

# The Progressive Era

## *Part One*



**Part One**

**Part Two**

**Part Three**

## Thematic Icons



**Economics**



**Geography**



**Historical concepts**



**Government**

## Icons



**Flash activity** (these activities are not editable)



**Teacher notes** included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.





# Population growth

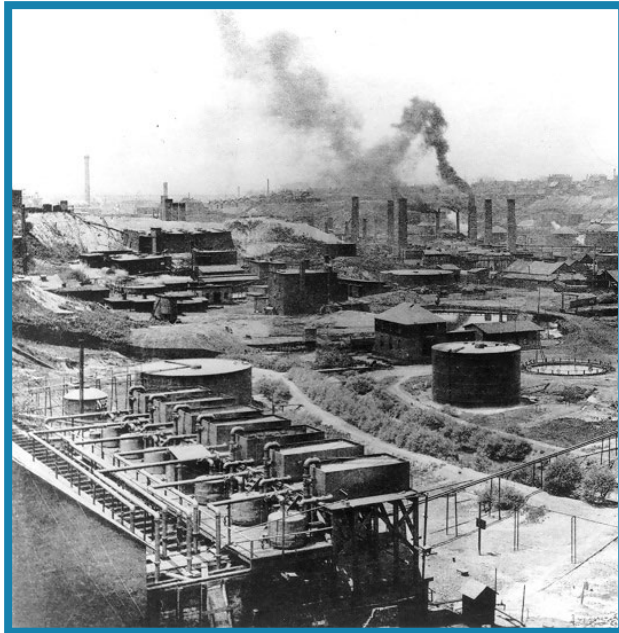




# Life at the turn of the century



During this period of rapid **industrialization** and growth, **corporations** expanded massively and made huge profits. They bought out competition, set prices, and cut costs by ignoring workers' pay and conditions.



A smaller number of individuals became hugely wealthy. Among them were the first American millionaires.

These rapid shifts in U.S. culture led to a great deal of discontent. This opened the door to re-evaluate many of America's social, economic, and political systems.





# The Progressive movement

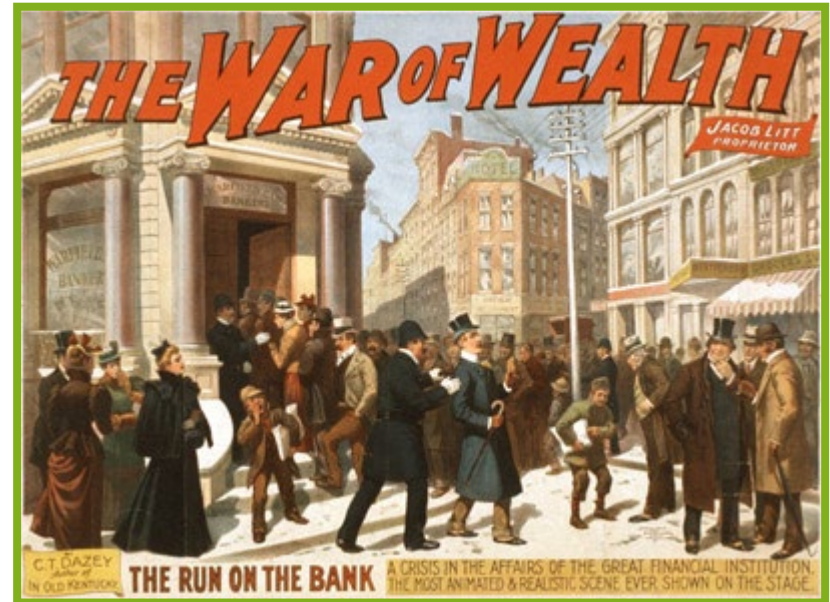


The **Progressive** movement formed in the 1890s in order to address various problems and enact reform.

However, when historians have tried to define it, they have run up against many different opinions from within the Progressive movement itself.

In general, the Progressives wanted the following things:

- regulation of wealth
- fair treatment of citizens
- efficiency and sanitation.



While Progressives had many things in common, there were also differences, making defining the movement difficult.



As a movement that was for the people rather than big business, how do we account for Wilson, a “Progressive” president, who only grudgingly supported women’s suffrage? How about the “Progressive” businessman who supported economic regulation, but did not believe in the rights of man? Movements are rarely as neat and easily defined as we would like them to be.

**How would you define the Progressive movement?**



# Progressive ideology





# How did the movement start?

The movement started at the local level. Workers wanted better pay, conditions and protection from big businesses.

Others, especially among the Protestant middle class, wanted to rid city governments of corruption. They wanted to apply Frederick Taylor's ideas of **scientific management** and efficiency to government in order to provide better services.

There were also movements for women's rights and equality for African Americans. These groups were all broadly termed "Progressive."





Robert “Fighting Bob” La Follette was elected Governor of Wisconsin in 1900 and made significant reforms, including regulating banks, taxing corporations and introducing graduated **income tax**.



Wisconsin was called “the laboratory of democracy” by **Theodore Roosevelt**. The “Wisconsin Idea” was adopted by other governors, including **Woodrow Wilson** of New Jersey.

**Graduated income tax is still in use today.  
Do you think it is a fair law? Why?**



