

THE GILDED AGE AND PROGRESSIVE REFORM

Chapter 19 Section 1 (pgs. 644-648)

CENTRAL IDEA:

In the late 1800s, giant corporations gained control of much of American business. Some business leaders abused their power and were aided by corrupt government officials. Americans began to protest against the corruption. They urged government officials to limit the power of huge trusts and monopolies.

REFORM IN THE GILDED AGE

The period after the Civil War became known as the **Gilded Age** (1870s-1890s). Two major concerns shaped the politics of the Gilded Age: (1) Americans feared that industrialists and other wealthy men were enriching themselves at the expense of the public. (2) Corruption, or dishonesty in government.

The **spoils system (patronage)** was believed to be a key source of political corruption. In response, the **Pendleton Act** was passed in 1883. It created the **Civil Service Commission** to fill jobs on the basis of merit instead of political connections.

In the late 1800s, big business exerted a strong influence over politics. Railroad owners and industrialists bribed members of Congress in order to secure their votes. Americans demanded that something be done to limit the power of railroads and monopolies. The government responded by passing the **Interstate Commerce Act (1887)** to control the railroads and the **Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890)** to keep business from destroying competition.

Corruption was a serious problem in city governments. Often, politicians like **Boss Tweed**, accepted money to award government jobs to friends.

PROGRESSIVES AND POLITICAL REFORM

Opposition to corruption led to the rise of the **Progressive movement**. **Progressives** believed that the public interest must not be sacrificed to the greed of a few huge trusts and city bosses.

To fight political corruption, Wisconsin and other states instituted a series of reforms designed to put more power in the hands of voters including the **primary election**, **recall**, **initiative**, and **referendum**.

Progressive reformers supported the idea of a **graduated income tax** in which the wealthy pay taxes at a higher rate than the poor and middle class. The **Sixteenth Amendment** (1913) gave Congress the power to impose an income tax.

The passage of the **Seventeenth Amendment** (1913) required that the people of a state elect their U.S. Senators directly rather than the state legislature doing it. This stopped powerful interest groups from influencing the election of Senators.

THE MUCKRAKERS

The press (**muckrakers**) played an important role in exposing corruption and other societal problems to the public's view. As a result, reformers demanded that government intervene. **Ida Tarbell**, **Jacob Riis**, and **Upton Sinclair** are three of the most important muckrakers.

THE PROGRESSIVE PRESIDENTS

Chapter 19 Section 2 (pgs. 649-653)

CENTRAL IDEA:

Although Progressives made many gains at the state and local levels, they initially had little success at the national level. That changed, however, in the early 1900s. Several reforming Presidents adopted Progressive ideas, limited the abuses of big business, and tackled other tough national problems.

THE FIRST PROGRESSIVE PRESIDENT

On September 6, 1901, Theodore Roosevelt became the first progressive President when President William McKinley was assassinated in Buffalo, New York.

TR won a reputation as a **trustbuster**. He believed that there were “good trusts” and “bad trusts”; good trusts should be left alone but watched and bad trusts should be controlled or broken up. He had the government bring lawsuits against several companies arguing that they used unfair business practices that violated the **Sherman Anti-trust Act**. The lawsuits resulted in the courts breaking these companies up.

TR clashed with mine owners in the 1902 **Pennsylvania Coal Strike**. TR forced mine owners to sit down with the union and reach an agreement. Roosevelt was the first President ever to side with strikers.

THE SQUARE DEAL

During Roosevelt’s 1904 Presidential campaign, he promised Americans a **Square Deal**. During his years as president he took many actions that helped improve the situation of farmers, consumers, and workers by controlling the abuses of big business.

Recognizing that the nation’s massive industrial growth and haphazard use of natural resources was threatening the nation’s wilderness areas, TR pressed for conservation. He wanted resources to be used wisely and took several steps to protect the nation’s natural resources such as setting up the U.S. Forest Service and setting aside land for national parks.

Roosevelt supported reforms to protect consumers. After reading **The Jungle** by Upton Sinclair, TR took action that led to the passage of the **Meat Inspection Act** in 1906. Congress and President Roosevelt also passed the **Pure Food and Drug Act** in 1906.

TAFT AND WILSON

Taft became President in 1908 with Theodore Roosevelt’s support.

Taft, like TR, supported many Progressive causes such as trustbusting, the **graduated income tax**, safety regulations for mines, the 8-hour work day for federal employees, and controlling child labor. Taft, however, lost Progressive support when he raised most tariffs which Progressives saw as hurting consumers, and when he was accused of blocking conservation efforts.

In 1912, TR decided to run for President again. When Taft got the Republican nomination instead of him, he formed his own progressive political party which became known as the **Bull Moose Party**. The Democratic candidate for president was Woodrow Wilson. Because Taft and Roosevelt split the Republican votes, Woodrow Wilson became president.

Woodrow Wilson put forth a reform program he called **New Freedom** in which he wanted to restore free competition among American corporations. As part of his New Freedom plan, the **Federal Trade Commission** was established, and the **Clayton Anti-trust Act** and **Federal Reserve Act** were signed into law.

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Chapter 19 Section 3 (pgs. 656-659)

CENTRAL IDEA:

The Progressives' desire for reform did not include a strong interest in women's rights. Women activists struggled for equality without significant help from the Progressives. During this era, however, women finally won the right to vote. They also made other advances. Even so, women knew they had a long way to go before achieving full equality.

WOMEN WIN THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The **Seneca Falls Convention** of 1848 marked the start of an organized women's rights movement in the United States. After the Civil War, **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and **Susan B. Anthony formed** the National Women's Suffrage Association (NWSA). This group pushed for a constitutional amendment to give women the right to vote.

In the late 1800s, four western states were the first to grant women voting rights. These states recognized the contribution of women in settling the territories.

Support for women's suffrage grew in the early 1900s as more women worked outside the home and wanted a say in making laws.

After Stanton and Anthony died, a new generation of leaders continued the cause including **Carrie Chapman Catt** and Alice Paul. Catt devised a strategy to work state by state to win the vote. Paul used more forceful steps such as hunger strikes and chaining herself to the white house fence.

The **19th Amendment** giving women the right to vote in all elections, was passed in 1919 and ratified in 1920.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Besides working for the vote, women struggled to gain access to jobs and education. Despite obstacles, a few women managed to get the higher education needed to enter a profession but progress was slow.

During the late 1800s, many middle-class women joined women's clubs. These clubs evolved from education groups to reform groups. Women reformers raised money for libraries, schools, and parks, and they pressed for laws to protect women and children, to ensure pure food and drugs, and to win the vote.

African American women formed their own clubs and fought to end segregation and violence against African Americans.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST ALCOHOL

Women took a leading role in the **temperance movement** and in the late 1800s the movement gained strength. The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) led by **Francis Willard**, worked hard to get states to ban alcohol. **Carrie Nation** took a more radical approach to the temperance movement. The prohibition of alcohol occurred with the ratification of the **18th Amendment** in 1919.

STRUGGLES FOR JUSTICE

Chapter 19 Section 4 (pgs. 660-665)

CENTRAL IDEA:

Just as most Progressives were not very interested in women's rights, they also had little interest in minority rights. Jim Crow laws continued to enforce segregation. Violence against African Americans was a growing problem.

AFRICAN AMERICANS

African Americans faced discrimination in both the North and South. Landlords refused to rent homes in white neighborhoods to African Americans. Across the country, they were restricted to the worst housing and the poorest jobs. **Booker T. Washington** and **W.E.B. Du Bois** emerged as key African American leaders.

Booker T. Washington founded the **Tuskegee Institute** in Alabama which offered training in industrial and agricultural skills. He believed that African Americans needed to learn trades and move up gradually in society. He was willing to accept segregation for time as African Americans worked to improve their economic situation first. His approach won support from business leaders such as Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller.

W.E. B. DuBois admired Washington and agreed with him in regards to his emphasis on education. However, Du Bois criticized Washington's willingness to patiently accept discrimination and instead urged African Americans to fight it actively. To do this, Du Bois helped to found the **National Association for Colored People** (NAACP) which used lawsuits as a primary tool to actively fight discrimination and work toward equal rights for African Americans.

Ida B. Wells was an African American journalist who openly protested violence (lynching) of African Americans in her newspaper. She called for a boycott of segregated streetcars and white-owned stores.

MEXICAN AMERICANS

Like African Americans, Mexican Americans often faced legal segregation. Thousands of Mexicans fled to the United States in 1910 and the vast majority settled in the **Southwest**. In time, the migration spread to other parts of the country. Mexican immigrants worked hard manual labor jobs and were paid less than white workers. They were also denied skilled jobs. Mexican Americans created **barrios** (ethnic neighborhoods) to preserve their language and culture. In the barrios, many steps were taken to help each other out.

ASIAN AMERICANS

Due to the **Chinese Exclusion Act**, employers on the West Coast began hiring Japanese workers. More than 100,000 Japanese entered the U.S. in the early 1900s. Prejudice against Asians was high. Asian students were forced to attend separate schools in **San Francisco** and Japan protested. Unions and other groups pressured President Roosevelt to limit **immigration** from Japan. Roosevelt condemned the segregated schools and agreed to limit Japanese immigration if San Francisco schools ended segregation. Roosevelt reached a **Gentlemen's Agreement** with Japan in 1907. Japan agreed to stop sending more workers to the U.S. and the U.S. promised to allow Japanese women to join their husbands in the U.S. Anti-Japanese feeling remained high.