The Progressive Spirit of Reform
• The Gilded Age and the Progressive Movement

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Main Ideas

1. Political corruption was common during the Gilded Age.
2. Progressives pushed for reforms to improve living conditions.
3. Progressive reforms expanded the voting power of citizens.

The Big Idea

From the late 1800s through the early 1900s, the Progressive movement addressed problems in American society.
In the late 1800s city and county politics were dominated by political machines—powerful organizations that used both legal and illegal methods to get their candidates elected to public office.

Political machines were run by leaders called bosses who frequently traded favors for votes.
The Tammany Ring

This political cartoon shows a ring of corrupt politicians known as Tammany Hall. The cartoonist shows how each person blames the one next to him for the corruption in government. As a result of political machines like Tammany Hall, many Americans began demanding political reforms.
Cleaning Up Political Corruption

- Many people thought that the corruption extended to the presidential administration of Ulysses S. Grant
- Americans began calling for changes in the civil service, the government job system.
- They disliked the *spoils system, the practice of giving jobs to the winning candidates’ supporters*
- government corruption was so widespread that reformers demanded that only qualified people be given government jobs.
A group of reformers known as **Progressives** were also working to improve society and tried to solve problems caused by rapid industrial and urban growth.

Some journalists urged Progressives to action by writing stories that vividly described problems in U.S. society.

nicknamed **muckrakers** because they “raked up” and exposed the muck, or filth, of society.
In 1890 Jacob Riis published How the Other Half Lives. The book was a collection of photographs of residents and workers in New York City tenement buildings, including families and immigrants. The conditions of life that Riis showed in his photographs, like this one, shocked many wealthier Americans.

Sweatshops were located in tenements to avoid the labor laws that affected factories. Workers crowded into the small, stuffy spaces.

This 12-year-old boy said he was 16 in order to keep his job of pulling threads.

Sweatshops turned out large amounts of clothing at low prices.
Reform Successes

- A major goal of Progressive reformers was to help the urban poor.
- City planners helped design safer building codes and opened new public parks.
- Civil engineers improved transportation by paving streets and building bridges.
- Sanitation engineers tried to solve problems concerning pollution, waste disposal, and impure water supplies.
- Progressives also believed that improving education would lead to a better society.
Voting Reforms

- Seventeenth Amendment - allowed Americans to vote directly for U.S. senators.
- A procedure called the initiative allowed voters to propose a new law by collecting signatures on a petition.
- referendum, permitted voters to approve or reject a law that had already been proposed or passed by a government body.

Biography

Robert M. La Follette
1855–1925

Born in rural Wisconsin, Robert M. La Follette began his political career at a young age. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1884, becoming the youngest member of Congress. He soon earned the nickname “Fighting Bob” for his energetic speaking style and his active support for progressive reforms. After serving as Wisconsin’s governor and as U.S. senator, La Follette ran for president as the Progressive Party candidate in 1924. He won his home state and received about 16 percent of the popular vote.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expansion</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Primaries</td>
<td>Voters choose candidates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recall</td>
<td>Voters can remove an official from office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiatives</td>
<td>Voters can propose laws by petition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referendum</td>
<td>Voters can overrule a law.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Amendment</td>
<td>Senators are elected directly by voters.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. **Recall**  What was the main goal of political machines during the Gilded Age?
b. **Draw Conclusions**  Why do you think some immigrants supported political machines?
c. **Predict**  Do you think the system of testing created by the Pendleton Civil Service Act would work to reduce corruption in the spoils system? Why or why not?

2. a. **Identify**  Who were muckrakers, and what effect did they have on reform?
b. **Explain**  How did Progressives try to improve education?
c. **Evaluate**  Which progressive reform do you think was most important? Why?

3. a. **Describe**  What new ideas and practices were introduced to give voters more power?
b. **Draw Conclusions**  How did progressive reforms limit the power of political machines?
Main Ideas

1. Reformers attempted to improve conditions for child laborers.
2. Unions and reformers took steps to improve safety in the workplace and to limit working hours.

The Big Idea

In the early 1900s, Progressives and other reformers focused on improving conditions for American workers.
Children did many jobs in the late 1800s.

- Boys sold newspapers and shined shoes on the streets.
- Girls often cooked or cleaned for boarders staying with their families.
- Girls also worked at home with their mothers, sewing clothes or making handicrafts.
Calls for Reform

• As reporters published shocking accounts of working conditions for children, more people became aware of the problem.

Young children did much of the work in the American factories of the late 1800s. They were paid less than adult workers.

Why did some parents want their children to work?
Hot air blew from the glass ovens into the working space.

Adult workers closely supervised child workers.

Workers wore no protection against the fires and machinery.

Temperatures in the ovens used to make glass were more than 2,000° Fahrenheit.

Bending and lifting often left young workers tired and sore after their long day's work.
• The **Triangle Shirtwaist Fire** and similar accidents led to the passage of laws improving factory safety standards.

• Labor leaders and reformers also fought for **workers’ compensation laws**, which guaranteed a portion of lost wages to workers injured on the job.
Labor Organizations

• Labor unions were also a strong force for improving working conditions

• **capitalism**, an economic system in which private businesses run most industries and competition determines the price of goods

• **socialism**— a system in which the government owns and operates a country’s means of production.

• **William “Big Bill” Haywood**, -started the socialist union was called the **Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**. Its goal was to organize all workers into one large union that would overthrow capitalism.
Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. **Recall**  What jobs did child laborers often hold?
   b. **Explain**  Why did businesses employ children in factories?
   c. **Elaborate**  Why do you think reformers began to demand improvements to child labor conditions?

2. a. **Identify**  What events led to the movement to improve workplace safety?
   b. **Make Inferences**  Why did the Industrial Workers of the World frighten some people?
   c. **Predict**  What conflicts might arise between supporters of capitalism and socialism?
Main Ideas

1. Women fought for temperance and the right to vote.
2. African American reformers challenged discrimination and called for equality.
3. Progressive reforms failed to benefit all minorities.

The Big Idea

The Progressive movement made advances for the rights of women and some minorities.
• In the mid-1800s many reformers blamed social problems such as family violence and criminal behavior on
  – Urbanization
  – Immigration
  – alcohol consumption
• Many groups took up the cause of **temperance, or avoidance of alcohol**
• In 1919 the efforts led to the passage of the **Eighteenth Amendment**, banning the production, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages throughout the United States.
The Right to Vote

• Women reformers also fought for **suffrage, or the right to vote**

• the women’s suffrage movement began to gain national support in the 1890s.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony founded the **National American Woman Suffrage Association** (NAWSA) in 1890 to promote the cause of women’s suffrage.

In 1919 the U.S. Congress passed the **Nineteenth Amendment**, granting American women the right to vote.
African Americans Challenge Discrimination

- **Booker T. Washington**- Born into slavery, he became a respected educator while in his twenties. He encouraged African Americans to improve their educational and economic well-being.
- **Ida B. Wells**— Journalist wrote articles about the unequal education available to African American children.
- **W. E. B. Du Bois** and other reformers founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an organization that called for economic and educational equality for African Americans.
Fighting Discrimination

Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois had very different views on how African Americans should handle discrimination.

“Our greatest danger is that in the great leap from slavery to freedom we may overlook the fact that the masses of us are to live by the productions of our hands, and fail to keep in mind that we shall prosper in proportion as we learn to dignify and glorify common labour and put brains and skill into the common occupations of life... It is at the bottom of life we must begin, and not at the top.”

—Booker T. Washington

“Is it possible, and probable, that nine millions of men can make effective progress in economic lines if they are deprived of political rights, made a servile caste,* and allowed only the most meager chance for developing their exceptional men? If history and reason give any distinct answer to these questions, it is an emphatic No.”

—W. E. B. Du Bois

*lower social rank

Finding Main Ideas  What is the primary difference between the views of Washington and Du Bois?
Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. **Identify** What did the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Amendments accomplish?
   b. **Summarize** How did Alice Paul and the National Woman’s Party try to draw attention to the issue of women’s suffrage?

2. a. **Identify** What role did Ida B. Wells play in reform efforts for African Americans?
   b. **Contrast** How did Booker T. Washington differ from other African American leaders?
   c. **Evaluate** Do you think the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was successful in fighting discrimination? Explain.

3. a. **Describe** What discrimination did Chinese Americans face?
   b. **Summarize** How were some minority groups overlooked by the Progressive movement?
The Progressive Presidents
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Main Ideas

1. Theodore Roosevelt’s progressive reforms tried to balance the interests of business, consumers, and laborers.

2. William Howard Taft angered Progressives with his cautious reforms, while Woodrow Wilson enacted far-reaching banking and antitrust reforms.

The Big Idea

American presidents in the early 1900s did a great deal to promote progressive reforms.
Roosevelt’s Progressive Reforms

• Theodore Roosevelt became president when President McKinley was assassinated by Leon Czolgosz.

• Roosevelt believed that the interests of businessmen, laborers, and consumers should be balanced for the public good.
• Roosevelt made regulating big business a top goal of his administration

• **Pure Food and Drug Act** - prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transport of mislabeled or contaminated food and drugs.

• Roosevelt’s love of the outdoors inspired him to join other Progressives in supporting **conservation** - the protection of nature and its resources
Taft Angers Progressives

• Taft thought Roosevelt had claimed more power than a president was constitutionally allowed and chose to move cautiously toward reform and regulation.

• He also signed the Payne-Aldrich Tariff of 1909 which reduced some rates on imported goods, but it raised others.
Furious with Taft, Roosevelt decided to run for president again in 1912. After Taft won the Republican nomination, Roosevelt and his followers formed the **Progressive Party**—nicknamed the Bull Moose Party. The split between Taft and Roosevelt divided the Republican vote, and Democratic candidate **Woodrow Wilson** won the electoral vote by a wide margin.
Wilson’s Reforms

• Wilson backed the Underwood Tariff Act of 1913, which lowered tariffs and introduced a version of the modern income tax.

• The new tax was made possible in 1913 by the ratification of the **Sixteenth Amendment** - allows the federal government to impose direct taxes on citizens’ incomes.

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**The Progressive Amendments, 1909–1920**

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>Federal income tax</td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Senators elected by people rather than state legislatures</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Manufacture, sale, and transport of alcohol prohibited</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>Women’s suffrage</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>1920</td>
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Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. Describe How did Theodore Roosevelt support progressive reforms?
   b. Analyze Why did many Americans support conservation?
   c. Evaluate Do you think Roosevelt’s reforms benefited the nation? Why or why not?

2. a. Identify What was the Progressive Party? Why was it created?
   b. Compare and Contrast How were the administrations of William Howard Taft and Roosevelt similar, and how were they different?
   c. Evaluate Which president do you think had the biggest influence on progressive reform—Roosevelt, Taft, or Woodrow Wilson? Explain your choice.