



## Summary

# TELESCOPING THE TIMES *The Progressive Era*

**CHAPTER OVERVIEW** *In the first two decades of the 1900s, Americans embrace the Progressive movement and many of its reforms.*

## 0 The Origins of Progressivism

**KEY IDEA** *Social and economic changes create broad reform movements in American society.*

As the 1900s opened, reformers pushed for a range of changes to society in a movement called Progressivism, which had four major goals:

- Protecting social welfare by easing the ills of urban society. The YMCA built libraries and exercise facilities while the Salvation Army offered the urban poor food and nursery care.
- Promoting moral reform, especially by working to ban alcoholic beverages. Prohibitionists—many of whom were members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)—often came into conflict with immigrant groups. The saloons the reformers attacked served vital functions such as offering cheap meals in immigrant communities.
- Reforming the economy. Some criticized the vast wealth amassed by industrialists and the treatment of workers. Journalists called “muck-rakers” published stories about business corruption and unfair practices.
- Making businesses more efficient and profitable. Scientific management and the adoption of the assembly line for the manufacture of goods enabled factories to increase production.

Progressives also reformed politics. Reform mayors routed corruption out of Detroit and Cleveland, among other cities. Wisconsin Governor Robert M. La Follette took steps to regulate businesses in his state. Reformers managed to pass laws in almost every state to ban child labor and limited the number of hours women could work. Reformers passed laws requiring the use of secret ballots in elections and allowing voters to remove elected officials from office. The Seventeenth Amendment allowed for voters to elect senators directly.

## 0 Women in Public Life

**KEY IDEA** *Women increasingly enter public life as reformers and workers.*

On the nation's farms, women continued to play the vital roles they had filled earlier. They helped with the farm's crops and animals as well as cooking, cleaning, sewing, and child rearing. Many urban women who lacked education joined the workforce by becoming servants. African-American and unmarried immigrant women often used this route to employment. In 1900, a quarter of women who worked outside the home worked in industry. Half of them toiled in the garment industry. With the growth of business, more and more women worked in offices as stenographers and typists. As a result, more women sought high school educations to train for these jobs.

Many middle- and upper-class women joined groups aiming to promote culture. The number of women's colleges grew, and many who graduated from these colleges joined the reform movements. Major goals of these movements were making workplace and home safer. The National Association of Colored Women helped African Americans by creating nurseries, reading rooms, and kindergartens.

Many women joined in the effort to seek the right to vote, or suffrage. Spearheading the effort was the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Wyoming, in 1869, became the first state to grant this right to women. Some other western states followed suit. Another effort failed when the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution did not guarantee women the right to vote. Women pushed for an amendment to the Constitution granting suffrage, but for the first two decades of the 1900s, it did not pass.

## ④ Teddy Roosevelt's Square Deal

**KEY IDEA** *Teddy Roosevelt pursues a reform agenda—the Square Deal—and contributes to the emergence of the modern presidency.*

When President William McKinley was killed in 1901, Theodore Roosevelt became president. He showed great energy and bold decision making and won publicity. He launched a program of reforms called the “Square Deal.” With his vigorous leadership, he changed the presidency.

Roosevelt thought that a more complex American society needed a powerful federal government. He intervened in a bitter 1902 coal strike to lead both sides to an agreement. He had the government sue business trusts to improve competition. He pushed through laws increasing the government's power to regulate railroads. After reading a book, *The Jungle*, that exposed poor sanitary practices in the meatpacking industry, Roosevelt gained passage of the Meat Inspection Act. The Pure Food and Drug Act banned food processors from adding dangerous chemicals to food or from making false claims regarding medicines. Roosevelt also took steps to preserve the nation's wild natural areas.

Roosevelt, though, did not back civil rights for African Americans. So black leaders, plus some white reformers, formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909 to push for full racial equality.

## ④ Progressivism Under Taft

**KEY IDEA** *William H. Taft ignores the progressive mood of the American people and loses the White House.*

William Howard Taft became president in 1909. He pursued many Progressive policies but more cautiously—and with less publicity—than Roosevelt. And he divided his own party.

One issue was the tariff. Taft wished to lower the tariffs. When conservatives in the Senate passed a weakened version of the measure, Taft signed it anyway and Progressives complained. He also angered conservationists by appointing officials who favored development of wild lands rather than preservation of them.

With the Republican Party split between reformers and conservatives, Democrats won control of the House for the first time in almost two decades. In 1912, Roosevelt tried to regain the Republican nomination for president. Failing that,

Roosevelt formed a third party—the Bull Moose party—and ran on a platform of reform.

The Democrats nominated reformer Woodrow Wilson, the governor of New Jersey. As Taft and Roosevelt bitterly denounced each other, Wilson won the election—and a Democratic majority in Congress. About three-quarters of the vote went to candidates in favor of economic reform.

## ④ Wilson's New Freedom

**KEY IDEA** *Wilson claims the presidency as a progressive leader and establishes a strong reform agenda.*

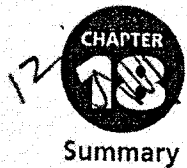
A religious and scholarly man, Wilson stayed independent of party bosses and pursued his policies of reform called the “New Freedom.” With the Clayton Anti-Trust Act of 1914, the government strengthened laws against business trusts and workers' rights. The Federal Trade Act created the Federal Trade Commission to investigate unfair business practices. Another law lowered tariffs. With decreased tariff revenues, the government began collecting taxes on workers' income. Wilson also secured passage of a law creating the Federal Reserve System to improve the nation's banking practices.

Meanwhile, women continued in their drive to win the right to vote. From 1910 to 1912, women's suffrage was approved in five states. Defeats in other states, though, led some women to try more militant tactics. Alice Paul organized a group that picketed the White House and the Democratic Party. Finally, the Nineteenth Amendment, ratified in 1920, gave women the right to vote.

Wilson did not push social reform ideas. He did little to support women's suffrage, nor did he help African Americans. In fact, he appointed southerners who took steps to extend segregation. Blacks who had voted for Wilson felt betrayed, and a meeting between Wilson and African-American leaders ended in anger.

## Review

1. Describe the four areas of Progressive reform.
2. How did women's lives change in the early twentieth century?
3. What policies did Teddy Roosevelt pursue?
4. Why did the Republican Party split, and what was the result?
5. What progressive reforms did Woodrow Wilson advance, and which did he do little or nothing to achieve?



## TELESCOPING THE TIMES

*America Claims an Empire*

**CHAPTER OVERVIEW** To compete with other powers, America gains colonies overseas, although some Americans object.

## Summary

## 0 Imperialism and America

**KEY IDEA** Economic and cultural factors convince U.S. policymakers to compete for new markets abroad.

At the end of the 1800s, the United States joined the global trend to acquire lands overseas. Nations of Europe had taken control of almost all of Africa. Japan was seizing colonies in Asia. The United States competed with other nations to gain a trade foothold in China. Three factors pushed the United States to join the grab for land:

- Economic competition for raw materials and markets for its manufactured goods.
- Political and military competition, based in part on the creation of a powerful new navy.
- A belief in the racial and cultural superiority of the people of England and their descendants—which led many Americans to believe that the United States had a mission to spread civilization and Christianity.

Many Americans opposed this imperialist trend. They objected on moral or practical grounds. They felt that the taking of colonies was not right or would cost too much.

The first territory acquired was Hawaii, where a number of Americans had established large and successful sugar plantations. Through a change in Hawaii's constitution, these planters came to control the government. In 1893, Hawaii's queen tried to change the constitution, and the planters seized control of the island. President Grover Cleveland refused to annex Hawaii, but his successor, William McKinley, did. Hawaii became a territory of the United States in 1898.

## 0 The Spanish-American-Cuban War

**KEY IDEA** The United States goes to war with Spain over Cuban independence and emerges with colonies in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippine Islands.

The United States had established close commercial ties to Cuba, still a Spanish colony. In

1895, José Martí launched a renewed drive for Cuban independence. He hoped to force American intervention, but opinion in the United States was divided.

Spain sent an army to Cuba. Its commander put 300,000 Cubans in concentration camps while he tried to defeat the army of independence. American newspaper reports exaggerated stories of Spanish atrocities against the Cuban people. As more people began to clamor for giving aid to the Cubans, President McKinley tried to find a peaceful solution. Spain moderated its policies and granted limited self-rule to Cuba. The issue seemed to be dying down.

Then, two incidents fanned the fire. A newspaper published a Spanish diplomat's criticism of McKinley. Worse, a U.S. warship, the battleship *Maine*, mysteriously blew up in Havana's harbor. No one knew why the explosion occurred, but newspapers blamed Spain and the cry for war became too strong to resist.

The first battle of the war took place in the Philippines, another Spanish possession. Admiral George Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet there, and U.S. army units joined Filipino rebels. The Spanish in the Philippines surrendered.

In Cuba, an American army—despite being ill-prepared—won a decisive battle. Press accounts gave great fame to Theodore Roosevelt, who led a volunteer cavalry troop. Within two days, a naval battle resulted in destruction of the Spanish fleet and Spanish surrender in Cuba.

Spain quickly agreed to a peace that granted Cuba its independence and gained the United States the islands of Puerto Rico and Guam and the Philippines. The United States had an empire.

## 0 Acquiring New Lands

**KEY IDEA** The United States encounters conflict in its new possessions, as well as in its attempt to compete in China's market.

Many Puerto Ricans wanted independence, but others were willing to accept being an

American territory. Still others wanted to become a state. The Supreme Court ruled that Puerto Ricans were not American citizens. In 1917, Congress granted that right to Puerto Ricans and allowed them to choose their legislature. But it still denied statehood to the island.

For the first four years after the end of the war, the U.S. army remained in Cuba. It imprisoned Cubans who protested American presence, but it also fed the hungry and helped wipe out yellow fever, a fatal disease. The United States insisted that the new Cuban constitution grant the United States privileges. Many American businesses had invested heavily in the island, and they wanted their property protected. These provisions were agreed to—reluctantly—and Cuba became independent but partly under U.S. control.

Filipinos—who had been fighting for independence for years—were outraged that the United States had annexed their islands. Rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo led an armed revolt against the Americans. In a war that lasted three years, the American army used some of the same tactics that the Spanish had used in Cuba. The revolt was finally suppressed in 1902. The islands finally gained independence in 1946.

Imperialists hoped to use the Philippines as a way of gaining a foothold in Asia. The main goal was to build business ties with China. European nations and Japan had forced the Chinese to give them valuable trade benefits. Secretary of State John Hay announced the Open Door policy that opened China to the trade of any nation. This policy increased American presence in Asia. A brief, bloody Chinese uprising against western influence—the Boxer Rebellion—was put down by western forces. The United States then issued stronger safeguards of equal trade with China.

President McKinley—who supported this imperialist expansion—won re-election in 1900. Many, but not all, Americans favored the expansion of American power.

## ● America as a World Power

**KEY IDEA** Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson continue to use American military power around the world, including Panama and Mexico.

As part of the increased American role in world affairs, President Theodore Roosevelt acted as

peacemaker to end a war between Japan and Russia. He also sent a fleet of navy ships to sail around the world, showing American power.

Roosevelt's major action was to ensure the building of the Panama Canal. The canal was wanted to link the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, cutting travel time for merchant ships—and for U.S. navy ships. Panama then was a province of Colombia, but won its independence in a U.S.-supported revolt. The new nation gave the United States land to build a canal.

It took ten years to build the 50-mile-long canal, and it was a success from the start. But Roosevelt's actions caused ill will toward the United States throughout Latin America.

The president warned European nations to keep their hands off Latin America. He also announced his intention to intervene whenever political turbulence in Latin America threatened U.S. business. President Taft took such a step in 1911, sending troops to Nicaragua.

In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson took a moral tone in Latin American policy. He said that the United States would refuse to recognize any Latin American government that was oppressive, undemocratic, or opposed U.S. interests. A revolution in Mexico quickly tested this policy. Conservatives favored by U.S. businesses that invested in Mexico seized the Mexican government. Wilson used a minor incident to send troops to Veracruz. When a new leader took power in Mexico, Wilson withdrew the troops.

Trouble did not end. A revolt against the new Mexican government by Francisco "Pancho" Villa involved the United States. Wilson sent General John J. Pershing to pursue Villa and punish him for the death of some Americans. The American soldiers clashed with units of the Mexican army, straining relations. Finally, they were withdrawn. The incident revealed Americans' willingness to assert their power in the western hemisphere.

## Review

1. What factors shaped American imperialism?
2. How did the United States gain control of former Spanish colonies?
3. How did the United States administer its new-found territories?
4. How did Roosevelt assert American power?