

# The Progressive Era



## The American Nation

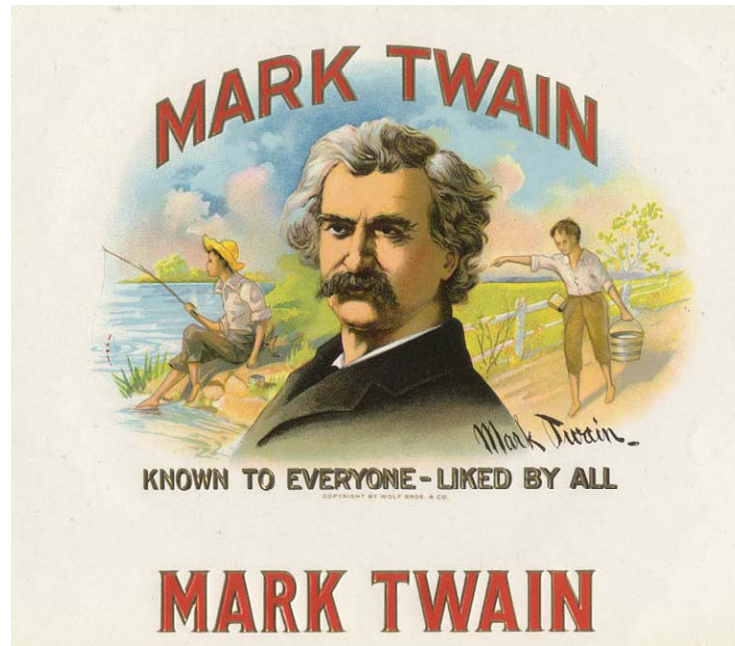
### Textbook Chapter 22

(Pages 628-654)

# 1- Reform and the Gilded Age

## Early Reforms

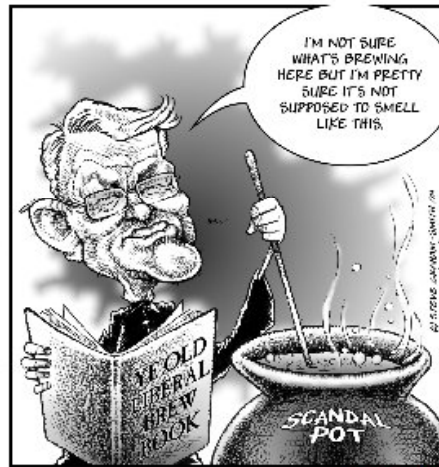
In the 1870's Mark Twain wrote The Gilded Age. The novel poked fun at greed and political corruption. The decades between 1870's and 1890's became known as the Gilded Age.



Click on the picture to learn more about Mark Twain.

During the Gilded Age, political power was split between the two major parties. The North was Republican and the South was Democrat. Many Americans worried about the growing power of special interest groups. Americans feared bankers and industrialists.

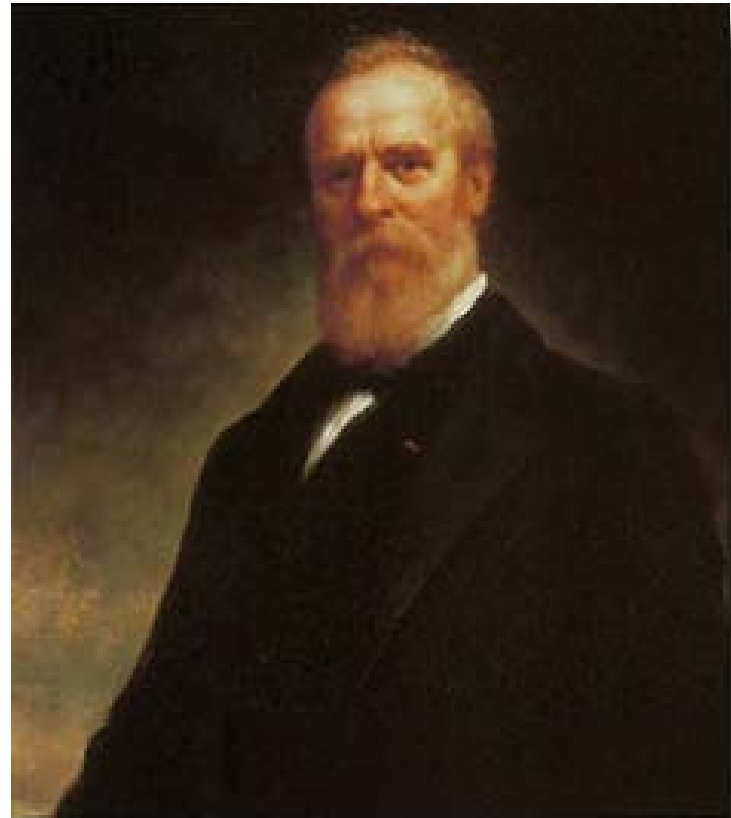




A second worry was political corruption and the spoils system. Under the spoils system politicians would appoint jobs to their friends that had their own motives. Giving jobs to loyal supporters of a political campaign was known as patronage. Patronage often led to corruption. Most people who were appointed to these jobs had no skills.

**President  
Rutherford Hayes**

**called for reform of patronage in 1877. More than 200 appointed political officials received high salaries for their jobs.**





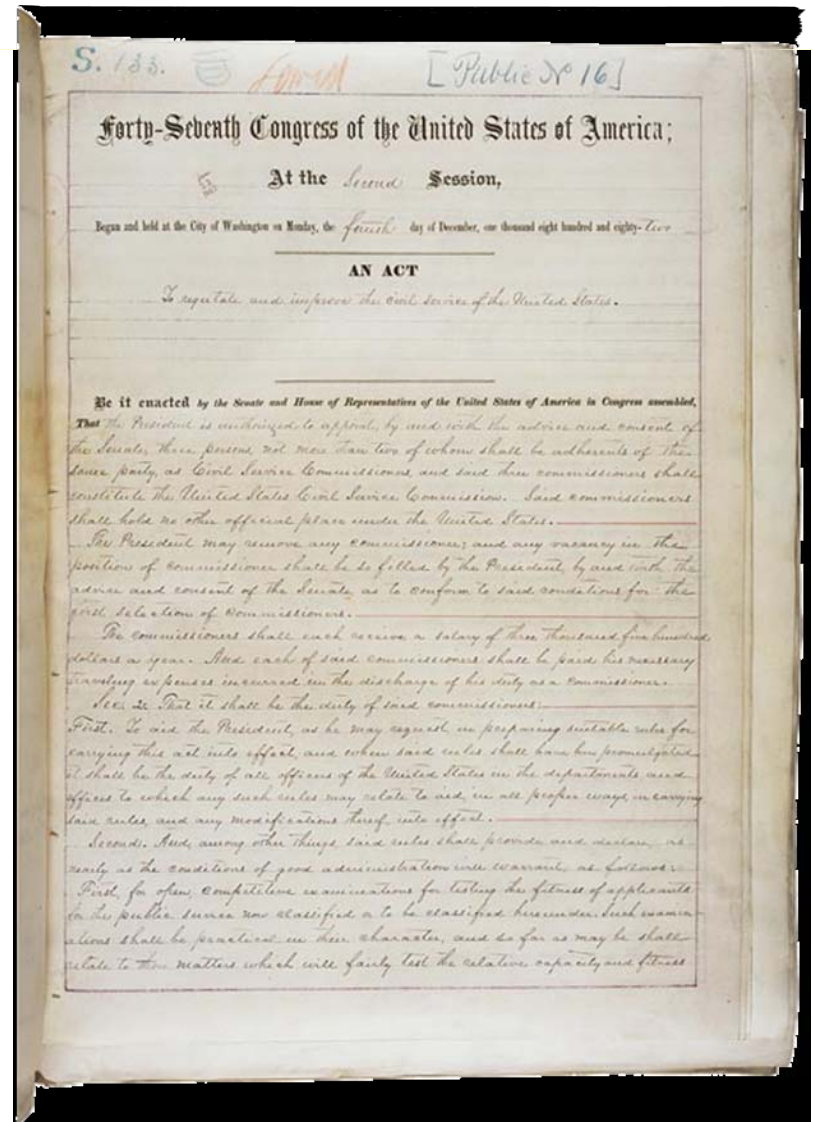
## James Garfield

became President in 1881. Garfield thought people should get political jobs based on **merit** or ability, not politics. Garfield was not very successful in stopping patronage. Two months later Garfield was murdered!

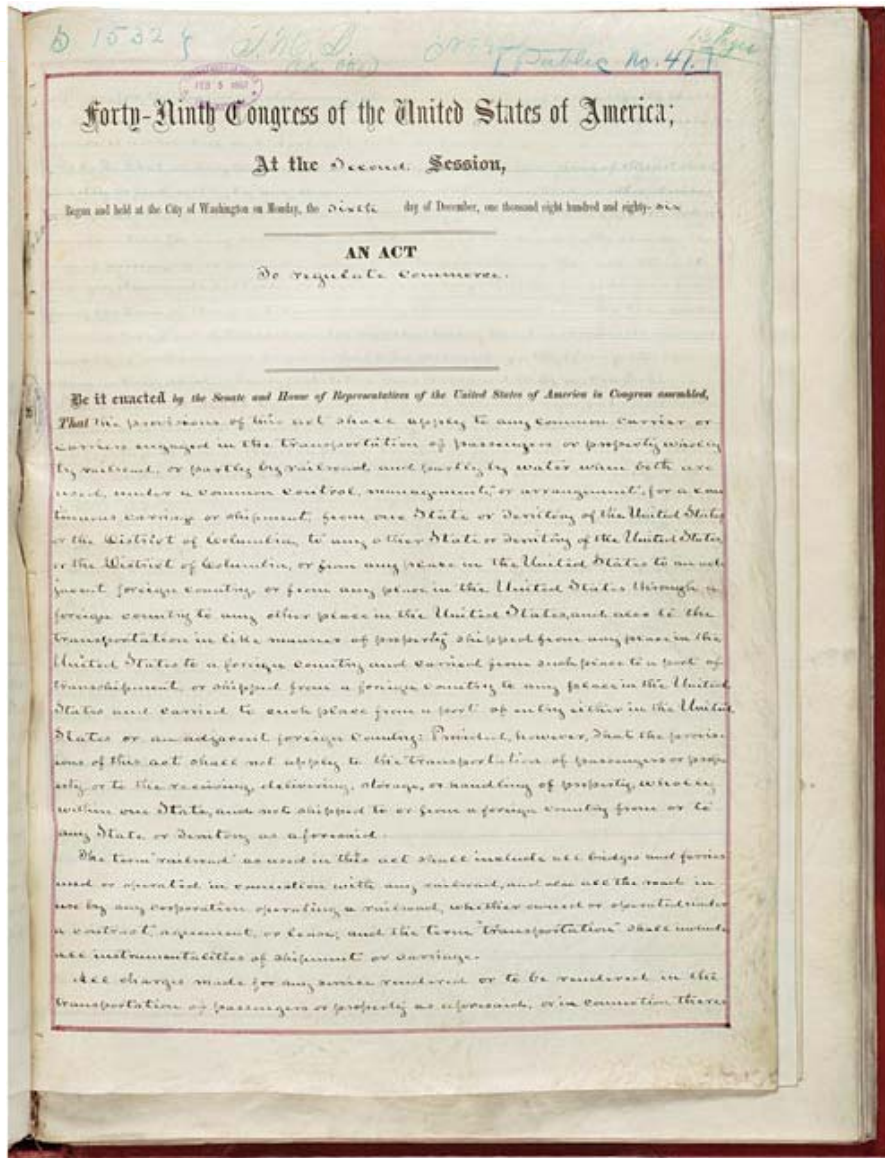


Upon Garfield's death, Chester Arthur became the President. Arthur was the Vice President. Arthur used the spoils system and was known for his fine wardrobe rather than his political ideas

In 1883, Congress passed the Pendleton Act. It created a Civil Service Commission to conduct exams for Federal Jobs. By 1900 the Commission controlled 40% of all political jobs. The patronage system was disappearing.







In 1877, President Grover Cleveland signed the Interstate Commerce Act. This act forbids paying money in the form or rebates or bribes to pass laws in someone's favor. This act set up the Interstate Commerce Commission or ICC to oversee the railroads.

In 1888, President Cleveland lost his bid for re-election. Benjamin Harrison became the President. In 1890, Sherman signed the Sherman Antitrust Act. This act did not allow other businesses to limit competition.



Grover  
Cleveland



Benjamin  
Harrison

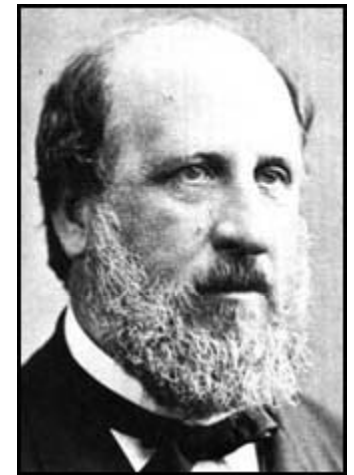


[The Sherman Antitrust Act](#) was used to stop labor unions rather than break up trusts. It was later used to try to break up monopolies of companies. A [monopoly](#) is when one company or person owned all of one type of business exclusively.



## 2-The Progressives

Powerful politicians, known as **political bosses** came to rule many cities. They controlled all the work and demanded payoffs from businesses. One such boss was known as **Boss William Tweed**. During the 1860's and 1870's Tweed cheated New York out of 100 million dollars. Faced with prison time Tweed fled to Spain.





**HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Segreto Helps Sow Champs Of Wrestling**

By Gregg Sarra

One man will be particularly interested in the fortunes of three wrestlers this weekend. He will watch with trepidation as each goes through the rigorous state wrestling championships.

Who could blame him? Dr. Frank Segreto has been an adamant supporter of high school athletics for 20 years. He has a vested interest in the performance of Hauppauge's Dan Song, Freeport's Carlos Patrick and St. John the Baptist's Jason Forrest.

Segreto operated on all three wrestlers this season. Three surgeries, three championships. Not a bad batting average.

Song captured the 130-pound Suffolk title, Patrick earned the 160-pound Nassau crown and Forrest won the CHSAA state championship. All three qualified for the New York State Public High Schools Athletic Association tournament, which begins tomorrow at the Onondaga War Memorial in Syracuse.

"These guys are champions to begin with," said Segreto, who is also the site doctor who oversees the Suffolk tournament. "They had the heart and mind to focus on their goal. They were on their way to a championship before the injuries derailed them. My job was to get them back out there as quickly and safely and painlessly as possible. You can't get a surgical result like this from just anyone. You need an individual with a certain personality and character. These guys had what it takes to get back in the game."

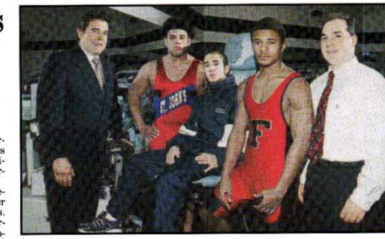


Photo by Joseph D. Sullivan  
Dr. Frank Segreto, left, and physician's assistant Angelo Rizzi, right, with the wrestlers they helped, from left: Jason Forrest, Dan Song and Carlos Patrick.

Forrest and Patrick were injured within a week of one another during the football season. Forrest suffered a complete tear of his medial collateral ligament, a meniscus tear and an anterior cruciate ligament tear when an opposing player fell on his right knee. During surgery, a small cartilage tear was discovered. Segreto opted for a reconstruction to give Forrest the best chance at returning to the mat.

"I was thankful that Dr. Segreto had my best interests in mind," said Forrest, a two-time CHSAA state champ at 275 pounds with 75 career wins. "I was on a brace with crutches for six weeks during therapy. But I knew I could come all the way back."

Forrest returned in grand fashion. He pinned four opponents in 6:13 during the CHSAA state tournament.

Patrick's comeback was less likely. He needed a complete reconstruction in his left knee for a torn ACL in Central Islip's first football game of the season. "I rehabbed every day," said Patrick, who became the second wrestler in history to win county titles in Nassau and Suffolk. "I don't think many people thought I'd make it back to wrestle. But I knew I would."

Patrick earned the 100th win of his career when he decimated Joe Selby of Mineola, 8-3, in the final.

Song injured his knee two weeks before the Suffolk League IV tournament. He couldn't fully extend his right knee and an MRI revealed a bucket-handle tear of the meniscus. The meniscus was removed and Song worked diligently with Hauppauge trainer Dave Smith. "I have full extension now," Song said, "and a shot at a state title."

They can thank Segreto for the opportunity.

Many good government leagues were formed. Their goal was to try to clean up corruption. The major weapon they used to fight corruption was the press (newspapers.)

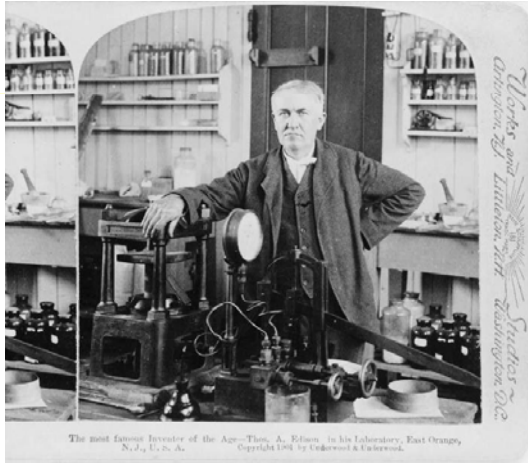
Many journalists became known as Muckrakers. People said they raked the dirt, or muck, and exposed it to public view. They wrote about public corruption.



Ida Tarbell, targeted the unfair practices of big businesses. Muckrakers helped change public opinion. Now middle-class people did not have to be ignored.



Ida Tarbell



Thomas Edison

The light bulb

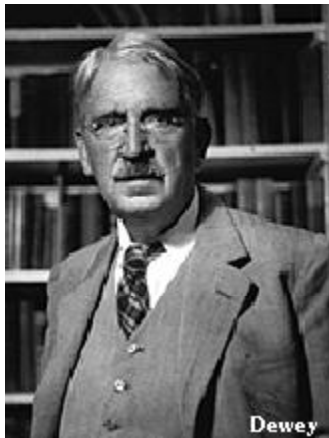


Garrett Morgan

The Traffic Signal

The **Progressives** were forward-thinking reformers that wanted to improve American life. They were not a single group of people that singled out one aim. They backed various causes. Advances in science also inspired Progressives. Progressive reformers believed in the **public interest**, or for the good of the people. They said the good of the people must not be sacrificed for the greed of a few bosses.

Progressives stress the importance of education. John Dewey wanted to reform schools. He encouraged students to ask questions and to work together to solve problems. In the mid-1880's women the reform movement began to press for the right to vote (suffrage.)

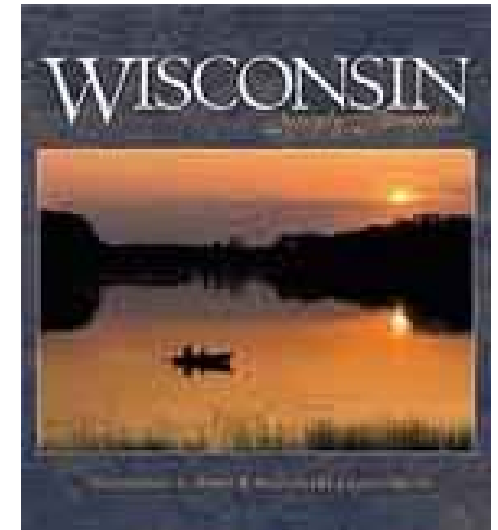


John Dewey



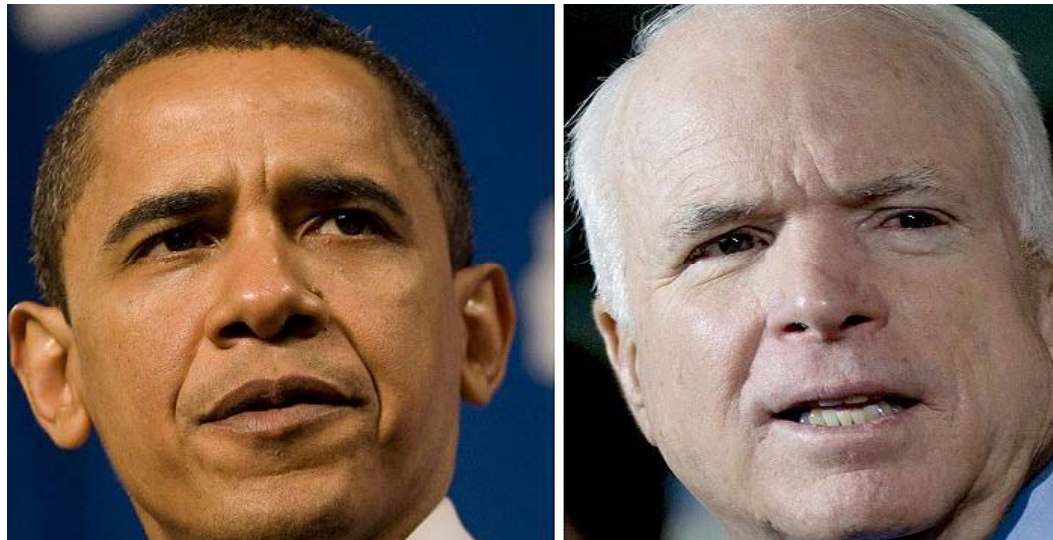


Progressive reformers such as [Robert La Follette](#) devised a program called the [Wisconsin Idea](#). Under the Wisconsin Idea, railroad rates were lowered in order to promote increased traffic and thus help the consumer and railroad owner.

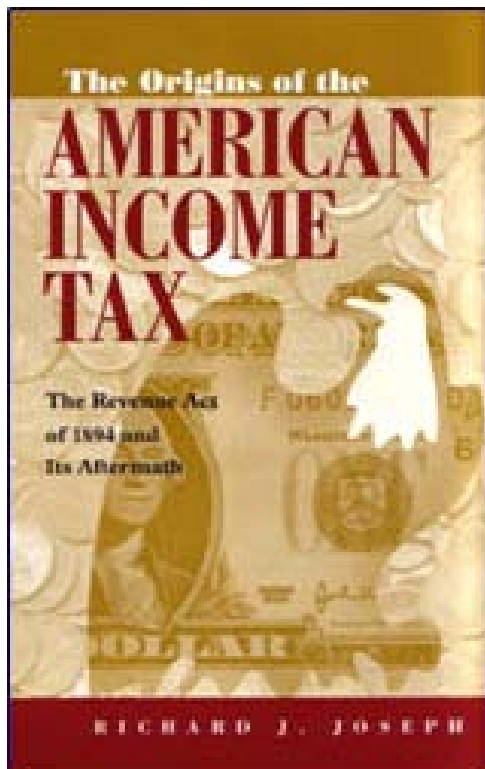


[Robert La Follette](#)

Progressive reformers pressed for primaries. In a primary a voter would choose their party's candidate for a general election. Wisconsin was the first state to adopt the primary. Progressives urged states to adopt an initiative, which gave the voters the right to put a bill in front of their state legislation. They also passed a referendum which allowed them to vote the bill into law at the next election.



Another Progressive measure was the recall. The recall allowed the voters to remove an elected official in the middle of their term if they were corrupt. Most reformers supported a graduated income tax which taxed people at different incomes at different rates. In 1913 Congress ratified the Sixteenth Amendment. It gave Congress the power to impose an income tax.



### The 16th Amendment: Compare it to Section 61

#### 16th Amendment:

The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived . . .

#### Section 61:

Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, gross income means all income from whatever source derived, including (but not limited to) the following items:

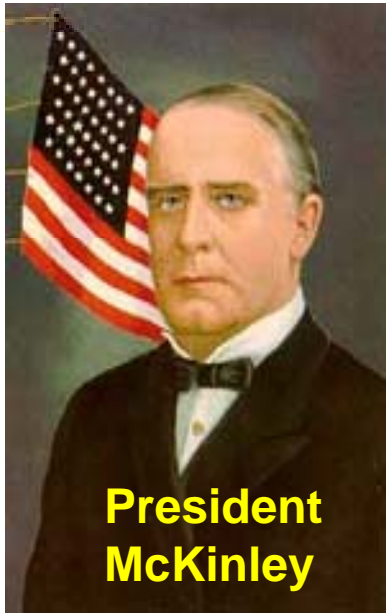
Would you agree that Section 61 taxes "everything the Constitution allows"?

And, therefore . . .

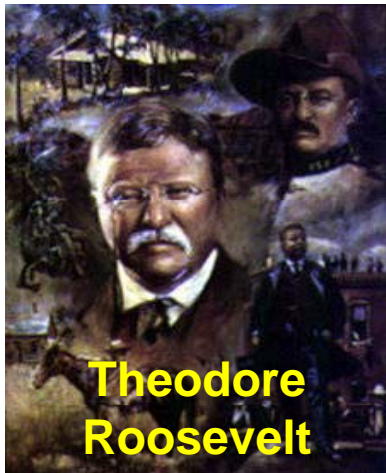
- The section 61 list is superfluous
- Everything in the Code other than section 61 excludes, defers, deducts, characterizes, times, or allocates: but nothing else "includes."

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### 3- Progressives in the White House

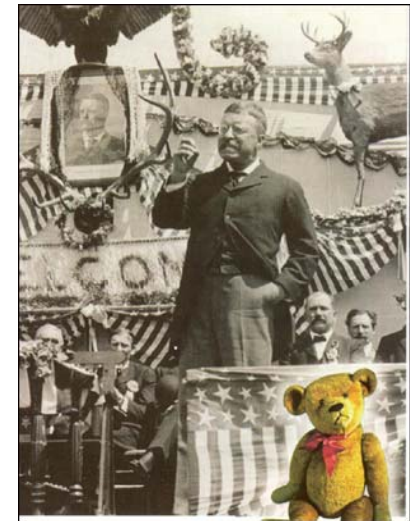


President  
McKinley



Theodore  
Roosevelt

In the 1898, when the United States went to war against Spain Theodore Roosevelt fought in Cuba. Roosevelt became a hero. When he returned home that same year, he was elected the governor of New York. Roosevelt worked for Progressive reforms. In September 1901, an assassin's shot President McKinley, at age 42 Roosevelt became the nation's youngest president.



Roosevelt promised to take control of large trusts. The trust was a large company or corporation. In 1902, Roosevelt ordered the Attorney General, the government's chief lawyer, to bring lawsuits against many companies. Roosevelt was successful in breaking up the large monopolies. Some business leaders called Roosevelt a trustbuster. A trustbuster was somebody who broke up large trusts or companies.



**Roosevelt provides a better pay and shorter working hours for the coal miners in Pennsylvania in 1902. Roosevelt was the first President to side with the working class people and not with the large corporations or businesses. Working men and women around the world cheered him.**



In 1904, Roosevelt ran for the President in his own right. During his campaign, he promised Americans a Square Deal. Roosevelt felt that many different groups (including, farmers and consumers, workers and owners) should have an equal opportunity to succeed. This promise of a Square Deal helped Roosevelt way in a landslide victory.



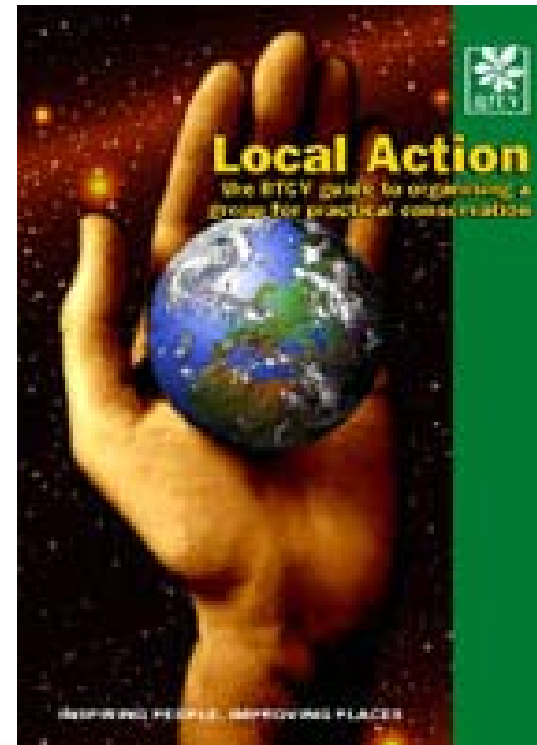
Square deal  
dance

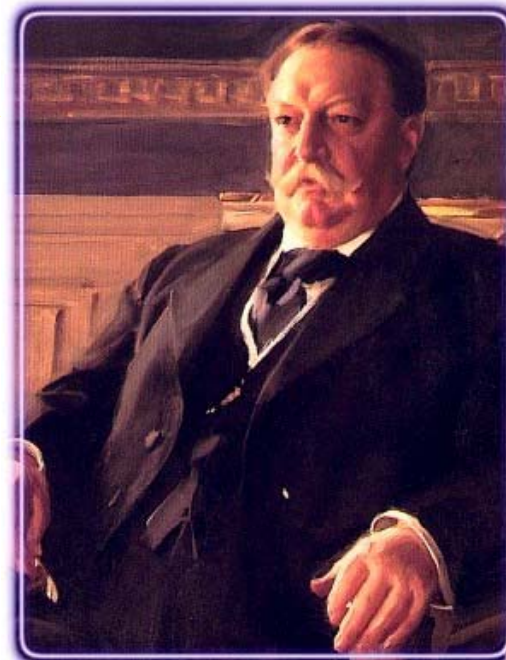


Roosevelt had read Upton Sinclair's novel, [\*The Jungle\*](#). This novel presented the terrible working conditions that people had to face in the meat packing industry. Roosevelt fought against the big companies and supported the people for better working conditions. Roosevelt improved conditions for medicines and the food industry. In 1906, Congress passed [The Pure Food and Drug Act](#). It required food and drug makers to list ingredients on their packages.



Roosevelt was alarmed about the destruction of the American wilderness. Roosevelt loved the outdoors and objected to this destruction of the land. He believed in conservation, the protection of natural resources. 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 the people to visit.





[William Howard Taft](#)

In 1908, Roosevelt decided not to run for reelection. Instead, he supported [William Howard Taft](#), his Secretary of War. With the Roosevelt's backing, Taft won the election. Taft broke up more trusts than Roosevelt. He supported [income tax](#), approved new safety regulations for mines, and signed laws sending an eight hour day for government employees. Taft was not liked by the people because of its high taxes and handling over a dispute in the sale of land in [Alaska](#).

In 1912, when Roosevelt returned from [Africa](#) he decided to run for re-election. Woodrow Wilson ran against Roosevelt. Roosevelt's supporters became known as the [Bull Moose Party](#). Roosevelt lost the election to Woodrow Wilson. Wilson's first goal was to break up trusts into smaller companies. By doing this he would restore America's competition that once existed in the American economy. He called his program the [New Freedom](#).

Wilson worked hard with Congress to pass laws that would encourage competition. To regulate banking, Congress passed the [Federal Reserve Act of 1913](#). This act set up a nationwide system of [Federal banks](#). The system gave the government the power to raise or lower interest rates and control the money supply.

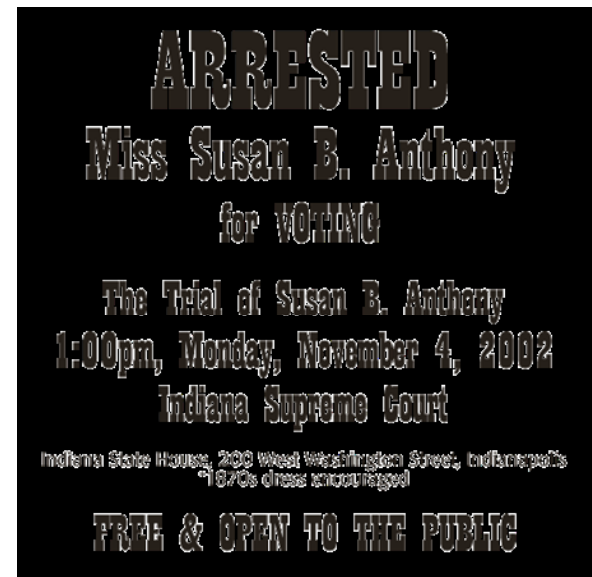


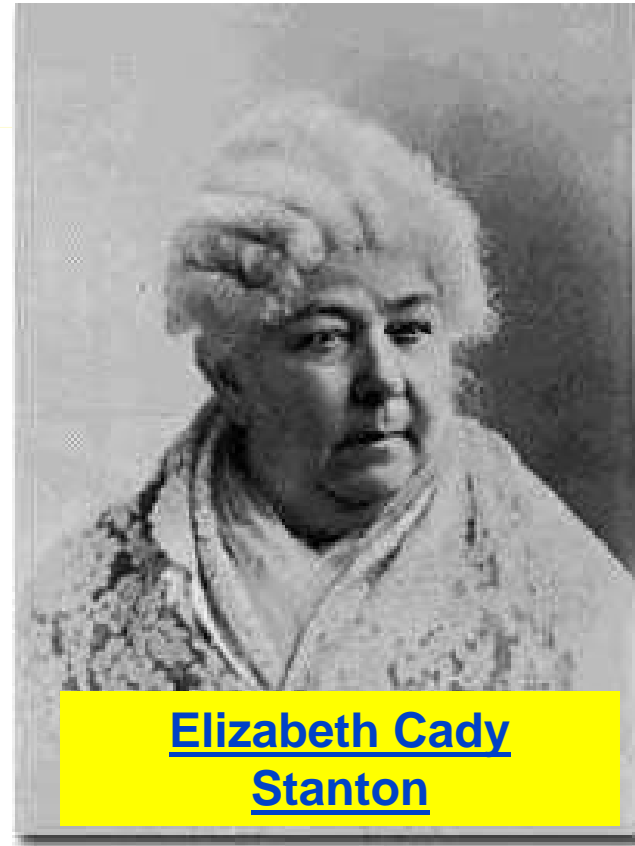
To ensure fair competition, President Wilson persuaded Congress to create the [Federal Trade Commission](#) in 1914. The FTC has the power to investigate companies and order them to stop using business practices that destroyed competitors.



## 4- Women Win Reforms

1872 Susan B. Anthony broke the law. Her crime was voting. Along with fifteen other women, she was arrested in Rochester, New York. Anthony was robbed of the fundamental privilege of voting because she was a woman. A judge ordered her to pay \$100.00 as a fine. Anthony refused and never paid the fine.





The struggle to get women the vote, or **suffrage**, went back many years. In 1869 **Susan B. Anthony** and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** formed the **National Woman Suffrage Association**. This group worked to amend the Constitution to give women the vote. Anthony opposed the **Fifteenth Amendment** because it gave the vote to African-American man but not to women.

## NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE

THE STORY OF ELIZABETH CADY STANTON  
AND SUSAN B. ANTHONY



GEOFFREY C. WARD AND KEN BURNS  
AUTHORS OF THE CIVIL WAR AND BASEBALL

**In the early 1900's, the women's suffrage movement gained strength. More than 5 million women were earning wages outside the home. Women were paid less than men. In the late 1800's, women gained to the right to vote in four western states: Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Idaho. In the early 1900's more than 5 million women were earning wages outside the home. Although women were paid less than men, wages give women a sense of power.**

**Carrie Chapman Catt** took over the fight for women's rights after Elizabeth Cady and Susan B. Anthony died. She became the head of the **National American Woman Suffrage Association**. People who campaigned for women's rights were called **suffragists**. In January, 1917, **Alice Paul** and other women protested the right for women to vote at the **White House**. Paul was put in jail for seven months for obstructing the sidewalk.



**Carrie Chapman Catt**





The early 1918, President Wilson agreed to support the Suffrage Amendment. Finally in 1919, Congress passed the [Nineteenth Amendment](#) guaranteeing women the right to vote. For years, women struggled to open doors to jobs and education. Most states refused to grant women licenses to practice and professions such as law, medicine, or college teaching.

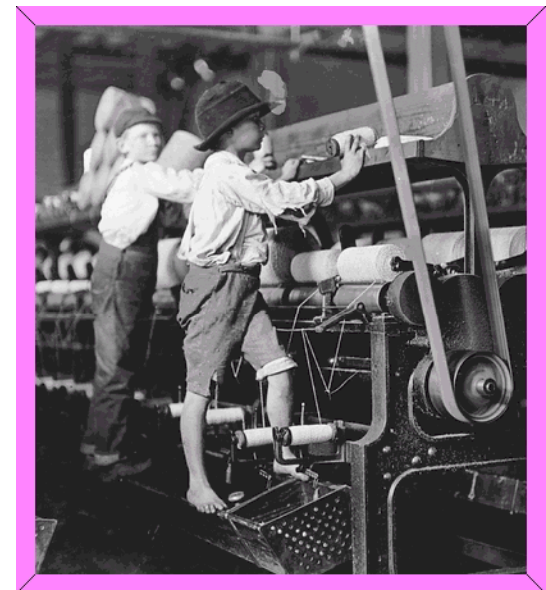


Despite obstacles, a few women manage to get the higher education needed to enter the professions. In 1877, [Boston University](#) granted the first Ph.D. to a woman. By the year 1900, about 1, 000 women lawyers and 7, 000 women doctors work in practice. Many women called attention to the social ills of American society. [Florence Kelly](#) investigated conditions in sweatshops.

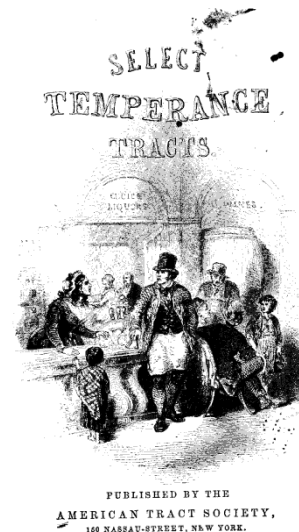
She became the first chief factory inspector for the state of Illinois. Kelly's chief concern was [child labor](#). She organized a [boycott](#) of products made with child labor. Many women joined women's clubs that have sprung up in the 1800's. They read books and plays. They focused on improving their minds. Club women raised money for libraries, schools and parks.



Florence Kelly



Faced with racial barriers, African-American women form their own clubs, such as the **National Association of College Women**. These members crusaded against lynching in racial separation, as well as for suffrage and other causes. The **Temperance Movement** against the use of beverages began in the early 1800's. Women reformers were a major force in the crusade against alcohol. Many wives and mothers recognize alcohol was a threat to their families. Drinking was a frequent cause of violence and economic hardship in the home.



In 1874, [Francis Willard](#) became the leader of the WCTU or the [Women's Christian Temperance Union](#) or **WCTU**. She worked to educate people about the evils of alcohol. She urged states to pass laws banning the sale of liquor. After 1917, support for such an amendment to end the sale of liquor grew. In that year the United States entered World War I. Congress and passed the [Eighteenth Amendment](#). The amendment made it illegal to sell alcoholic drinks anywhere and United States.



Prohibition license plate  
courtesy of Clem Ulfig.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES



[Francis Willard](#)

## African Americans

After reconstruction, African Americans still did not retain their rights and equality. Jim Crow Laws led to segregation in schools, trains, and other public places. In the 1890's more than 1,000 Black people were lynched, or murdered by mobs.



**Ida B. Wells**, a Black Journalist, in her Newspaper urged African Americans to protest these lynchings. She called for boycotts to streetcars and white owned stores. She spoke out despite threats to her life.

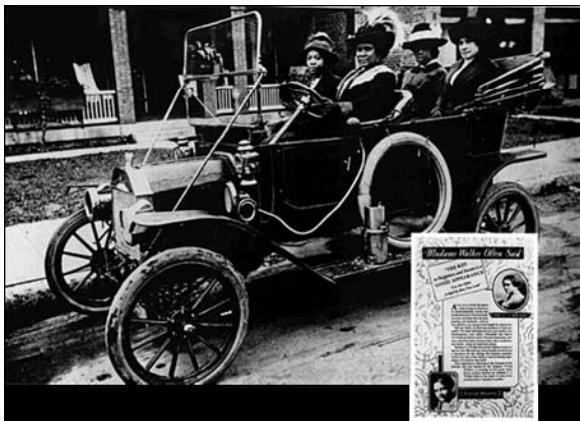
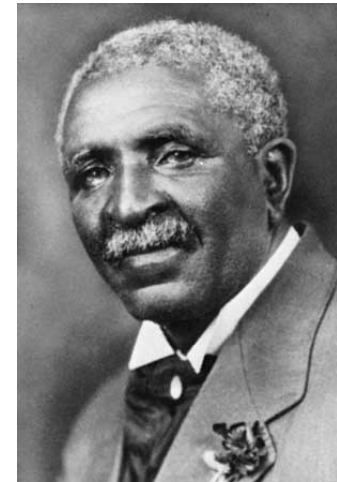
**Booker T. Washington**, called for Blacks and Whites to live in harmony. Washington believed the Blacks must work hard to move up the ladder of success in society.





**W.E.B. Du Bois** took a different approach. He urged Blacks to fight actively to gain equality. Du Bois organized the NAACP or the Nation Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This organization worked to gain equal rights for Black people.

**George Washington Carver** discovered hundreds of uses for peanuts and other crops grown in the South.



**Sarah Walker**, also known as Madame C.J. Walker created a line of hair products and became the first American woman to earn more than one million dollars.

## Mexican Americans



In 1910 revolution and famine swept Mexico. Many Mexicans fled their homeland to America. Many Mexicans were poor farmers, though some of them came from middle and upper class families in Mexico.

These immigrants worked on the farms, railroads, and factories. They were paid less wages than white workers and they were denied many skilled jobs. The Mexican people created their own neighborhood, called **barrios**, where they preserved their language and culture.



# Asian Americans



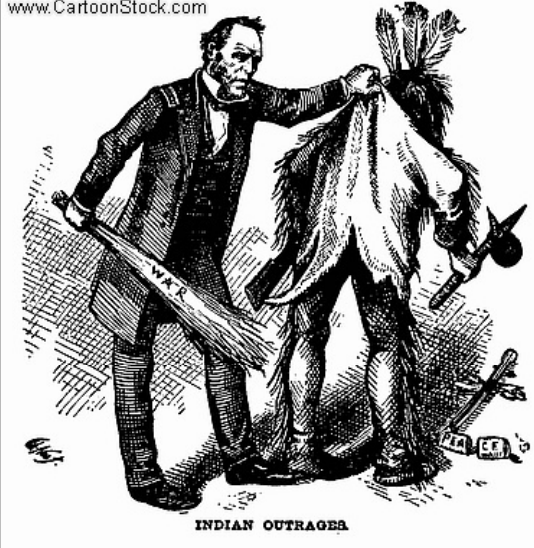
Many Asians from Japan came to America from Hawaii. Employers hired Japanese workers from Hawaii to get around the **Chinese Exclusion Act**. Many settled in the land we call California today. They became farmers that worked hard and faced lower wages like the Mexicans. Many worked in canneries and lumber mills and mines. Prejudice against Asians was high in America, though many Japanese and Philippines families established successful farms.

Trade Unions place pressure on President Roosevelt in limiting the number of Asians arriving into the United States. President Roosevelt reached a **Gentleman's Agreement** with Japan to limit the number of Japanese immigrants coming into the United States. In exchange The United states would allow the Japanese women to join their husbands in America.



# Native Americans

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Native Americans will given land that was unsuitable for farming by the United States. The Native Americans were swindled out of their lands by many Americans. In the early 1900's Native Americans set up the **Society of American Indians**. This group worked to correct the social injustices that faced Native Americans. Many Native Americans opposed this organization so it went out of business in 1925.

**The End**