Presidential Election of 1912

A. Republican successor Taft proved to be less progressive than T.R. in the areas of tariff reform and conservation.
   1. Payne-Aldrich Tariff (heralded by Taft as "the best tariff passed by the Republican Party") protected industries and kept consumer prices high

B. T.R. organized the National Progressive or "Bull Moose" Party after Progressive Republicans bolted the Taft-controlled Republican convention. Party platform included long list of Progressive demands

C. Democrats nominated Woodrow Wilson, the scholarly governor of New Jersey who called for moral revival and reform, including low tariffs, the breaking up of all monopolies, and for the government to be an umpire in disputes between labor and business.

D. Socialists nominated Debs, who called for public ownership of all natural resources and major industries.

E. Wilson won 40/48 states as Republicans split between Taft and TR. Height of Progressivism as Wilson, TR, and Debs totaled 11 million votes to 3.5 million for Taft.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Popular Vote</th>
<th>Electoral Vote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woodrow Wilson</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>6,293,152 (41.8%)</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Roosevelt</td>
<td>Progressive (Bull Moose)</td>
<td>4,119,207 (27.4%)</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Taft</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>3,486,333 (23.2%)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene V. Debs</td>
<td>Socialist</td>
<td>900,369 (6%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene Chafin</td>
<td>Prohibition</td>
<td>207,972 (1.4%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Electoral Votes (531- 48 States)
Electoral Votes Needed to Win - 266
Total Popular Vote- 15,040,963

Significance:
- Height of Progressivism
  - 1st election to feature primaries
  - 1st election to have all progressives
  - Socialist Party got 1 million votes
- Gave Democrats national power for first time since Civil War
- Marked the rebirth of the South in national politics