

Chapter 28: Progressivism and the Republican Roosevelt, 1901-1912

I. The Progressive Era

A. Definition

1. A time period that focused on correcting political, economic, and social problems in the U.S.– the time period that sought to address/cure the ills of the Gilded Age/industrialization
2. Aimed to return control of the government to the people and to restore economic opportunities
3. Some goals of the era were to:
 - a. Protect workers with workplace reforms
 - i. Aimed to protect workers from the tragedy that occurred at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company (1911)
 - b. Strengthen protections for consumers
 - c. Expose corruption in government and big business
 - d. Development of social welfare programs
 - e. Moral reforms (such as the prohibition of alcohol)
4. Involved a diverse group of reformers
 - a. Church leaders, African Americans, union leaders, women, and political leaders

B. Political Progressivism

1. Many ideas of the Populists were implemented:
 - a. **Direct primary elections:** candidates no longer selected by party bosses
 - b. **Initiative:** voters could propose legislation
 - c. **Referendum:** laws would be placed on the ballot for voters' approval
 - d. **Recall:** voters could remove corrupt/ineffective politicians
 - e. **Direct election of senators** rather than selection by state legislatures (17th Amendment, 1913)
2. At the state level progressive reforms were also common
 - a. Wisconsin Governor **Robert La Follette** is known for the **Wisconsin Idea:** progressive reforms such as direct primaries, tax reform, and a state commission that monitored railroads and utilities
3. Child and women's labor were also addressed
 - a. By 1907 most states had passed child labor laws
 - i. Mandatory school attendance laws also kept children out of mines and dangerous factory work
 - b. **Muller v. Oregon** (1908) ruled that the workday was limited to ten hours for women

C. The Muckrakers

1. Journalists famous for exposing corrupt practices in society
2. Magazines such as *McClure's*, *Collier's*, and *Cosmopolitan* had success running articles about the problems in society
 - a. Attacked big business, trusts, railroads, etc.
 - b. Famous muckrakers:

- i. **Upton Sinclair** (*The Jungle*; meat packing industry)
- ii. **Jacob Riis** published a photo essay related to poverty/social ills which prompted tenement housing reform (*How the Other Half Lives*)
- iii. **Lincoln Steffens** (*The Shame of the Cities*; municipal corruption and political machines)
- iv. **Ida Tarbell** (*The History of the Standard Oil Company*)
- v. **Ida B. Wells** was an anti-lynching activist (*Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in all its Phases*)

c. The term muckraker is attributed to Teddy Roosevelt—these journalists “raked the muck” in order to bring social issues to the forefront

D. Rise of the Socialist Party

- 1. The Socialist Party of America was dedicated to the welfare of the working class**
- 2. Favored more radical reforms than the Progressives did: public ownership of railroads and utilities as well as the oil and steel industries**
- 3. Eugene V. Debs was a founder of the party**
 - a. 5-time presidential candidate between 1900-1920**
 - b. Also a former railway union leader; became socialist as a result of the Pullman strike**

II. Teddy Roosevelt’s Presidency

A. A Square Deal: TR’s Progressive (Domestic) Reforms

- 1. TR ran on the notion of a “square deal for Americans”**
 - a. It focused on the three “c’s”:**
 - i. Consumer protection
 - ii. Control of corporations
 - iii. Conservation/natural resources

2. Consumer Protection

- a. Meatpacking and the food and drug industries**
 - i. Meat Inspection Act of 1906:** prohibited the sale of adulterated or misbranded livestock and derived products as food and ensured that livestock were slaughtered and processed under sanitary conditions
 - aa. The law reformed the meatpacking industry, mandating that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspect all cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and horses both before and after they were slaughtered and processed for human consumption**
 - 1. This act was a result of muckrakers who published information about the Beef Trust (the five large meat packing industries) and the unsanitary conditions of these packing houses**
 - bb. After TR was given a copy of Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*, he sent Charles Neill and James Reynolds, to inspect meat packing plants**
 - 1. Their findings were disturbing and included in The Neill-Reynolds Report**

b. Pure Food and Drug Act (1906): forbade the manufacture, sale, and transportation of adulterated or mislabeled foods and drugs (went into effect the same day as the Meat Inspection Act)

c. Elkins Act (1903): amended the ICC and fined railroads that offered rebates for favored shippers

d. Hepburn Act (1906): allowed the ICC to set maximum rates that railroads could charge

3. Control of Corporations

i. TR was a famous trustbuster: Used the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to file a lawsuit against the Northern Securities Company in 1902

aa. The Northern Securities Company, a railroad company, was trying to monopolize all of the railroad industry (in 1904 it was broken up)

bb. Filed 43 lawsuits against corporations during his presidency

ii. Distinguished between “good” trusts and “bad” trusts

aa. Good trusts could be regulated while bad trusts would be broken up

ii. In 1902 he threatened federal intervention in an anthracite coal strike—this led to arbitration and the settlement of the strike

4. Conservation/Natural resources

i. TR set aside over 200 million acres of land for the purpose of protecting it/establishing national parks

aa. TR was a conservationist: he wanted to ensure that lands/resources were sustainable

bb. John Muir was a preservationist: he wanted to preserve forests, etc. in their natural state

1. Controversy arose in 1913 over Hetch Hetchy Valley (located in Yosemite National Park) when the federal government allowed a dam to be built, upsetting preservationists, like Muir

ii. The Newlands Act (1902): money was collected from the sale of federal lands in the West and the money was used to fund irrigation projects

5. Foreign Policy—Review notes from CH 27 for TR’s influence in foreign policy

III. Taft as President

A. Taft’s Presidency

1. Compared to TR, Taft was much more effective at **breaking up trusts** (broke up twice as many in his 4 years as president)

a. In 1911 Standard Oil was ruled to be in violation of restraint of trade

b. Taft also filed suit against the U.S. Steel Company

2. **Also established national forest reserves and set aside federal oil lands**

3. The **Mann-Elkins Act (1910)** gave the ICC the power to suspend new railroad rates and oversee the telephone, telegraph, and cable companies

4. Taft was a weaker foreign policy president—famous for the policy of dollar diplomacy which encouraged the U.S. to invest in foreign markets/countries

IV. The Election of 1912

A. TR for President—Again?

1. In 1912 TR formed the Bull Moose Party (The Progressive Party) and ran as a third party candidate

a. He came up with the policy known as New Nationalism

i. Called for more reforms in various areas such as workplace protection, direct primaries, and an income tax

2. T. Woodrow Wilson was nominated as the Democratic candidate

a. Committed to the Idea of a New Freedom, which would limit big business and government

Chapter 29: Wilsonian Progressivism at Home and Abroad, 1912-1916

I. Wilson's Presidency

A. Highlights of Wilson's Administration

1. **New Freedom:** Supported a stronger government role in economic affairs

a. Focused reforms on the “**triple wall of privilege**”: **tariffs, banking, and trusts**

2. **Economic Reforms:**

a. **Underwood Tariff Bill (1913):** encouraged imports because tariffs had been reduced (from 40% to 25%)

b. **Federal Reserve Act (1913):** set-up the Federal Reserve Board to regulate the amount of money in circulation (established 12 district banks)

c. **Federal Trade Commission (1914):** created to regulate interstate commerce/break up monopolies

d. **Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914):** prohibited corporations from serving on the board of directors of businesses that were in same industry (interlocking directorates)

i. Also stated price discrimination was not allowed

ii. Wilson did not believe in “good” trusts and “bad” trusts as TR did; he sought to breakup **all** monopolies

e. **Federal Farm Loan Act (1916):** guaranteed lower interest rate loans to farmers

3. **Social/Moral Reforms:**

a. **16th Amendment:** instituted a federal income tax (ratified in 1913)

b. **17th Amendment:** provided for the direct election of U.S. senators (1913)

c. **18th Amendment:** Prohibition of alcohol (1919)

d. **19th Amendment:** granted women the right to vote (ratified August 1920)

e. **Adamson Act (1916):** mandated an 8-hour workday and time-and-a-half for overtime

f. Wilson also backed laws against child labor (The Keating-Owen Child Labor Act; 1916)

4. Foreign Policy/Imperialism

a. Jones Act (1916): Gave the Philippines territorial status but not independence

b. Anti-imperialist: Wilson hated the idea of having to carry TR's "big stick" around
i. Ended dollar diplomacy

B. Failures of the Progressive Era

1. Failed to increase rights for African Americans (and rise in the KKK once again)
2. Increase in nativism and desire for immigration reforms/restrictions

II. War Erupts in Europe

A. World War I

1. Assassination of the Archduke

a. June 28, 1914: Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne) and his wife were killed by a Serbian nationalist

2. Causes of WWI: MAIN

a. Militarism: European countries competed to have the largest military

b. Alliances: the most powerful countries in Europe formed alliances to protect each other and their interests

i. Triple Alliance (Central Powers): Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy

ii. Triple Entente (Allies): Britain, France, and Russia

c. Imperialism: competed for colonies and resources

d. Nationalism: minority ethnic groups wanted to break away from old European empires

B. Wilson and the War

1. Wanted to distance the U.S. from the war and issued a proclamation of **neutrality**

a. However, the U.S. was still trading with the Allies

2. In May 1915 a passenger ship, the **Lusitania**, was attacked by a torpedo from a German U-boat (this was during the period where Germany had announced its policy of unrestricted submarine warfare)

a. About 1200 died; over 120 were Americans

b. Wilson responded by asking Germany to not attack passenger ships and they complied (this allowed the U.S. to stay neutral and kept Germany happy as the U.S. was not planning to join the war with the Allies)

3. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan sent communication to the German government in regards to the sinking of the Lusitania

a. Germany responded that the ship had been carrying munitions

b. Wilson followed up with a note that unarmed passenger ships should **not** be attacked by German U-boats

c. Bryan advised Wilson that Americans should be prohibited from traveling on belligerent ships and that passenger vessels be prohibited from carrying war goods

i. He resigned as he felt Wilson was moving the nation closer to war

III. "He Kept Us Out of War"

A. Wilson's Reelection Campaign (1916)

1. Wilson's reelection campaign was built on the fact that he had kept the U.S. out of war and maintained his policy of neutrality

2. Wilson won reelection over Charles Evans Hughes (277 to 254 electoral votes)