

The Progressive Era and New Political Reform

Mr. Zindman's Class

Please study your slides and class notes!

Progressive Reform

- Mark Twain wrote *The Gilded Age* to poke fun at political corruption in the 1870's.
- *Northerners* (industrialists) became The *Republican* party and southerners (farmers) became the *Democratic* party.
- In the *spoils system*, politicians would appoint jobs to their friends for their own motives, rather on merit, or qualifications.
- Giving jobs to loyal supporters of a political campaign was known as *patronage*.
- *Rutherford Hayes*, the 19th President and *James Garfield* the 20th President, called for reform of patronage and equality for African Americans. Congress ignored their call for reforms. The south continued to support segregation and the spoils system.
- James Garfield, the 20th President, was assassinated and *Chester Arthur* became the 21st President.
- Chester Arthur signed the *Pendleton Act*, giving civil service jobs based on merit. In 1883, the *Civil Service Commission* was created to create exams for federal jobs.
- Congress shut down the *Civil Rights Act of 1875* and continued segregation in the south.
- Garfield signed the *Chinese Exclusion Act* to keep Chinese immigrants out of America because they would not emulate American ways and worked for less pay.
- *Grover Cleveland*, the 22nd President, passed the *Interstate Commerce Act*, which forbid people paying rebates (AKA bribes) to pass laws in their favor.
- *Benjamin Harrison*, the 23rd President, signed the *Sherman Antitrust Act*, to intervene and stop businesses trusts if they deemed a monopoly. Harrison was unable to pass civil rights legislation for African Americans. A *monopoly* is when one company or person owned all of one type of business exclusively.
- *Grover Cleveland* was elected for a second time as the 24th President of the USA. The depression of 1893 caused a panic and he was quickly voted out in the next election. He was the only president to serve 2 nonconsecutive terms.

📖 **The Progressives**

- **Boss Tweed**, a powerful politician, the 1860's and 1870's controlled and cheated New York out of 100 million dollars.
- **Muckrakers** were people that tried to clean up political corruption.
- **Ida Tarbell**, a female journalist, wrote about political corruption with the Standard Oil Company & Transcontinental Railroad. Tarbell's investigative reporting led to the **Federal Trade Commission** and the **Interstate Commerce Commission**.
- Progressive thinkers worked for the public interest or for the good of the people. Progressive thinkers stressed the importance of education.
- **John Dewey**, stressed the importance of reforming schools.
- **Robert La Follette** reformed railroad rates to help the consumer afford a railroad trip.
- Progressive reformers pressed for **primaries**, in which a voter would choose a candidate for an election. They urged for an **initiative** which would allow the voters the right to put a bill in front of their state legislation. They also passed a **referendum** which allowed them to vote the bill into law in the next election.
- **Recall** is the removal of an elected official if they were corrupt.
- The **16th Amendment** passed by congress gave the right to impose an **income tax** on citizens.
- **The Woman's Reform Movement in** pressed for the right to vote for women also known as **suffrage**.

📖 **Theodore Roosevelt, William, Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson**

- Theodore Roosevelt became a war hero in the war with Cuba in the Spanish-American War.
- Theodore Roosevelt was elected at the Vice President under President McKinley. When McKinley was assassinated Roosevelt became the 26th President of the United States. Roosevelt became the youngest President of the United States, age 42.
- Theodore Roosevelt became a **trustbuster**, breaking up large companies that has monopolies. Roosevelt supported the working class people not large corporations.

- Roosevelt offered a ***square deal*** in his election. An equal opportunity for workers and consumers to succeed.
- ***Upton Sinclair*** wrote about terrible meat packing company conditions. This led to improvements in the meat packing industry.
- Theodore Roosevelt help pass the ***Food and Drug Act***. It required drug makers and food companies to list their ingredients on packages.
- Theodore Roosevelt conserved national resources by establishing ***national parks***.
- Theodore Roosevelt “built” the Panama Canal.
- William Howard Taft became the 27th President of America. Taft broke up more trusts than Roosevelt and founded an 8 hour working day.
- Taft bought the land we call Alaska today.
- Woodrow became the 28th President running against Theodore Roosevelt. Wilson passed the ***Federal Reserve Act*** that monitored banks in raising and lowering interest rates.
- Wilson established the ***Federal Trade Commission*** that polices companies and their business practices.

📖 Women’s Rights

- ***Susan B. Anthony*** with 15 other women were arrested in 1872 for voting. Susan B. Anthony became a forerunner of the women’s suffrage movement. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the ***National Women Suffrage Association***.
- People who campaigned for women’s rights were called ***suffragists***.
- ***The 19th Amendment*** was passed. It guaranteed the right to vote for women.
- ***Jane Addams*** founded modern social work. She won a Nobel Peace prize in 1931. She founded the first settlement house in America, known as ***Hull House***.
- ***Florence Kelly*** brought attention the misuse of child labor.
- Many women protested the ***Temperance Movement***, or the selling and use of alcoholic beverages.
- ***The National Association of College Women*** was established by African American women. They crusaded against lynching and racial separation.

📖 **The Struggle for Justice for African Americans**

- After Reconstruction, African Americans still dealt with Jim Crow Laws and segregation.
- **Ida B. Wells**, a Black woman journalist urged African Americans to protest lynching.
- **Booker T. Washington** called for Blacks and Whites to live in harmony. Black people needed to work hard to move up the ladder of success in America.
- **W.E.B. DuBois** urged Blacks to fight actively to gain equality. DuBois founded the **NAACP** or National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This organization worked to gain equal rights for Black people.
- **Sarah Walker (AKA Madame Walker)** became the first American woman to earn one million dollars.
- **Marcus Garvey** founder of the **Universal Negro Improvement Association**, promoted the return of the African **diaspora** to their ancestral lands.

📖 **Progressive Changes Continue**

- 📖 Chinese and Japanese people were denied the right to immigrate to America in the **Chinese Exclusion Act**. Americans were unhappy because the Chinese worked for less wages and would not emulate into American society. The **Gentleman's Agreement** limited the number of Japanese coming into America for the same reasons.
- 📖 Native Americans set up the **Society of American Indians** to combat being swindled out of their lands. This organization was ineffective in correcting social injustices for Native Americans.
- 📖 **Leo Frank**, a Jew, was accused of murdering a young girl. Despite the lack of evidence an angry mob lynched him in prison.
- 📖 **The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire** in a garment factory caused the death of 146 workers. The exit doors were locked. This sparked the federal government to make changes in safety in factory buildings.