

The Progressive Era

Part Three



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*.



Theodore Roosevelt, a colonel in the Spanish-American War, became Governor of New York in 1898. He carried out his version of the Wisconsin idea and rooted out corruption.



However, a New York **political “boss”** did not care for Roosevelt’s moralizing.

He was able to arrange for Roosevelt to fill the seat of the Vice Presidency, considered a weak position, as **William McKinley’s** running mate in the 1900 election.

Why might Roosevelt have struggled to reform government from his position as Vice President?

However, President McKinley was **assassinated** in office, leaving Roosevelt the new president of the United States. With him Progressivism had reached the national stage.

With Roosevelt in office, followed by Presidents Taft and Wilson, many progressive reforms were passed through Congress. These helped to:

- regulate business
- develop fairer treatment for citizens
- foster efficiency and remove corruption in all walks of life.





In 1908, Roosevelt decided not to run for a third term and nominated **William Taft** to run. Taft won, but was not seen as progressive enough by some Republicans.

Roosevelt announced he would run again in 1912, but Taft won the Republican nomination. Instead, Roosevelt formed his own party, the **Progressive Party**. It was also known as the **Bull Moose Party**.



However, the divided Republicans allowed the Democrats to take advantage, and their progressive candidate **Woodrow Wilson** was elected comfortably.

Why are these elections considered Progressive victories despite the presidential changes?





Food safety reforms





Roosevelt worked hard to curb the actions of **trusts**, which controlled 80% of U.S. industry by 1900.

The most significant antitrust legislation was the **Clayton Antitrust Act** passed by Wilson in 1914. It prevented price fixing, regulated mergers and acquisitions, and stopped other anti-competitive practices.



Woodrow Wilson also introduced the **Federal Reserve System** in 1913. This created the central banking system of the U.S. and is still the basis of the system used today.



Summary of reforms





Three Progressive Presidents



The Progressive era was a time of shifting lifestyles and public awareness. It resulted in numerous changes across a variety of different spheres.



Many of the progressive reforms were aimed at safety, fairness, and equality.

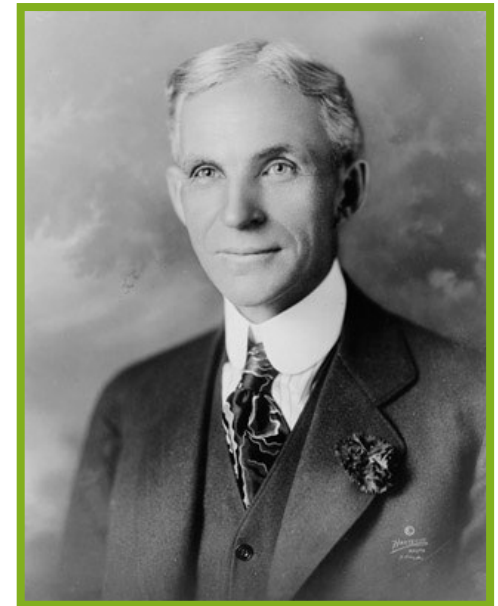
They were supported by a diverse group of people, both citizens and those wielding political and economic power and influence.

Can you think of an example for each reform?



Progressive reforms called on businesses to be responsible toward the people. They had to look after their employees better and have a greater responsibility to their customers.

“There is one rule for the industrialist and that is: Make the best quality of goods possible at the lowest cost possible, paying the highest wages possible.”



The vision of the “**noble industrialist**” is formed from this era. As an idea, Henry Ford’s quote still holds true today.



Was Progressivism a success?



