

## 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

## Section 1

# The Origins of Progressivism

Political, economic, and social change in late 19<sup>th</sup> century America leads to broad progressive reforms.

## SECTION

# 1 The Origins of Progressivism

## Four Goals of Progressivism

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### 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

*Continued . . .*



## SECTION

## 1

*continued* **Four Goals of Progressivism****Protecting Social Welfare**

- Social Gospel, settlement houses inspire other reform groups
- **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
- **Prohibition**—banning of alcoholic drinks
- Woman's Christian Temperance Union spearheads prohibition crusade

*Continued . . .*

NEXT

## SECTION

## 1

*continued* **Four Goals of Progressivism****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



## SECTION

## 1

## Cleaning Up Local Government

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### 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



## SECTION

## 1

## Reform at the State Level

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### 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

### Protecting Working Children

- 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

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## SECTION

## 1

*continued* Reform at the State Level**Efforts to Limit Working Hours**

- *Muller v. Oregon*—Court upholds limiting women to 10-hour workday
- *Bunting v. Oregon*—upholds 10-hour workday for men
- Reformers win workers' compensation for families of injured, killed

*Continued . . .*

## SECTION

## 1

*continued* Reform at the State Level**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

## Section 2

# Women in Public Life

As a result of social and economic change, many women enter public life as workers and reformers.

## SECTION

**2 Women in Public Life****Women in the Work Force**

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**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 . . .*

## SECTION

## 2

*continued* **Women in the Work Force****Women in Industry**

- 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

## SECTION

## 2

## Women Lead Reform

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### 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

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## SECTION

## 2

*continued* **Women Lead Reform****Women and Reform**

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

**A Three-Part Strategy for Suffrage**

- Convince state legislatures to give women right to vote
- Test 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment—states lose representation if deny men vote
- Push for constitutional amendment to give women the vote

### Section 3

# 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

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#### 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



## SECTION

## 3

## Using Federal Power

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### 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

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## SECTION

## 3

*continued* **Using Federal Power**

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**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

## SECTION

## 3

## 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

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## SECTION

## 3

*continued* **Health and the Environment****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

## SECTION

## 3

## Roosevelt and Civil Rights

### Civil Rights at the Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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

## Section 4

# 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

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#### 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

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## SECTION

## 4

*continued* Taft Becomes President**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



## SECTION

## 4

## The Republican Party Splits

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### 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

*Continued . . .*



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## SECTION

## 4

*continued* **The Republican Party Splits****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

## SECTION

## 4

## Democrats Win in 1912

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### 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.

## SECTION

**5** Wilson's New Freedom

## Wilson Wins Financial Reforms

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### 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

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## SECTION

## 5

*continued* **Wilson Wins Financial Reforms****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**

- **Federal Reserve System**—private banking system under federal control
- Nation divided into 12 districts; central bank in each district



## SECTION

## 5

## Women Win Suffrage

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### 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





## SECTION

## 5

## The Limits of Progressivism

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### 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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