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# Teddy Roosevelt: American Hero

# What is Progressivism (Theory)?

- Faith in democratic processes
  - Smart people can solve all your problems
- Rural – Prohibition & direct democracy
- Urban – Counted on elite to govern & mediate wealth gap
  - Resented large corporations & *nouveau riche* →
  - Break up bad big business, regulate good business
  - Drew inspiration from...Teddy Roosevelt (569)

WE WILL USHER IN A NEW  
**PROGRESSIVE  
ERA**  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL HARMONY  
BASED ON EMPATHY  
AND RESPONSIBILITY  
FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY  
**FOR ALL**



# What is Progressivism (Action)?

- **Robert LaFollette's (R-WI) "Laboratory of Democracy"**

1. Direct primary election
2. Civil Service
3. Restrictions on lobbying
4. Conservation
5. State control of RR & Banks
6. Higher corporate taxes
7. State income taxes



# Character & Becoming President

- NY Patrician family, Harvard, historian, ornithologist, Rough Rider → “he wanted to rule”
- **BLUM**: Energetic, policeman, “that damned cowboy”, hero in arms, battler for everlasting right, but also learned & receptive
- Becomes president after McKinley’s assassination
  - Surrounds himself with great people



# Trustbusting

- **BLUM**: Didn't think companies should only be broken up because of size, but that continuous, informed & expert regulation could only come from federal government (571)
- 1904 – SCOTUS rules **Northern Securities Co.** violated Sherman & needed to break up
  - Takes on Morgan, Harriman, Rockefeller, etc.
  - **BLUM**: Transfer of power from Wall St. to DC (570)
  - Created **Dept. of Commerce & Labor** to handle regs.



# Miner's Strike of 1902

- May-October – **United Mine Workers & Eastern RR** wouldn't negotiate → TR invites leaders to DC
  - Success: Workers go back to work w/ raise, fewer hours, but union not recognized & coal price raised 10%



# Square Deal

- Election slogan of 1904 (572)
  - “Abolish privilege & enlarge individual opportunity”
  - Allies: farmers, small businesses & mechanics
  - Wins election by huge margin (57%-36%)
  - **BLUM**: Didn't win b/c of party characteristics, but b/c his program caught American imagination



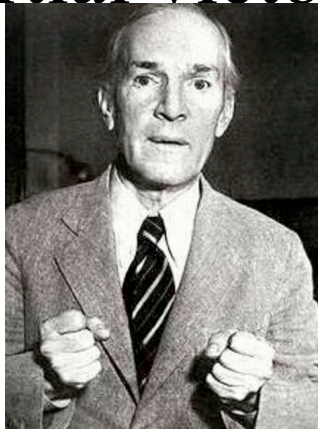
# Reform & RRs

- 44 suits brought against companies under TR
  - **BLUM**: Didn't want to hurt responsible business (571)
  - “**Communities of Interest**” – Nickname for secret meetings of former trusts so they could continue monopolist practices
- **Elkins Act (1903) & Hepburn Act (1906)** – Restrictions on RRs
  - Anti-rebate acts
  - Gave power to **ICC** to regulate RR rates (to avoid rebates) → 1<sup>st</sup> time gov. sets prices for industry → court's didn't overrule



# Meat & Drugs

- “**Muckrakers**” like Upton Sinclair, Samuel H. Adams, Ida Tarbell expose evil corporate practices
- **Pure Food & Drug Act (1906)** – Oversight assured, but ignored for 20 years
- **Meat Inspection Act (1906)** – Gov’t approval of all meat transported across state lines
  - Problems w/ enforcement, though → unfunded mandate
- **BLUM**: Partial victory (573-74)



# Conservation

- **Newlands Reclamation Act (1902)** - \$ from sale of public lands would go to reclaim dams/wastelands
- 1907 – Western cattle/lumber barons lobby **Old Guard** in Congress to prevent state forestry reserves → TR adds 17M acres to national reserves!
- **National Conservation Congress (1908)** – Studied US natural resources for conservation & use



# Panic of 1907

- Business blamed TR, but nothing he could have done
- Saved by JP Morgan bailout & Treasury Department
  - US realized no great power could rely on one guy to save the economy → commission created that would become the Fed
  - TR calls for fed. regulation of ALL interstate business/stock market, limits for labor injunctions, fed. investigation of labor disputes, 8hr. workday, mandatory income/estate taxes
  - Condemned conservative courts & “predatory wealth” (575)
- **BLUM**: TR believed “holder of power has an obligation to promote justice & morality

