

THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT

“Thousands of ... over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home.”

—California naturalist John Muir

- ◆ Period of reform following the Gilded Age
 - ✓ Rampant big business
 - ✓ Monstrous urban growth
 - ✓ Unrestricted immigration
 - ✓ Corrupt & inefficient gov't

- ◆ Unorganized movement
 - ✓ Circa 1900-1915 (aka 1898-1917; even 1890s-1920)
 - ✓ Abruptly ended by World War I
 - ✓ Sometimes conflicting interests
 - ✓ Affected primarily middle-class America
 - ✓ Spanned three presidencies
 - Theodore Roosevelt (1901-09)
 - William Howard Taft (1909-13)
 - Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)

- ◆ The Muckrakers
 - ✓ Exposés addressed every conceivable societal concern
 - ✓ Historical marriage of Progressivism & pro journalism
 - ✓ Uncomplimentary term coined by T. Roosevelt
 - Ida Tarbell, *The History of Standard Oil* (1902)
 - Lincoln Steffens, *The Shame of the Cities* (1904)
 - Frank Norris, *The Octopus* (1906)
 - Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (1906)
 - David Graham Phillips, *The Treason of the Senate* (1906)
 - Ray Stannard Baker, *Following the Color Line* (1908)

- ◆ Accomplishments of Progressives noteworthy
 - ✓ Urban leaders persuaded to attack civic problems
 - ✓ Attempted to root out social privilege & economic monopoly
 - ✓ Est'd principle that big business must exercise responsibility
 - ✓ One major shortcoming was issue of racial (black) equality

THE PROGRESSIVE PRESIDENTS

"I shall see to it that every man has a square deal, no less and no more."

—President Theodore Roosevelt

- ◆ Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)
 - ✓ America's greatest Progressive President
 - ✓ Recognized as the "trust-buster"
 - ✓ Domestic reform program referred to as the "Square Deal"
 - ✓ Created Dep't of Commerce and Labor (1903)
 - ✓ *Northern Securities v. United States* (1904)
 - ✓ Pioneer in conservation of natural resources (Antiquities Act of 1906)
 - ✓ Thoroughly enjoyed the presidency

- ◆ William Howard Taft (1909-1913)
 - ✓ Cautious manner led to somewhat successful term
 - ✓ Disappointed his former mentor
 - ✓ Filed 90 anti-trust suits (more than twice that of Roosevelt)
 - ✓ Only President to later serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

- ◆ Election of 1912
 - ✓ Taft (Republican) vs. Roosevelt (Progressive) vs. Wilson (Democrat)
 - ✓ Solid win for Wilson (regulation of trusts vs. restoration of competition)

- ◆ Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)
 - ✓ Most scholarly man to occupy the White House
 - ✓ An immediate success as President
 - ✓ Some very jagged moments detract heavily from his presidential legacy
 - ✓ Domestic policies known as the "New Freedom"
 - ✓ Oversaw four Amendments to the Constitution (16-19)
 - 16 = nat'l graduated income tax (1913)
 - 17 = direct popular election of U.S. senators (1913)
 - 18 = prohibition of intoxicating liquors (1919)
 - 19 = female suffrage (1920)
 - ✓ Congress passed more laws affecting industry than prior 50 years
 - ✓ Federal Reserve Act (1913) est'd country's national banking system
 - ✓ Clayton Act (1914) strengthened the Sherman Act
 - ✓ Most glaring exclusion under Wilson was issue of racial (black) equality