



The Progressive Era, 1900-1920

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### Topics of Discussion

- I. Shift from Gilded Age to Progressive Era Reform
- II. Five 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

## The Progressive Era, 1900-1920



### II. Five 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: 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Direct Primary
- B. Greater Efficiency
  - 1. Frederick Winslow Taylor, *Principles of Scientific Management* (1911)
  - 2. Managers -- City Manager Plan
  - 3. Conservation

## The Progressive Era, 1900-1920



### II. Five 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
6. New Spirit of Regulation – Question of Clientele capture

## The Progressive Era, 1900-1920



### II. Five Goals of the Progressive Era Reform Movement

#### D. Social Justice

1. General Welfare Clause
2. The Poor
3. Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives (1890)*
4. Child Labor laws
5. *Lochner v. New York (05)*; *Muller v. Oregon (09)*; *Bunting v. Oregon (17)*
6. Louis Brandeis – Brandeis Brief
7. Jane Addams, Hull House
8. Muckrackers – Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, Samuel Hopkins Adams

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### II. Five Goals of the Progressive Era Reform Movement

#### E. Government Activism

1. Full Circle: Herbert Croly
2. Greater Role for government in society
3. No longer *laissez faire* -- although Gilded Age had not been *laissez faire*
4. New confidence in government.

## The Progressive Era, 1900-1914



### III. Theodore Roosevelt and Republican Progressivism

- A. Election of 1900: Roosevelt was elected Vice President
- B. President McKinley was shot in Sept. 1901 -- Roosevelt now President
- C. Who was this new Roosevelt's Background:
  1. Spanish-American War: Hero of San Juan Hill
  2. 1898: elected governor of New York

## The Progressive Era, 1900-1914



### 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) -- *E.C. Knight Case* (1895) -- intrastate vs. interstate  
New view: manufacturing can go on in an "Interstate stream of commerce"
- J. Conservation

## The Progressive Era, 1900-1914



### **IV. William Howard Taft, Roosevelt's protégé outdoes his boss?**

- A. Roosevelt chose William Howard Taft as successor.
- B. As President, Taft seen as least Progressive President. However:
- C. In Taft's administration eighty antitrust suits were brought against big business, while Roosevelt brought only twenty-five.
- 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

## The Progressive Era, 1900-1914



### 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.

## The Progressive Era, 1900-1914



### VI. Woodrow Wilson's Progressivism

- A. Wilson strikes at the "triple wall of privilege"
  - 1. Tariff: Underwood-Simmons Tariff of 1913 -- 16th Amendment (1913)
  - 2. Banking: Owen-Glass Federal Reserve Act (1913)
  - 3. Trusts: Federal Trade Commission (1914); Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914)
  - 4. Other Reforms
    - A. Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916
    - B. Workingmen's Compensation Act of 1916
    - C. Child Labor Law, 1916: struck down by Supreme Court
    - D. Adamson Act of 1916: 8 hr day for interstate train workers -- overtime pay

