Chapter 6, Lesson 3

The Wilson Years
ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Can politics fix social problems?

[ANSWER NOW] Was the Progressive Movement a success?
**Election of 1912** Guiding Question: How was the election of 1912 different from previous presidential elections?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Slogan</th>
<th>Platforms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Howard Taft</td>
<td>Conservative Republican</td>
<td></td>
<td>the incumbent (current President) Seen by many as representing pro-business interests.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theodore Roosevelt</td>
<td>Bull Moose (Progressive)</td>
<td>“the New Nationalism”</td>
<td>wanted to increase regulation of trusts, favored laws to protect women and children in the labor force, supported workers’ compensation for those injured on the job.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodrow Wilson</td>
<td>Democrat (Progressive)</td>
<td>“the New Freedom”</td>
<td>wanted to dismantle trusts, criticized Roosevelt’s New Nationalism for supporting “regulated monopoly.” Thought it gave government too much power in the economy and did nothing to restore competition.</td>
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Presidential Election of 1912

Map Key
- Wilson (Democrat)
- Roosevelt (Progressive)
- Taft (Republican)
- Other
- Mixed
- Turn All Layers On

ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL: 531
81.9%
16.6%
1.5%
8
435
88

POPULAR VOTE
TOTAL: 15,037,535
76.0%
23.1%
1.9%
1,443,857
4,118,571
6,296,547

* Eleven electors in California voted for Roosevelt and two voted for Wilson.
Woodrow Wilson (28)

- Progressive Governor of New Jersey
- President of Princeton University
- Wins election because Republicans were split
How did having three nominees running for president make the election of 1912 different from others?
Guiding Question: How did Wilson earn the respect of progressives?

Reforming Tariffs

- First major victory: Wilson signed the Underwood Tariff in 1913 that reduced tariffs and, to make up for lost revenue, introduced the first federal income tax on the earnings of individuals.
- Sixteenth Amendment (1913), gave gov’t power to levy tax on income.
- *graduated income tax*—a direct tax on people’s earnings. *Graduated* refers to the percentage of a person’s income that is taxed. A person with a large income would pay more income tax than a person with a small income.
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Reforming Banks

Wilson wanted to overhaul the banking system - was no central bank since 1830s

- Congress passed the **Federal Reserve Act of 1913** creating a nationwide system of 12 regional reserve districts, each with its own central bank.

- These banks had the power to issue paper money.

- Every bank had to join in order to:
  - Regulated the Money supply in the U.S.
  - Restore public confidence in the banking system
Guiding Question: How did Wilson earn the respect of progressives?

Regulating Big Business

In 1916 Wilson signed the first federal law regulating child labor. The Keating-Owen Child Labor Act prohibited the employment of children under the age of 14 in factories producing goods for interstate commerce. Although the Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional in 1918, Wilson’s effort helped his reputation among progressives.

Supported the Adamson Act, which established the eight-hour workday for railroad workers, and the Federal Farm Loan Act, which helped provide low-interest loans to farmers.
Guiding Question: How did Wilson earn the respect of progressives?

Antitrust Action

- Federal Trade Commission monitors business, has the power to investigate and order business to stop unfair business practices that hurt competition
  - Not to break up big business, but to limit unfair trade practices
- Unhappy, progressives passed the **Clayton Antitrust Act** strengthening the Sherman Antitrust Act, which only stated monopolies are illegal. The Clayton Antitrust Act prohibited actions that reduced competitiveness that could result in forming monopolies. The Clayton Act and other antitrust and consumer protection regulations are enforced by the Federal Trade Commission.
  - Did not apply to labor organizations or agricultural organizations.
Guiding Question: How did Wilson earn the respect of progressives?

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The Limits of Progressivism  Guiding Question: What do you believe were progressivism’s most important success and biggest failure?

Failure to address racial and religious discrimination.

- In 1905 W.E.B. Du Bois and 28 other African American leaders met at Niagara Falls to demand full rights for African Americans. “Niagara Movement”
- Believed voting rights were essential to end lynching and racial discrimination.
- In 1908 race riots in Springfield, Illinois led progressives to call for change. Hometown of Abe Lincoln and for centennial of his birthday on February 12, 1909 - they organized a national conference in Springfield to take stock of the progress in emancipation.
- At a second conference the following year, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was born. Through Du Bois, the members learned of the Niagara Movement, and the two groups eventually merged.
Guiding Question: What do you believe were progressivism’s most important success and biggest failure?

Anti-Defamation League

- founded by lawyer Sigmund Livingston to combat stereotypes and discrimination
- worked to remove negative portrayals of Jews in movies, in print, and on stage

Brandies to the Supreme Court

- First Jewish Supreme Court Justice in American history
Progressivism’s Triumphs

- **Governmental Reform** The federal government took a greater role in people’s lives, offering protections and services to the public.
- **Business Reform** Antitrust regulation was passed and the oversight of business became an important role of government.
- **Labor Reform** Child labor became regulated, as did the minimum wage, the workday, and working conditions.
- **Suffrage** Women gained the right to vote.
- **Safety Standards** Meat inspection, Food and Drug regulation, and work safety were all implemented during the era.
- **Conservation** The national parks were created, and vast segments of forest and coastline fell under federal protection.

Progressivism’s Failures

- **Civil Rights** The Progressive movement did next to nothing to dismantle segregation or attack lynching.
- **Native American Rights** During the Progressive Era, little was done to help Native Americans; in fact, in many instances, rights continued to be denied.
- **Women’s Rights** Although women did attain suffrage, full equality was still not recognized.
Roosevelt accepted large trusts and wanted to regulate them, while Wilson wanted to destroy monopolies. Roosevelt wanted laws to protect women and children in the labor force and workers’ compensation for injury on the job. Wilson argued that under Roosevelt the federal government would have too much power. Although Wilson said the history of liberty was one of limited government, he actively supported laws to limit tariffs, and he created the Federal Reserve System to control banks, interest rates, and the amount of money in circulation. At his request, Congress created the FTC to monitor business and the Clayton Antitrust Act, which outlawed practices that restricted competition and exempted unions from antitrust legislation.