

THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT

Name _____ (51)

The progressive movement in the U. S. reached its peak from the 1890's to around 1917. The basis for the movement was that many Americans felt that more political and economic safeguards needed to be established to protect the average citizen. Progressives wanted to make the government more democratic, limit the power of big business, protect consumers, and improve the working and living conditions of the average person. A group of authors, known as "muckrakers," spurred the progressive movement on through their articles on dishonest business practices, political graft, unsanitary working conditions, and other abuses.

Limiting the power of big business was mostly concerned with efforts to reduce monopolies. President Theodore Roosevelt and President William Howard Taft tried to reduce monopolies, and thus increase competition, through trust busting. Also, President Woodrow Wilson pushed for passage of the Underwood-Simmons Tariff of 1913 which reduced tariffs on foreign goods. With lower tariffs Wilson felt there would be more competition and that American businesses would be more efficient. To reduce unfair competition in interstate commerce Wilson supported establishment of the Federal Trade Commission in 1914.

Reforms of the political system were strongest at the local level. In many communities commissions and professional city managers replaced political bosses who were often corrupt and inefficient. Also, voters attained more power over elected officials through the initiative, the referendum, and the recall. On a national level, direct election of U. S. senators, instead of election by state legislatures, was started with passage of the Seventeenth Amendment in 1913. Also, the Publicity Act of 1910 required candidates for Congress to disclose statements of contributions they received. The most important political reform was the granting of woman suffrage in 1920 with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Reforms helping the average worker included better working conditions, the first minimum wage laws, and reduction of working hours. Also, stricter building codes reduced some of the worst aspects of tenement living. All consumers were aided in 1906 with passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act which corrected unsanitary conditions in the manufacture of food and drugs.

Taxation was another area of reform. In 1909, corporate profits first came under taxation and in 1913 Congress passed the Sixteenth Amendment which authorized the federal government to levy an income tax. Also, President Wilson helped reform the money and banking system through his support of the Federal Reserve System which was established in 1913.

The progressive movement is identified with the period from the 1890's to around 1917. However, curbing monopolies, workers' rights, protection of consumers, and honesty in government are issues as current today as they were seventy years ago.

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S U F F R A G E B A C D T R A D E B C A E D
 E P H F I E K J D U O L H F R E D G O G M O
 V E D C R L S M G C N O P R E M I N I M U M
 E O G N A P Q E S M S L A I E O C B J H C K
 N B F M J R T U R E U P F B T C L M A T K F
 T K I F O O D D Y V M H G X N R A I C N R B
 E E C A O G V S B V E W A R J A M L K D A A
 E L D P H R T H C U R O I C U T G S L U K C
 N I N E T E E N T H S Q E Z D I P H B L E D
 T M G T N S L A M B W S F H Y C R C T N R G
 H K J B R S F P F R D M O N O P O L I E S E
 C I A O D I K C H A N E S M C U G A J I O A
 B G E F H V J E I L H A E D P H R L F K Y F
 A D G O V E R N M E N T B A C B U S T I N G

Fill in the spaces below and circle the words in the puzzle above.

1. The _____ Amendment resulted in direct election of U. S. senators.
2. _____ wrote stories which dealt with political graft, dishonest business practices, and other abuses.
3. The _____ movement reached its peak from the 1890's to around 1917.
4. The Pure _____ and Drug Act and the _____ Inspection Act were passed in 1906.
5. Voters received more power through the initiative, the referendum, and the _____.
6. Protection of _____ and honesty in _____ were goals of the progressive movement.
7. The Federal _____ System was established in 1913.
8. The Federal _____ Commission was established in 1914.
9. The _____ Amendment granted woman _____.
10. Presidents Roosevelt and Taft are known for working to reduce _____.
11. Politically, people wanted to make the government more _____.
12. The average worker was helped by the first _____ wage laws and shorter working _____.
13. Trust _____ was a technique used to increase competition.