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
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Section-1

The Origins of Progressivism

Political, economic, and social change in late 19th century America leads to broad progressive reforms.
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 (continued)

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
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
Chapter 9

Section-1

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 (continued)

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
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

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
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 \(\text{continued}\)

**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 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.
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

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
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.
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 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
Wilson’s New Freedom

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

Wilson Wins Financial Reforms

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

Continued…
Wilson Wins Financial Reforms \(\text{continued}\)

**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**
- \textit{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 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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