

The Progressive Movement

- ◆ Progressivism - a movement to improve American life by expanding democracy and achieving economic & social justice.
 - ◆ Progressives believed in the benefits of industrialism but sought to correct the evils associated with it.
 - ◆ Progressives hoped to achieve political, social, & economic reforms
 - ◆ Political reforms
 - ◆ Wanted to wipe out corruption, machine politics, business domination of government
 - ◆ Wanted to set up procedures for closer control of govt.
 - ◆ Social & Economic reforms
 - ◆ Wanted to eliminate practices that harmed farmers, workers, tenement dwellers, and consumers
 - ◆ Wanted to expand govt. regulation over economy
 - ◆ Sources of Progressive support
 - ◆ Farmers - wanted railroad regulation and easier credit
 - ◆ Urban Middle Class - wanted regulation of industry and political machines
 - ◆ Workers - laws regulating work by women & children, safety requirements, workmen's compensation benefits
 - ◆ Writers - known as muckrakers - including Frank Norris & Upton Sinclair
 - ◆ Politicians - including Robert La Follette (gov. of Wis.), Hiram Johnson (gov. of CA.), T. Roosevelt (Prez), and Woodrow Wilson (Prez)
 - ◆ Accomplishments of the Progressive Era
 - ◆ Political - city & state
 - ◆ Direct primaries - people, not parties nominate candidates
 - ◆ Limits on political contributions and campaign spending

- ◆ "Australian" secret ballot
- ◆ Initiatives and referendums by citizens
- ◆ Recall of elected officials
- ◆ City govts. run by commissions rather than just mayor
- ◆ Civil service exams reduce # of political appointments
- ◆ Individual states allowed women to vote
- ◆ Political - federal
 - ◆ 17th Amendment (1913) - direct election of senators
 - ◆ 19th Amendment (1920) - Women's suffrage
- ◆ Social/Economic - State & local
 - ◆ Regulation of industries
 - ◆ Consumer protection laws
 - ◆ Fair tax laws
 - ◆ Child & women labor laws
 - ◆ Welfare & workmen's comp. laws
 - ◆ Improved work site safety
- ◆ Social/Economic - Federal
 - ◆ Regulation of industries & banks
 - ◆ Conservation laws to preserve natural resources
 - ◆ Consumer protection laws
 - ◆ 16th Amendment (1913) - income tax
 - ◆ Protection of unions
 - ◆ Federal aid for farmers
- ◆ Weaknesses of Progressive Movement
 - ◆ Uneven patterns of reform
 - ◆ Some states more progressive than others
 - ◆ Court roadblocks
 - ◆ Many progressive initiatives held up in court
 - ◆ Survival of political machines
 - ◆ Despite political reforms, party bosses were able to evade laws aimed at controlling their activities
- ◆ The Progressive Era of reform ended by the 1920's