



Revision Guides

US History Progressive Era Part - 2



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Introduction

The Progressive Era was the period in the history of the United States that was dominated by reform ideals from 1890 - 1920.

The Progressive Era saw a mixture of political and social change, which sought to reduce inequality, corruption and introduce reforms to make society fairer.

Key Elements

Anti-corruption

In the Nineteenth Century corruption was a major problem in American politics with local bosses controlling key positions of patronage and power. Progressives, such as Theodore Roosevelt, sought to take on corrupt political and voting practices.

Labor market reforms

Progressives sought to reform working conditions. This included health and safety, the right to unionize and higher pay.

Anti-trust

The Gilded Age saw the development of monopolies which were highly profitable. In the Progressive Era, the government tackled many monopolies through anti-trust legislation

Key Elements

Women's suffrage

The Progressive Era saw the culmination of efforts to give all women the vote

Limited civil rights

Some progressives sought to improve conditions of black Americans, but the Progressive Age failed to end decades of segregation.

Prohibition

Many progressives supported the banning of alcohol 'prohibition'. One of the motivations was that they hoped it would reduce the economic power of saloon owners who often exercised great influence.

Famous People

Theodore Roosevelt (1858 – 1919)

President (1901-09)

Roosevelt was a leading political figure of the Progressive Era – fighting corruption and the power of monopoly trusts.

Woodrow Wilson (1856 – 1924)

US president (1913-1921)

Wilson was a Democrat and leading progressive. Under his presidency, he passed many progressive bills, including a graduated income tax, Federal Reserve Act, anti-trust legislation.

William Howard Taft (1857 – 1930)

Taft served as president 1909-1913

He was seen as the successor to the reforming Roosevelt.



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Text us: (812) 250-8724
Email us: admin@litcenter.org

The Literacy Center
3411A N 1st Avenue
Evansville, IN 47710

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