**Chapter 20**

The Progressives

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Twenty should enable the student to understand:**

1. To what degree and in what ways were progressives able to make the American political system more democratic at the national, state, and local levels.
2. To what degree and in what ways did the progressive movement improve life for average Americans through the regulation of big business.
3. To what degree and in what ways progressives were able to enact social welfare legislation.
4. The sources of support for progressive reform and the reasons for that support.
5. The role of women in the progressive movement, reforms they sought to attain, and their relative success in realizing those goals.
6. The differing views of big business and conservationists on the use of natural resources.
7. The difference between New Nationalism with New Freedom.
8. The different positions of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois on how to best attain equal rights for African Americans.

**Chapter 20**

**Pertinent Questions**

**The Progressive Impulse**

1. What were the key reform “impulses” that characterized progressivism?

2. What did the muckrakers do to help prepare the way for progressivism?

3. What contribution did the Social Gospel movement make to progressivism?

4. Contrast the Social Darwinist view of society with the progressive vision. How did the settlement house movement and the social work profession illustrate the difference?

5. What were the characteristics of the so-called new middle class and the new professionalism? What kind of organizations were formed? Who was usually excluded?

6. In what professions did women dominate? What were the hallmarks of those professions?

**Women and Reform**

7. What was meant by the “new woman”?

8. What were the accomplishments of the women’s club movement? How did the clubs reflect both the influence of women and the restrictions upon them?

9. What were the principal arguments used for and against women’s suffrage?

10. Explain how the debate over the “sphere” of women shaped the suffrage movement. Which position was probably the most influential in finally obtaining the vote form women? Why was the West different?

11. What happened to the women’s movement after suffrage was accomplished in 1920?

**The Assault on the Parties**

12. Compare and contrast the proponents and opponents of municipal government reform.

13. How were reform measures such as the commission plan, the city-manager plan, nonpartisanship and at-large elections designed to destroy the power of the urban party bosses?

14. What was the basic purpose of the initiative, referendum, direct primary, and recall?

15. How did key progressive governors demonstrate that effective leadership was the key to successful reform? Who was the most celebrated of this group?

16. What was the relationship between the weakening of political parties and the rise of interest groups?

**Sources of Progressive Reform?**

17. What role did organized labor play in progressive reform efforts?

18. By what means did some urban political machines, such as Tammany Hall, manage to survive the progressive era?

19. Why was progressivism especially strong in the western states?

20. How did the race relations view of Booker T. Washington contrast with those of W.E.B. DuBois?

21. How did the NAACP get started? What were its early victories?

**Crusade for Social Order and Reform**

22. Today, antiliquor laws are often though of as conservative. Why was prohibition regarded as a progressive issue? What forces usually opposed prohibition?

23. Most progressives abhorred the urban disorder resulting from the influx of immigrants, but they differed about the appropriate response to the problem. Which one dominated? Why?

**Challenging the Capitalist Order**

24. Both progressives and socialists believed that the enormous industrial combinations were at the core of many of the nation’s problems, but they certainly did not agree on the appropriate solutions. How did the socialist agenda differ from the typical progressive program? On what issues did the socialists disagree among themselves?

25. Describe the two different progressive approaches to the perceived problem of economic consolidation and centralization.

26. What solutions did advocated of each approach favor?

**Where Historians Disagree: Progressive Reform**

27. What have the different emphases of historians revealed about the diversity of motives and interests reflected in progressivism?

**Chapter 20 (Part II)**

**Pertinent Questions**

**Theodore Roosevelt and the Modern Presidency**

1. How did Teddy Roosevelt come to be President?

2. What were Roosevelt’s assumptions about the proper role of government, especially with regard to economic

concentration? To what extent was he a “trust buster”?

3. What changes did Roosevelt initiate in the traditional role of the federal government in labor disputes?

4. What were the key elements of the “square deal” that helped propel Roosevelt to reelection and to significant

accomplishments in his second term?

5. How did Roosevelt’s actions in the effort to strengthen the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC illustrate his tendency to take a middle road of reform?

6. What were the two factions within the conservation movement? Toward which side did Roosevelt lean? Where his stand consistent with this general approach to reform? What was his lasting effect on national environmental policy?

7. What caused the panic of 1907? How did Roosevelt and J.P. Morgan respond?

**The Troubled Succession**

8. Contrast the personalities of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft. How did Taft’s actions, and lack of action, contribute to the division of the Republican Party?

9. Describe the programs that Roosevelt unveiled at Osawatomie, Kansas. How did they go beyond the moderation he had exhibited as president?

10. In addition to his general ambitions, what two events pushed Roosevelt into open opposition to Taft? What kept Roosevelt and Robert LaFollette apart?

11. How did Taft manage to secure the Republican nomination of 1912 despite Roosevelt’s obvious popularity?

12. Why did Roosevelt break from the Republicans to form the Progressive Party? For what did it stand?

**Woodrow Wilson and the New Freedom**

13. What in Woodrow Wilson’s pre-White House career foreshadowed his role as president?

14. How did Roosevelt’s New Nationalism and Wilson’s New Freedom differ from each other?

15. What propelled Wilson to victory in 1912? What roles did Taft and Eugene V. Debs play in the campaign?

16. In what ways did Wilson concentrate political and executive power in his own hands and prepare himself to be a strong legislative leader?

17. What special effort did Wilson Mount to pass the Underwood-Simmons tariff? How did it fulfill longstanding democratic pledges? Why was the graduated income tax needed in addition to tariff reduction?

18. Describe how the nation’s banking system was transformed during the Wilson Administration. What role did bankers play in shaping the new law?

19. What did Wilson/s actions in pushing hard for the Federal trade Commission Act and giving only luke warm support to the Clayton Act demonstrate about his ironic move in the direction of the New Nationalism?

20. After the initial spate of New Freedom legislation, why did Wilson back away from reform? What led him later in his first term, to advance reform once again?

**“The Big Stick”: America and the World, 1901-1917**

21. Explain Roosevelt’s distinction between “civilized” and “uncivilized” nations. How did sea power fit into his vision?

22. What was the course of relations between the Untied States and Japan during the Roosevelt’s presidency?

23. What were the general and immediate motivations for the proclamation of the Roosevelt corollary? What policy did it establish?

24. How did the United States acquire rights to build the Panama Canal? Why have many observers questioned the propriety of U.S. methods? (How relevant were these methods to the Panama Canal treaty controversy in 1978?)

25. What was the central focus of William Howard Taft’s foreign policy? What nickname was it given?

26. What actions did Taft and Wilson take toward Central American and Caribbean nations? (What legacy was left for relations between the United States and these nations?)

27. Why did Wilson take sides in the Mexican governmental turmoil? Describe the two interventions and their results.

**The American Environment: Saving the Forests**

28. What was the legacy of George Perkins Marsh?