

The Progressive Era: 1900-1920

KEY CONCEPTS:

- The progressive movement was one major phase of liberalism in the 20th century.
- Grassroots & government reformers attempted to address the abuses and deficiencies at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Important reforms were enacted by Congress to address abuses in business, the economy and the environment.
- Women & African-Americans organized to improve their condition and status.

Liberalism represents an alliance between the public and government to guard against and correct the abuses of capital. Equilibrium between public and business

Reforms sought to a) alleviate short-term economic, political and social problems b) bring about significant change for the future.

- a) Economic – seek to control behavior of business
- b) Political – extend/protect political rights of the disenfranchised; make public officials accountable; attack corruption
- c) Social – seek to promote human/social rights of deprived groups.

Liberalism in 20th Century

1900-1920 (Progressive Era) – TR, Taft, Wilson

1933-1945 (New Deal) FDR

1945-1953 (Fair Deal) Truman

1960-1963 (New Frontier) JFK

1963-69 (Great Society) LBJ

- Gov't can be a positive force for change/reform to combat monopolies.
- Gov't can neutralize special interests.
- Gov't can instill order in public institutions.
- Humanitarian work through the Social Gospel (settlement houses, Salvation Army, etc).

Muckrakers exposed abuses (named by TR) of American society.

Jacob Riis *How the Other Half Lives*

Upton Sinclair *The Jungle* (Pure Food and Drug Act)

Ida Tarbell *History of Standard Oil* (prosecuted 1911)

Lincoln Steffens *The Shame of the Cities*

REFORMING LOCAL/STATE POLITICS

Political machines rampant in cities, creating patronage, nepotism, corruption (i.e. Tammany Hall and Boss Tweed) exposed by Thomas Nast (artist).

Reforms at the Local Level:

- Home-rule charters in cities, taking power from State
- Some areas had public ownership of utilities.
- power in the hands of an elected commission.
- attempts at banning child labor
- Min. wage/max. hours for women/city employees
- Workmen's comp./pensions for widows
- Building codes/state inspections - Triangle Shirtwaist
- Regulation of railroads, insurance, and grad. inc. tax.
- Robert La Follette (Sen.) brought about direct primary for pres candidates, limits on campaign \$\$, investigation committees for problems in Wisconsin

Under T. Roosevelt– TR campaigns on basis of “square deal”, managing interests of public vs. business.

He was an active arbiter.

- TR ends United Mine Workers strike, siding with miners against business, threatening intervention (1903).

- **1903**: Dept. of Commerce and Labor created.

Elkins Act bolstered Interstate Commerce Act (1887) by making rebates illegal.

Bureau of Corps. investigates antitrust violations.

- *Northern Securities v. US* (1904) court orders No. Securities Railroad to be dissolved.

Hepburn Act (1906) empowers ICC to set max. railroad rates and other regulations established.

Pure Food and Drug Act/Meat Inspection Act (1906)

Conservation acts established, national forest reserves.

Under William Howard Taft:

Mann-Elkins Act (1910) bolstered ICC by regulating new communications industries

The true “trust-buster” busts US Steel, while the Supreme Court dissolves Standard Oil (TR opposed)

Republican Party splits, as progressives hate Taft:

a) Payne-Aldrich Tariff (1909) supported by Taft was a high protective tariff for American businesses, as progressives cry foul.

b) Ballinger-Pinchot Affair (1910) Ballinger opens reserved land, with Taft’s approval.

c) Taft’s Antitrust Suit vs. US Steel (1911)

Democrats nominate Woodrow Wilson, as TR runs as a Progressive, La Follette a Republican, and Debs as Socialist (1912 Election).

Under Wilson:

- Underwood Tariff (1913) reduction tariff, as Wilson sides with consumers.

- Clayton Anti-Trust (1914) a response to Wilson’s calls to break-up monopolies. Modified existing Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890).

- Federal Trade Commission (1914) regulate business by controlling trusts.

- Federal Reserve Act (1913) sought to regulate currency in the US...national banks join Federal Reserve system (12 regional banks, board of experts to oversee system).

- *Lochner v. NY* (1905) invalidated a NY law limiting night work hours.
- *Muller v. Oregon* (1908) upheld a law limiting work hours for women (due to inherent weakness of women, requiring gov’t protection).
- *Adkins v. Children’s Hospital* (1923) maximum workday for women unconstitutional.

Amendments of the Progressive Era

16th Amendment (1913): income tax

17th Amendment (1913): direct election of senators

18th Amendment (1919): prohibition

19th Amendment (1920): women’s right to vote

Women’s Rights Movement: NAWSA, the moderate approach, led by Carrie Catt. NWP, the more radical approach, led by Paul & Burns

Socialist Challenge: 1901 – Debs forms Socialist Party, dedicated to the welfare class...agreed w/progressives on min. wage laws and workers’ comp. - IWW (Industrial Workers of the World)

“Wobblies” sought to end capitalism, led by Bill Haywood. Obliterated during WWI by Truman.

Black Americans: B. T. Washington & self-improvement through work (Tuskegee, *Atlanta Compromise*).

DuBois’ “talented tenth” and creation of NAACP; M. Garvey “back to Africa”.

Free-Response Q's for the Progressive Era:

- 1) Discuss the role government played in reforming American social, economic, and political life in the early 20th century. Include TWO of the following:
 - a) reforms at the federal level
 - b) reforms at the state level
 - c) reforms at the local level
- 2) Evaluate the administrations of Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson in relation to their records as progressive presidents.

World War I: 1914-1918

KEY CONCEPTS:

- German violations of American neutrality, strong economic and political ties to Britain, and effective Brit propaganda helped shape American public opinion about combatants.
- Despite desire to remain neutral, US enters in 1917.
- WWI affected American civil liberties as the government suppressed dissent.
- Punitive nature of Treaty of Versailles laid the foundation for resentment in Germany.

Causes of War: **MAIN** (Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, Nationalism)

Militarism – stockpiling of arms and expansion of armies.

Alliances – distrust led to secret alliances (Triple Alliance and Triple Entente).

Imperialism – race for colonies in late 19th century leads to tension.

Nationalism – ethnic groups seeking self-determination rise up.

1914-1917 – US remains neutral, and Wilson wins re-election in 1916 based on “he kept us out of war”.

US trades with both combatants, but trade with Germany dries up due to Brit blockade.

- Germans open u-boat attacks on shipping.

British propaganda successfully displays Germans as power-hungry and mad.

February, 1917 – US intercepts Zimmerman Telegram (Germany to Mexico).

March, 1917 – Tsar of Russia, overthrown, as Bolsheviks pull out of war.

April, 1917 – Wilson calls this a “war to end all wars”

WWI at Home:

- Espionage Act (1917) fines and imprisonment for anyone aiding enemy combatants and by obstructing war effort (*Schenck v. US*, *Debs v. US*).
- Sedition Act (1918)

Committee on Public Info sways public opinion heavily against foreigners.

War Industries Board coordinated aspect of industrial production for war.

Food Administration led by Hoover, to establish prices and encourage legislation.

War Labor Board arbitrated labor-management disputes and regulated wages, work hours.

Treaty of Versailles (the Big “Four”)

- Alsace Lorraine given back to France
- Reduction of German military
- Germany had to ship coal to France for 15 years
- New nations: Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia
- Massive war reparations
- Germany branded with guilt

Wilson's 14 Points and League of Nations

Final point calls for an international body for peace guarantees. US Senate rejects League membership due to foreign entanglements, reducing its power.

Interwar Years:

- a) 5-Power Naval Treaty (creating 5:5:3:1.7:1.7) b) 4-Power Treaty respects Japanese territorial possessions c) Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) outlaws war.

The Dawes Plan: Reduced Germany's reparations and provided loans to Germany in a roundabout way: US gives \$\$ to Germany; Germany gives \$\$ to Allies for reparations; Allies give \$\$ to US for war debts.

- US never gets repaid, keeps Germany weak (pissing them off...leading to Hitler), and Allies national economies are still in ruins due to war. National collapse allows for default on loans.

Free Response Q's for World War I:

- Agree or disagree with the following statement:
President Wilson had no choice but to enter WWI on the side of the Allies.
- Agree or disagree with the following statement: Woodrow Wilson's vision for the postwar world and the methods he used to achieve these goals was riddled with naïve thinking and political miscalculations.

1920's: Conservatism & Cultural Diversity

KEY CONCEPTS:

- The 1920's were dominated by conservative Republican presidents.
- Americans experienced an unprecedented burst of consumer activity as new mass-produced commodities were made available.
- Tensions between rural and urban America.
- Rise of "nativism" and racism.
- Period was culturally vibrant (art, music, lit)
- US gov't persecuted radicals in the red scare.

1920 Election: Warren G. Harding elected on the League of Nations referendum.

- Merchant Marine Act (1920) authorized sale of ships built by gov't to private bidders.
- Esch-Cummins Act (1920) returned operation of railroad companies back to private interests.

Mellon Tax Plan: "trickle-down" economics to protect American businesses from labor and foreign competition.

- Fordney-McCumber Tariff - high tariffs on imports

Teapot Dome – sale of US naval oil reserves to private business interests...Harding's admin = corrupt

"Silent" Calvin Coolidge believed in "do"ing "nothing", when it came to gov't and business.

- McNary-Haugen Bill (1927-28) allowed for the gov't to purchase crops to keep up price levels, but Coolidge vetoes 2 times.

Mass Consumerism of the 1920's

- Torrent of consumer spending stimulated the economy (in part, due to stock market buying) through buying on credit, but created much debt.
- Mass advertising, and advent of the car for purchase spurs highway developments, increased suburbanization, growth of oil, rubber, insurance and advertising industries.

Cultural Divisions at Home

- Urban vs. Rural: those in rural US viewed the cities as full of vice and sin (despite prohibition, which led to speakeasies, the rise of the mob, and the "evils" of jazz and dancing).
- Moderate vs. Radical Unions: moderate unions such as the AFL experienced decline, as industrial unions gain in strength.
- Science vs. Religion: Scopes Monkey Trial (1925) debates evolution vs. creationism.
- Nativism: Russian Revolution gives rise to anticommunist sentiment (directed at unions).
 - Immigration leads to re-emergence of KKK
 - Sacco & Vanzetti reflects anti-immigrant feelings

Anxiety yielded actual legislation on the part of the US government, as "isolationism" after WWI becomes primary.

- Emergency Quota Act (1921) reduced southern and eastern European immigration (2 % of 1910 quotas)
- Immigration Act (1924) reduced that quote even further, to 2% of 1890 census, due to belief in their failure to assimilate.

Those believed to be easily assimilated are more accepted within the US during this time, due to ability to

adapt to language and customs.

Free-Response Q's for the 1920's:

a) Discuss how the 1920's represented social, economic, and cultural discord among Americans. In your essay, discuss THREE of the following:

1) urban versus rural attitudes 2) nativism vs. immigration 3) science vs. religion 4) the red scare

b) Discuss the extent to which the US underwent a cultural transformation in the 1920's.

The Great Depression

KEY CONCEPTS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION

- A number of major factors caused the Great Depression, among them underconsumption and protective tariffs.
 - The extent of economic collapse for the US and the world was unprecedented.
 - President Hoover failed to stem the decline of the economy.
 - FDR instituted a vast array of Relief, Recovery, & Reform policies and agencies to address the collapse of the economy.
 - Several New Deal programs were ruled unconstitutional by the conservative Supreme Court.
 - Unequal Distribution of Wealth: top 5% of income earners controlled 30% of wealth. These people re-invested \$\$ rather than placing it in workers' wages.
 - Underconsumption: W/out \$\$, buying ceased, as investing became prominent. This led to overproduction, yielding massive surpluses.
 - Protective Tariffs: Protection for US goods, disallow foreign competition; European countries tank even more due to inability to sell; payment of debts fails.
 - Stock Market Speculation: buying on margin creates spike in prices. Prices dropped, payments demanded for loans unable to be paid...bank runs occurred, as massive withdrawals deplete banks. Savings gone.
 - Hoover responds via "rugged individualism" and voluntarism. Direct assistance avoided.
 - RFC disbursed loans to banks, farms, railroads and insurance companies...fears of unbalanced budget prevent massive help.
 - Creation of "Hoovervilles" for homeless.
 - Election of 1932: FDR wins based on maintaining America's capitalist system (while reforming it) and creating conditions favorable to accumulation.
 - New Deal:
 - "Hundred Days" (spring 1933)
 - First New Deal (summer 1935-1939)
 - 2nd New Deal (1939-1945)
- "Hundred Days" tried to alleviate effects of depression
- Nat'l Bank Holiday
 - Glass-Steagall (creation of FDIC – deposit insur.)
 - AAA – reduction of produce; cuts acreage
 - FERA – funds to states for unemployment and public works.
 - TVA – gov't owned corporation for revitalization
 - CCC – public works for young men
 - NIRA – allowed industry to set prices, but gov't had oversight of fair competition codes.

- NRA formed to enforce collective bargaining and the right to organize.

- Backlash created as a result of “socialistic” tendencies of the New Deal or it being too conservative (Long).
 - 2nd New Deal concentrated on Relief and Reform:
 - WPA (employment for millions receiving state aid)
 - NLRA: superseded the NIRA (declared unconstitutional in 1935) and addressed unfair business practices.
 - SSA: established a trust fund to which workers contributed for retirees and disabled.
- Each of these programs had large budgets, but FDR believed in Keynesian economics (deficit spending).

Court Cases:

- a) *Schechter v. US* (1935) – NIRA found unconstitutional for power given to executive.
- b) *Butler v. US* (1936) – AAA found unconstitutional due to AAA’s benefiting of one segment of population vs. others.

FDR resorts to “court-packing” in an attempt to change the politics of the US Supreme Court. This creates a backlash and effectively ends his 2nd New Deal an attempts at bringing the US out of depression.

Free-Response Q’s to the Great Depression/New Deal:

- Support or refute this statement:
A key feature of the New Deal was that it gave too much authority to the federal government and specifically the executive branch.
- b) To what extent is it correct that the New Deal was a conservative effort to maintain the social, economic and political status quo?

World War II: 1939-1945

KEY CONCEPTS TO WORLD WAR II:

- The rise of fascism, militarism, and imperialism were significant developments that ultimately led to WWII when Germany, Italy and Japan embarked on policies of territorial expansion and conquest.
- The 1930’s Neutrality Acts limited but did not entirely prevent FDR from providing assistance to Great Britain.
- The US adopted discriminatory policies towards Japanese-Americans.
- The Holocaust brought unprecedented suffering to millions.
- The dropping of the A-bomb on Japan ended the war, but later questions arose as to its necessity.

Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese hierarchy emerged as threats to the remainder of the world.

- Germany remilitarizes, violating Versailles.
- Disenfranchisement of Jews in Germany.
- Occupation of Rhine in 1936
- *Anschluss* and occupation of Rhineland.

1938 – Munich Conference – Hitler agrees to halt offensives at the request of Britain/France (appeasement) who would recognize rights to German claims.

- 1938-39: Hitler violates agreement and invades Czechoslovakia and Poland

1935 – Spanish Civil War (US fails to support those seeking self-determination).

- Neutrality Act (1937): Prevents arms shipments to any combatants in the Spanish Civil War.

By the late 1930’s (despite continued support for neutrality), FDR requests increased military expenditures

(France's fall to Germany seals FDR's belief that the US needed to help Britain).

- "cash and carry"
- "Lend-Lease" – arsenal of democracy and defense of 4 freedoms (religion, speech, from want, from fear).
- Destroyers for bases
- The draft (1940)

Atlantic Charter: FDR meets with Churchill to state both nations believed in 4 freedoms.

- Relations with Japan have deteriorated, as Japan invades China (after occupying Manchuria in 1931).
- Rome-Berlin-Tokyo military alliance furthers US fears. US cuts off supplies to Japan
 - Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941)
 - FDR has reason to enter World War II.
 - At home, massive retaliation against Japanese, via Japanese internment (*Korematsu v. US*).
 - Abroad, knowledge of Holocaust still does not propel the Allies to do much.

Wartime Conferences

- Casablanca (Jan. 1943) – FDR and Churchill agree to invade North Africa (pseudo-2nd front).
- Teheran (Nov-Dec. 1943) – FDR, Churchill and Stalin meet, and agree to 2nd front in Europe (D-Day).
- Yalta Conference (Feb. 1945) – Big Three meet, and Stalin agrees to enter war against Japan after Germany is defeated.
 - At this conference, FDR concedes Soviet influence in E. Europe.
- Potsdam (July-Aug. 1945) – Truman gets agreement that Nazi Germany will be demilitarized, though with no reparations. Truman has the bomb.

The War

- Axis Powers were successful early, but Hitler's mistake came when invading Russia, as soldiers become cut-off and stranded.
- 6/6/1944: D-Day (invasion of Nazi-occupied France)...over the next 10 months, Germans are forced from France and Italy (5/8/45 V-E Day)
- Pacific War continued brutally through 1945.
 - Battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa signal defiance of Japan...debates about ending the war begin.
 - Truman orders the dropping of the a-bombs (Aug. 1945. Was it to end the war? Was it to intimidate Russia?
 - V-J Day = Aug. 14, 1945.

Free-Response Q's for World War II:

- Analyze President Roosevelt's foreign policy in light of the considerable opposition and obstacles he faced in helping Great Britain. Discuss the following in your response: Neutrality Acts, America First Committee, assistance provided to Britain
- Support or refute the following statement:
The USS was justified in using atomic bombs against Japan in 1945.