficiency

1. Frederick Winslow Taylor, *Principles of Scientific Management* (1911)
2. Henry Ford – Ford Auto
3. Managers -- City Manager Plan
4. Theodore Roosevelt and Conservation





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II. Four Goals of the Progressive Era Reform Movement

C. Greater Regulation

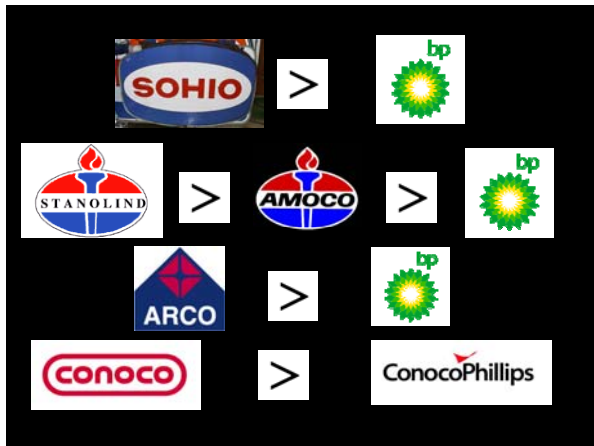
1. Ida Tarbell, *History of Standard Oil* (1902-04)
2. Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (1906) -- Pure Food and Drug Act 1906
3. Department of Commerce and Labor (1903)
4. Hepburn Act (1906)
5. Federal Trade Commission (est. 1914)
6. New Spirit of Regulation – Question of Clientele capture



Original caption: 9/20/1921- Ida M. Tarbell at her desk. She was the investigative journalist and chronicler of American industry, famous for her classic "The History of the Standard Oil Company."









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II. Four Goals of the Progressive Era Reform Movement

D. Social Justice

1. General Welfare Clause and the poor
2. Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890)
3. Child Labor – Hammer v. Dagenhart (18); Bailey v. Drexel Furniture (22)
4. Working Hours - *Lochner v. New York* (1905); *Muller v. Oregon* (1908); *Bunting v. Oregon* (1917)
5. Louis Brandeis – Brandeis Brief
6. Jane Addams, Hull House; Alice Paul, voting
7. Muckrackers – Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, Samuel Hopkins Adams







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III. Theodore Roosevelt and Republican Progressivism

A. Election of 1900: Roosevelt was elected Vice President

B. President McKinley was shot in Sept. 1901 -- Roosevelt became President

C. Roosevelt's Background:



1. Born NYC 1858
2. Education – AB Harvard
3. NY State Representative, 1882-84
4. Civil Service Commissioner, 1889-95
5. President NY Police Board, 1895-97
6. Asst. Secretary of Navy, 1897-98
7. Spanish-American War: Hero of San Juan Hill
8. Governor of NY 1898-1900
9. Vice President, 1901

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III. Theodore Roosevelt and Republican Progressivism

- D. Saw Congress as a slow and grid-locked organization torn by party
- E. Wanted to return the Presidency to the power that it had under Lincoln
- F. "Square deal."
- G. *Northern Securities Case* (1904)
- H. Re-elected in 1904.
- I. *The Swift Case* (1905) overturned decision in *E.C. Knight Case* (1895) -- "Interstate stream of commerce"
- J. Conservation





"The President's Dream of A Successful Hunt," *Washington Post*, 1907



"The New Diplomacy" - Louis Dalrymple, 1904



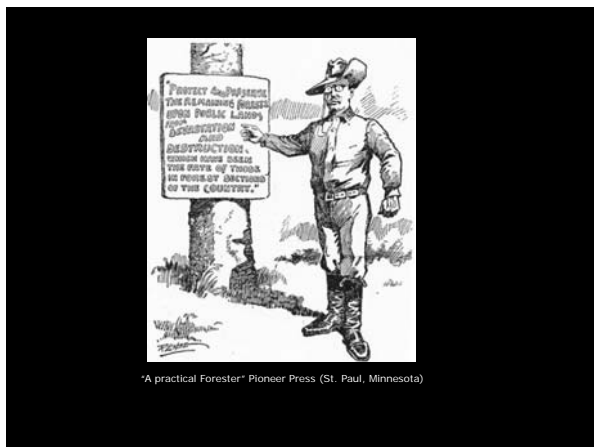
Roosevelt supported a Panamanian revolution -- of only a few hours long -- against Columbia.

November 3, 1903, the Republic of Panama was created, with its constitution written by the United States.

The U.S. then signed a protection treaty with Panama and worked on plans for the Panama canal.

The U.S. paid \$10 million to secure rights to build on, and control, the Canal Zone.

Construction began in 1904 and was completed in 1914.



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IV. William H. Taft, Roosevelt's protégé

- A. Roosevelt chose William Howard Taft as successor.
- B. Taft seen as least Progressive President. However:
- C. Taft brought 45 antitrust suits
Roosevelt brought only 40.
- D. Taft withdrew more land for public use in 4 years than Roosevelt had in 8.
- E. But, Taft was a poor politician
- F. Example: Ballinger and Pinchot episodes
- G. Left Taft in poor position for 1912





U.S. Forestry Bureau: Forester Pinchot sits writing "The Truth."

Secretary Ballinger jumps, screaming, "Great Scott, Man! Who said you could do that?"

Pinchot continues writing, angering also Secretary Hitchcock and others.

Finally Pinchot is thrown out by Taft, who shouts, "Gross Insubordination!"

January 10, 1910

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V. The Election of 1912 – Progressives Battle Each Other

- A. William Howard Taft
Republican Nominee but not popular candidate
- B. Theodore Roosevelt
Progressive, New Nationalism, Regulated Monopoly, Herbert Croly
- C. Woodrow Wilson:
Democrat, New Freedom, Regulated Competition, Louis Brandeis
- D. Wilson Wins: 435 Wilson, 88 Roosevelt, 8 Taft.



Roosevelt was all force but he failed to dislodge Taft in 1912, cartoon by Puck.

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VI. Woodrow Wilson's Progressivism

A. Wilson strikes at the "triple wall of privilege"


1. Tariff: Underwood-Simmons Tariff (1913)
-- 16th Amendment (1913)
2. Banking: Owen-Glass Federal Reserve Act (1913)
3. Trusts: Federal Trade Commission (1914); Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914)





Woodrow Wilson Primes the economic pump with new regulations, 1910

NEW LAWS TO CONTROL ABUSIVE CORPORATIONS
CLAYTON ANTI-TRUST ACT




Henry Clayton
Representative from
Alabama was the
driving force behind
the Clayton Anti-
trust Act

- ± Passed in 1914 to clarify the existing antitrust law (Sherman Act)
- ± A number of business practices were prohibited including:
 - ± Predatory price cutting
 - ± Price fixing
 - ± Ownership of stock in competing companies
- ± Interlocking directorates (the practice of having the same individuals serve as directors of competing companies)
- ± Placed limitations on the use of injunctions against unions and stipulated that labor organizations were not illegal combinations acting to restrain trade; boycotts, strikes and picketing were all recognized as legal activities

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VI. Woodrow Wilson's Progressivism

B. Other Wilson Reforms

1. Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916
2. Workingmen's Compensation Act of 1916
3. Child Labor Law, 1916: struck down by Court
4. Adamson Act of 1916: 8 hr day for interstate train workers -- overtime pay



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VI. Woodrow Wilson's Progressivism

C. Despite Wilson's progressivism

1. He was hampered by his own racism
2. He was slow to advocate the vote for women
3. His Presidency would be largely remembered for foreign policy issues – our next issue