

# The Americans

## Chapter 17: The Progressive Era, 1890–1920

### The Progressive Era, 1890–1920

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#### *Chapter Opener:* The Progressive Era, 1890–1920

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.

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#### Section 1: The Origins of Progressivism

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#### *Section Opener:* The Origins of Progressivism

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

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#### Slide 3: Four Goals of Progressivism [continued]

##### **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
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#### Slide 4: 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
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## **Slide 5: 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
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## **Slide 6: 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
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## **Slide 7: Reform at the State Level [continued]**

### **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
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## **Slide 8: Reform at the State Level [continued]**

### **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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## **Slide 9: 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
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## **Slide 10: 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
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## **Slide 11: Reform at the State Level**

### **Direct Election of Senators**

- \* Seventeenth Amendment permits popular election of senators
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## **Section 1: Women in Public Life**

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### ***Section Opener: Women in Public Life***

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

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## Slide 13: Women in the Work Force [continued]

### **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
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## Slide 14: 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
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## Slide 15: Women Lead Reform [continued]

### **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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## Slide 16: Women Lead Reform [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 Association (NAWSA)
  - works for woman suffrage, or right to vote
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## Slide 17: Women Lead Reform

### **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

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## Section 2: Teddy Roosevelt's Square Deal

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### *Section Opener: Teddy Roosevelt's Square Deal*

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

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### Slide 19: A Rough-Riding President [continued]

#### **Roosevelt's Rise**

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

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### Slide 20: A Rough-Riding 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

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### Slide 21: Using Federal Power [continued]

#### **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
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## **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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## **Slide 22: Using Federal Power**

### **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
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## **Slide 23: Health and the Environment [continued]**

### **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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## **Slide 24: 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
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## **Slide 25: 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. DuBois and black, white reformers

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## **Section 3: Progressivism Under Taft**

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### ***Section Opener: 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.

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### **Slide 27: Taft Becomes President [continued]**

#### **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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### **Slide 28: 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

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### **Slide 29: The Republican Party Splits [continued]**

### **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
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## **Slide 30: 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 New Jersey
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## **Slide 31: 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
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## **Section 4: Wilson's New Freedom**

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### **Section Opener: Wilson's New Freedom**

Woodrow Wilson establishes a strong reform agenda as a progressive leader.

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## **Slide 33: Wilson Wins Financial Reforms [continued]**

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## **Wilson's Background**

- \* Wilson was lawyer, professor, president of Princeton, New Jersey governor
  - \* As president, focuses on trusts, tariffs, high finance
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## **Slide 34: Wilson Wins Financial Reforms [continued]**

### **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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## **Slide 35: 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
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## **Slide 36: Women Win Suffrage [continued]**

### **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
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## **Slide 37: Women Win Suffrage**

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### **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

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## **Slide 38: The Limits of Progressivism**

### **Wilson and Civil Rights**

- \* As candidate, wins support of NAACP for favoring civil rights
- \* As president, opposes anti-lynching 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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## **Slide 39: Let the Games Begin!**

### **Play the Review Game**

Compete with your classmates in this show-what-you-know game. Rack up points, reveal an image, and earn more points in a bonus round.

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