

American History: Chapter 20

The Progressives

The Progressive Impulse

- Who were progressives?
 - Mostly middle-class, city-dwellers, women
- Goals
 - “Direct, purposeful human intervention in social and economic affairs.” (p. 569)
 - To regulate and/or break up trusts
- Muckrakers:
 - Journalists who attempted to expose evils of society and corruption
 - Famous Muckrakers?
 - Ida Tarbell:
 - published devastating writings about Standard Oil Company
 - Lincoln Steffens:
 - *The Shame of the Cities* – corruption of municipal government
 - Upton Sinclair:
 - *The Jungle*
 - Meat Inspection Act
 - David G. Phillips:
 - “The Treason of the Senate”
- Social Gospel:
 - Powerful movement in Protestantism, goal was to improve cities

The Progressive Impulse Cont.

- *****Jacob Riis*****:
 - *How The Other Half Lives*
 - Photographed poor, immigrant living conditions
- Settlement Houses:
 - Helped poor women, immigrants, and children adjust to American life
 - Jane Addams – Hull House - Chicago
 - Helped inspire the social work profession
- New reforms for professions
 - American Medical Association (AMA)
 - States established bar associations
 - National Farm Bureau Federation
- Women were excluded from most professions
 - Settlement houses, teaching, and social work

Women and reform

- Single-women played a large role in reform movements
 - Temperance and settlement houses
- Women's clubs:
 - Organizations for women to meet
 - Planted trees, supported schools, etc.
 - Helped pass state and federal child labor laws, as well as "dry" laws
- Suffrage for Women:
 - Movement gained momentum when suffragists argued "separate spheres" would not be changed
 - Temperance movement favored suffrage
 - Women did not get the right to vote until 1920 (19th amendment)
- Alice Paul:
 - Advocated women's suffrage
 - Author of the Equal Rights Amendment

The Assault on Parties

- Key voting reforms (state level):
 - *Initiative*: voters could propose legislation
 - *Referendum*: final approval of laws would be approved by voters
 - *Recall*: voters could remove elected officials
 - *Secret Australian Ballot*: No one would see who a voter would vote for
 - Direct election of US Senators: instead of state legislatures, seen in *17th amendment*
- City reformers:
 - Went after saloons, brothels, political machines
- Robert La Follette:
 - “Wisconsin Experiment”
 - Income taxes on inheritances
 - Initiatives and referendums; regulated railroads and industries
- Decline of voter turnout:
 - 1900 – 73% voter turnout, 1912 – 59%
 - Why the decline?
 - Party bosses were less influential

Sources of Progressive reform

- Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire
 - Mostly women, young girls, and immigrants
 - 10 story building
 - Doors locked from outside, smoking around gas engines, narrow hallways
 - 146 workers died during fire in NYC
- African American equality was mostly left out of Progressive goals
- W.E.B. Du Bois
 - Unlike Booker T. Washington, Du Bois did not favor accommodation
 - “Talented Tenth” of African Americans should have full access to education
- Niagara Movement:
 - Niagara Falls, Canada
 - Morphed into the NAACP
 - Helped challenge many racial laws throughout the 20th century
- Ida B. Wells:
 - Journalist that was outspoken against and brought awareness to lynching in the south

Crusade for Social order and reform

- Temperance and Prohibition:
 - Reasons:
 - Drunkenness, spousal abuse, industrial inefficiency
 - Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)
 - Many dry laws were passed
 - Gained prominence prior and during WWI
 - Germans
 - 1919 – 18th amendment
- Eugenics:
 - Sterilization of certain individuals
 - Mentally retarded, criminals, etc.

Challenging the Capitalist Order

- Socialism:
 - Growing force in the early 20th century
 - Eugene V. Debs (person not a court case)
 - Received almost 1,000,000 presidential votes in 1912
 - Most socialists did not support WWI – hurt their cause
- International Workers of the World
 - “Wobblies,” “I won’t work”
 - Hurt by striking during WWI
- Regulating Trusts
 - Many individuals advocated the distinction between “good and bad” trusts

Theodore Roosevelt and the modern presidency

- Background on Teddy:
 - VP for McKinley – became President in Buffalo
- “Square Deal”
 - Focused on conservation, controlling corporations, and consumer protection
- Sherman Antitrust Act:
 - Used to break up the Northern Securities Company
 - Upheld by the Supreme Court
- Anthracite Coal Mines in PA:
 - When workers went on strike, TR threatened to seize mine unless owners negotiated
 - Virtually all other presidents sided AGAINST unions in strikes
- Hepburn Act (1906):
 - Expanded the power of ICC, limited RRs ability to give free passes
- Pure Food and Drug Act (1906):
 - Created Food and Drug Administration
 - Required proper labels and restricted sale of certain medicines

Theodore Roosevelt and the modern presidency Cont.

- **Conservation**: (Not to be confused with conservative)
 - Roosevelt's **most enduring achievement**, preserving, or conserving land. Think environmentalism
 - Forest Reserve Act:
 - President can set aside forests and parks
 - Newlands Act of 1902:
 - D.C. could use money from sale of land for irrigation projects
- Panic of 1907 – “Roosevelt Recession”
 - JP Morgan purchased a TN Coal and Iron Company
 - Roosevelt gave his blessing
 - Later broken up by Taft

The Troubled Succession

- TR handpicks William Howard Taft:
 - From CINCINNATI!!!
 - Former governor of Philippines
 - Largest president ever (over 300 LBS!)
 - Became 10th SC Chief Justice after presidency
 - Taft one day sent a message that read "Went on a horse ride today; feeling good." Secretary of War Root replied, "How's the horse?"
 - Busted more trusts than TR
- Payne-Aldrich Tariff
 - Barely lowered tariff rates (made many Progressives angry)
- Taft fired Gifford Pinchot – TR's buddy and head of Forest Service
 - Makes TR angry
- “New Nationalism”
 - Called for increased federal government
 - Favored individual taxes, worker's compensation, tariff reduction, etc.

The Troubled Succession Cont.

- The Bull Moose Party:
 - Advocated women's suffrage
- Election of 1912:
 - Two "Republicans" against each other all but guaranteed a victory for Wilson
- Woodrow Wilson became president in 1913
 - He was a Democrat, so.....
 - He decreased the tariff rates – Underwood Tariff
 - Coincided with the....
- 16th amendment:
 - Graduated income tax
- Federal Reserve Act (1913):
 - Responsible for increasing and decreasing money supply
- Clayton Antitrust Act:
 - Essentially, gave more power to Sherman Anti-Trust Act
 - Made interlocking directories illegal (same individuals serve as directors on boards of competing firms)
 - JP Morgan is sad ☹️
 - **Made labor unions and agricultural organizations exempt from antitrust prosecution**
 - Unlike Sherman Antitrust Act which was used AGAINST unions
- Wilson did not support women's suffrage