

# The Progressive Era

Unit 2 does **not** have a traditional test. [Click here for how it works.](#)

Use the **1<sup>st</sup> 3 Learning Quizzes throughout the Unit.**

## Lesson 1 -----

1. Why the Progressive Era? Response to Gilded Age industrialization
  - By all levels of government: city, state (initiative, referendum), federal (increasing use of commissions, but names vary)
  - In the Constitution–Populist-proposed, Progressive-passed, 1913 16<sup>th</sup> (income tax) & 17<sup>th</sup> (direct election, Senators)
  - By the Free Press & Muckrakers–*McClure's Magazine*; Examples: Ida Tarbell (Standard Oil) , Upton Sinclair (meatpacking), Lincoln Stephens (city government)
2. Progressive Era foreign policy
  - T. Roosevelt/TR (Rep.) 1901-1904, 1904-1908 - Panama Canal, Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine (background on sovereign debt)
  - W.H. Taft (Rep) 1908-1912–Dollar Diplomacy in Asia & Latin America
  - W. Wilson (Dem), 1912-1916, 1916-1920 - Intervention in Mexico and counter by Pancho Villa
3. Progressive domestic policy–Theodore Roosevelt
  - Trust policy–Northern Securities case–“public interest”
  - Labor policy–Square Deal & the coal strike
  - Consumer Protections – Example: FDA & Meat Inspection Act
4. Progressive domestic policy–W.H. Taft (1908-1912), primarily on-going political fights with TR; split in the Rep party]
5. 4 way split in 1912–TR, Taft, Wilson, & E.V. Debs (Socialist)
6. Progressive domestic policy–Woodrow Wilson on privileges:
  - Trust policy–Federal Trade Commission
  - Bank policy–Federal Reserve & currency
  - Tariff–lowered; income tax, later as amendment
7. Progressive era & groups forming and changing
  - **Caution:** increased anti-immigrant, anti-African American
  - W. Wilson, 1<sup>st</sup> time segregation in DC federal jobs
  - Factories-increasing mechanization since Henry Ford’s assembly line but increased pay (\$5 a day men)
  - Women-suffragettes (DC parade)

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## Why the Progressive Era?

### Response to Gilded Age Industrialization as It Damages Social and Political Life

#### *Government as the Only Counter to Big Business and Trusts – Letting Theodore Roosevelt Speak for Many*

“trusts are the creatures of the State, and the State not only has the right to control them, but it is in **duty bound to control them** wherever the need of such control is shown.”

Theodore Roosevelt

August 23, 1902

Link Address: <http://www.theodore-roosevelt.com/images/research/txtspeeches/16.txt>

### Governmental Reform at All Levels

- City– commission (group of experts), city manager
- State–initiative, referendum
- Federal–increasing use of **commissions** (names vary)
- Constitution–Populist-proposed, Progressive-passed, 1913 16<sup>th</sup> (income tax) & 17<sup>th</sup> (direct election, Senators)

### Reform by the Free Press (and Its Middle Class Readers)

- **McClure’s Magazine**
- **Muckrakers** such as:
  - **Ida Tarbell** (Standard Oil) – gender?
  - **Upton Sinclair** (meatpacking)
  - **Lincoln Stephens** (city government)

## Foreign Policy of the 3 Presidents in the Progressive Era

### Foreign policy -Theodore Roosevelt

Date	Presidential Election/Event	Beyond America/ Foreign Policy
1900-11	<b>William McKinley</b> vs. William Jennings Bryan	
		Canal: Britain gives up right to participate in canal
1901-09	McKinley, assassinated by anarchist; T.R. President	
1901-11		Canal: Congress, favors Nicaraguan route, later Panama
1902		US Navy into Venezuela – German & British <b>debt</b> collection in region
1903		Canadian-US boundary – arbitration + “big stick”
1903-10		Canal: <b>Panama</b> zone from, but not ratified by Columbian Senate
1903-11		Canal: Panama revolt; Panama zone <b>from</b> Panama (Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty)
1904-11	Theodore Roosevelt vs. Alton B. Parker vs. E. V. Debs (Socialist)	
1904-12		Dominican Republic – <b>debt</b> collection <b>Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine</b>
1905		Far East: T.R. in ending Russo-Japanese War (Portsmouth treaty); <b>Korea, Philippines arrangement</b>
1907-02		“Gentleman’s Agreement”
1908-11		China Open Door, Root-Takahira Agreement

## Foreign Policy - William Howard Taft

Date	Presidential Election/Event	Beyond America/ Foreign Policy
1908-11	William Howard Taft vs. William Jennings Bryan	"Dollar Diplomacy" - Secretary of State Philander Knox – the "borrower is the servant of the lender"
1909		US investors into Honduras to block British
1910		Far East: Attempted US investments in Manchuria
1911-06		Canal: Require Nicaragua to give US control of customs,
1912-08		Canal: Nicaragua revolt; US troops (through 1933)

## Foreign Policy - Woodrow Wilson

Date	Presidential Election/Event	Beyond America/ Foreign Policy
1912-11	William Howard Taft vs. Woodrow Wilson vs. T. Roosevelt vs. E. V. Debs (Socialist)	
1913	President speaks to Congress (on the tariff) – 1st time since Jefferson's precedent	Mexico: Ongoing coups (since Taft), US Marines - Tampico and Vera Cruz incidents
1916		Not beyond America, but in America "Pancho" Villa

## Domestic Policy, Labor, and Trusts – Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1908)

Background: government positions in New York, Assistant Navy Secretary, Rough Rider, governor of New York,

- 1902 Square Deal – anthracite coal strike and an innovative use of Presidential power
- 1904 Northern Securities – how an innovative use of Presidential power and the "good"/"bad" trusts approach
- 1906 Upton Sinclair and the Pure Food and Drugs Act – and the FDA, a commission
- 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City – Not a test question, but reality.

## Domestic Policy – W.H. Taft (1908-1912)

Background: Administrator who calmed the Philippines. He is caught between the Republican Party and T.R.

### Election of 1912 – a 4-Way Split

Democratic Party – Woodrow Wilson	6,286,214	435
Republican Party – William Howard Taft	3,483,922	8
Progressive (Bull Moose) Party – Theodore Roosevelt	4,126,020	88
Socialist Party – E.V. Debs	897,011	

Note: Avoided African American issues.

## Domestic Policy, Labor, Trusts, and Tariffs (and Income Tax) – Woodrow Wilson (1912-1920)

Background: Professor, public speaker, President of Princeton, governor of New Jersey

- 1913 Tariff (Underwood)–lowered and use of an income tax to substitute for the revenue (declared unconstitutional, thus the amendment to the Constitution)
- 1913 Federal Reserve Act - determine the amount of money in circulation, respond to cyclical business changes, and expand or contract the nation's credit.
- 1914 Colorado -Ludlow Massacre– Not a test question, but reality.

- 1914 Clayton Anti-Trust Act – “Magna Carta of Labor”<sup>1</sup> – Not a test question, but reality
- 1914 Federal Trade Commission – **pre-approval** of mergers

## Groups

### Racism and Theodore Roosevelt

- 1901 TR and Booker T. Washington at the White House (note the change in 1912) – Not a test question, but reality.
- 1906 “yellow peril,” segregation in California, and the “Gentlemen’s Agreement” with Japan – Not a test question, but reality.
- 1912 Election – He courts the Southern voters.

### Racism and Woodrow Wilson

- Favors *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- WW’s segregation in Washington, DC and in federal jobs (a view held by Progressives other than WW)

### Groups Changing and Forming

- 1909 NAACP and *The Crisis*
- 1913 Women – suffragettes and a march on Washington
- 1903 Ford Motor plant that uses assembly line – 1914 5\$ for an 8-hour day (a more positive way to increase pressure on unions.)

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<sup>1</sup> In regard to labor and agriculture, the act specified that ‘the labor of a human being is **not a commodity** or article of commerce; nothing contained in the antitrust laws shall be construed to forbid the existence and operation of labor, agricultural and horticultural organization ... nor shall such organizations be held or construed as illegal combinations....’ Further: **no “injunctions” against them unless “to prevent injury to property,”** “strikes, peaceful picketing, and boycotts **legal** under federal jurisdiction.” *Encyclopedia of American History*, p. 38