

This chapter is about the new wave of reform efforts—called Progressivism—that swept the country in the early years of the twentieth century. Recalling a similar reform mentality in the 1830s and 1840s, it was aimed at the excesses of monopoly, corruption, and social injustice that were the by-products of industrial growth and urbanization. Progressives were mostly middle class people seeking to reform the capitalist system, not overthrow it. The idea was to make government an active force for good, not just a neutral bystander.

**1. Roots of Progressivism (pp. 664–667)**

a. On p. 664, the authors say the “battle cry” of the Progressives was to “Strengthen the \_\_\_\_\_,” not overthrow it. What do they conclude was the “real heart” of the movement?

b. Economist Thorstein \_\_\_\_\_ attacked the “conspicuous consumption” of the rich and journalist Jacob A. \_\_\_\_\_ exposed the sordid lives of urban slum-dwellers. Theodore Roosevelt called these commentators who ruthlessly exposed the system’s excesses “\_\_\_\_\_.” They included people like Lincoln \_\_\_\_\_, who exposed corruption in the cities; Ida M. \_\_\_\_\_, who exposed shady dealings within the Standard Oil Company; and David G. \_\_\_\_\_, who pointed out the degree to which big-money interests controlled the Senate.

**2. Political Progressivism (pp. 667–669)**

a. Read the first paragraph of p. 667 carefully. It describes progressive reformers as feeling themselves “squeezed from above and below.” \*\*\* Considering the growing disparities in wealth and power between rich and poor, what pressures were these mostly middle class people feeling “from above”? What danger did they perceive “from below”?

(1) From above:

(2) From below:

b. Politically, reformers sought to take power from the “special interests” and return it to “the people.” Many states today live with “progressive” institutions such as the \_\_\_\_\_, which allows citizens to put issues directly on the ballot by petition; the \_\_\_\_\_, which allows citizens to vote on measures passed by the legislature; and the \_\_\_\_\_, which allows citizens to remove elected officials from office. U.S. senators, who had previously been elected by state \_\_\_\_\_, now were subject to direct election by the people as a result of the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment passed in 19\_\_\_\_. Gradually, progressive state governors such as Robert M. \_\_\_\_\_ of Wisconsin, Hiram W. \_\_\_\_\_ of California, and Charles Evans \_\_\_\_\_ of New York were able to reduce the power of special interests, turn city government over increasingly to professional managers, and pass laws controlling the excesses of capitalism.

**3. Progressive Women (pp. 669–672)** Middle class women, though still without the vote and direct political power, became active in the movement for reform, generally focusing on working conditions (particularly after the 1911 fire at the Triangle \_\_\_\_\_ Company) and other issues of family concern. As a result, new laws were passed protecting women workers. \*\*\* Do you approve of the results of the 1908 Supreme Court case of \_\_\_\_\_ v. *Oregon*? What do you think of the Court’s reasoning that “woman’s peculiar structure” requires special protections (i.e. do you see a conflict between “special protection” and the concept of “equality”)?

(1) Results:

(2) Reasoning:

**4. Roosevelt and Reform (pp. 672–676)**

a. Roosevelt, though a sturdy friend of business, was swept up in the need for some basic reforms. He called his program the “\_\_\_\_\_ Deal” and his program centered on the “three Cs”—control of \_\_\_\_\_, protection for the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of natural resources. Roosevelt’s threat to “call out the troops” during the anthracite \_\_\_\_\_ strike of 1902 was significant because it was the first time that the federal government had intervened on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ (owners or labor). The section called “Corralling the Corporations” points out that Roosevelt did take on the railroad barons by strengthening the Interstate \_\_\_\_\_ Commission and by successfully breaking up the northwestern railroad monopoly called the \_\_\_\_\_ Securities Company, headed by moguls J. P. \_\_\_\_\_ and James J. \_\_\_\_\_, and by initiating some forty antitrust lawsuits. Did Roosevelt believe that large business combinations were bad by definition? What was his view of the proper relationship between government and business?

(1) Roosevelt’s view of “trusts”:

(2) Government and business view:

b. Roosevelt took action to protect consumers in 1906 through passage of the Meat \_\_\_\_\_ Act and the Pure \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Act. This resulted directly from an expose of the meat-packing industry called *The \_\_\_\_\_* written by novelist Upton \_\_\_\_\_.

**5. Roosevelt and the Environment (pp. 676–681)** Roosevelt, and his forestry chief Gifford \_\_\_\_\_, saw the need both to conserve natural resources for future generations and to develop them. The \_\_\_\_\_ Act of 1902, for example, started the massive damming of western rivers and associated irrigation projects. \*\*\* After reading the essay about “The Environmentalists” and the summary of Roosevelt’s “conservation” philosophy, how do you compare that philosophy to that of someone such as John Muir, who might be called a true “environmentalist”?

(1) Roosevelt the “conservationist”:

(2) Muir the “environmentalist”:

**6. Summing up Roosevelt (pp. 681–683)** Note that in the election of 1908, Socialist Eugene Debs polled nearly half a million votes. Socialism was gaining wide popularity in Europe as an alternative to the excesses of free-market capitalism. \*\*\* Under socialism, \_\_\_\_\_ (government, individuals, or corporations) own(s) the “means of production” (like factories) and \_\_\_\_\_ (government, individuals, or corporations) make(s) the key economic decisions about allocation of resources (like who makes how much of what product). The authors sum up Roosevelt on p. 682 by saying that he was “the cowboy who started to tame the bucking bronco of adolescent capitalism, thus ensuring it a long adult life.” \*\*\* In your own words, what do you think they mean by this metaphor?

**7. The Taft Years, 1909–1913 (pp. 683–686)** Taft worked to expand American investments abroad, called “\_\_\_\_\_ Diplomacy,” and he initiated many antitrust lawsuits, including one against the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Company that infuriated Roosevelt, further splitting the Republicans into the Progressive and “\_\_\_\_\_ Guard” wings. His actions brought Roosevelt back to challenge for the presidency in the election of 19\_\_\_\_\_.

## CHAPTER 29 TERM SHEET

### Roosevelt and Progressivism

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#### **Pages 664–667**

“Progressives”

Henry Demarest Lloyd

Thorstein Veblen

Jacob A. Riis

Theodore Dreiser

Socialists

The “social gospel”

“Muckrakers”

Lincoln Steffens

Ida Tarbell

Thomas W. Lawson

David G. Phillips

Ray Stannard Baker

#### **Pages 667–669**

“Initiative”

“Referendum”

“Recall”

“Australian” ballot

Seventeenth Amendment (1913)

City manager system (Galveston, 1901)

Robert M. LaFollette

Hiram Johnson

Charles Evans Hughes

#### **Pages 669–672**

Women’s club movement

Florence Kelly (National Consumer’s League)

*Muller v. Oregon* (1908)

Louis D. Brandeis

Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire (1911)

Frances Willard and WCTU

“Dry” laws

**Pages 672–676**

“Square Deal”

Coal Strike (1902)

Department of Commerce and Labor (1903)

Elkins Act (1903)

Hepburn Act (1906)

Corporate “trusts”

Northern Securities Case (1904)

J. P. Morgan and James J. Hill

Upton Sinclair

Meat Inspection and Pure Food and Drug Acts (1906)

**Pages 676–681**

“Conservation” movement

Gifford Pinchot

Newlands Act (1902)

John Muir and Hetch Hetchy (1913)

**Pages 681–683**

Panic of 1907

William Howard Taft

Eugene V. Debs (election of 1908)

**Pages 683–686**

“Dollar Diplomacy”

Nicaraguan intervention (1912)

Payne-Aldrich Tariff (1909)

Progressives vs. the “Old Guard” (1912)