

Topic #20 Overview

Main Themes:

1. How progressivism was a reaction to the rapid industrialization and urbanization of the United States in the late nineteenth century.
2. That all progressives shared an optimistic vision that an active government could solve problems and create an efficient, ordered society.
3. That progressives wanted to reduce the influence of party machines on politics.
4. How temperance, immigration restriction, and women's suffrage movements took on crusade-like aspects.
5. How Theodore Roosevelt's leadership helped fashion a new, expanded role for the national government.
6. That politics during the administration of William Howard Taft showed that most of the nation desired a more progressive approach.
7. How the administration of Woodrow Wilson embodied both conservative and progressive features.

Objectives: [You should be able to explain each of these in some detail]

1. The social justice reforms of the period and the role of the church in carrying out the Social Gospel.
2. The origins of the progressive impulse.
3. The progressive emphasis on scientific expertise, organizational reform, and professionalism.
4. The role of women's groups in promoting reform.
5. The significance of the women's suffrage movement.
6. The desire of the progressives to limit the role of political party organizations and the measures they advocated to accomplish this goal.
7. The temperance movement and its relationship to other progressive reforms.
8. The movement to restrict immigration, and how allowing fewer immigrants was regarded as a reform.
9. The alternate approaches to the problems of the trusts: socialism, regulation, and trust busting. The nature and extent of Theodore Roosevelt's "Square Deal" progressivism.
10. The similarities and differences between the domestic progressivism of William Howard Taft and of Roosevelt.
11. The conservation issue and why it triggered the split between Taft and Roosevelt.
12. The consequences of the split in the Republican party in 1912.
13. The differences between Roosevelt's New Nationalism and Wilson's New Freedom.
14. The differences between Woodrow Wilson's campaign platform and the measures actually implemented during his term.