

## **Chapter 11**

# **The Progressive Reform Era (1890–1920)**

# **America: Pathways to the Present**

## **Chapter 11: The Progressive Reform Era (1890–1920)**

### **Section 1: The Origins of Progressivism**

### **Section 2: Progressive Legislation**

### **Section 3: Progressivism Under Taft and Wilson**

### **Section 4: Suffrage at Last**

# The Origins of Progressivism

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Chapter 11, Section 1

- **What were the key goals of Progressives?**
- **How did the ideas of Progressive writers help to inspire new reform movements?**
- **What reform organizations and what women reformers took up Progressive causes?**
- **Why did Progressive reforms meet with resistance?**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# The Progressive Era

- **Rapid industrialization, immigration, and urbanization in the late 1800s led to national growth and prosperity.**
- **The rapid growth also caused poverty, unemployment, deplorable working conditions and political corruption.**
- **Many Progressives believed that political action and reform, not private charities, were the methods to bring about progress in society.**
- **Historians call the period from about 1890–1920 the **Progressive Era**.**



# The Progressives: Their Goals and Beliefs

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**Progressives were not a single unified movement. They fell into four categories: social, moral, economic, and political. Some common basic beliefs were:**

- 1. Government should be more accountable to its citizens.**
- 2. Government should curb the power and influence of wealthy interests.**
- 3. Government should be given expanded powers so that it could become more active in improving the lives of its citizens.**
- 4. Governments should become more efficient and less corrupt so that they could competently handle an expanded role.**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Igniting Reform: Writers and Their New Ideas

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- The ideas of many writers and journalists influenced public opinion about how to reform society.
- Journalists investigated and publicized conditions in certain industries, slums, tenement houses, and sweat shops.
- Theodore Roosevelt called the journalists **“muckrakers.”**
- Upton Sinclair, Lincoln Steffens, and Ida Tarbell were respected writers and muckrakers.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Progressive Reform Organizations

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## The Labor Movement

Employers discouraged union membership. Courts often issued **injunctions**, court orders prohibiting a certain activity, preventing workers from going on strike. Unions continued to fight for better working conditions.

## Socialists

The Progressive Era saw a rise in socialism. American socialists hoped to use the ballot box, not revolution, to end the capitalist system and distribute wealth more equally.

## Women's Groups

The National Consumers' League (NCL) investigated how goods were made and sold. They discouraged people from buying from shops that employed child labor. All women's groups agreed that women's suffrage was an important cause.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# The Pressure to Expand—Assessment

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Chapter 11, Section 1

**Which of the following was a goal of the Progressives?**

- (A) Government should be more accountable to its citizens.**
- (B) Government should curb the power and influence of wealthy interests.**
- (C) Government should be given expanded powers so that it can become more active in improving the lives of its citizens.**
- (D) All of the above**

**Which of the following was a Progressive reform organization?**

- (A) The Labor movement**
- (B) The Socialists**
- (C) The National Consumers' League**
- (D) All of the above**

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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION





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# Progressive Legislation

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- **How did Progressives wish to expand the role of government?**
- **What municipal and state reforms did Progressives achieve?**
- **What reforms did Theodore Roosevelt champion as President?**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION









# An Expanded Role for Government

- Progressives sought more **social welfare programs** to help ensure a minimum standard of living.
- Many of the earliest Progressive reforms were made at the **municipal**, or city, level.
- Some municipal reformers worked for **home rule**, a system that gives cities a limited degree of self-rule.
- Municipal reformers opposed the influence of political bosses.
- Reformers made efforts to take over city utilities such as water, gas, and electricity.
- Some reform mayors led movements for city-supported welfare services such as public baths, parks, work-relief programs, playgrounds, kindergartens, and lodging houses for the homeless.



# Progressive Political Reforms

Before	Reforms	After
	<b>Direct Primaries</b> Voters select their party's candidates.	Power moves to voters.
	<b>17th Amendment</b> U.S. senators are elected by popular vote.	
	<b>Initiative</b> Voters can put bills before the legislature.	
	<b>Referendum</b> Voters can vote on bills directly.	
	<b>Recall</b> Voters can remove elected officials from office.	



# Progressive Era Legislation

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## Chapter 11, Section 2

Sherman Antitrust Act, 1890	Outlawed monopolies and practices that restrained trade, such as price fixing.
National Reclamation Act, 1902	Created to plan and develop irrigation projects.
United States Forest Service, 1905	Created to manage the nation's water and timber resources.
Hepburn Act, 1906	Authorized the Interstate Commerce Commission to regulate railroad rates.
Pure Food and Drug Act, 1906	Banned interstate shipping of impure food and deliberate mislabeling of food and drugs.
Meat Inspection Act, 1906	Required federal inspection of meat processing to ensure sanitary conditions.
Department of Labor, 1913	Cabinet department created to promote the welfare and employment of working people.
16th Amendment, 1913	Gave Congress the power to levy an income tax.
17th Amendment, 1913	Provided for the direct election of senators.
Federal Reserve Act, 1913	Created Federal Reserve System of government banks to supervise private banks and provide a flexible money supply.
National Park Service, 1916	Created to administer the nation's parks.
18th Amendment, 1919	Prohibited the manufacture and sale of liquor. (Repealed in 1933)
19th Amendment, 1920	Granted women full suffrage.
Women's Bureau, 1920	Created within the Department of Labor to improve the status of working women.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Progressive Legislation–Assessment

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Chapter 11, Section 2

**Which of the following was a city-supported welfare service?**

- (A) Playgrounds**
- (B) Kindergartens**
- (C) Homeless shelters**
- (D) All of the above**

**What was the purpose of the Sherman Antitrust Act?**

- (A) To require federal inspection of meat processing**
- (B) To outlaw monopolies and practices that restrained trade, such as price fixing**
- (C) To authorize the Interstate Commerce Commission to regulate railroad rates**
- (D) To plan and develop irrigation projects**

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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



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PRENTICE HALL

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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Progressivism Under Taft and Wilson

- **What political conflicts marked the presidency of William Howard Taft?**
- **Who were the contenders in the election of 1912 and what was the outcome?**
- **What major policies did President Woodrow Wilson help put in place?**
- **In what ways were the achievements of progressivism limited?**





# Taft's Presidency

## Chapter 11, Section 3

- Taft was endorsed by Roosevelt and pledged to carry on the progressive program.
- However, he did not even appoint any Progressives to his Cabinet.
- He campaigned on a platform to lower tariffs, but ended up signing a bill that added some highly protective tariff increases.
- Taft also angered **conservationists** on the issue of public land management. Taft chose Richard A. Ballinger for Secretary of the Interior.
- Ballinger opposed conservation of public lands. Instead he sided with business interests who sought unrestricted development of public lands.
- Taft angered many people and his presidency suffered.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Turmoil in the Republican Party

- Angry Republican Progressives teamed up with Democrats against the opponents of reform in the Republican Party.
- Roosevelt criticized Taft and campaigned for Progressive candidates in the 1910 midterm elections.
- Roosevelt called for business regulation, welfare laws, workplace protection for women and children, income and inheritance taxes and voting reform. He called this plan: the **New Nationalism**.
- Progressive Republicans left the Republican Party and formed the Progressive Party, nicknamed the **Bull Moose Party**.
- The Bull Moose platform included tariff reduction, woman's suffrage, more regulation of business, a child labor ban, an eight-hour workday, and direct election of senators.



# The Election of 1912

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 11, Section 3

## A Four-Way Election

<b>William Howard Taft</b>	Fought to keep the Presidency for the Republican Party
<b>Theodore Roosevelt</b>	Represented the Progressive Bull Moose Party
<b>Eugene V. Debs</b>	Made his third of five presidential runs for the Socialist Party
<b>Woodrow Wilson</b>	Headed the Democratic ticket; with the Republican Party split between Taft and Roosevelt, Wilson won the election.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Wilson's Policies as President

- Wilson's first major victory was tariff reduction.
- He attacked the trusts by helping Congress pass the **Clayton Antitrust Act** in 1914. This act strengthened the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890.
- Wilson and Congress created the **Federal Trade Commission** to enforce the Clayton Antitrust Act.
- In 1913 Congress passed the Federal Reserve Act and created the **Federal Reserve System** to overhaul the American banking system.
- In 1916 Wilson tried to attract Progressive voters. To this aim he nominated Progressive lawyer Louis D. Brandeis to the Supreme Court.
- In 1916 Wilson won a second term.



# The Limits of Progressivism

- **The changes made by Progressives were limited to certain groups in the United States.**
- **Progressives championed municipal reforms, but did little for tenant or migrant farmers.**
- **Progressive Presidents took little action to pursue social justice reforms.**
- **Wilson continued the Jim Crow practice, begun under Taft, of separating the races in federal offices.**
- **At the 1912 Progressive Party convention, Roosevelt declined to seat black delegates from the South for fear of alienating white Southern Progressives.**
- **By 1916, the reform spirit had nearly died. It was replaced by American concerns about World War I.**



# Progressivism Under Taft and Wilson— Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 11, Section 3

**What party was nicknamed the Bull Moose Party?**

- (A) The Conservatives**
- (B) The Republicans**
- (C) The Progressives**
- (D) The Democratic Socialists**

**Woodrow Wilson enacted all of the following policies except\_\_\_\_\_.**

- (A) the Federal Trade Commission**
- (B) the Clayton Antitrust Act**
- (C) the Federal Reserve Commission**
- (D) the Payne-Aldrich Tariff**

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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Suffrage at Last

- In what ways were Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton a “bridge” to the twentieth-century suffrage effort?
- What two main strategies did suffrage leaders pursue?
- What was the status of the suffrage movement by the turn of the century?
- Why was a new generation of national leaders needed in the suffrage effort?
- What factors led to a final victory for suffrage?





# 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

## 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.**

## 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

- **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 Barns organized a parade of 5,000 women in Washington, D.C.**
- **After the success of the rally, Paul transformed her committee into a new organization called the **Congressional Union**.**



# A Split in the Movement

## The Congressional Union (CU)

- Called for an aggressive militant campaign for the constitutional amendment
- Planned to bypass existing state suffrage organizations and set up new ones in each state
- They staged militant protests where they burned a life-size dummy of President Wilson and copies of his speeches.
- They were arrested and went on hunger strikes in prison.

## NAWSA

- Opposed the plan of the CU believing it would alienate moderate supporters.
- Expelled the CU from their organization
- Backed the state suffrage campaigns
- By 1917, NAWSA was the largest volunteer organization in the country.
- In 1917, NAWSA saw an important victory when New York voted for women's suffrage.



# Victory for Suffrage

- In 1918, Congress formally proposed the suffrage amendment.
- After the amendment was proposed the ratification battle began.
- In August 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state necessary to ratify the suffrage amendment.
- The Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote, was the last major reform of the Progressive Era.



# Suffrage at Last—Assessment

Which of the following best describes the difference between NAWSA and CU?

- (A) The NAWSA fought for state suffrage.
- (B) The CU did not want to alienate more moderate members.
- (C) The CU used more radical tactics.
- (D) The NAWSA was more aligned with the Progressives.

Why did the fight for individual state suffrage seem more successful?

- (A) State governments were often more progressive than the federal government.
- (B) Western states were more likely to allow women the right to vote.
- (C) More women volunteered to organize state suffrage battles.
- (D) The federal government was more concerned with reforming Jim Crow laws.

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