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)
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) → 1st 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