

The Progressive Era

- I. Panic of 1893
 - A. serious recession
 - B. ended Gilded Age
- II. What was next? - the Progressive Era
 - A. moving forward from Gilded Age/Reaction to Gilded Age, especially to Panic of 1893
- III. Let's fix the problems that led to Panic of 1893
 - A. Gold Standard?
 1. Wm. Jennings Bryan – silver standard
 - B. Socialism – stems from questioning of capitalism
 1. Eugene V. Debs, organizer of American Socialist Party, union leader
 2. Criticisms of businesses popular
- IV. Goals & Events
 - A. Social Welfare
 1. i.e. The Young Men's Christian Association opened libraries, sponsored classes, and built recreational facilities
 2. Muckrakers
 - a. Jacob Riis
 - B. Moral Improvement – uplift yourself by improving your behavior
 1. i.e. Prohibitionists (no alcohol)
 - a. Carry Nation (picture) – hatchet lady
 2. Women's suffrage
 - a. Susan B. Anthony & Elizabeth Cady Stanton
 - established the National American Women's Suffrage Association
 - b. Workforce
 - Poorer women had been forced to work by necessity in industrialized society
 - In cities, more than half worked in manufacturing clothing
 - i. They got paid ½ of a man's wage, because they assumed that it was for her alone (no family to support)
 - c. Women leading reform
 - Many became involved in 1911 due to fire at Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in NYC (146 workers died)
 - Working especially for suffrage
 - i. Opposed by liquor industry (afraid they'd vote for prohibition) and the textile industry (afraid they'd support child labor laws)
 - Women got suffrage in 1869 in Wyoming and in Utah, Colorado, & Idaho in 1890s
 - C. Economic Reform – already discussed (under Panic of 1893)

- D. Efficiency
 - 1. Focus on using science to improve efficiency in factories
 - a. Social science says ten hour shifts are bad for moms – let’s ban them
 - 2. Henry Ford – known for eight hour days at \$5 a day (a great wage)
 - a. Known for working his workers hard to earn that money
- V. Effects of the era
 - A. limit on children’s labor
 - B. limit on women’s labor/working hours
- VI. Video: *America Story of Us* episode 7: Cities
- VII. Theodore Roosevelt
 - A. Childhood
 - 1. Weak asthmatic son of wealthy family
 - 2. Learned to ride & box to make himself stronger
 - B. Elected Secretary of the U.S. Navy
 - 1. Advocated the Spanish-American war so he could get a chance to fight
 - 2. Led the Rough Riders (cowboy cavalry)
 - C. Governor of New York – anti-corruption
 - 1. Did not get along with the political bosses
 - a. Got him to become McKinley’s VP, so they could get rid of him
 - b. McKinley assassinated 6 months into term
 - D. Presidency
 - 1. Youngest president ever (42 years old)
 - 2. Redid military physical fitness requirements, then proved them possible
 - 3. Insisted he had the right to do what he thought best for people, unless the constitution specifically forbade it
 - 4. The “bully pulpit”
 - 5. The Square Deal – everyone will get fair treatment.
 - 6. Trustbuster
 - a. Trust = group of businesses (usually ends up with monopolies)
 - b. Sued dozens of companies to break them up, with mixed success
 - 7. Coalminer’s strike
 - a. 1902 – miners want more money, better conditions, shorter workdays
 - b. Companies didn’t want to do it
 - c. Roosevelt threatened to take over the mines himself
 - d. Had third party work out a compromise
 - e. Set precedent of federal government working out labor disputes
 - 8. Railroad regulation
 - a. No more allowing certain companies to use rails at a discount
 - b. No more free passes
 - 9. Health & Environment
 - a. Upton Sinclair – *The Jungle*
 - Led to Meat Inspection Act (“mommy, what’s this blue spot?”)

- b. Pure Food & Drug Act – no adding poisonous preservatives without labeling it
 - c. Conservation – national forests, parks, sanctuaries
 - Idea was to preserve them for present & future use
10. Interracial relations
- a. Did not support Civil Rights
 - b. Supported individuals – invited Booker T. Washington (head of an all-black school) to speak
11. Foreign relations
- a. Panama Canal
 - Relations with Columbia vs. Panama (ta-da: we exist)

VIII. Taft

- A. Roosevelt was very popular
 - 1. Taft was his hand-picked successor
 - 2. 2 terms up – Roosevelt supported Taft
- B. 16th amendment – income tax
- C. 17th amendment – direct election of senators
- D. Taft mostly continued Roosevelt's policies, but with a much more conservative bent
 - 1. tariffs, against AZ because of liberal constitution, reliance on conservative wing of party
- E. lost House to democrats in midterm elections
- F. T.R. returned from African safari
 - 1. ran as new Progressive Party (called Bull Moose Party)
- G. Taft retired, lost weight, became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court