PROGRESSIVE ERA

1890s-1920
ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

► Who were the Progressives?
► What reforms did they seek?
► How successful were Progressive Era reforms in the period 1890-1920?

Consider: political change, social change (industrial conditions, urban life, women, prohibition)
The historical debate

Valiant reformers standing up for the little guy? Or merely trying to make enough change to protect the existing social order?

Liberal? Conservative?
B. Municipal, state, & national reforms (suffrage, regulation)
C. Socialism: alternatives
D. Roosevelt, Taft & Wilson as Progressive presidents
   1. Roosevelt's Square Deal: managing the trusts, conservation
   2. Taft: Pinchot-Ballinger controversy, Payne-Aldrich Tariff
E. Women's role: family, workplace, education, politics /suffrage, and reform
F. Black America: urban migration, civil rights (Washington, Du Bois)
Progressivism (the big picture)

WHEN? “Progressive Era”

WHO are “Progressives”?

WHY? What motivates them?

WHAT are their Goals?

- Democracy - government accountable to the people
- Efficiency - expertise
- Regulation of corporations & monopolies
- Social justice
- Environmental protection

HOW do they attempt to accomplish their goals?

HOW Successful are they????
## Progressivism vs. Populism

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Origins of Progressivism

► “Muckrakers”
► Jacob Riis - *How the Other Half Lives* (1890)
► Ida Tarbell - “The History of the Standard Oil Co.” (1902)
► Lincoln Steffens - *The Shame of the Cities* (1904)
MUNICIPAL & STATE REFORMS
MUNICIPAL REFORM

► municipal reform
► utilities - water, gas, electricity, trolleys
► commission plan
► council-manager plan (Dayton, 1913)

Shoe line - Bowery men with gifts from ward boss Tim Sullivan, February, 1910
MUNICIPAL REFORM

strong mayor system

COUNCIL MEMBER  COUNCIL MEMBER  COUNCIL MEMBER  COUNCIL MEMBER  COUNCIL MEMBER

MAYOR

CITY SERVICES

council-manager plan (Dayton, 1913)

COUNCIL MEMBER  COUNCIL MEMBER  COUNCIL MEMBER  COUNCIL MEMBER  COUNCIL MEMBER

CITY MANAGER

CITY SERVICES
STATE POLITICAL REFORM

- secret ballots
- direct primary
- Robert M. LaFollette
- “Wisconsin system”
- initiative
- Referendum
- recall
- Seventeenth Amendment (1913)

“Battling Bob” LaFollette, Wisconsin Governor 1900-06, Later U.S. Senator
**Progressive State Political Reforms**

**Before**
- Party leaders choose candidates for state and local offices.
- State legislatures choose U.S. senators.
- Only members of the state legislature can introduce bills.
- Only legislators pass laws.
- Only courts or the legislature can remove corrupt officials.

**Reforms**
- **Direct Primaries**
  - Voters select their party’s candidates.
- **17th Amendment**
  - U.S. senators are elected by popular vote.
- **Initiative**
  - Voters can put bills before the legislature.
- **Referendum**
  - Voters can vote on bills directly.
- **Recall**
  - Voters can remove elected officials from office.

**After**
- Power moves to voters.
Voter Participation in Presidential Elections, 1876-1920
STATE SOCIAL REFORMS

► professional social workers

► settlement houses - education, culture, day care

► child labor laws
  ▪ Enable education & advancement for working class children
Settlement Houses

- Settlement Houses
- Hull-House - Jane Addams

Jane Addams (1905)

Hull-House Complex in 1906
Child Labor

Child Laborers in Indiana Glass Works, Midnight, Indiana. 1908

“Breaker Boys” Pennsylvania, 1911

Child Laborer, Newberry, S.C. 1908

Shrimp pickers in Peerless Oyster Co., Bay St. Louis, Miss., March 3, 1911
STATE SOCIAL REFORMS

► workplace & labor reforms
  - eight-hour work day
  - improved safety & health conditions in factories
  - workers compensation laws
  - minimum wage laws
  - unionization
TEMPERANCE

► Temperance Crusade
► Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)
► Anti-Saloon League

Frances Willard (1838-98), leader of the WCTU

Anti-Saloon League Campaign, Dayton
TEMPERANCE & PROHIBITION

► Eighteenth Amendment

Prohibition on the Eve of the 18th Amendment, 1919

Statewide Prohibition
- Before 1900
- 1900–1910
- 1911–1919
- Local options
Immigration Restriction

▸ eugenics

▸ *The Passing of the Great Race*
SOCIALISM

ALTERNATIVES
SOCIALISM

► Socialist Party
► Eugene V. Debs
► Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or “Wobblies”)

Socialists parade, May Day, 1910

Eugene V. Debs
Cities electing socialist mayors or major municipal officers, 1911-20
NATIONAL REFORM
Roosevelt, Taft & Wilson as Progressive presidents
ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How effective were Progressive Era reformers and the federal government in bringing about reform at the national level in the period 1900-1920?
Last picture of McKinley before he was assassinated
Assassination of President McKinley, Sept 6, 1901
Theodore Roosevelt: the "accidental President"
Republican (1901-1909)

(The New-York Historical Society)
Roosevelt’s “Square Deal”
► 1902 Anthracite Coal Miners Strike
► “Square Deal”

Anthracite miners at Scranton, Pennsylvania, 1900
Roosevelt the “trust-buster”

- Northern Securities Company (1904)
- “good trusts” and “bad trusts”
- Hepburn Railroad Regulation Act (1906)
Consumer Protection

- Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*
- Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)
- Meat Inspection Act (1906)

Chicago Meatpacking Workers, 1905

“A nauseating job, but it must be done”
Patent Medicines
Roosevelt & Conservation

► Used the Forest Reserve Act of 1891
► U.S. Forest Service (1906)
► Gifford Pinchot
► White House conference on conservation -1908
► John Muir
CONSERVATION: National Parks and Forests
William Howard Taft
President 1909-13
Republican
Postcard with Taft cartoon
Taft Birthplace today, Mt. Auburn
Taft’s Progressive Accomplishments

► trust-busting
► forest and oil reserves
► Sixteenth Amendment

► BUT: Caused split in Republican Party
  - Payne-Aldrich Tariff (1909)
  - Pinchot-Ballinger Controversy

(Taft has) “...completely twisted around the policies I advocated and acted upon.”

- Theodore Roosevelt
Election of 1912
Election of 1912

- Woodrow Wilson
- Progressive Party ("Bull Moose party")
- "New Nationalism"
- significance

Theodore Roosevelt cartoon, March 1912

Woodrow Wilson
1912 Presidential Election

- **Wilson (Democrat)**: 435 electoral votes, 82.0% popular vote, 6,296,547 votes, 42%
- **Taft (Republican)**: 8 electoral votes, 1.5% popular vote, 3,486,720 votes, 23%
- **Roosevelt (Progressive)**: 88 electoral votes, 16.5% popular vote, 4,118,571 votes, 27%
- **Debs (Socialist)**: 0 electoral votes, 0% popular vote, 900,672 votes, 6.0%

[Map of the United States showing electoral and popular votes for the 1912 presidential election]
Wilson

- Woodrow Wilson
- “New Freedom”
- Underwood Simmons Tariff (1913)
- Sixteenth Amendment (1913)
- Federal Reserve Act (1913)
- Federal Trade Commission Act (1914)
- Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914)
- Keating-Owen Act (1916)

Wilson at the peak of his power
William Jennings Bryan, W. Wilson, Josephus Daniels, and Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington, D.C., 1913
Federal Reserve System
► Federal Reserve Act

[Map of the United States showing Federal Reserve Districts and Branches]
WOMEN & SUFFRAGE
ESSENTIAL QUESTION

To what extent did economic and political developments as well as the assumptions about the nature of women affect the position of American women during the period 1890-1925?
The Women’s Club of Madison, Wisconsin conducted classes in food, nutrition, and sewing for recent immigrants. (Photo courtesy of the Women’s History and Resource Center, General Federation of Women’s Clubs.)

A local club for nurses was formed in New York City in 1894. Here the club members are pictured in their clubhouse reception area. (Photo courtesy of the Women’s History and Resource Center, General Federation of Women’s Clubs.)
Women’s Suffrage

Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Women’s Suffrage

- National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)
- Carrie Chapman Catt

Ohio Woman Suffrage Headquarters, Cleveland, 1912
Women’s Suffrage

► Alice Paul
► National Woman’s Party
► Nineteenth Amendment
► Equal Rights Amendment

National Woman’s Party members picketing in front of the White House, 1917

Suffragette Banner 1918

19th Amendment

(All: Library of Congress)
RACE
RELATIONS
Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois offered different strategies for dealing with the problems of poverty and discrimination faced by black Americans at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries. How appropriate were each of these strategies (considering the context in which each was developed)?
Black Population, 1920

- Under 10 percent black population
- 10 to 29 percent
- 30 to 49 percent
- 50 percent and over
  - Over 50,000 black people

The map highlights the distribution of the black population across the United States in 1920, with a significant concentration in the Southern states.
African-Americans

► Booker T. Washington
► W.E.B. Du Bois
► Niagara Movement
► “talented tenth”
► NAACP