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**PROGRESSIVE PRESIDENTS:  
ROOSEVELT, TAFT AND  
WILSON**

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

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- Students will be able to explain the four goals of progressivism.
- Students will be able to summarize progressive efforts to clean up government.
- Students will be able to identify progressive efforts to reform state government, protect workers, and reform elections.

# WHY IS TEDDY ROOSEVELT IMPORTANT?

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- **Lesson Objectives:**

- Describe the events of Theodore Roosevelt's presidency.
- Explain how Roosevelt used the power of the presidency to regulate business.
- Identify laws passed to protect public health and the environment.
- Summarize Roosevelt's stand on civil rights.

- **Essential Question:**

- How did the progressive movement try to bring about social change?

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- **Roosevelt was NEVER supposed to become the president.**

- Roosevelt was the governor of New York
- Impossible for the political bosses to control
- Popular with the American people because of the Spanish-American War:

- Rough Rider!

- **Roosevelt was “kicked” upstairs**

- Placed on the Republican ticket as the vice presidential candidate.
- Vice Presidents do not usually become president
- McKinley was assassinated...enter Roosevelt.



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- **Trustbusting**

- By 1900, trusts control about 4/5 of U.S. industries
- Roosevelt wants to curb trusts that hurt public interest
- breaks up some trusts under Sherman Antitrust Act

- **1902 Coal Strike**

- Coal reserves low; forces miners, operators to accept arbitration
- Sets principle of federal intervention when strike threatens public

- **Railroad Regulation**

- Roosevelt pushed for federal regulation to control the abuses of the railroads.
  - Elkins Act: stops rebates and sudden rate changes.
  - Hepburn Act: limits passes and gives the ICC (Interstate Commerce Commission) more power to set maximum rates.
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- **Regulating Foods & Drugs**

- Roosevelt promoted laws to protect Americans: unsafe foods and drugs were targeted

- **Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle***

- Roosevelt appointed a commission to investigate Sinclair's claims
- The commission supported Sinclair
- Roosevelt pushed for passage of 2 laws:
  - Meat Inspection Act & Pure Food and Drug Act



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- **Conservation & Natural Resources**
    - Before 1900, America did not pay attention to its resources
      - Farmers leveled forests
      - Coal companies cluttered land with spoil dumps
      - Cities dumped untreated sewage and industrial waste in rivers
  - **Roosevelt urged Americans to conserve natural resources**
    - Forests and water problems became a priority
  - **Roosevelt appointed Gifford Pinchot to head the Forestry Service.**



# CATTLE PENS, CHICAGO MEAT PLANT

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- **Roosevelt & Civil Rights**

- Roosevelt did not support Civil Rights
- He supported individual African Americans
  - Appointed an African American to head the custom house at Charleston.

- **Roosevelt is very mixed in his handling of Civil Rights issues.**

- Dismissed an entire regiment of African American soldiers in Brownsville, TX for rioting.
- Hosted Booker T. Washington for dinner at the White House.

- **Banking Reform**

- Roosevelt urged Congress to create a new cabinet-level position: Department of Commerce and Labor

- **Primary goals for Roosevelt's Square Deal**

- Control of Corporations, Consumer protection, & Conservation
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# WHY IS WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT IMPORTANT?

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- **Lesson Objectives:**

- Summarize the events of the Taft presidency.
- Explain the division in the Republican Party.
- Describe the election of 1912.

- **Essential Question:**

- How did the progressive movement try to bring about social change?

# **WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT**

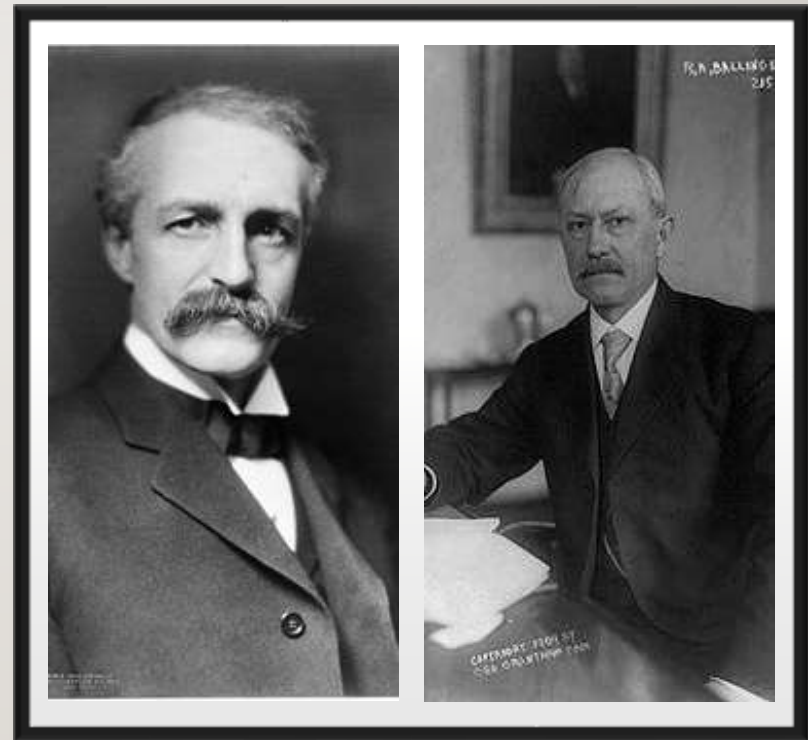
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- **Roosevelt followed the path set up by Pres. Washington...2 terms and out.**
- **Hand-picked to follow Roosevelt.**
  - A judge
  - A governor of the Philippines
  - Roosevelt's Secretary of War
- **Roosevelt campaigned for Taft**
- **Taft never thought of himself as "Mr. President"**
- **Payne-Aldrich Tariff**
  - Cut tariffs on very few goods
  - Raised tariffs on other goods
  - Progressives felt betrayed
  - This will lead to a split in the Republican Party

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- **Ballinger-Pinchot Controversy**

- Taft replaced a Roosevelt pick for Secretary of the Interior with a less aggressive conservationist.
  - Richard Ballinger
- Ballinger tried to make public lands available for private developers
- Gifford Pinchot leaked this to the press
- Taft fired Pinchot... Republicans are outraged
- **Republican progressives stopped trusting Taft...They will look for a new candidate in 1912!**



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- **Taft was too cautious to hold the Republican Party together as Roosevelt had.**
    - Progressive Republicans wanted CHANGE
    - Conservative Republicans liked the 'status quo'
    - The Republican Party is headed for a SPLIT!
  - **The greatest split was over Taft's support of a POLITICAL BOSS!**
    - Joseph Cannon, House Speaker from Illinois
    - Cannon disregarded seniority
    - Cannon also would weaken or ignore progressive bills sent to Congress
  - **By 1910, the party is in a HORRIBLE place.**
  - **The Rise of the Bull-Moose Party**
    - Roosevelt returned to politics after the 1910 mid-term election disaster.
    - Supporters were the PROGRESSIVES!

# 1912 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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- **In this election we have**
  - a current president, a former president, & a state governor
- **Roosevelt and Taft split the Republican Party**
  - Progressives = Roosevelt v. Conservatives = Taft
- **Democrats back Wilson**
- **If you split a part, who will ALWAYS win?**
- **The other party!**
  - Roosevelt and Taft split the Republican Party
  - Wilson Won!
- **This has happened several times in history:**
  - 1992 Presidential Election: Most recent example!

# WHY IS WOODROW WILSON IMPORTANT?

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- **Lesson Objectives:**

- Describe Woodrow Wilson's background and the progressive reforms of his presidency.
- List the steps leading to woman suffrage.
- Explain the limits of Wilson's progressivism.

- **Essential Question:**

- How did the progressive movement try to bring about social change?

# WOODROW WILSON

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- **Wilson was the grandson of a Presbyterian minister**
- **Spent his youth in the South (Civil War and Reconstruction)**
- **Graduate of the College of New Jersey (Princeton University)**
- **After graduation he held several jobs:**
  - Practiced law
  - Professor of political science
  - President of Princeton University
- **Wilson was a PROGRESSIVE**
- **Just like Roosevelt, he appealed to the people**
  - Willing to stand up to political bosses
  - After becoming governor, he declared himself an Independent!



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- **Anti-Trust Measures**

- **Clayton Antitrust Act** stops companies buying stock to form monopoly
- Ends injunctions against strikers unless threaten irreparable damage
- **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**—new “watchdog” agency
  - investigates regulatory violations
  - ends unfair business practices



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- **A New Tax System**
    - Sets precedent of giving State of the Union message in person
    - His use of bully pulpit leads to passage
  - **Federal Income Tax:** 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment legalizes graduated federal income tax
  - **Federal Reserve System**
    - **Federal Reserve System**—private banking system under federal control
    - Nation divided into 12 districts; central bank in each district





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- **Local Suffrage Battles**

- College-educated women spread suffrage message to working-class
- Go door-to-door, take trolley tours, give speeches at stops
- some adopt bold tactics of British suffragists

- **Catt and the National Movement**

- **Carrie Chapman Catt**, head of NAWSA, stresses organization, lobbying
- National Woman's Party aggressively pressures for suffrage amendment
- Work of patriotic women in war effort influences politicians
- 1920 **Nineteenth Amendment** grants women right to vote



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- **Wilson and Civil Rights**

- Wilson and Civil Rights
- As candidate, wins support of NAACP for favoring civil rights
- As president, opposes anti-lynching legislation
- Appoints fellow white Southerners to cabinet who extend segregation
- NAACP feels betrayed; Wilson self-defence widens rift

- **The Twilight of Progressivism**

- Outbreak of World War I distracts Americans; reform efforts stall