

THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

**AMERICA SEEKS REFORMS IN
THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY**



THEODORE ROOSEVELT

The 26th U.S. President

1901-1909

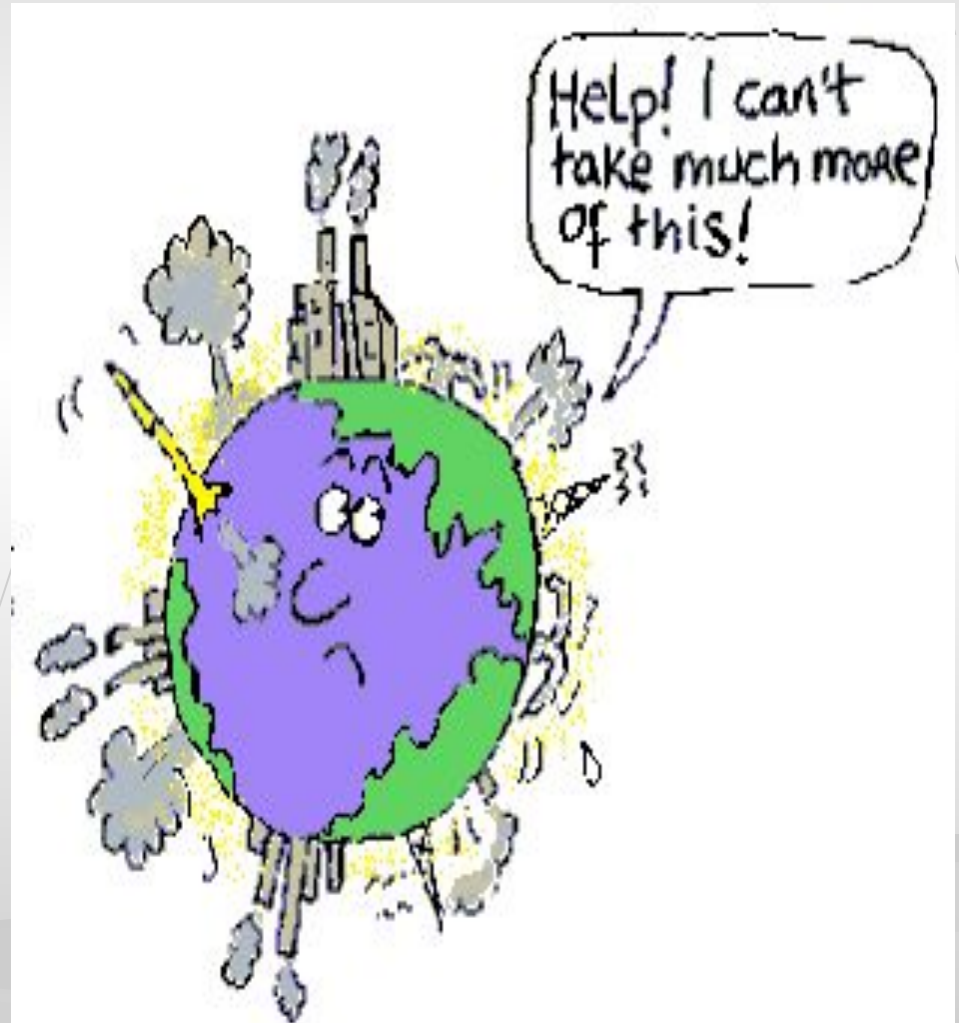
ORIGINS OF PROGRESSIVISM

- Work conditions, rights for women and children, economic reform, **environmental issues** and social welfare were a few of the issues.

- Influenced by the Social Gospel movement and the Populist movement.

(Social Gospel - government, churches, and private charities work together to help people in need.)

- The Progressive movement eventually impacted all levels of government.



FOUR GOALS OF REFORMERS

- 1) Protect the **Social Welfare** (governmental provision of economic assistance to persons in need)
 - 2) Promote **Moral Improvement** (changes in character)
 - 3) Create **Economic Reform** (government change in policies toward businesses)
 - 4) Foster **Efficiency** (the effective use of resources)
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1. PROTECT SOCIAL WELFARE

- Industrialization was unregulated.
- Employers felt little responsibility toward their workers.
- Settlement houses and churches served the community (example: Hull House, founded by Jane Addams) *Settlement houses were located in slum neighborhoods and provided services to immigrants and the poor - English lessons, childcare, nursing and nationalization assistance.*
- The **YMCA** and Salvation Army took on service roles



2. PROMOTE MORAL DEVELOPMENT



- Some reformers felt that the answer to societies problems was personal behavior.
- Proposed such reforms as prohibition
- Groups wishing to ban alcohol included the **Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)**.

3. CREATE ECONOMIC REFORM

- **The Panic of 1893 prompted some Americans to question the capitalist economic system.**
- **Some workers embraced socialism.**
- **Eugene Debs** organized the **American Socialist Party in 1901.**



Debs encouraged workers to reject American Capitalism

MUCKRAKERS CRITICIZE BIG BUSINESS



Ida Tarbell

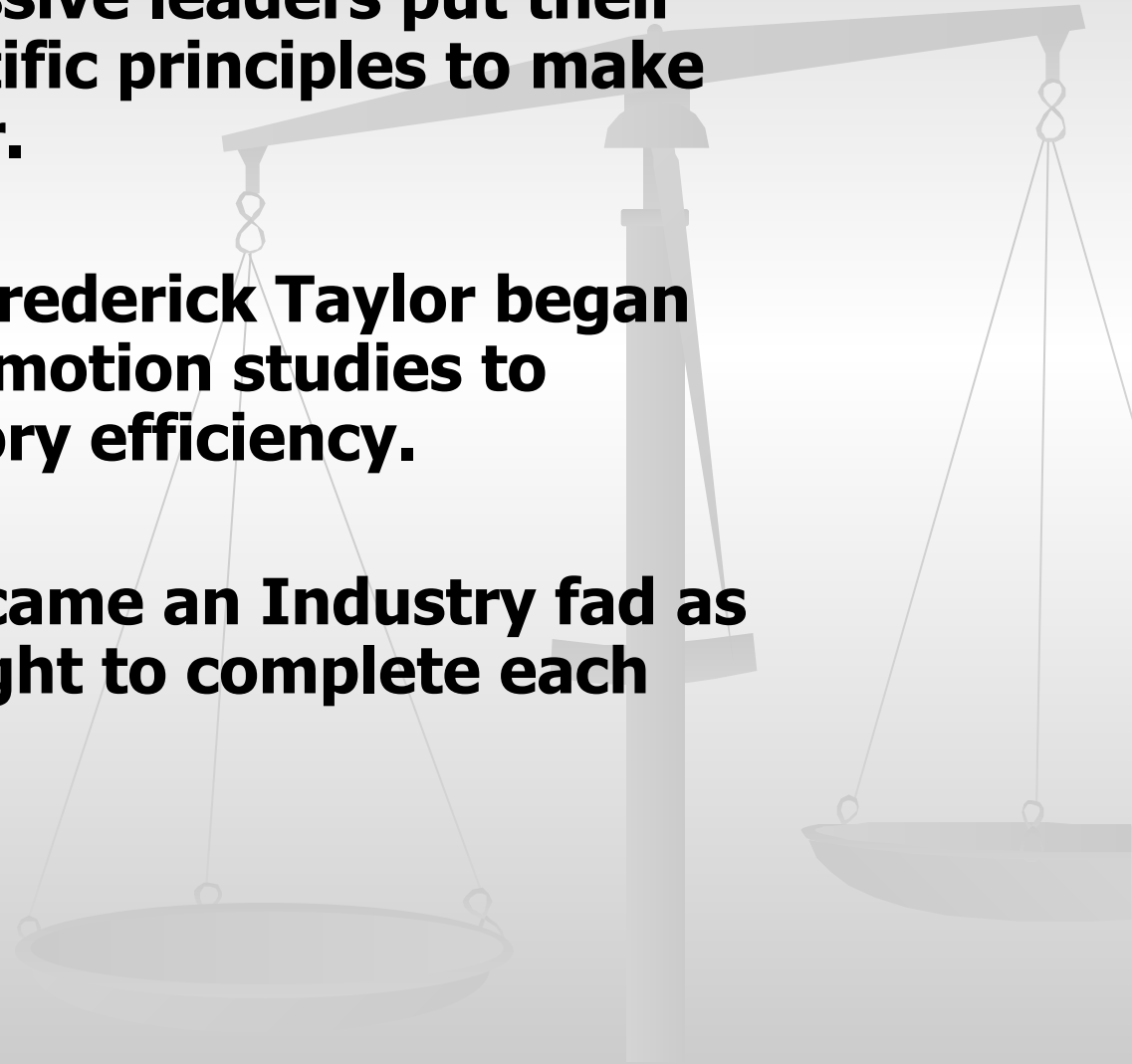
Some view
Michael Moore
as a modern
muckraker



- Journalists known as “Muckrakers” exposed corruption in business. **Muckraker** is a name that was first given to American writers in the early 20th century who exposed corruption and scandals in business and politics.
- **Ida Tarbell** exposed Standard Oil Company’s for it’s questionable methods of eliminating competition.
- **Lincoln Steffens** wrote and photographed living conditions in slums in the late 1800s and early 1900’s.
- Increased numbers of magazines, newspapers, and books coupled, as well as a more literate population, increased the impact muckrakers had on society.

4. FOSTERING EFFICIENCY

- **Many Progressive leaders put their faith in scientific principles to make society better.**
- **In industry, Frederick Taylor began using time & motion studies to improve factory efficiency.**
- **Taylorism became an Industry fad as factories sought to complete each task quickly.**



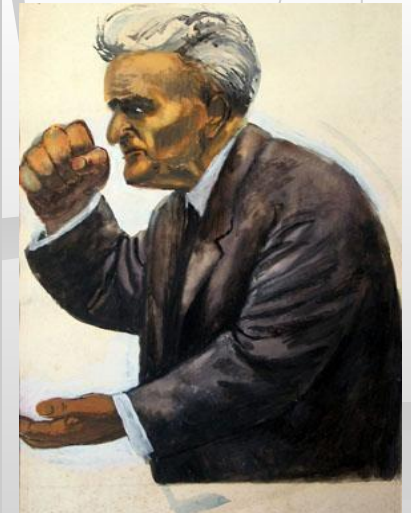
CLEANING UP LOCAL GOVERNMENT



- Efforts at reforming **local government** stemmed from the desire to make government more efficient and responsive to citizens.
- Some wanted to limit immigrants influence in local governments.

REGULATING BIG BUSINESS

- Under the progressive Republican leadership of **Robert La Follette**, Wisconsin led the way in regulating big business.
- Known as the “Wisconsin Idea.”



Robert La Follette

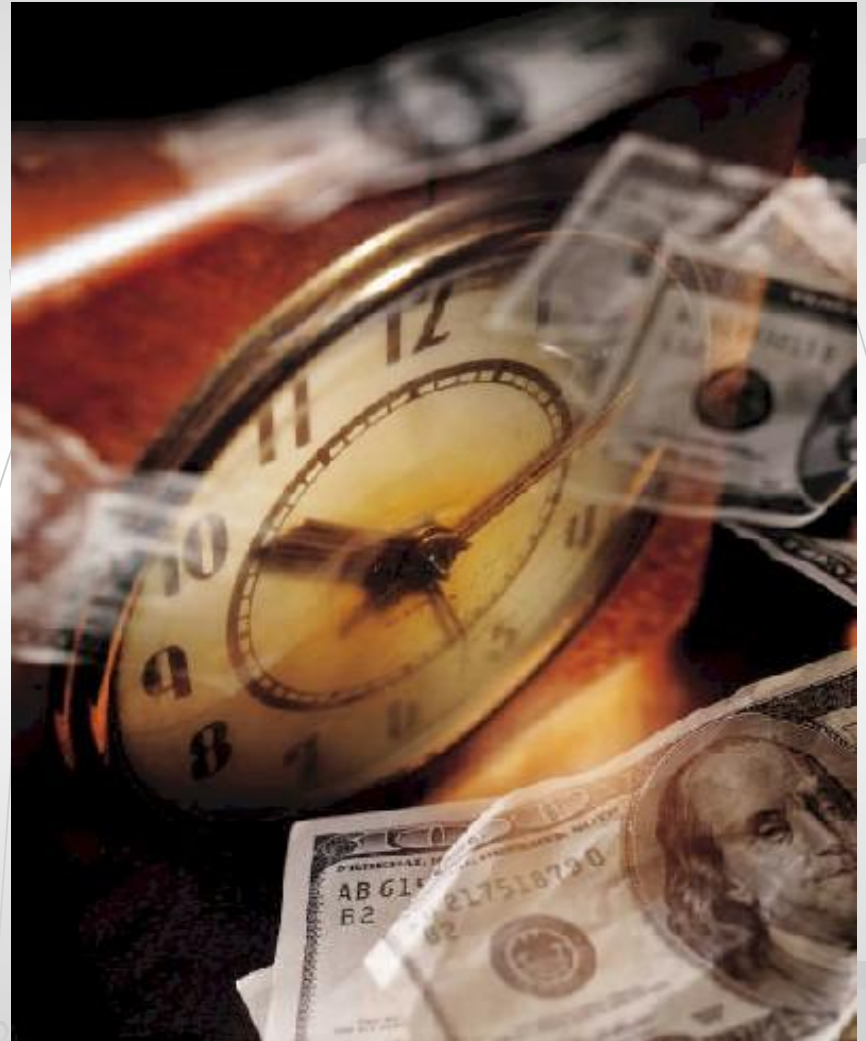
PROTECTING WORKING CHILDREN



- As the number of child workers rose, reformers worked to end **child labor**.
- Children were more prone to accidents caused by fatigue.
- Nearly every state limited or banned child labor by 1918.

EFFORTS TO LIMIT HOURS

- The Supreme Court and the states enacted or strengthened laws reducing women's hours of work.
- Progressives also succeeded in winning **worker's compensation** to aid families of injured workers.



Triangle Shirtwaist Factory

- In 1911, a fire at the factory in NYC led to the deaths of 146 female workers because doors were bolted and there were no adequate fire escapes.
- The tragedy brought widespread attention to the dangerous sweatshop conditions of factories, and led to the development of a series of laws and regulations that better protected the safety of workers.



Political Machines were a Problem

- Political Machines (a group that controls the activities of a political party) controlled a large number of immigrant voters by:
 1. Providing them with housing when they came to the city.
 2. Helping them find food and obtain jobs.
 3. Giving them financial aid at special holidays.



ELECTION REFORM



Upon realizing that the taxpayer money was having no effect, Davis concluded that this problem was unlike anything he'd previously encountered.

- Election reform-the purpose was to remove the influence of political machines.
- Progressives were successful in getting: secret ballots, referendum votes (*removing a law by petition*), and the *recall* (*the act of removing an official by petition*).
- Citizens could petition and get *initiatives* (*signed by a certain minimum number of registered voters to force a public vote*) on the ballot.
- Direct primaries would allow voters to choose the candidate who would run in the general election.
- In 1899, Minnesota passed the first statewide primary system.

DIRECT ELECTION OF SENATORS

- Before 1913, each state legislature had to choose its own U.S. senators.
- Progressives pushed for the popular election of senators.
- As a result, Congress passed the **17th Amendment** (1913).



SECTION 2: WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE



- **Before the Civil War, American women were expected to devote their time to home and family.**
- **By the late 19th and early 20th century, women were visible in the workforce.**

DOMESTIC WORKERS



- Before the turn-of-the-century, women without formal education contributed to the economic welfare of their families by doing **domestic work**.
- 70% of women employed in 1870 were servants.

WOMEN IN THE WORK FORCE

- Opportunities for women increased especially in the cities.
- By 1900, 1-out-of-5 women worked.
- The **garment trade** was popular. Some women also worked in offices, department stores and classrooms.



WOMEN LEAD REFORM

- Many of the leading progressive reformers were women.
- Upper class women also entered the public sphere as reformers.
- Many of these women had graduated from new **women's colleges**.



*Colleges like Vassar and Smith
allowed women to excel*

Women Take Charge

- **Susan B. Anthony** - suffragist fighting for women's rights; school teacher, abolitionist, temperance movement, NWSA; ran for president in 1872 under 14th Amendment; excluded because citizenship rights did not apply to women
- **Florence Kelley** - lived at Hull House; chief factory inspector in Illinois, helped with Muller v. Oregon for women's workhours, one founder of NAACP
- **Carrie Chapman Catt** - Iowa, NWSA President after Anthony, protested against Nazi abuses of the Jewish
- **Alice Paul** - lead a march in support of women's suffrage; proposed the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923

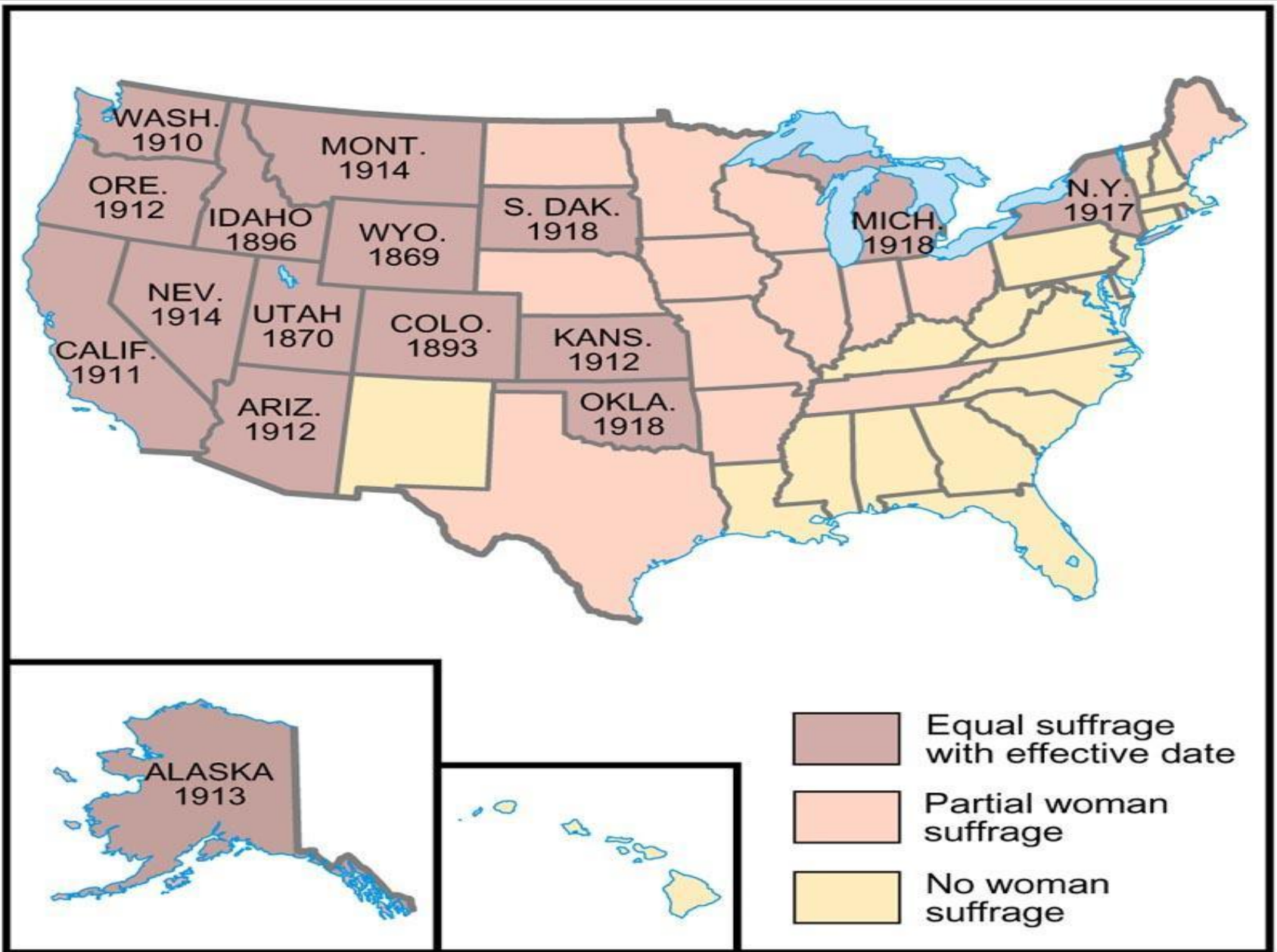


THREE-PART STRATEGY FOR WINNING SUFFRAGE

- Suffragists tried three approaches to winning the vote

- 1) Convince state legislatures to adopt vote (Succeeded in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Colorado).
- 2) Pursue court cases to test 14th Amendment.
- 3) Push for national constitutional Amendment.





WOMAN SUFFRAGE BEFORE 1920

ROOSEVELT AND THE ROUGH RIDERS

- Roosevelt grabbed national attention by advocating war with Spain in 1898.
- His volunteer cavalry brigade, **the Rough Riders**, won public acclaim for its role in the battle at San Juan Hill in Cuba.
- Roosevelt returned a hero and was soon elected governor of NY and later McKinley's vice-president.





Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders

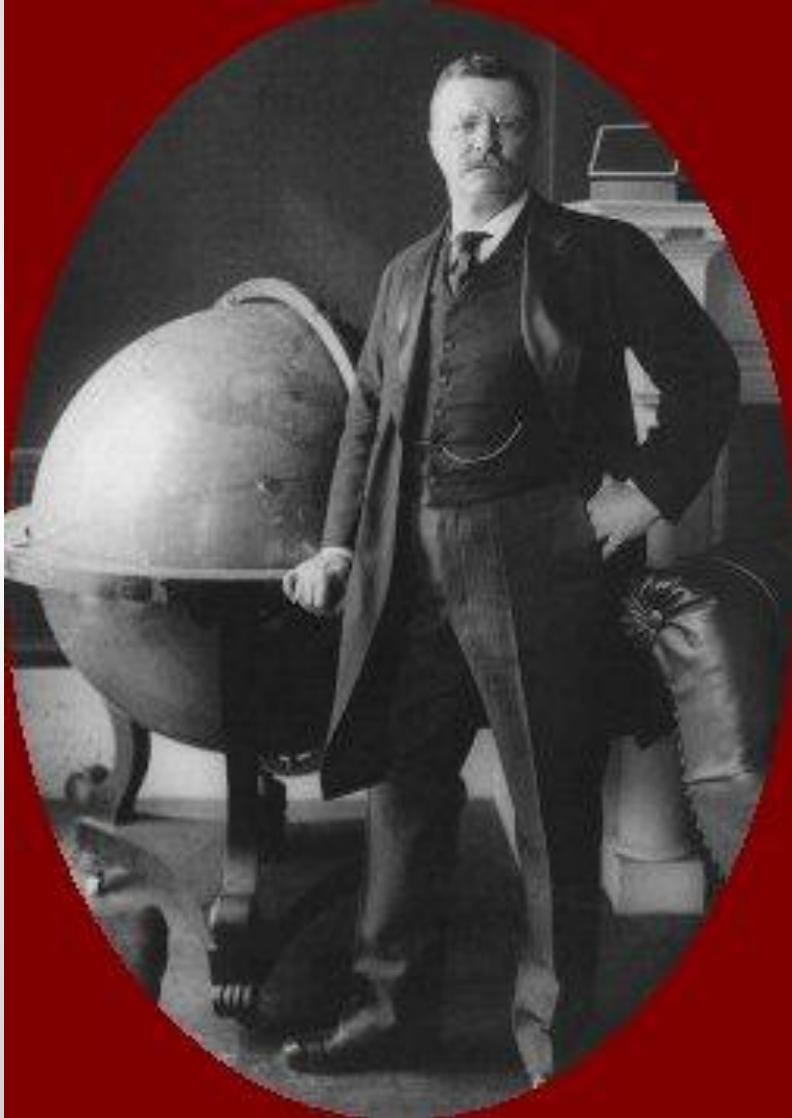
TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S SQUARE DEAL



McKinley was assassinated by an anarchist in Buffalo in September of 1901.

- **President William McKinley was assassinated 6 months into his second term.**
- **Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt became the nations 26th president.**

THE MODERN PRESIDENT



- Became the youngest president ever, at age 42, when he became the President in 1901.
- Established himself as a **modern president** who could influence the media and shape legislation.
- His “**Square Deal**” was a domestic program that targeted the middle class. He attacked trusts, while protecting business from unorganized labor.

TRUSTBUSTING

- By 1900, **Trusts** – legal bodies created to hold stock in many companies – controlled 80% of U.S. industries .
- Roosevelt filed 44 antitrust suits under the **Sherman Antitrust Act**.
- The Railroad industry regulated by the government in both the **Elkins Act** and the **Hepburn Act**.



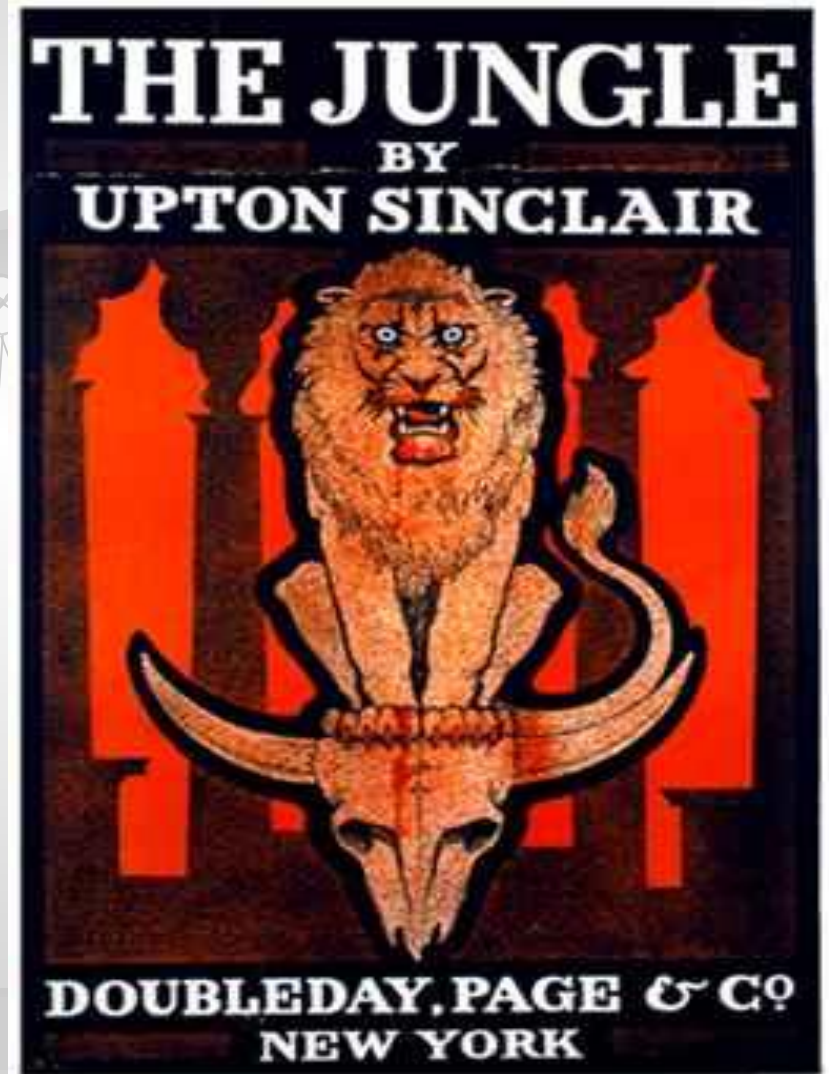
1902: The Anthracite Coal Strike



- In 1902, 140,000 **coal miners** in Pennsylvania went on strike for:
 1. increased wages
 2. a 9-hour work day
 3. the right to unionize
- Mine owners refused to bargain.
- Roosevelt called in both sides and settled the dispute.
- After that, when a strike threatened public welfare, the federal government was expected to step in and help.

“*THE JUNGLE*” LEADS TO FOOD REGULATION

- *The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair, highlighted all of the unclean and/or unsafe practices of the meat packaging industry.
- Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Meat Inspection Act of 1906.
- The Act mandated cleaner conditions for meatpacking plants.



PURE FOOD AND DRUG ACT

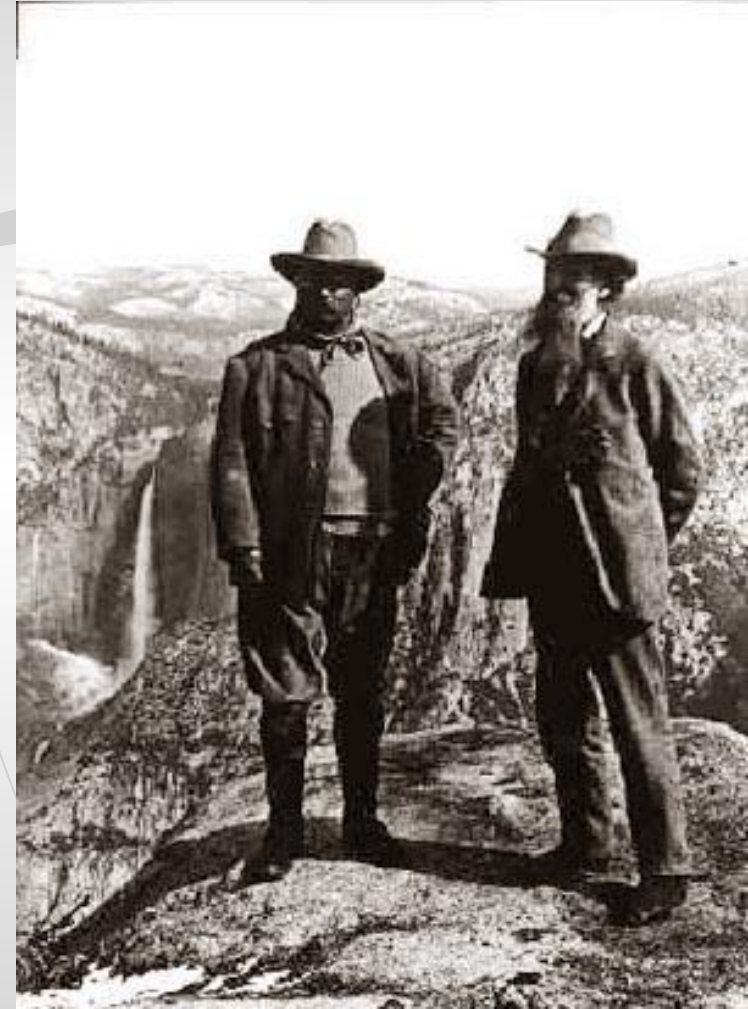


The Pure Food and Drug Act took medicines with cocaine and other harmful ingredients off the market.

- In response to unregulated claims and unhealthy products, Congress passed the **Pure Food and Drug Act** in 1906.
- The Act stopped the sale of contaminated foods and medicines. It also called for truth in labeling.
- Created the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

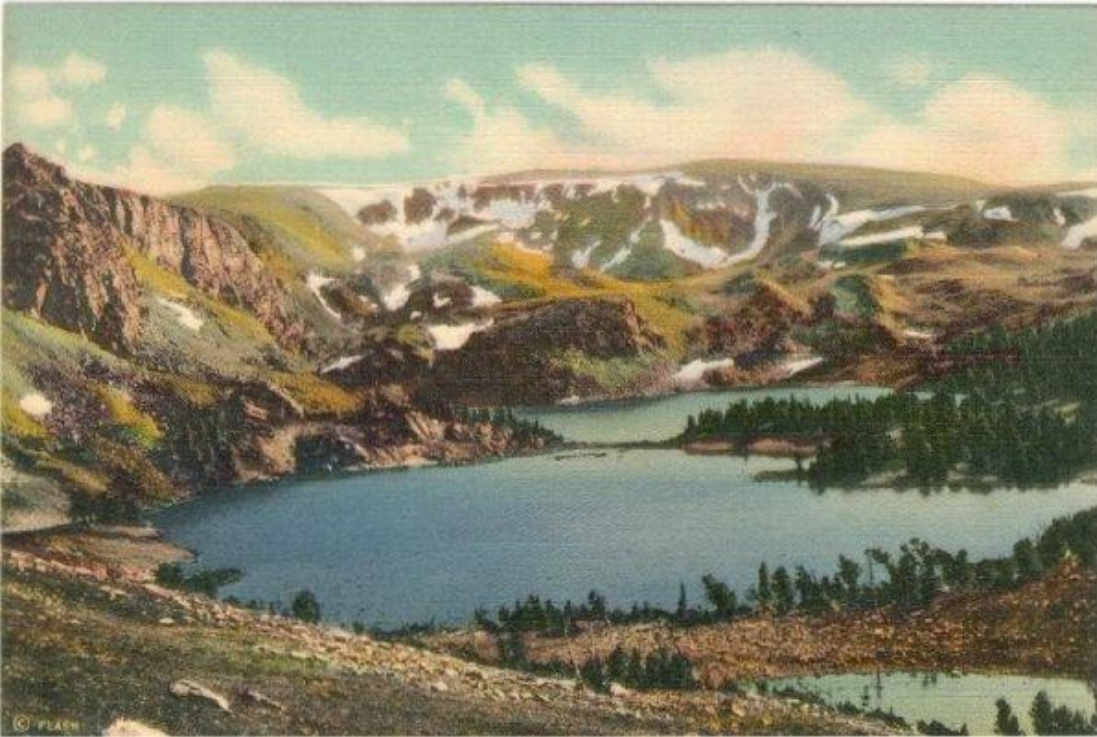
ROOSEVELT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Before Roosevelt's presidency, the federal government paid very little attention to the nation's natural resources.**
- **Roosevelt made conservation a primary concern of his administration.**



Roosevelt, left, was an avid outdoorsman – here he is with author John Muir at Yosemite Park.

ROOSEVELT'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



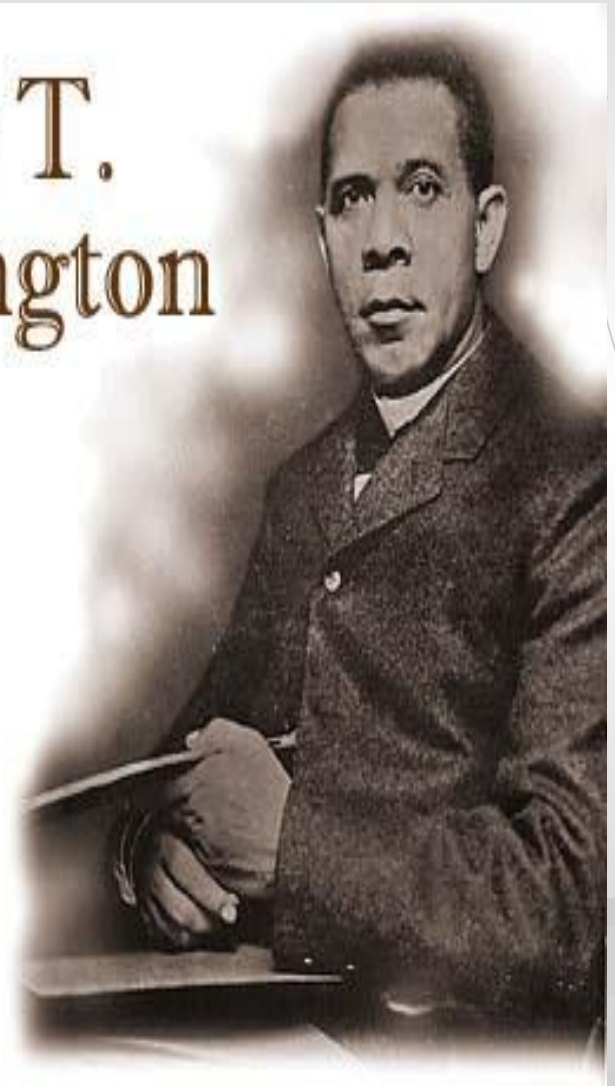
*Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming*

- Roosevelt set aside 148 million acres of forest reserves.
- He also set aside 1.5 million acres of water-power sites.
- He established 50 wildlife sanctuaries and several **national parks**.

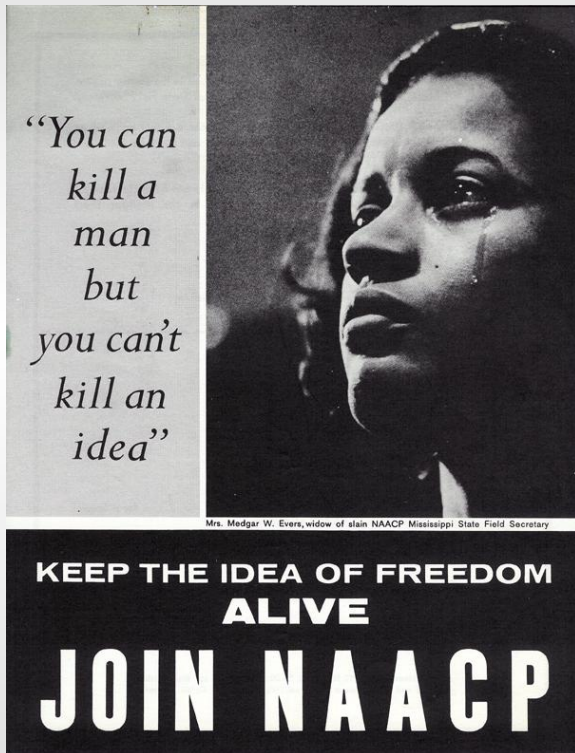
ROOSEVELT AND CIVIL RIGHTS

- **Roosevelt failed to support Civil Rights for African Americans.**
- **He did, however, support a few individuals such as **Booker T. Washington.****

Booker T.
Washington



NAACP FORMED TO PROMOTE RIGHTS



1964 Application

- In 1909, a number of African Americans and prominent white reformers formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- The **NAACP** had 6,000 members by 1914.
- The goal of the organization was full equality among the races.
- The means to achieve this was through the court system.

PROGRESSIVISM UNDER PRESIDENT TAFT

- **Republican William Howard Taft** defeated Democrat William Jennings Bryan to win the 1908 presidential election.
- Among his accomplishments, Taft “busted” 90 trusts during his 4 years in office.



Taft, right, was Roosevelt's War Secretary

TAFT LOSES POWER



Taft called the Presidency, "The loneliest job in the world."

- **Taft was not popular with the American public nor reform minded Republicans**
- **By 1910, Democrats had regained control of the House of Representatives**

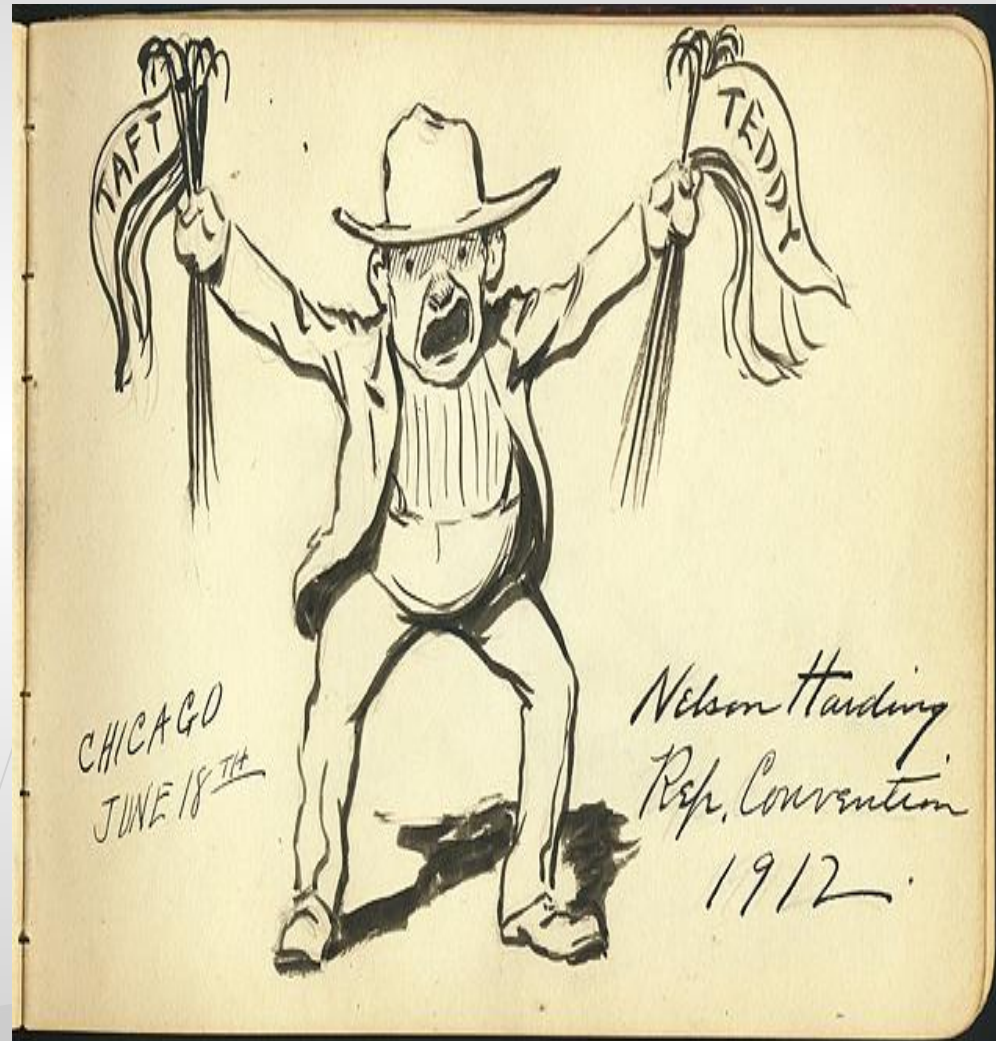
1912 ELECTION: 3 Parties/Candidates

- Republicans split between Taft and Teddy Roosevelt (who returned after a long trip to Africa).

- Convention delegates nominated Taft.

- Some Republicans formed a third party—**The Bull Moose Party (also called the Progressive Party)** and nominated Roosevelt.

- The Democrats put forward a reform - minded New Jersey Governor, Woodrow Wilson.



Republicans split in 1912

Election of 1912

Electoral Vote by State

Popular Vote

DEMOCRATIC Woodrow Wilson	435	●	6,296,547
PROGRESSIVE (BULL MOOSE) Theodore Roosevelt	88	●	4,118,571
REPUBLICAN William H. Taft	8	●	3,486,720
MINOR PARTIES	—		1,135,697
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 531		<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 15,037,535



WILSON'S NEW FREEDOM

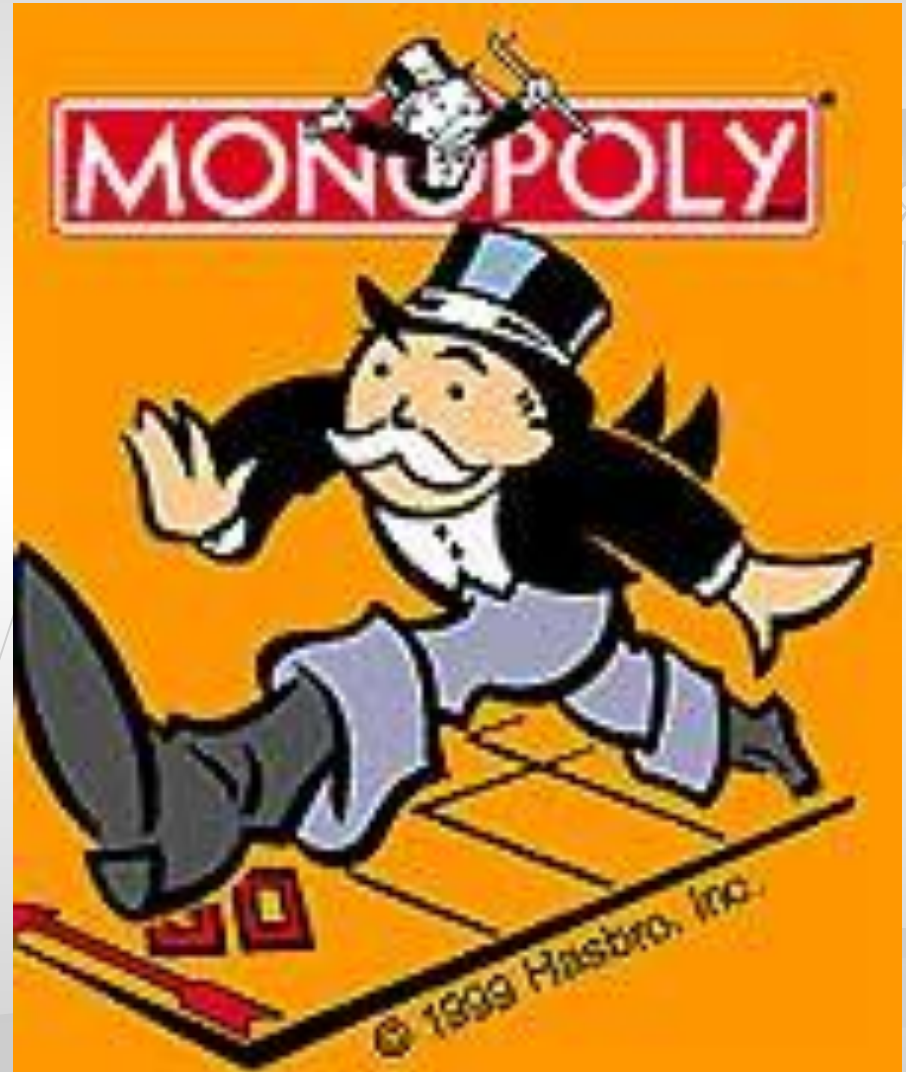
- As America's newly elected president, Wilson moved to enact his program, **the "New Freedom."**
- He planned his attack on what he called the triple wall of privilege: **trusts, tariffs, and high finance.**



W. Wilson U.S. President 1912-1920

CLAYTON ANTITRUST ACT

- In 1914 Congress enacted the Clayton Antitrust Act which strengthened the Sherman Act.
- The Clayton Act prevented companies from acquiring stock from another company **(Anti-monopoly)**.
- The Act also supported union workers.



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION FORMED

ID
THEFT

Federal Trade
Commission Identity
Theft Program

*Today the FTC
has been working
on protecting
consumers from
ID theft.*

- The FTC was formed in 1914 to serve as a “watchdog” agency to end **unfair business practices.**
- The FTC protects consumers from business fraud.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX ARRIVES

- **Wilson lowered tariffs.**
However, the lost revenue had to come from somewhere else.

Underwood Tariff 1913 -

purpose was to reduce levies on manufactured and semi-manufactured goods and to eliminate duties on most raw materials. To compensate for the loss of revenue, the act also levied a graduated income tax (made legal by ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment earlier that year) on U.S. residents.

- **The 16th Amendment was ratified in 1916. It legalized a graduated federal income tax.**

Uncle Sam Wants

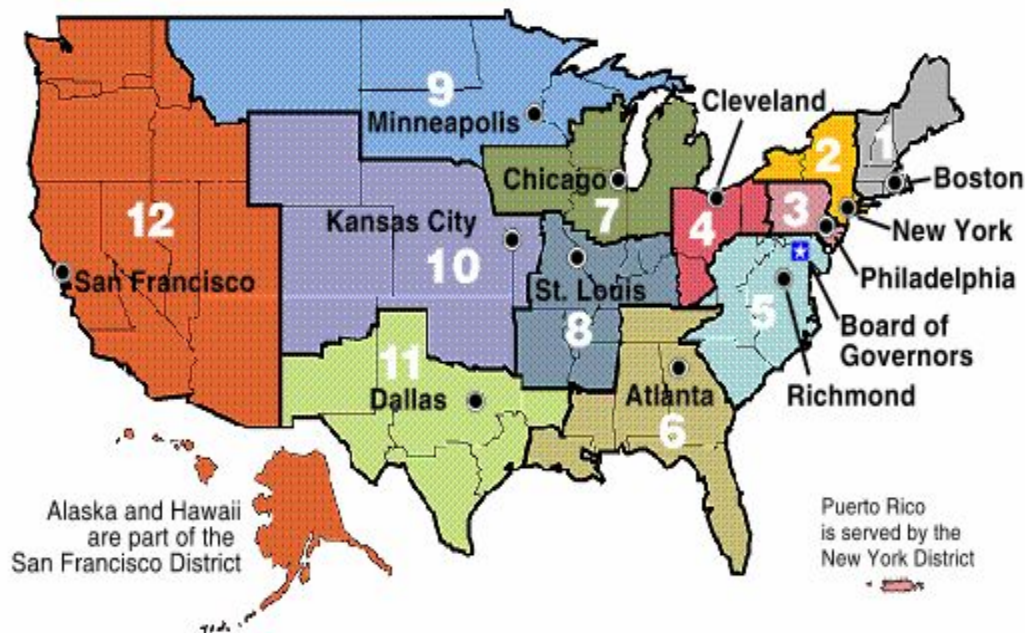


Your Money

Graduated income tax - direct tax on income, the rich will pay a higher tax than the poor; Progressives believed it was fair to tax on ability to pay.

The Federal Reserve Act

- Created 12 regional banks as "banker's banks" (lend money to banks as a set interest rate).
- Established federal regulation of currency through interest rates.
- Established a Federal Reserve Board to oversee the system of banks



WOMEN WIN SUFFRAGE



The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote in 1920.

- **Native-born, educated, middle-class women grew more and more impatient.**
- **Through local, state and national organizations, vigorous protests and World War I, women finally realized their dream in 1920.**

Temperance Advocates Push for the Prohibition of Alcohol



- **The Eighteenth Amendment** of the United States Constitution, established Prohibition in the United States.
- Ratified on January 29, 1919.
- It is the only amendment to the United States Constitution that has been repealed (by the **Twenty-first Amendment**).

LIMITS OF PROGRESSIVISM

- The **Keating-Owen Act of 1916** was the first federal statute to impose restrictions on child labor. In 1918 the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated it in a five-to-four decision in *Hammer v. Dagenhart* on the grounds it exceeded Congress's power, as stated in the Constitution, to regulate interstate commerce.
- **While the Progressive era was responsible for many important reforms, it failed to make gains for African Americans.**
- **Like Roosevelt and Taft, Wilson retreated on Civil Rights once in office.**



The KKK reached a membership of 4.5 million in the 1920s.

WWI Effectively Brought the Progressive Era to an End

