

- Progressivism in the White House
 - Theodore Roosevelt's administration
 - T.R. comes to the White House
 - served as McKinley's V.P., became President in 1901 after McKinley assassinated
 - T.R. worked to enlarge the power of the presidency, made easier by a weak Congress
 - T.R. monitors the corporations
 - Roosevelt a friend of big business, but believes that largest corporations must obey the law and work toward public good
 - 1902, the administration begins to sue corporations under Sherman Anti-Trust Act
 - first case is Northern Securities, which Supreme Court orders dissolved in 1904
 - 43 other corporations are sued under the Sherman Act during Roosevelt's first term of office
 - in addition, during T.R.'s administration, the FTC and the Pure Food and Drug Act passed, the Hepburn Act gives ICC power to regulate RR's, and TR also gets coal miners union and mine owners to agree to arbitration in settling strike (following his policy of not sending in troops to break up strikes)
 - despite T.R.'s efforts to regulate business, he was still seen as friend of big business by most--why?--business wanted regulations, especially against big trusts and "rotten apple" companies who were seen as villains by society
 - Conserving the environment
 - By 1900, land use had become a big political issue
 - business interests want to continue unrestricted development for private gain
 - preservationists wish to save large wilderness tracts for their beauty and spiritual worth
 - conservationists, including Gifford Pinchot, chief of Forest Service under TR, seek scientific management by government to make public domain serve people's resource needs
 - Roosevelt popularizes both conservation and preservation
 - sets aside 200 million acres of forest and mineral rich lands for government-managed use, not private sale
 - creates 53 wildlife reserves and five new national parks
 - keeps environmental issues before the public eye
 - In 1904, TR receives Republican nomination for President
 - this nomination comes despite the Roosevelt administration's regulatory activities--shows how limited the activities were
 - TR easily beats Alton B. Parker, the Democratic candidate, to win reelection
 - William H. Taft as president
 - Election of 1908
 - in 1908, William Howard Taft receives Republican nomination for president (after TR honors pledge not to run again, and with TR's backing)
 - Democrats nominate William Jennings Bryan (again--3d time)
 - Taft easily wins a lackluster campaign
 - Taft's policies

- Taft continues anti-trust campaign, actually more vigorously and successfully than TR (but does not get publicity)
 - Taft supports raising tariff on imported goods
 - He disagrees with much of TR's preservationist policies, fires Gifford Pinchot from Forest Service
 - Divisions among the Republicans
 - the Republican party becomes divided into progressive ("Insurgent") and conservative wings
 - in 1910, TR denounces conservatives
 - throws his support to a revived progressive reform program
 - he calls the program the New Nationalism--a program that would make the federal government a more powerful agent of reform--including regulation of business
- Woodrow Wilson as president
 - Election of 1912
 - the election of 1912 became a four-way race
 - Taft ran on Republican ticket
 - TR ran as the Progressive (or "Bull Moose") candidate
 - Democrats chose the progressive governor of New Jersey, Woodrow Wilson, as their candidate
 - Socialist party run Eugene V. Debs--labor organizer
 - TR runs on his New Nationalism platform, Wilson on the New Freedom (limited power in Washington, return to competition among small and medium-sized businesses)
 - Although Wilson only receives 42% of popular vote, he easily outpolls other candidates in popular vote and landslide in the electoral vote → Taft's defeat worst ever for sitting president
 - Debs, garners over 900,000 votes and 6.1% of total--reflects continued dissatisfaction with conventional parties
 - Woodrow Wilson--background
 - Wilson a southern Presbyterian minister's son, former political science prof and president of Princeton, governor of NJ
 - often a skilled and flexible leader, Wilson would demonstrate he also had an intolerant, self-righteous side about him
 - Economic measures
 - In 1914, Wilson pushes the Federal Trade Commission Act and the Clayton Antitrust Act through Congress
 - FTC a federal regulatory agency with power to uncover unfair methods of business competition, issue cease and desist orders
 - Clayton Act
 - supplements Sherman Anti-Trust Act by defining and listing specific illegal business practices
 - clause in Clayton Act exempts union strikes, boycotts, and peaceful picketing from prosecution under antitrust laws
 - Workman's Compensation Act gives accident and injury coverage to federal employees
 - In 1916, Wilson helps farmers obtain low-interest loans with Federal Farm Loan Act and Federal Warehouse Act
 - Wilson wins reelection
 - 1916 election pits Wilson against Charles Evans Hughes (candidate for newly reunited Republican party)
 - Wilson edges out Hughes for reelection