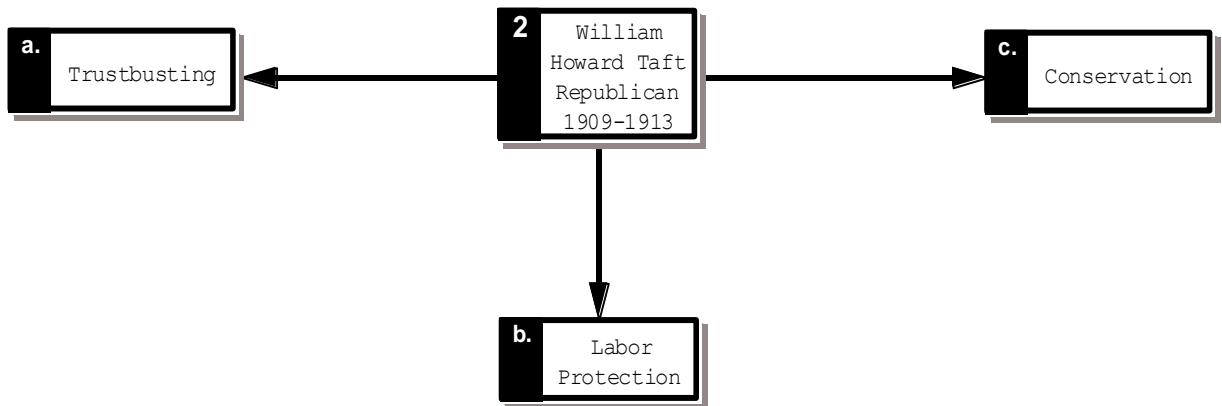
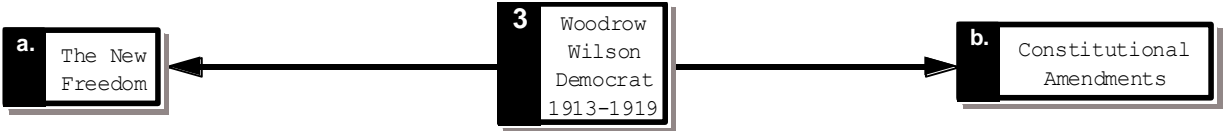
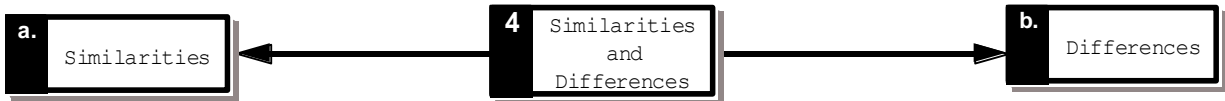


Progressive Presidents
1901-1918





Progressive Presidents
1901-1918



Roosevelt

Trust Busting

Roosevelt came to the presidency with a great deal of experience with reform – he had fought the Republican bosses in New York as a legislator and Governor. Roosevelt knew that giant corporations were here to stay, but he sought to go after the “bad” trusts that took advantage of their workers and cheated the public. Roosevelt believed that the government should either control the “bad” trusts or break them up.

Roosevelt tested the government’s ability to break up bad trusts in 1902, when he ordered the Attorney General to sue the Northern Securities Company for violating the Sherman Antitrust Act. In 1904, the Supreme Court ruled that the Northern Securities Company had violated the Sherman Antitrust Act by limiting trade – and it ordered the trust be broken up. Roosevelt earned the nickname “*trustbuster*” for his efforts, but he explained that he preferred to control and regulate trusts, not “bust” them.

The President’s Dream of a Successful Hunt.



Consumer Protection

After reading Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, Roosevelt sent federal inspectors that confirmed Sinclair's expose on the Chicago meat industry. As the public's rage grew over the unsanitary conditions described in *The Jungle*, Roosevelt pushed Congress to pass the ***Meat Inspection Act of 1906*** – forcing meat packing plants to open their doors to federal inspectors. The Meat Inspection Act of 1906 was followed up by the ***Pure Food and Drug Act***, which required food and drug companies to list the ingredients on their packages. Both measures help to protect American consumers (customers).

A NAUSEATING JOB, BUT IT MUST BE DONE.



Source: *Utica Saturday Globe*, 1906 (adapted)

Conservation

Roosevelt was alarmed at the depletion of America's wilderness during the Industrial Age. Roosevelt wanted to protect America's natural wonders, by regulating the forest and mining industries. Under Roosevelt, the government created some 170,000 acres of national parkland – a ***national park*** is an area set aside and run by the federal government for people to visit.

TAFT

Trust Busting

Taft continued Roosevelt's work by going after bad trusts – his efforts led to the breakup of the Standard Oil Company and the American Tobacco Company for violating free trade. Taft was successful in breaking up more trusts than even Roosevelt.

Labor Protections

Taft signed into law an eight-hour workday for federal employees, and under Taft the Department of Labor set up a bureau to deal with the problems of working children.



Conservation

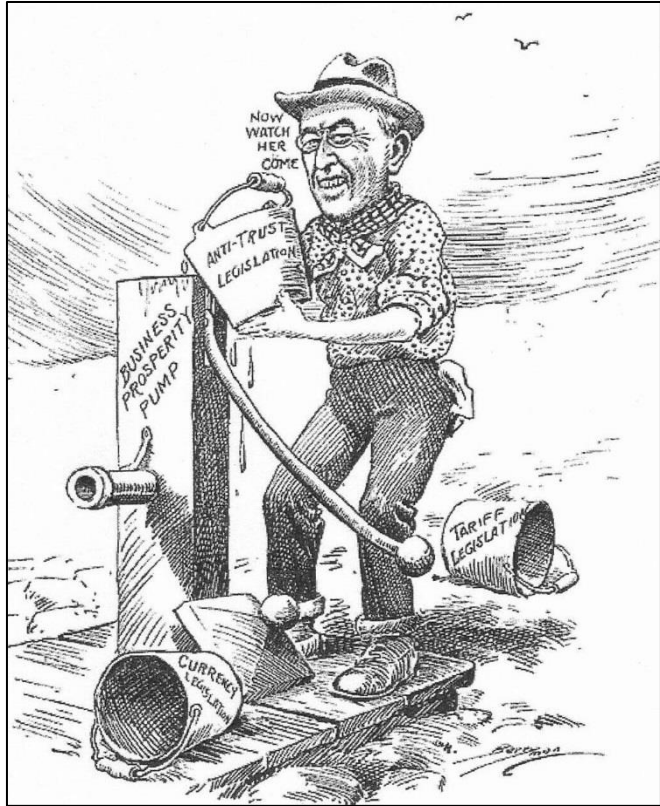
Unfortunately for Taft, his firing of the chief of the US Forest Service during a dispute over the sale of wilderness land signaled to progressives that Taft would always side with business at the expense of the environment. Progressives accused Taft of blocking conservation efforts that were begun by Roosevelt. Roosevelt felt that Taft had betrayed his reform agenda – and chose to run against Taft for the Republican nomination for president in 1912.



Wilson

The New Freedom

Wilson believed that the government needed to protect America's free enterprise – the ability for businesses to compete with one another. To regulate banking, Congress passed the **Federal Reserve Act**, the act put into place a nationwide system of federal banks. The system gave the government the power to raise or lower interest rates and control the money supply. To ensure fair competition among businesses, Wilson persuaded Congress to create the **Federal**



Trade Commission (FTC), the FTC was given the power to investigate companies and order them to stop practices that destroys competition.

Constitutional Amendments

Under Wilson's presidency Congress approved the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Amendments. Wilson helped secure passage of the **16th Amendment**, which imposed the graduated income tax – forcing wealthy millionaires to pay a high percentage of their annual salary to the federal government. Temperance crusaders finally convinced Congress to pass the **18th Amendment** – making it illegal to sell and consume alcohol in the United States. The **19th Amendment** was approved in 1920, guaranteeing women the right to vote. This amendment doubled the number of eligible voters in the United States.