

America in the 20th Century

The Progressive Era

1. As the 20th Century dawned, wealthy families enjoyed the fruits of **Big Business**.
2. Most Americans endured the harsh realities of **sweatshops, slums, child labor, corruption** in government and business, **disease**, and racial **prejudice**.
3. Americans began to demand **change, equality, and reform**. From this, the **Progressive** Era was born.
4. Rewarding supporters with government jobs is called patronage, or the “**spoils system**.”

5. Under Civil Service, government workers are hired based on competitive **exams** rather than political **influence**.

6. The Populists supported

- An **income** tax based on **earnings**,
- A shorter **work** day,
- The **direct** election of U.S. Senators,
- **secret** ballot voting, and
- Other **election** reforms.

7. Some Americans, called **Socialists**, demanded an end to capitalism. They wanted to eliminate **private** ownership.
8. Progressives felt that they could improve capitalism by making government more responsive to social inequities. They wanted to **reform** government and business, insuring decent **working** conditions and **wages** and **fair** governmental rule.

9. Writers and journalists who exposed corruption in government and business were known as **muckrakers**. As Americans read their books and magazine articles, they became **aware** of the country's problems and demanded and supported **reforms** in business and government.
10. Election reforms supported by the Progressives included the **secret ballot**, the **initiative**, the **recall**, and the **direct primary**.

11. The 17th Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution gave Americans the ability to directly elect their Senators.

12. Millions of Americans worked for low pay and long hours in hazardous conditions.

13. Progressives wanted government to regulate business.

14. Jane Addams founded a settlement house to help immigrants and the poor of the cities.

15. Women wanted **suffrage** – the right to vote. The **19th** Amendment finally gave them this right.

16. Theodore “**Teddy**” Roosevelt was the first Progressive president. He called his plan the **Square Deal**.

17. The **16th** Amendment created a federal income tax.

18. Woodrow Wilson called his progressive plan the **New Freedom**.

19. The Federal **Reserve** System was one of Wilson's greatest achievements. He also established the Federal **Trade** Commission and signed into law the **Clayton** Anti-trust Act which were aimed at stopping unfair business practices.

20. None of the Progressive presidents did much to improve African-American **civil** rights.

21. The Progressive Era reflected the basic **optimism** of the American public – a belief that **any problem could be solved**.

World War I