The Progressive Era

Amid great political and social change, women gain a larger public role and lead the call for reform. President Theodore Roosevelt dubs his reform policies a Square Deal.
The Progressive Era

SECTION 1  The Origins of Progressivism
SECTION 2  Women in Public Life
SECTION 3  Teddy Roosevelt’s Square Deal
SECTION 4  Progressivism Under Taft
SECTION 5  Wilson’s New Freedom
Political, economic, and social change in late 19th century America leads to broad progressive reforms.
The Origins of Progressivism

Concerns of Progressives

• Early 1900s, middle-class reformers address problems of 1890s
• Different reform efforts collectively called progressive movement
• Reformers aim to restore economic opportunity, correct injustice by:
  — protecting social welfare, promoting moral improvement
  — creating economic reform, fostering efficiency
Four Goals of Progressivism \textit{(continued)}

Protecting Social Welfare

- Social Gospel, settlement houses inspire other reform groups
- \textbf{Florence Kelley}, political activist, advocate for women, children
  - helps pass law prohibiting child labor, limiting women’s hours

Promoting Moral Improvement

- Some feel poor should uplift selves by improving own behavior
- \textbf{Prohibition}—banning of alcoholic drinks
- Woman’s Christian Temperance Union spearheads prohibition crusade
Creating Economic Reform
- 1893 panic prompts doubts about capitalism; many become socialists
- **Muckrakers**—journalists who expose corruption in politics, business

Fostering Efficiency
- Many use experts, science to make society, workplace more efficient
- Louis D. Brandeis uses social scientists’ data in trial
- **Scientific management**—time and motion studies applied to workplace
- Assembly lines speed up production, make people work like machines—cause high worker turnover
Cleaning Up Local Government

Reforming Local Government
- Reformers try to make government efficient, responsive to voters
- Some cities adopt government by commission of experts
- Many use council-manager: people elect council that appoints manager

Reform Mayors
- Hazen Pingree of Detroit tackles taxes, transit fares, corruption
- Socialist Tom Johnson of Cleveland fights corrupt utility companies
Reform at the State Level

Reform Governors

- Governors push states to pass laws to regulate large businesses
- Robert M. La Follette is 3-term governor, then senator of Wisconsin
  — attacks big business

Reform Governors

- Child workers get lower wages, small hands handle small parts better
  — families need children’s wages
- National Child Labor Committee gathers evidence of harsh conditions
- Labor unions argue children’s wages lower all wages
- Groups press government to ban child labor, cut hours

Continued...
Reform at the State Level  \textit{(continued)}

Efforts to Limit Working Hours

- \textit{Muller v. Oregon}—Court upholds limiting women to 10-hour workday
- \textit{Bunting v. Oregon}—upholds 10-hour workday for men
- Reformers win workers’ compensation for families of injured, killed
Reform at the State Level {continued}

Reforming Elections
- Oregon adopts secret ballot, initiative, referendum, recall
- Initiative—bill proposed by people, not lawmakers, put on ballots
- Referendum—voters, not legislature, decide if initiative becomes law
- Recall—voters remove elected official through early election
- Primaries allow voters, not party machines, to choose candidates

Direct Election of Senators
- Seventeenth Amendment permits popular election of senators
As a result of social and economic change, many women enter public life as workers and reformers.
Women in Public Life

Women in the Work Force

Changing Patterns of Living

- Only middle-, upper-class women can devote selves to home, family
- Poor women usually have to work for wages outside home

Farm Women

- On Southern, Midwestern farms, women’s roles same as before
- Perform household tasks, raise livestock, help with crops

Continued...
Women in the Work Force {continued}

A Bungled Burglary

- After 1900, 1 in 5 women hold jobs; 25% in manufacturing
- 50% industrial workers in garment trade; earn half of men’s wages
- Jobs in offices, stores, classrooms require high school education
- Business schools train bookkeepers, stenographers, typists

Domestic Workers

- In 1870, 70% of employed women do domestic work
- Many African-American, immigrant women do domestic labor
  — married immigrants take in piecework, boarders
Women Lead Reform

Women Get Involved

- Many female industrial workers seek to reform working conditions
- Women form cultural clubs, sometimes become reform groups

Women in Higher Education

- Many women active in public life have attended new women’s colleges
- 50% college-educated women never marry; many work on social reforms

Continued...
Women Lead Reform \textit{continued}\footnote{continued}

\textbf{Women and Reform}

- Women reformers target workplace, housing, education, food, drugs
- National Association of Colored Women (\textbf{NACW})—child care, education
- \textbf{Susan B. Anthony} of National American Woman Suffrage Assoc. (\textbf{NAWSA})
  — works for woman \textit{suffrage}, or right to vote

\textbf{A Three-Part Strategy for Suffrage}

- Convince state legislatures to give women right to vote
- Test 14th Amendment—states lose representation if deny men vote
- Push for constitutional amendment to give women the vote
Teddy Roosevelt’s Square Deal

As president, Theodore Roosevelt works to give citizens a Square Deal through progressive reforms.
Section-3

**Teddy Roosevelt’s Square Deal**

**A Rough-Riding President**

**Roosevelt’s Rise**
- **Theodore Roosevelt** has sickly childhood, drives self in athletics
- Is ambitious, rises through New York politics to become governor
- NY political bosses cannot control him, urge run for vice-president

**The Modern Presidency**
- President McKinley shot; Roosevelt becomes president at 42
- His leadership, publicity campaigns help create modern presidency
- Supports federal government role when states do not solve problems
  — **Square Deal**—Roosevelt’s progressive reforms
Using Federal Power

Trustbusting

• By 1900, trusts control about 4/5 of U.S. industries
• Roosevelt wants to curb trusts that hurt public interest
  — breaks up some trusts under Sherman Antitrust Act

1902 Coal Strike

• Coal reserves low; forces miners, operators to accept arbitration
• Sets principle of federal intervention when strike threatens public
Using Federal Power \textit{(continued)}

**Railroad Regulation**

- Roosevelt pushes for federal regulation to control abuses
  - Elkins Act—stops rebates, sudden rate changes
  - Hepburn Act—limits passes, ICC to set maximum rates
Health and the Environment

Regulating Foods and Drugs

- **Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle**—unsanitary conditions in meatpacking
- Roosevelt commission investigates, backs up Sinclair’s account
- Roosevelt pushes for **Meat Inspection Act**:
  - dictates sanitary requirements
  - creates federal meat inspection program

Pure Food and Drug Act

- Food, drug advertisements make false claims; medicines often unsafe
- **Pure Food and Drug Act** halts sale of contaminated food, medicine
  - requires truth in labeling

*Continued...*
**Health and the Environment** *continued*

**Conservation and Natural Resources**
- 1887, U.S. Forest Bureau established, manages 45 million acres
- Private interests exploit natural environment

**Conservation Measures**
- Roosevelt sets aside forest reserves, sanctuaries, national parks
- Believes conservation part preservation, part development for public
Roosevelt and Civil Rights

Civil Rights at the Turn of the 20th Century

- Roosevelt does not support civil rights for African Americans
- Supports individual African Americans in civil service
  - invites Booker T. Washington to White House
- **NAACP**—National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
  - goal is full equality among races
- Founded 1909 by W. E. B. Du Bois and black, white reformers
Progressivism Under Taft

Taft’s ambivalent approach to progressive reform leads to a split in the Republican Party and the loss of the presidency to the Democrats.
Section-4

Progressivism under Taft

Taft Becomes President

Taft Stumbles

- 1908, Republican William Howard Taft wins with Roosevelt’s support
- Has cautiously progressive agenda; gets little credit for successes
- Does not use presidential bully pulpit to arouse public opinion

Continued...
Taft Becomes President \{continued\}

The Payne-Aldrich Tariff
- Taft signs *Payne-Aldrich Tariff*—compromise bill, moderate tariffs
- Progressives angry, think he abandoned low tariffs, progressivism

Disputing Public Lands
- Conservationists angry Richard A. Ballinger named interior secretary
  - Ballinger puts reserved lands in public domain
- Interior official protests action, is fired, writes magazine exposé
- **Gifford Pinchot** head of U.S. Forest Service
  - testifies against Ballinger
  - is fired by Taft
The Republican Party Splits

Problems within the Party

- Republicans split over Taft’s support of House Speaker Joseph Cannon
- Cannon weakens progressive agenda; progressives ally with Democrats
- 1910 midterm elections, Democrats get control of House
The Republican Party Splits \{continued\}

The Bull Moose Party

- 1912 convention, Taft people outmaneuver Roosevelt’s for nomination
- Progressives form Bull Moose Party; nominate Roosevelt, call for:
  - more voter participation in government
  - woman suffrage
  - labor legislation, business controls
- Runs against Democrat Woodrow Wilson, reform governor of NJ
Democrats Win in 1912

The Election

- Wilson endorses progressive platform called the New Freedom
  - wants stronger antitrust laws, banking reform, lower tariffs
  - calls all monopolies evil
- Roosevelt wants oversight of big business; not all monopolies bad
- Socialist Party candidate Eugene V. Debs wants to end capitalism
- Wilson wins great electoral victory; gets majority in Congress
Section-5

Wilson’s New Freedom

Woodrow Wilson establishes a strong reform agenda as a progressive leader.
Wilson’s New Freedom

Wilson’s Background

- Wilson was lawyer, professor, president of Princeton, NJ governor
- As president, focuses on trusts, tariffs, high finance

Two Key Antitrust Measures

- **Clayton Antitrust Act** stops companies buying stock to form monopoly
- Ends injunctions against strikers unless threaten irreparable damage
- **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**—new “watchdog” agency
  - investigates regulatory violations
  - ends unfair business practices
Wilson Wins Financial Reforms \{continued\}

A New Tax System
- Wilson pushes for Underwood Act to substantially reduce tariffs
- Sets precedent of giving State of the Union message in person
- His use of bully pulpit leads to passage

Federal Income Tax
- Sixteenth Amendment legalizes graduated federal income tax

Federal Reserve System
- \textbf{Federal Reserve System}—private banking system under federal control
- Nation divided into 12 districts; central bank in each district
Women Win Suffrage

Local Suffrage Battles

- College-educated women spread suffrage message to working-class
- Go door-to-door, take trolley tours, give speeches at stops
  - some adopt bold tactics of British suffragists

Catt and the National Movement

- **Carrie Chapman Catt**, head of NAWSA, stresses organization, lobbying
- National Woman’s Party aggressively pressures for suffrage amendment
- Work of patriotic women in war effort influences politicians
- 1920 **Nineteenth Amendment** grants women right to vote
The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century

Chapter 9

Section 5

The Limits of Progressivism

Wilson and Civil Rights

• Wilson and Civil Rights
• As candidate, wins support of NAACP for favoring civil rights
• As president, opposes antilynching legislation
• Appoints fellow white Southerners to cabinet who extend segregation
• NAACP feels betrayed; Wilson self-defense widens rift

The Twilight of Progressivism

• Outbreak of World War I distracts Americans; reform efforts stall
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