

Chapter 7 Notes: The Progressive Era

Section 1: The Progressive Movement

Fighting Corruption

Americans took action against corruption in business and government.

- Powerful political machines controlled jobs and services in many cities. Many were dishonest and accepted bribes and kickbacks.
- Reformers wanted to break the power of political bosses like William M. Tweed of New York City.
- Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and James Garfield tried unsuccessfully to change the spoils system, which rewarded jobs and favors to political supporters.
- In 1883 Congress passed the **Pendleton Act**, establishing the Civil Service Commission to give examinations for federal jobs.

Controlling Business

The government passed acts to regulate businesses and transportation.

- New laws were established to regulate big business, which was thought to have too much control over the economy and the government.
 - The **Sherman Antitrust Act** was passed in 1890 to control trusts and monopolies.
 - The **Interstate Commerce Act**, passed in 1887, required railroads to charge and publish “reasonable and just rates” to deal with the railroad **oligopoly**.
- Reformers also wanted to lower the tariffs that they believed increased the price of goods.

The New Reformers

Writers exposed corruption in business and government, and voters gained more power in choosing candidates.

- Reformers sought to end injustice and solve social problems in the early 1900s.
- The American Socialist Party, founded by **Eugene V. Debs**, believed the government should own and operate major industries on **behalf** of all people.
- Progressives wanted the government to regulate industry rather than own.
- Journalists called **muckrakers** aided the reformers by exposing dirt and corruption in society.
 - Lincoln Steffens exposed corrupt machine politics in New York and other cities.
 - **Ida Tarbell** described the oil trust’s unfair practices.
 - In his novel *The Jungle*, **Upton Sinclair** shocked people with horrors of the meatpacking industry. This led to Congress passing laws requiring food and medicine to be **accurately** labeled.

- Several important reforms originated in Oregon.
 - With the **initiative**, voters could place an issue on the ballot in a state election.
 - Voters could accept or reject issues that the state legislature enacted with the **referendum**.
 - The **recall** allowed voters to remove incompetent elected officials.
- The Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, passed in 1912, set forth the direct election of senators.

Section 2: Women and Progressives

Women's Roles Change

Roles began to change for middle-class women in the late 1800s.

- Smaller families, children in school, and easier housework provided women with more free time, which many used to pursue higher education and work in **professional** careers.
- The term “new woman” referred to an educated, modern woman with interests outside the home.
 - Needing an outlet for her energy and **intelligence**, **Jane Addams** set up Hull House to assist disadvantaged people.
 - **Mother Cabrini**, an Italian nun, inspired many women to work with the poor.
- Women used their talents and energy to form clubs which focused on cultural activities and social problems.
 - The Phyllis Wheatley Club of New Orleans set up classes, recreational activities, and social services.
 - The National Association of Colored Women, founded by **Mary Church Terrell**, established hospitals and worked for woman suffrage.

The Fight for Suffrage

Women in the United States gained the right to vote in 1920.

- The Fifteenth Amendment gave voting rights to freed men but did not extend them to women.
- Many abolitionists became **suffragists**, fighting for women's right to vote.
- By 1917, the National American Woman Suffrage Association had more than 2 million members.
- Groups protesting against suffragists believed woman suffrage would lead to divorce and neglect of children.
- The Nineteenth Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, went into effect in 1920.

Women and Social Reform

Women were active in many social reform efforts to improve the lives of others.

- Many middle-class women worked to improve the lives of immigrants and society as a whole.
 - Many women staffed and supported libraries, schools, and settlement houses.

- Some women sponsored laws to improve working conditions for women and children.
- The Women’s Trade Union League urged working women to form labor unions.
- The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, led by **Frances Willard**, supported the **prohibition** of alcohol.

Section 3: Progressive Presidents

Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt believed that businesses must be regulated.

- Theodore Roosevelt became president in 1901 after President William McKinley was assassinated.
- In contrast to McKinley, Roosevelt believed in progressive reforms and was known as a **trustbuster** who obtained indictments against the railroad, beef, oil, and tobacco industries.
- After Roosevelt threatened to send federal troops to work in mines and produce coal, mine owners finally agreed to **arbitration** to settle a labor dispute.
- Roosevelt won the presidential election in 1904 promising people a **Square Deal**—fair and equal treatment for all.
- Roosevelt gave the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration the power to visit businesses and **inspect** the products that were produced there.
- Roosevelt also supported **conservation**, the protection and preservation of the country’s natural resources.

William Howard Taft

Conflict between Roosevelt and Taft led to Woodrow Wilson’s election as president.

- William Howard Taft won the presidential election in 1908.
- Taft supported the Sixteenth Amendment, which allowed Congress to tax citizens’ incomes to collect money for the federal government.
- Claiming that Taft was weak with tariffs and conservation, Roosevelt challenged Taft for the Republican presidential nomination in 1912.
- Roosevelt had won every **primary**, but Taft still received the Republican nomination.
- Roosevelt formed the Progressive Party, also called the Bull Moose Party.
- The split of the Republican Party hurt both candidates and enabled Democrat Woodrow Wilson to win the election.
- Wilson persuaded Congress to adopt a lower tariff on imports and pass the **Federal Reserve Act** to regulate banking.
- Wilson also helped to establish the Federal Trade Commission to investigate unfair trade practices, and supported the **Clayton Antitrust Act** of 1914.

Section 4: Excluded From Reform

Prejudice and Discrimination

Many members of ethnic and religious minority groups in the United States faced discrimination and even violence.

- During the 1800s, many Catholics and Jews faced **discrimination** because of their religion.
- Discrimination was also based on race.
 - In California and other Western states, Asians faced prejudice and resentment.
 - Although officially free, African Americans were continually **denied** the basic rights held by white citizens
 - The **Ku Klux Klan** lashed out against minorities, including Catholics, Jews, and immigrants, as well as African Americans.
- Many Americans held **biased** views that white, male, native-born Americans had the right to make decisions for all of society.

Struggle for Equal Opportunity

Minority groups in the United States sought to end discrimination and obtain equal rights.

- Born enslaved, **Booker T. Washington** taught himself to read and established the Tuskegee Institute, which taught African Americans farming and industrial skills.
- **W.E.B. Du Bois**, the first African American to receive a doctorate degree from Harvard, argued that the right to vote was the way to end racial inequality.
- Ida Wells and the National Association of Colored Women fought lynchings and other forms of racial violence.
- Dr. Carlos Montezuma and the Society of American Indians worked to improve living conditions for Native Americans and to teach white America about native cultures.
- Mexican Americans also faced discrimination and violence.
- **Mutualistas** provided insurance and legal help to those living in **barrios**.

Business and Politics

Target	Reform
Corrupt politics at all levels of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City commissioners • Civil Service Commission
More participation in government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seventeenth Amendment • Election reform
Trusts and big business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherman Antitrust Act • Theodore Roosevelt's "Square Deal" • Federal Trade Commission • Clayton Antitrust Act
Railroad oligopoly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interstate Commerce Act/Commission
Conservation interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Forest Service • National Conservation Commission
High tariffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixteenth Amendment • "New Freedom" tariff reform
Banking regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Reserve Act



▲ Yosemite National Park

Society

Target	Reform
Social problems related to alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Christian Temperance Union • Anti-Saloon League • Eighteenth Amendment
Unsafe food and medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat Inspection Act • Pure Food and Drug Act
Difficult working conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Bureau of Labor Department • Women's Trade Union League • Mine/railroad safety standards • Keating-Owen Act



Prohibition agents dump alcohol ▶

◀ Educator Booker T. Washington



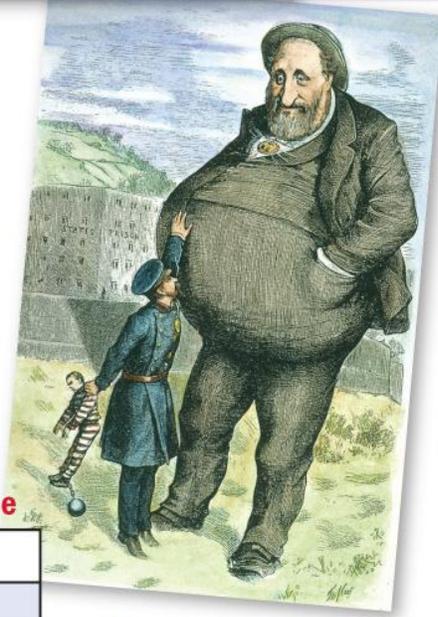
Gender and Race

Target	Reform
Equal voting rights for women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woman suffrage movement • State-by-state voting rights • National Woman's Party • Nineteenth Amendment
Prejudice and discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuskegee Institute • National Negro Business League • Niagara Movement • National Association for the Advancement of Colored People • Society of American Indians • Mexican American <i>mutualistas</i>



By the Numbers Stealing From the People

Courthouse Corruption As the New York County Courthouse was built in the late 1800s, dishonest construction workers and city officials stole money from the city's treasury by submitting bills for fraudulent work. An investigation by the *New York Times* found that more than \$12 million was billed for questionable work on the courthouse. Evidence about corrupt practices prompted a public outcry against Boss Tweed and his political machine. Some of the huge charges recorded by the city are listed in the chart below.



▲ Cartoon showing Boss Tweed

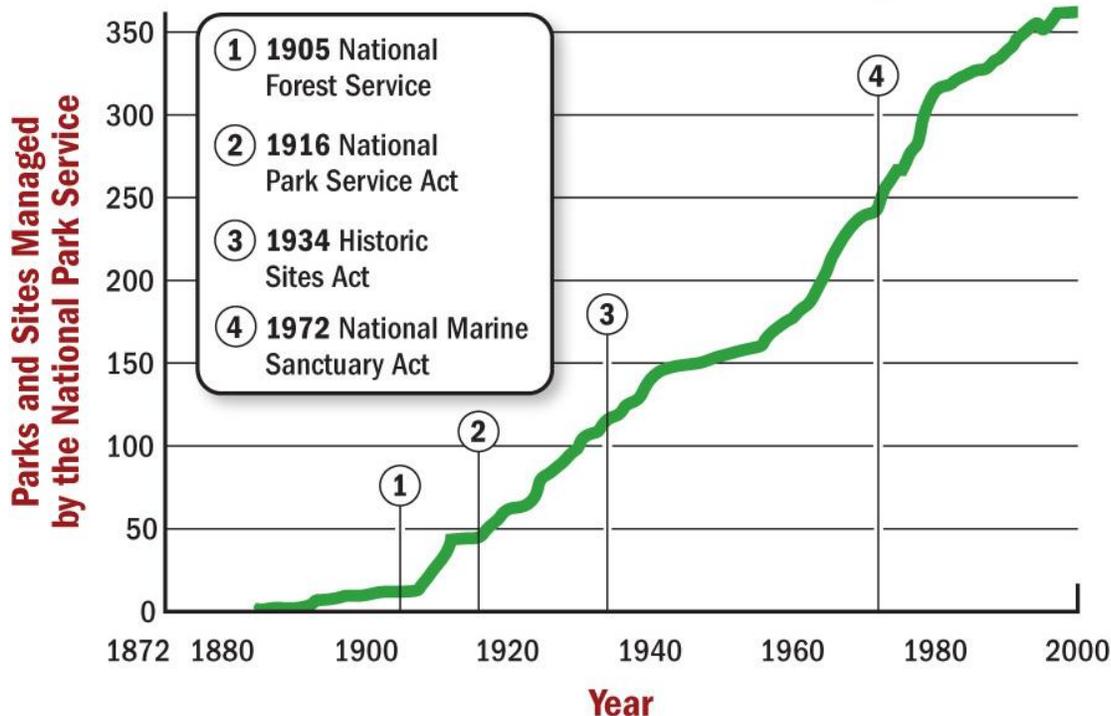
Payment for Work Completed on New Courthouse

To	For	Amount
Andrew Garvey	Plastering, Repairs	\$2,870,464
Keyser & Co.	Plumbing	\$1,200,000
Ingersoll	Chairs	\$170,727.60
Ingersoll	Cabinets, Furniture	\$2,817,469.19
George Miller	Carpentry	\$360,751.61

Setting Aside American Lands While he was president, Roosevelt used his authority to create a number of parks, preserves, and monuments to protect birds, wildlife, and millions of acres of American land.

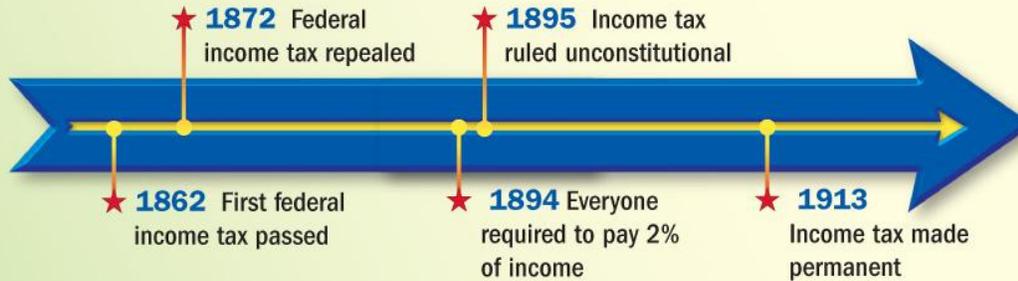
Lands Protected Under Theodore Roosevelt	
4	Federal Game Preserves
5	National Parks
18	National Monuments
51	Federal Bird Preserves
150	National Forests

Growth of the National Park System



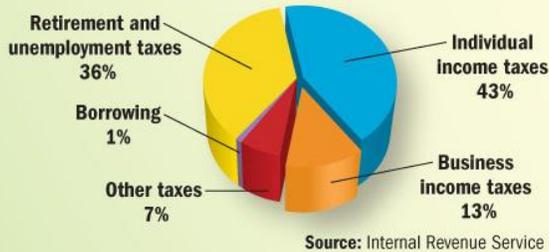
Economics & History

Before the Civil War, the federal government received most of its funds from tariffs, or taxes on imported goods. During the Civil War, the government placed a tax on people's incomes. This type of tax, however, remained controversial for many years.



Economics & History

Sources of Funds for the Federal Government Today



Today, income taxes from individuals and businesses are the main source of funds for the federal government.

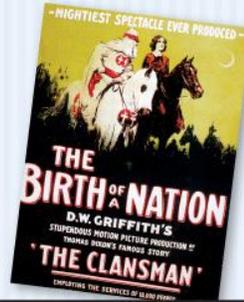
Federal Income Taxes

	Earnings	Tax Rate
1864	\$600-\$5,000	5%
	over \$10,000	10%
1894	Earnings	Tax Rate
	all	2%

Income taxes today are progressive—rates are based on ability to pay. People who earn more pay a larger percentage of their income in taxes than do people who earn less.

Primary Source Discrimination and Prejudice

Rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) underwent a resurgence in the early 1900s following the release of D.W. Griffith's 1915 movie *The Birth of a Nation*, which presented a romantic vision of the KKK. Following a brief growth spurt, in which membership climbed into the millions, the Klan began to decline in 1924 after a series of scandals involving the group's leadership. Membership shrank and politicians who supported the Klan were voted out of office. The Klan declared bankruptcy and disbanded again in 1944.



Ku Klux Klan march in Washington, D.C. ▲

KKK Membership

Year	Members
1915	5,000
1920	100,000
1924	4,000,000
1930	30,000