Sources of Progressivism

1. Workers were underpaid and overworked

A. Industrial workers were paid $10-$12 for a 60-80 hour week

B. Women garment workers were 50 cents for a 12 hour day

2. I.W.W. - Industrial Workers of the World (Wobblies)

A. a radical labor union who preached murder, sabotage and

violence

3. The progressives were not suffering themselves, but sympathized with those that were.

4. Pragmatism: a new approach to problem solving

A. they believed that scientific laws stated only what was probably

true and that ideas must be tested to see if they worked.

5. Muckrackers: intelligent people that wrote of and criticized existing conditions.

A. they identified the problems and argued for reform but counted on

others to accomplish it.

Progressive reforms:

1. Voting reforms: led by Robert LaFollette from Wisconsin

A. Direct Primary: a preliminary election in which the voters choose candidates for the general election

a. took the nomination process away from party bosses

B. Initiative: citizens can introduce legislation and congress must vote on it

C. Referendum: allows legislation to be submitted to the voters for

approval.

D. Recall: allows voters to remove office holders from office by special election.

2. Direct election of Senators: was the most significant political reform accomplished at the national level by the progressives

A. 17th amendment in 1913

3. Consumer Protection:

A. Pure Food and Drug Act: 1906- to protect consumers from unsafe foods and medicines.

4. Protecting women:

A. Muller Vs Oregon: put a limit on the number of hours per day that women could be employed (10)

5. Equal taxation:

A. 16th amendment 1913 - income tax

6. Fight against alcohol:

A. 18th amendment 1919 - Prohibition

Limits of Progressivism:

1. Immigrants: because of the large number of immigrants to the United States in the early 1900’s, the wages of unskilled workers decreased.

2. Ignoring the problems of African Americans:

A. Plessy Vs Ferguson: 1896 - segregation is legal as long as the

separate facilities were equal

B. Booker T. Washington: leader of the African American movement at

the turn of the century.

a. believed that Blacks must accept that they can’t get equal right away and education is the answer.

C. W.E.B. DuBois: the progressive leader of African Americans.

a. believed that suffrage was the way to end white supremacy and improve their lives

b. started the NAACP in 1909 which is dedicated to get the rights guaranteed in the constitution for the blacks

3. World War I ended the progressive movement

A we were now making the world safe for democracy

White House Reformers:

Theodore Roosevelt as President:

1. Square Deal: Roosevelt’s approach to social problems

A. He believed that all trusts should be regulated

B. Strongly believed in conservation of natural resources

a. Yellowstone National Park had been created in 1872

b. Forest Reserve Act: 1891 - allowed presidents to set aside land for national forests

c. Newlands Act: 1902 - federal aid to irrigation projects in arid states

2. Election of 1904:

A. Roosevelt get the Republican nomination

a. even though the Old Guard of the party opposed him

B. Al Parker is nominated by the democrats

a. he is a New York Judge

C. Roosevelt wins big, 336-140

3. Progressive legislation passed by Roosevelt:

A. Hepburn Act: more strict control of railroads

a. No free passes for politicians

b. R/R corporations couldn’t operate other businesses

c. Interstate Commerce Commission could set the rates

B. Pure Food and Drug Act: 1906

C. Meat Inspection Act: 1906

4. What Roosevelt failed to do:

A. Revise the tariff - it was too high but was political dynamite

B. Stabilize the banking system

5. Election of 1908: Roosevelt steps down

A. Taft is the Republican candidate

a. hand picked by Roosevelt

b. he had been a federal judge, governor of the Philippines and was Roosevelt’s Secretary of War

B. Democrats go back to Bryan

a. hard to beat someone picked by Roosevelt

C. Taft wins 321-162

Taft as President:

1. He immediately tried to deal with the tariff which he had pledged to revise.

A. Payne-Aldrich Tariff : the bill he hoped would lower the tariff

a. the senate added 600 amendments to it and it was actually higher

B. Taft signed the bill to prevent a party split

a. regarded as a betrayal

2. Ballinger-Pinchot controversy:

A. Ballinger was the Secretary of the Interior that re-opened water power and coal land that was closed by Roosevelt

B. Pinchot was the chief forester

a. he accused Ballinger of fraud in the press and was dismissed by Taft

C. People now viewed Taft as an enemy of conservation

3. Congressional election of 1910

A. Democrats had a sweeping victory

4. Progressive legislation under Taft:

A. Vigorous trust buster

B. 16th (income tax) and 17th (direct election of senators)

amendments were started during his presidency

5. Other achievements:

A. New Mexico and Arizona become states

B. He later sits on the Supreme Court which was his greatest ambition.

6. Taft’s disappointing performance as president brings Roosevelt back

into politics.

A. He joined the group of Republicans that become the Progressives

Election of 1912

1. The question was would Roosevelt run or not?

A. He had made a no third term pledge

a. but Roosevelt felt Taft was unfit.

B. LaFollette: was the probable progressive candidate but had a

nervous collapse

C. February, 1912 Roosevelt entered the race

a. He said no 3rd term meant consecutive

2. At the Republican convention Taft got the nomination because many thought Roosevelt was too radical or shouldn’t run.

3. The Progressive Party started in August 1912

A. The Bull Moose was their symbol

B. Progressive party platform:

a. direct democracy

b. conservation

c. woman suffrage

d. child labor laws

C. Roosevelt: was the Progressive party candidate

a. his reform program was called New Nationalism

b. he would extend federal power to help human welfare

c. all he accomplished was assuring the election of Wilson

4. The Democrats nominate Woodrow Wilson on the 46th ballot with the help of William Jennings Bryan.

A. His reform program is known as New Freedom

a. he would insure equal opportunity but the federal government wouldn’t be actively involved.

5. Taft will not be very active in the election because he thinks Wilson will win.

A. Roosevelt Vs Wilson was the real battle

a. both were progressives

6. Roosevelt had been very politically prominent.

A. While speaking in Milwaukee, there was an attempted assassination

a. He wouldn’t see a Dr. until he was finished speaking.

7. Wilson was only politically active for 3 years

A. former president of Princeton University

B. felt the president should take the initiative in starting legislation

C. well informed domestically especially on the tariff

8. Results: Wilson 435, Roosevelt 88, Taft 8

A. Wilson only got 42% of the popular vote

a. Roosevelt and Taft split the majority

B. First democratic president since Cleveland.

Wilson as president:

1. Handicaps of Wilson

A. minority president

B. the democrats lacked experienced men in office

2. Advantages of Wilson

A. the election showed the people favored progressive legislation

B. there were no democrats against him

a. Bryan was the Secretary of State

3. Wilson was the first president since Jefferson to speak directly to Congress on legislation.

4. Underwood Tariff:

A. lowered the tariff rate for the 1st time since 1857

a. this would help businesses by opening foreign markets to American goods.

B. it also contained the provision for income tax

5. Federal Reserve Act: his program to deal with the banking and currency

A. Country is divided into 12 federal reserve districts with a federal reserve bank in each district.

a. all national banks had to join and state banks could join.

B. controlled by a 7 member federal reserve board

a. appointed by the president

6. Federal Trade Commission: set up to investigate and regulate business practices.

7. Clayton Antitrust Act: to more effectively regulate trusts

A. Forbids the following:

a. ruinous price cutting

b. binding contracts that agreed not to trade with competitors

c. buying part of a competitors business

d. interlocking directors for companies

e. the government stopping peaceful picketing or strikes

8. Federal Farm loan banks: give loans for agriculture

9. Federal Highways Act: federal funds to states to build roads

10. Keating-Owen Child Labor Act: children under 14 can’t work over 8 hours when making goods for interstate commerce

11. Adamson Act: 8 hour day for railroad workers

12. Wilson supported segregation of the races in Washington D. C.

13. Wilson initially opposed woman suffrage but later modified his stand.

A. during his second term, women get the right to vote

a. 19th amendment