

**Woodrow Wilson: Progressive.**

# Woodrow Wilson (D-NJ)

- Abandoned law for education (Princeton)
- Ardent Anglophile
- Champion of higher ed. & democracy in education
- Governor of NJ → By '12 – Progressive state
- Bitter primary battle vs. W.J. Bryan
- **BLUM**: “Neither the temperament nor experience to get along with professional politicians”



# Progressive Party/Bull Moose Platform

- Created by TR when Old Guard rigged vote for Taft at RNC (590)
- Popular democracy
  - Presidential primaries, women's suffrage, initiatives & referenda on judiciary, popular election of US Senators
- Social Welfare
  - Minimum wage, restriction of child labor, workmen's compensation, federal income tax, limitation of injunctions against strikers
- **BLUM**: Disorganized b/c created so quickly



# New Freedom



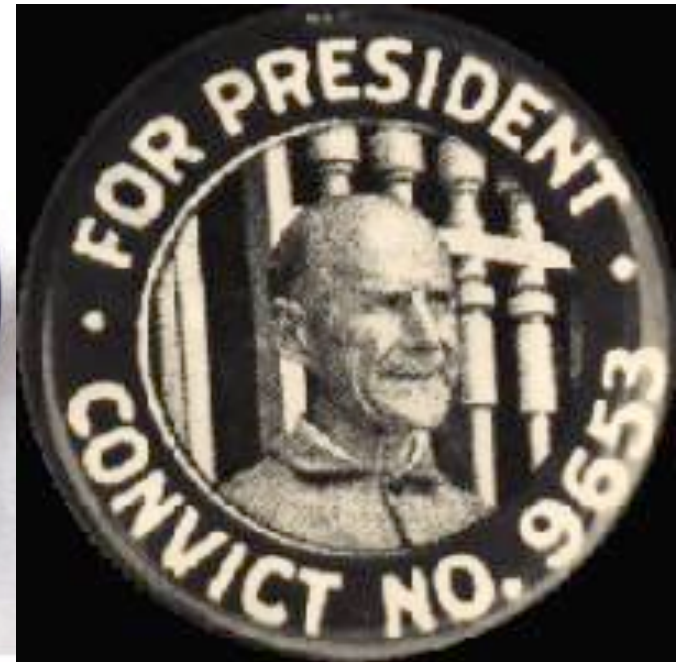
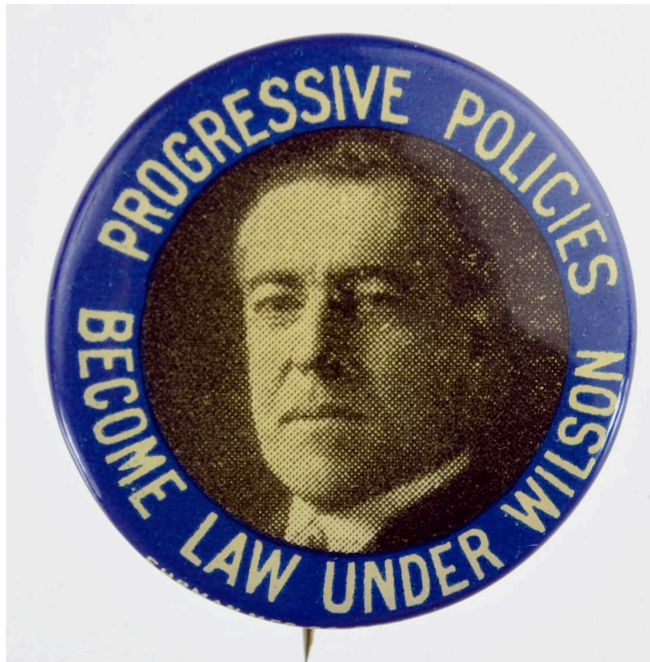
- Lower protective tariffs
- States rights > Federal regulatory control
- Limit injunctions against unions
- Low IR loans to farmers (remnants of populism)
- Use state to protect laissez-faire
  - Break up monopolies, otherwise let competition reign
- Justice **Louis Brandeis** (1916) – Support small business, rural America, legislation to reg. business





# Election of 1912

- Roosevelt – **New Nationalism**
- Wilson – **New Freedom**
- Taft – Insignificant, even as GOP nominee
- Eugene V. Debs – Socialist (1M votes)
- → Wilson wins easily (42%-27%-23%)



# Underwood-Simmons Act (1913)

- Campaign promise → Addresses Congress himself
- Rooted out congressional corruption & lobbying
- Significantly reduced tariffs so foreign goods could be bought more cheaply (lowest in 50yrs.)
- Instituted a graduated income tax to make up the difference (OK'ed by **16<sup>th</sup> Amendment**)
- **BLUM**: Acknowledged triumph of Wilson's leadership (594)



# Federal Reserve Act (1913)

- Panic of 1907 + perceived “money trust”
- By 1913, even bankers wanted a central bank
- **Bankers want:** Authorized by gov’t, but privately controlled
- **Dems want:** Central bank w/ privately controlled regional banks
- **President/Progressives want:** Pres. appoints Board & currency should be obligations of the gov’t.
- **Farmers want:** Public control of regional banks, make farm loans cheaper & outlaw interlocking directorates



# The Fed

- 12 regional districts
- Supervised by Federal Reserve Board in DC
- All national banks = members & state banks if they met requirements
- Authorized by gov't, but privately owned
- **BLUM**: All POVs & parties applauded it (594);  
Most important statute of Wilson's admin. (595)





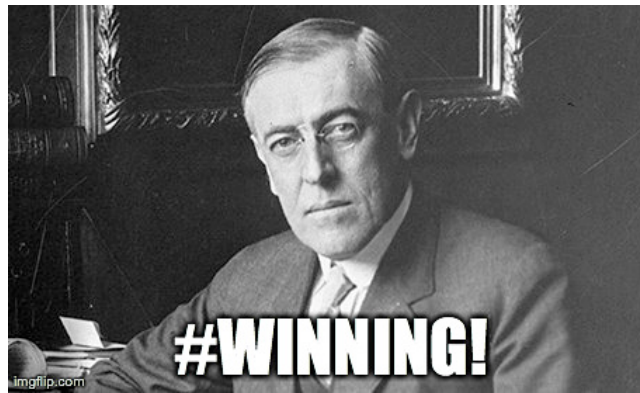
# Trustbuster

- **Federal Trade Commission (1914)** – Brandeis drafted bill to prevent suppression of competition
- **Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914)** – Defined unfair trust practices & banned interlocking directorates
- **BLUM**: Not effective to the extent Wilson wanted, but not apparent until later, so viewed as victory (595)



# When Prez & Congress Are the Same

- 1916 – **Smith-Lever Act** – Rural education
- 1916 – **Fed. Farm Labor Act** – low interest loans
- 1916 – **Keating-Owen Child Labor Act** → unconst.
- 1916 – **Adamson Act** – 8hr. day @ 10hr. pay for RR workers → not as noble to labor as it appears (596)
- **BLUM**: Able to promote both business & social welfare. Just about achieved both New Freedom & Bull Moose Platforms in one term! (596)



# Progressive Constitution

- 16<sup>th</sup> – National Progressive Income Tax (1913)
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Direct Election of Senators (1913)
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Prohibition (1919)
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Women's Suffrage (1920)
- Who loses? Rich, Old Guard, African-Americans, Law-abiding Americans...

