

# U.S. History: Modernization, Imperialism, and Progressivism

Dr. Donnelly

# Transforming into Modern America

- 1865: no electric lighting; no refrigeration; mail delivery could take months.
- Between 1790 and 1860, only 36,000 new inventions had been patented in the U.S.
- But between 1860 and 1890, 500,000 new inventions were patented in the U.S. – a real explosion of new inventions in the industrial revolution.

# Oil Becomes Big Business

- Before 1859, oil was mostly obtained from whales or by digging pits and allowing oil to seep in and fill the hole.
- 1859: Edwin Drake (right) becomes first to successfully drill for oil – oil drilling quickly became big business.
- Kerosene (for lamps and heating) was the main oil-based fuel at this time – gasoline was created as an unwanted by-product of the refining process and disposed of as waste!

# Thomas Edison

- **Widely considered the greatest inventor in history, Edison was called the “Wizard of Menlo Park” (his lab was in Menlo Park, N.J.).**
- **His inventions included the first motion picture studio, power plants to provide direct current (D.C.) electricity, and the first practical electric light bulb.**

# Nicola Tesla and George Westinghouse

- A former Edison employee, who then became a rival to Edison, Nicola Tesla (top) invented alternating current (A.C.) electricity in 1887 – AC was cheaper and could travel farther through power lines than DC electricity.
- George Westinghouse (below) then licensed Tesla's invention and mass-marketed it.
- Westinghouse also developed transformers to boost or (if needed) decrease electric power running through power lines.

# Electricity Changed the World

- Electricity revolutionized industry and daily life – factories could now stay open at night, people could afford to light their homes at night.
- Edison and Westinghouse's work led to creation of General Electric and Westinghouse Electric companies.
- Edison invented the electric chair using AC as a way of proving that his DC electricity was safer – he also reportedly used experiments with animals to prove how dangerous AC could be – such as this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkBU3aYsfoQ>

# Invention of the Telephone

- Telegraph had been patented by Samuel Morse in 1840s; the Western Union telegraph company was created after the Civil War.
- In 1876, the “talking telegraph” – the telephone – was patented by Alexander Graham Bell, who introduced local and long-distance telephone calls.
- Montana benefited greatly from invention of telephone and power lines – just as these inventions created a huge demand for copper, the richest copper reserves in the world were found at Butte!

# Impact of Railroads

- Before 1883, every place was on “local solar time” – but railroad schedules couldn’t work unless time was standardized.
- As a result, time zones were created in 1883.
- Railroads made shipping faster & easier.
- Railroads lowered production costs as raw materials became cheaper to ship.
- National markets were created because railroads could ship products to customers anywhere in U.S.
- Size of railroad companies led creation of new “big business” management methods.
- Railroads also became much safer after 1870s due to invention of air brakes, telegraph signals, & steel rails.

# Steel

- **Steel had been made for thousands of years by combining iron with other metals to make it stronger – but all steel-making processes had been expensive and slow, not practical for mass production.**
- **Then Henry Bessemer developed the Bessemer Process of mass-producing steel in huge blast furnaces.**
- **Towns like Pittsburgh became big cities due to steel mills there.**
- **Mass production of steel made it possible to build skyscrapers, massive bridges like the Brooklyn Bridge (a symbol of American success), and safer railroads as steel rails replaced iron rails.**

# Business Tycoons

- **Some called them Robber Barons (but who exactly did they rob? Hmm...), some called them Captains of Industry – whatever you call them, they were very successful and changed the world.**
- **Two of the most famous were John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie, who both started out poor but now competed with each other to see which one could make the most money and have a bigger impact on the world.**
- **Others included Cornelius Vanderbilt, J.P. Morgan, Leland Stanford, etc.**

# John D. Rockefeller

- Rockefeller founded Standard Oil, which obtained a monopoly over the whole oil industry.
- He became the world's first billionaire and the world's richest man – adjusted for inflation, he's still the richest man of all time.
- Very tough in business and dealing with workers.
- But also gave over \$500 million to charity.
- Rockefeller Center in NYC is named for him.
- He often quoted John Wesley (founder of the Methodist religion): “Gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can.”

# Andrew Carnegie

- Carnegie founded U.S. Steel and gained a monopoly over the steel industry.
- Similar to Rockefeller in getting rich but also giving to charity, Carnegie preached the “Gospel of Wealth” – make as much money as you can, but then give most of it to charity.
- Carnegie especially donated money for schools and libraries – hundreds of Carnegie libraries were built around the U.S., including in most major towns in Montana.
- Carnegie said, “the man who dies rich, dies disgraced.”
- Carnegie Hall in NYC is named for him.

# Social Darwinism

- **Based on Darwin's theory of natural selection (the survival of the fittest).**
- **This philosophy held that society would benefit from the success of the fittest (Carnegie and Rockefeller were great examples) and failure (and extinction) of the unfit (people who were unintelligent, lazy, etc.) – and that government should not interfere in this process, but should just let the unfit naturally die out – society would be better off in the long run that way.**

# Eugenics

- **Social Darwinism is often confused with eugenics, but there ARE important differences:**
- **Unlike Social Darwinists, who believed government should do NOTHING about the poor, eugenicists believed the government should “solve” poverty by getting society to produce more “fit” people and fewer “unfit” people.**
- **Eugenicists were typically racist and used “scientific” data to prove that white people of northern European heritage were naturally more intelligent than southern Europeans, Jews, Hispanics, blacks, Asians, Native Americans, aborigines, etc. – so the growth of these “inferior” groups should be limited or reversed in the U.S.**

# Two Types of Eugenics

- **Positive eugenicists:** wanted government to encourage and incentivize increased reproduction of “superior” groups and reduction of “inferior” groups – including paying subsidies to “inferior” people for NOT having children.
- **Negative eugenicists:** wanted government to take drastic actions like putting poor people in prison until they were too old to reproduce, or forcing them to get sterilization surgery so they could not reproduce.
- These ideas were popular among American (and European) progressives in the early 1900s – Hitler in Nazi Germany would later take them to their logical conclusion with the Holocaust.

# Big Business Types

- **Oligopolies:** an entire industry dominated by only a few companies – car and cereal industries today are oligopolies (this is legal).
- **Cartels:** companies in an industry cooperate with each other to keep prices and supplies where they want them – diamond and oil industries today have cartels (OPEC is a cartel).
- **Monopolies/trusts:** an entire industry is controlled by one company, like Standard Oil once was (monopolies are illegal in U.S. since early 1900s, starting when Teddy Roosevelt was president).
- **All three types of big business were common in the U.S. in the late 1800s.**

# Why Big Businesses?

- **Big businesses were common because of vertical and horizontal consolidation and economies of scale, which put incredible wealth and power in the hands of a few, like Rockefeller, Carnegie, and Morgan.**
- **Vertical consolidation: one company controls all businesses involved in developing its product (ex.- the Anaconda Company in the copper industry).**
- **Horizontal consolidation/integration: a company brings together many firms in the same business (ex. – Standard Oil).**
- **Economies of scale: As production increases, the cost to produce each item decreases – the more of a product you make, the cheaper it is to make each one, and the more profit you make when selling it.**

# The Gilded Age

- The late 1800s were called the Gilded Age because a thin layer of prosperity disguised lots of poverty and corruption.
- By 1890, the richest 9% of Americans owned 75% of the wealth, so there was a huge difference between the rich and the poor – an average worker made only a few hundred dollars per year.
- Still, America's economic system (capitalism) allowed anyone a chance to become incredibly rich – remember, Rockefeller and Carnegie both started with nothing.
- America was famous for such “rags to riches” stories.

# Growth of Labor Unions

- Before the Civil War, labor unions were practically non-existent in the U.S. – considered un-American, even illegal.
- After the Civil War, labor unions grew as employees of big businesses – mines, mills, factories, railroads, etc. – banded together.
- Most successful union was the American Federation of Labor (AFL).
- Unions often went on strike (refused to work) to get what they wanted: higher pay, better hours, & safer working conditions.
- Between 1881 and 1900, there were over 24,000 labor strikes in the U.S.

# Strikes and Violence

- **Strikes often turned violent, most famous was:**
- **The Haymarket Strike, May 1886: strike at McCormick Reaper factory in Chicago turned violent when anarchists (anti-government radicals) threw a bomb at police, killing an officer and starting a riot; 4 of 8 anarchists charged with this crime were hanged, 1 more committed suicide.**

# Other Violent Strikes

- **Homestead Strike, 1892:** steelworkers went on strike in Pennsylvania – mill owners hired Pinkerton detectives to break up the strike – resulted in a shootout between Pinkertons in barges on the Monongahela River and strikers on shore.
  - Several were killed, state militia was sent in to reopen the mill.
- **Pullman Strike, 1894:** George Pullman's wage cuts & layoffs in Pullman, Il., led to 260,000 workers going on strike – disrupted western railroad traffic and mail delivery.
  - U.S. Army sent in to end the strike by force.

# Decline of the Unions

- **Pro & con about labor unions:**
  - **Pro: Gave workers some control over their pay & working conditions.**
  - **Con: Strikes often turned violent; unions were racist and wouldn't allow non-whites to join (then insisted that only union members be able to work at their company – the “closed shop” – and complained that non-whites stole jobs by working cheaper than union members).**
- **Big businesses appealed to the government to stop labor strikes due to threat of violence – court orders soon limited unions' ability to strike, so unions lost much of their power over business owners.**
- **Union power and membership greatly decreased from late 1890s until rebounding in the 1930s as the Great Depression occurred.**

# Laissez-faire economics

- Laissez-faire (French for “let them be”) policies meant that government had little involvement in or control over businesses – businesses could pretty much do whatever they wanted – it was trusted that customers wouldn’t buy from businesses that didn’t provide good prices & products.
- If lots of businesses are competing with each other, laissez-faire works just fine.
- Problem at this time (late 1800s) was that monopolies, oligopolies, and cartels had no real competition and could provide lousy products at high prices if they wanted to – customers had no place else to buy from.
- Businesses were extremely powerful at this time, and politicians were supportive of that.

# Government Corruption

- **By 1880, the government had grown to hundreds of thousands of employees – but presidents still appointed government workers to the Civil Service through the spoils system (hiring & firing based on party connections).**
- **This system didn't work well anymore if only because it took too much of the president's time to hire & fire so many workers.**
- **Spoils system was finally ended by the assassination of President James Garfield in 1881.**

# Assassination of Garfield

- **Deranged lawyer Charles Guiteau wanted to be appointed as a lawyer for the U.S. foreign service and stationed in Paris, France.**
- **Since he had supported the Republican Party, he thought that Garfield (a Republican) owed him this job.**
- **When he didn't get it, Guiteau began stalking Garfield and eventually shot him at a train depot.**
- **Garfield later died of his wounds.**
- **Guiteau was hanged in 1882.**

# Reforming the Civil Service

- **With Garfield's death, VP Chester A. Arthur became president.**
- **Arthur signed the Pendleton Act in 1883, which reformed the civil service by ending the spoils system and setting up the modern merit-based civil service, where government employees are hired based on their scores on the Civil Service Exam.**

# Also at this time...

- **Grover Cleveland became the only president to serve two terms non-consecutively – he was elected in 1884, lost to Benjamin Harrison in 1888, then defeated Harrison in 1892.**
- **When Harrison was president, he signed a pension law to pay a gov't. pension to aging Civil War veterans and also signed Montana into statehood in 1889.**
- **Montana's new capitol building was the first state capitol in the U.S. to be constructed with electric lights.**
- **Speaking of electric lights, they were installed in the White House at this time – President Harrison was scared of them, thinking he might get electrocuted if he touched an electric light switch!**

# The Up-and-Down Economy

- **Panic of 1893 caused a depression:**
  - **Hundreds of banks closed.**
  - **Over 15,000 business closed.**
  - **Root causes were overproduction (factories making too many products) and underconsumption (people not buying enough products).**
- **Economy eventually recovered on its own in late 1890s under President McKinley.**
- **One reason U.S. expanded overseas in 1890s was to provide new markets for U.S. businesses to sell to.**

# Assassination of McKinley

- **President William McKinley was assassinated by anarchist Leon Czolgosz while visiting the World's Fair in Buffalo, NY in 1901.**
- **With McKinley's death, his new VP, Theodore Roosevelt, became president.**
  - **Age 42 at the time, Roosevelt is still the youngest president ever.**
- **Czolgosz was executed by electric chair in October 1901.**

# Imperialism and Expansion

- **Imperialism:** stronger nations built empires by militarily, politically, and economically dominating weaker ones.
- Britain had the largest empire (“the sun never sets on the British Empire”), but France, Russia, and Germany also had colonies around the world by the 1870s.
- **4 factors in growth of imperialism:**
  - **Economics:** colonies provided raw materials and new markets.
  - **Nationalism:** belief that one’s country is greater than others – colonies were a way of showing that.
  - **Military:** colonies provided naval bases, were proof of military power.
  - **Humanitarian:** belief that the world needed Western civilization and Christianity spread to it (the “White Man’s Burden,” Rudyard Kipling called it).

# Arguments for U.S. Expansion

- U.S. had purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867.
- Many were against further U.S. expansion/imperialism because we had started out as colonies in the British Empire ourselves, but several reasons for U.S. expansion won over most Americans:
  1. Promoting the economy: U.S. needed new markets to sell its products to.
  2. Protecting U.S. security – based on Alfred Mahan’s (right) book about the importance of sea power, U.S. needed a great navy and naval bases all over the world to service it.
  3. Duty of the U.S. to spread our way of life to less fortunate people around the world.

# **Trouble in Cuba Sets the U.S. Against Spain**

- **Cuba was part of the shrinking Spanish Empire – Cubans rebelled against Spain in 1895 when the economy collapsed.**
- **Desperate to keep its remaining colonies, Spain sent troops led by General Valeriano “The Butcher” Weyler to Cuba.**
- **Weyler rounded up Cubans & put them in concentration camps – over 200,000 died due to unsanitary conditions there.**
- **Presidents Cleveland and McKinley refused to help Cuba due to costs and risk of war.**
- **Cuban guerillas began attacking American sugar plantations and mills in Cuba – led American business owners to push the U.S. government to aid the Cubans and end the unrest in Cuba.**

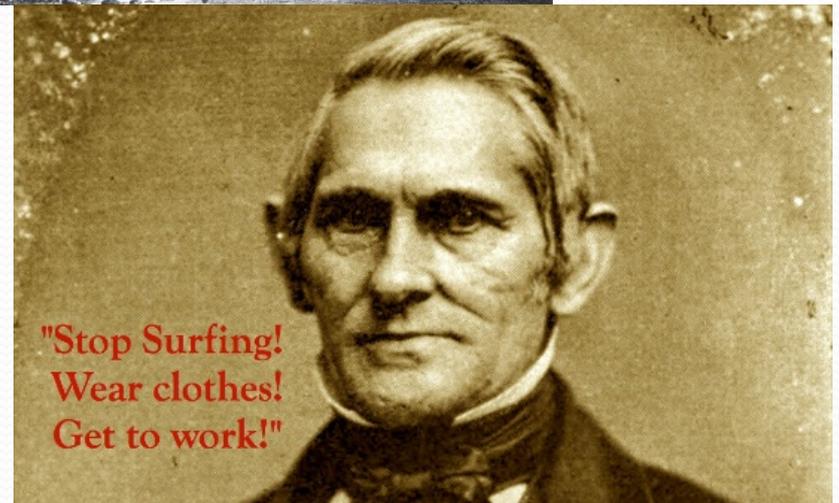
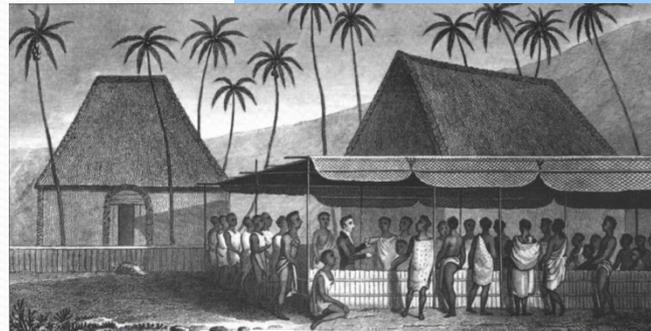
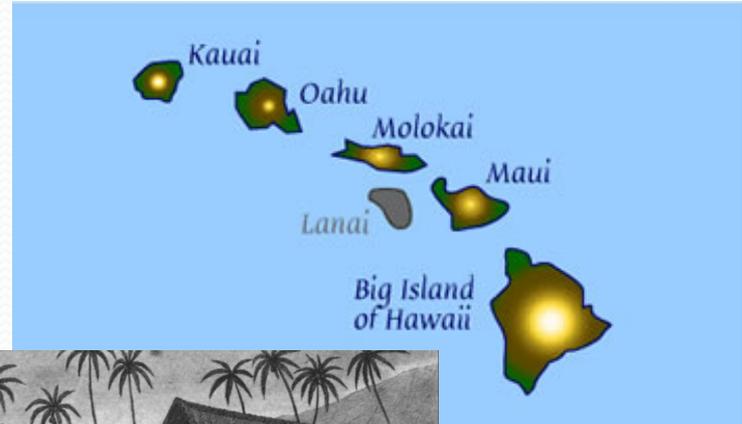
# Yellow Journalism

- New York newspapers run by Joseph Pulitzer (top) and William Randolph Hearst (below) competed against each other with sensational headlines and stories to sell more papers – and to push Americans to support Cuba against Spain.
- Hearst's father was an original partner in the Anaconda Company. He didn't trust William with money, but when he died, his widow sold his shares of Anaconda stock and gave the money to William to expand his newspaper business & move it from San Francisco to New York.
- So, without Montana – who knows, but maybe we wouldn't have had the Spanish-American War? 😊



# Hawaii

- First Americans to settle in Hawaii were missionaries who'd come to convert the Hawaiians to Christianity after 1819; even before that, Hawaii had been a favorite port for whaling ships.
- Hawaii's sugar cane industry was important to the U.S. economy; later, pineapple became another important crop.
- In 1887, a trade treaty was made between the U.S. and Hawaii to sell Hawaiian sugar tax-free in the U.S.
- Also, Pearl Harbor was leased to the U.S. as a naval base.



# Hawaii Becomes American

- White planters in Hawaii eventually forced King Kalakaua to give them control of the Hawaiian gov't.
- After the king's death, his sister, Queen Liliuokalani, tried from 1891 to 1893 to take back control from white business leaders, but was defeated by forces led by pineapple planter Sanford Dole.
- Dole then declared Hawaii a republic and asked to join the U.S.
- In 1898, Hawaii was annexed as a U.S. territory.



# Samoa

- **The U.S. wanted Samoa for trade and to establish a naval base at its main harbor, Pago Pago (right – nice, huh?).**
- **U.S. leased the harbor in 1878.**
- **U.S. annexed Samoa as a territory in 1899.**



# The Spanish-American War

- Causes of the war:
  1. Outrage over Spanish treatment of the Cubans.
  2. The de Lome Letter: Spain's foreign minister, DePuy de Lome, insulted President McKinley in a letter, that was then intercepted & printed in newspapers.
  3. Explosion of the U.S. battleship *Maine* harbored at Havana, Cuba on February 15, 1898 killed 250 American sailors – Spanish were blamed for the explosion.
  4. Yellow journalism: sensational (exaggerated) news about the above items (“Remember the Maine!”) fueled American anger and demand for war against Spain. Hearst told his artists: “You furnish the pictures, and I’ll furnish the war.”

# Fighting in the Philippines

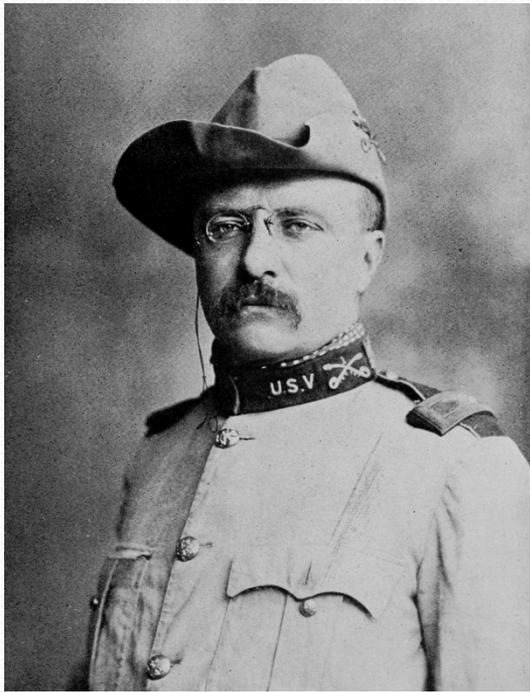
- Although most of the trouble that caused the Spanish-American War was in Cuba, the first combat happened on the other side of the world in the Spanish-held Philippines.
- This was because Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt had already ordered the U.S. fleet at Hong Kong to sail to the Philippines and be ready to attack the Spanish fleet if war broke out.
- Battle of Manila Bay, May 1, 1898: all Spanish ships were easily destroyed; U.S. lost only 1 man & no ships.
- Filipino rebels led by Emilio Aguinaldo took over most of the Philippine islands.
- Spain surrendered official control to the U.S.

# Fighting in Cuba

- U.S. troops landed in June 1898.
- Defeated the Spanish at Las Guasimas, June 24 and captured Santiago on July 1.
- Key to capturing Santiago was the charge up Kettle Hill and capture of San Juan Hill by the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Volunteers – the famous “Rough Riders” formed by Theodore Roosevelt.
  - The Rough Riders were a mixed group of cowboys and Indians from the west and young men from wealthy & powerful families from NY, such as Hamilton Fish and William Tiffany.
- Roosevelt had resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Navy so he could fight in the war as a volunteer with the rank of Lt. Colonel – the war made him more famous and led to him becoming McKinley’s vice president in 1901, then president when McKinley was assassinated.

# The Rough Riders

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt; Roosevelt with his Rough Riders after capturing San Juan Hill.



# The U.S. Wins the War

- Besides capturing Santiago, the U.S. blockaded Santiago harbor, trapping the Spanish fleet.
- Spanish tried to break out of the harbor on July 3.
- Just like in the Philippines, all the Spanish ships were quickly sunk, while the U.S. lost no ships and only 1 sailor.
- Spain surrendered.
- U.S. forces stayed in Cuba to maintain order.
- Puerto Rico was occupied by the U.S. and became a U.S. territory in 1917.
  - Today, it's a U.S. commonwealth and has been suggested to someday become the 51<sup>st</sup> state (not likely to happen anytime soon).

# The U.S. Becomes a World Power

- The U.S. had mostly stayed out of world affairs in the 1800s as it focused on just settling North America.
- By defeating Spain (a traditional European power) and extending its influence to Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, the U.S. showed that it was now a **WORLD** power itself.



# The Philippines

- U.S. took control of the Philippines in 1898, but had trouble governing the diverse population.
- Some Filipinos resisted U.S. control – Emilio Aguinaldo was considered a hero in the U.S. when he'd helped us defeat the Spanish, but now set up a revolutionary government against the U.S. – and immediately became a villain to Americans.
- Fighting between the U.S. and Filipino rebels lasted from 1899 to 1901, when Aguinaldo was captured.
- The Philippines remained a U.S. territory until they were granted independence in 1946 (after WWII).



# Cuba

- **Teller Resolution:** a statement by Congress, pledging that the U.S. would withdraw from Cuba once order was restored there.
- **The Platt Amendment:** added to a law passed in 1901, it made Cuba an American protectorate – Cuba had its own government, but was protected from other countries (like Spain) by the U.S. – this also meant that Cuba had to be very friendly to the U.S. since it depended on it for protection.
  - Some classes have a hard time learning the Platt Amendment:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxPBDWjpiqM>
  - P.S. – Mr. Hand was wrong! The Platt Amendment was passed in 1901, not 1906, and it was an amendment to a bill, not to the Constitution.
- American tobacco and sugar companies continued to expand in Cuba; eventually, Cuba became an island resort for Americans with lots of hotels and casinos.

# Big Stick Diplomacy

- After McKinley's death, Theodore Roosevelt became president.
- President Roosevelt was famous for saying "Speak softly, and carry a big stick." This meant that the U.S. would be strongest by using force, or at least by making it clear that we had a strong military and were ready to use it.
- One example of Big Stick Diplomacy was the worldwide tour of the "Great White Fleet," which showcased the new, modern U.S. Navy by sending battleships on a world tour.
- Another example was the construction of the Panama Canal.

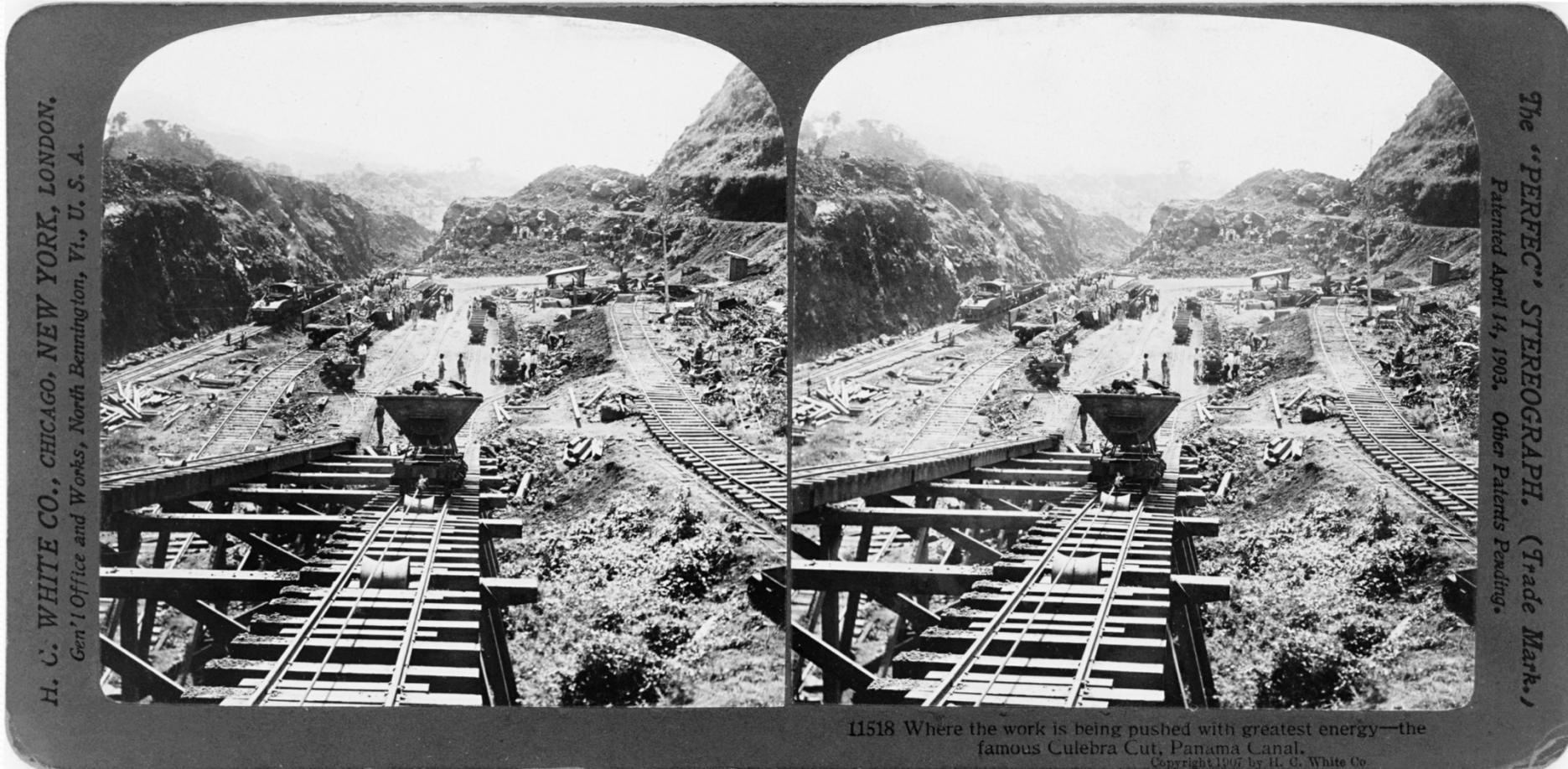


# The Panama Canal

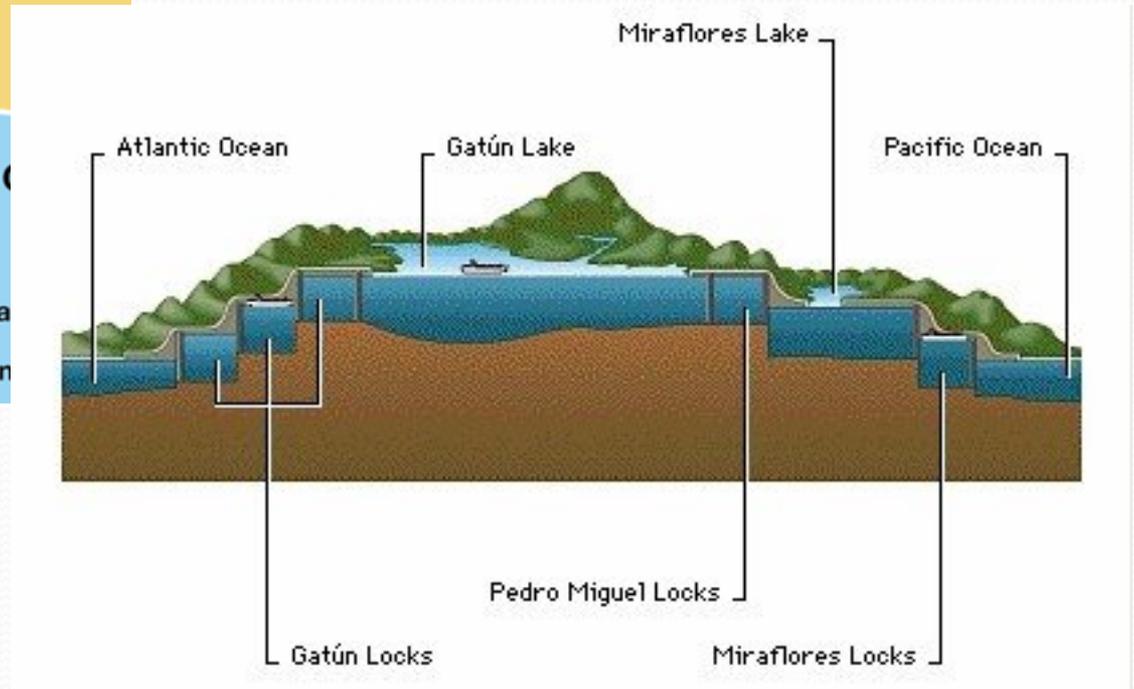
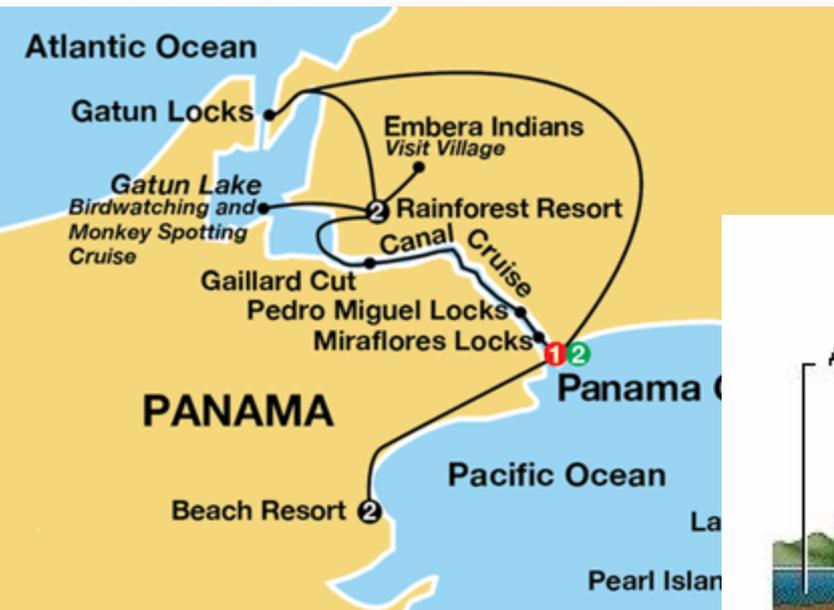
- **Need for a canal to join the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans had been seen for a long time and construction was first attempted in 1880s, but unsuccessfully.**
- **Panama then belonged to Colombia – U.S. offered to pay Colombia for permission to build a canal through Panama, but Colombia refused.**
- **Roosevelt then encouraged Panamanians to revolt against Colombia, which they did in November 1903, declaring independence.**
- **The U.S. immediately recognized Panama and swore to protect it from Colombia.**
- **Panama signed a treaty allowing the U.S. to build the canal.**

# Building the Canal

- Construction was slow and difficult; thousands of workers died of disease.
- Canal was finally finished in 1914.



# How the Panama Canal Works



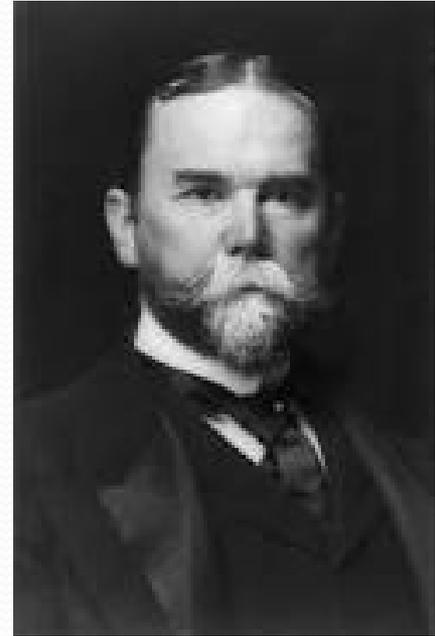
# The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine

- Roosevelt declared that the U.S. had the right to not only protect Western Hemisphere countries threatened by European countries, but also to intervene in the affairs of Western Hemisphere countries guilty of “chronic wrongdoing” (like Colombia).
- This effectively made the U.S. the “policeman of Latin America.”
- It also caused many Latin Americans to resent the U.S. as a “bully.”



# The U.S. and East Asia

- **Open Door Policy:** created by Secretary of State John Hay (right) when McKinley was president – called for equal trading opportunities in China for all foreign countries (instead of the existing spheres of influence, where different foreign countries controlled different parts of China).
- **The Boxer Rebellion, 1899-1900:** Chinese rebels known as “Boxers” attacked Europeans and Americans in China in attempt to drive out “foreign devils” – killed over 200.
- **U.S., Britain, Italy, Japan, and others sent a force to defeat the Boxers and quickly restored order in China.**



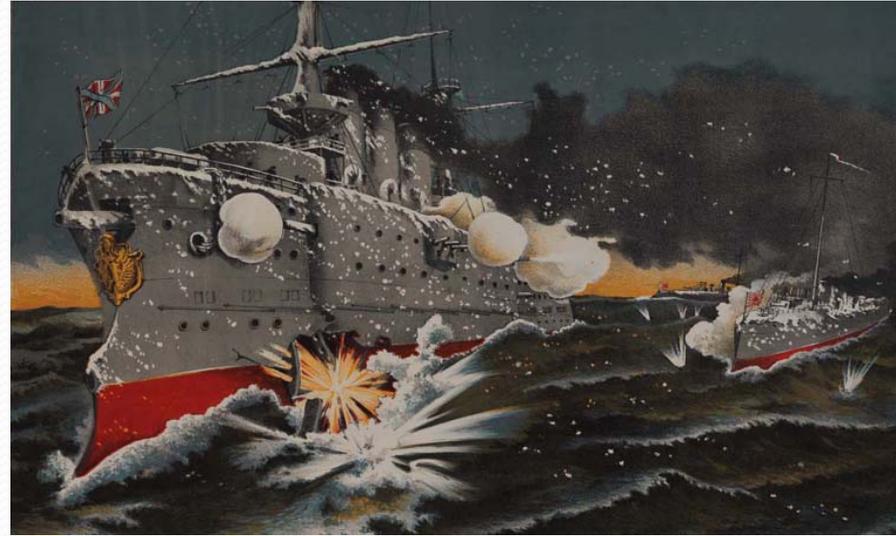
# The Boxer Rebellion:

A political cartoon showing President McKinley and Uncle Sam going to war against the Boxers; the execution of three Boxer leaders after the rebellion was defeated.



# The Russo-Japanese War

- 1904: Japan hoped to take Manchuria (northeastern China); Russia wanted to take Korea.
- Russia was thought to have Japan overmatched, but Japan knocked out Russian fleet at Port Arthur with surprise attack as the war began.
- Japan showed its strength by defeating Russia in several naval and land battles.
- War was ended by Treaty of Portsmouth in 1905.
  - Treaty was arbitrated by President Roosevelt, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for ending the war.
  - Japan was then recognized as a major power in the Far East.



# **The Progressive Reform Era - Origins**

**Progressive Era lasted from about 1890-1920.**

**Social problems at the time – poverty, poor living and working conditions, etc. – led various groups to demand government reform.**

**The Populist Party (remember them from Ch. 13?) was progressive.**

**Some Republicans and Democrats were also progressives – basically, anyone who wanted government to fix society's problems with new laws and programs was a progressive.**

**Progressive reform groups included labor unions, women's groups, and socialists (who wanted government control of property & income).**

# Common Beliefs of Progressives:

- **Government should be accountable to citizens**
- **Government should limit the power of the wealthy & big business**
- **Government should have more power to improve citizens' lives**
- **Government should be more efficient and less corrupt**
  
- **These beliefs have good aims, but also open the door to their own problems – for example:**
  - **“Government should have more power to improve citizens' lives” has led to “busybody” policies, like New York City’s recent ban on all soft drinks over 16 ounces, since that’s “for our own good.” Anti-smoking laws are another example, although a more popular one.**

# Muckrakers

- **Journalists whose stories alerted the public to wrongdoing in business and politics.**
- **Pressure was then put on the government to do something about such wrongdoing, resulting in many progressive reform laws.**
- **Three of the best-known muckrakers were Upton Sinclair, Lincoln Steffens, and Ida Tarbell.**

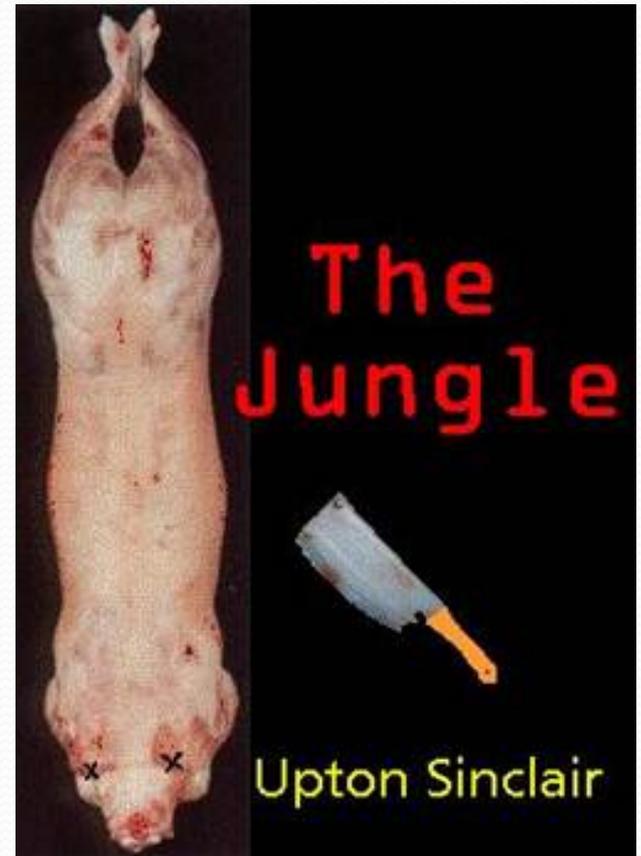
# Upton Sinclair

- Wrote *The Jungle* in 1906 – exposed the meatpacking industry’s unsafe working conditions & unsanitary products.
- People were especially shocked to read about workers falling into rendering tanks and getting processed into Durham’s Pure Leaf Lard!
- Led to meat packers lobbying Congress to pass the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act.



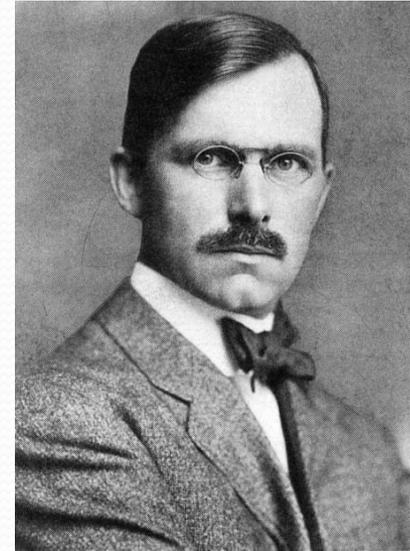
# Sinclair's Disappointment

- Sinclair was disappointed that his book only resulted in cleaning up the food industry.
- He was a socialist, and hoped that the book's focus on the living & working conditions of poor Lithuanian immigrants who worked in the meat-packing industry would cause Americans to demand a socialist government!
- He had pitched his book idea to the publisher by saying, "I'm here to write the *Uncle Tom's Cabin* of the socialist movement!"
- Yeah, that didn't happen...



# Lincoln Steffens & Ida Tarbell

- Steffens wrote about political corruption in city governments (like NYC). He was also a big fan of communism – he visited the USSR in 1919 and came back saying “I have been over into the future – and it works!” In his defense, after the communists killed several million of their own people in the 1920s and 1930s, it was reported that “his enthusiasm for communism had soured.”
- Ida Tarbell wrote about the abuses of Standard Oil – her work contributed to the federal government’s eventual breakup of the Standard Oil Trust in 1911.



# Resistance to Progressivism

- **Conservatives (people who mostly wanted to keep government the way it was) resisted most changes proposed by progressives.**
- **Even many of the people progressives said they were helping resisted progressive reforms because the reforms increased the government's power and threatened to change people's lives.**
  - **Example: poor street vendors who sold food from carts were often shut down by the government because their carts didn't meet new government standards.**
  - **A modern example: churches in New Jersey were recently forced to stop giving free Thanksgiving dinners to poor people because they didn't have "properly licensed commercial kitchens."**

# Regulations and Welfare

- Reformers wanted government regulation to protect workers' rights and safety.
  - A major incident in the demand for better safety was the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire – on March 25, 1911, 146 garment workers died on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor (some from the fire, some from jumping to escape it) – because there were no fire escapes.
- Wanted more social welfare programs, like unemployment benefits and social security.
  - Social security wouldn't actually be created until the 1930s as part of the New Deal, but the idea started in the Progressive Era.



# Municipal (City) Reforms

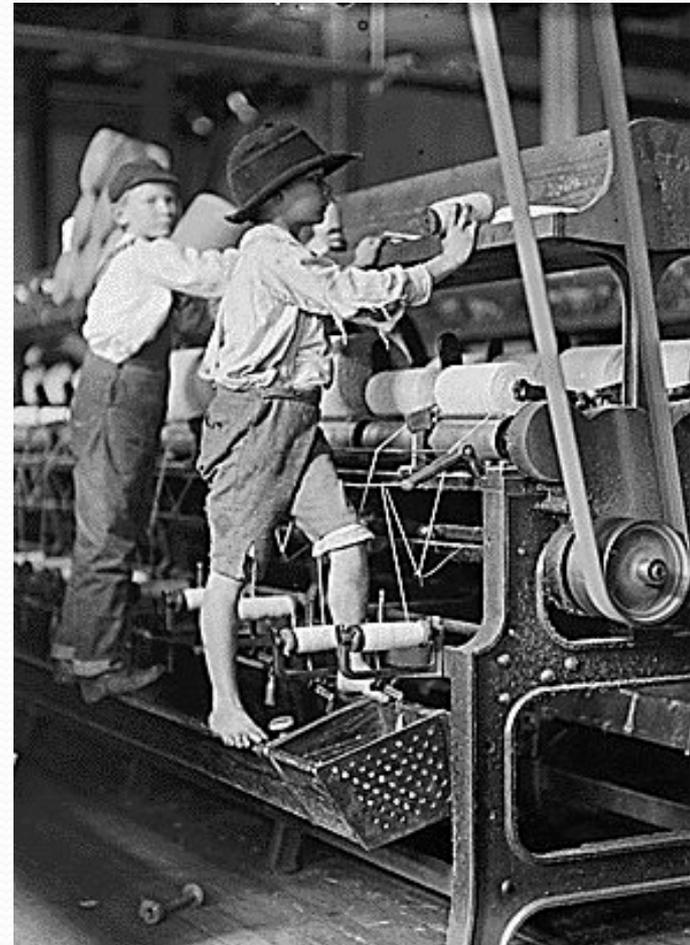
- **Municipal reformers wanted to clean up city governments by getting rid of corrupt political bosses.**
- **This involved switching from city mayors to city commissions and managers.**
- **Also, city control over utilities and improving social conditions (even things as basic as picking up garbage).**

# State Reforms

- **Direct primaries**: voters choose their party's candidates, instead of party bosses choosing them.
- **Initiatives**: citizens can propose new laws themselves.
- **Referendums**: citizens get to approve or reject laws passed by state legislature.
- **Recall**: voters can remove elected officials from office at any time (don't have to wait for next regular election).
- **17<sup>th</sup> Amendment**: popular vote in each state to elect U.S. senators from each state (replaced old method of state legislators electing their state's U.S. senators).
- All of these reforms gave regular people more political power.

# State Workplace Reforms

- Many states passed laws for the following:
- Job safety regulations
- Workers' compensation/accident insurance
- Shorter work days (8 hours/day)
- Child labor laws
- Minimum wage laws



# Robert LaFollette

- **Governor of Wisconsin, 1901-1906; later became a U.S. senator for Wisconsin and ran (unsuccessfully) for president in 1924.**
  - **Ran for president as Progressive Party's candidate (running mate was Burton K. Wheeler of Montana!): won 17% of popular vote, but no electoral votes.**
  - **Platform called for socialistic policies like gov't. owning all railroads and utilities; also for American people to vote by referendum for/against any president leading U.S. into war.**
- **Famous for widespread progressive reform of Wisconsin's state gov't. when he was governor.**
- **Key leader of the entire progressive movement.**

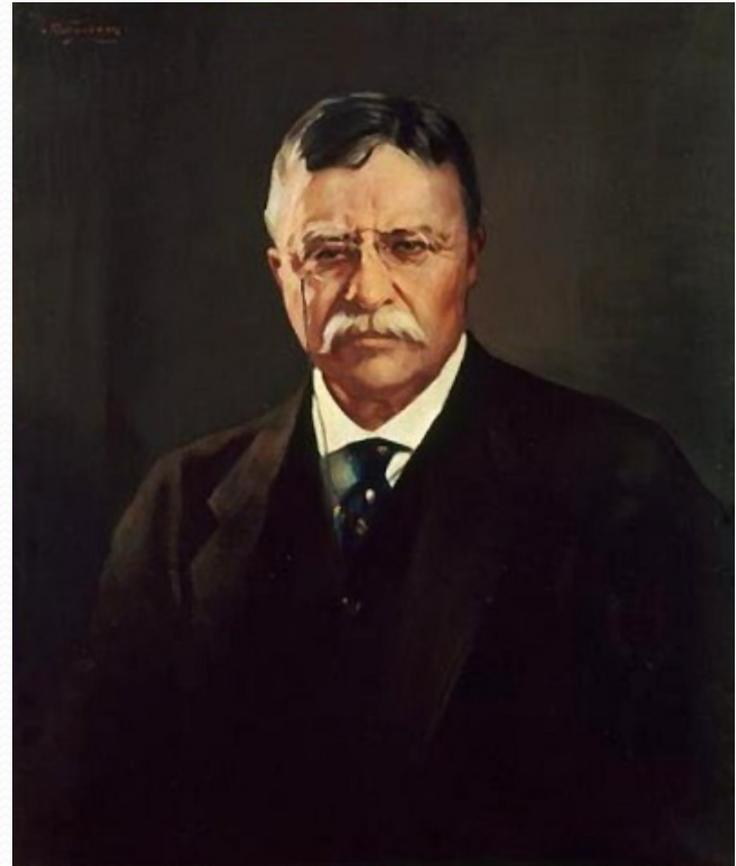


# Birth of Federal Income Tax

- There was no such thing as federal income taxes in America until:
- The 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed in 1913.
- Americans were overwhelmingly against federal income tax – very unpopular idea.
- This amendment would have failed to get ratified by the states, but its supporters swore that most people didn't have to worry because they'd never actually have to pay federal income tax, anyway – they said only the richest 3% of Americans would pay the income tax.
- Of course, once the amendment passed, the income tax was expanded to include most Americans, so now many have to pay income tax – around 40% today, but the % has been higher in the past.

# Teddy Roosevelt

- Progressive reforms at the federal level began when Theodore Roosevelt was president (1901-1909).
- Roosevelt was a Republican, but also a progressive.
- And yes, the Teddy Bear was named after him.
- As president, Roosevelt promised voters a “Square Deal” (fair deal).



## **T.R. and Progressivism – The Coal Miners’ Strike**

- **The coal miners’ strike of 1902 is an example of Roosevelt’s support for progressive reforms:**
- **Miners went on strike, demanding better pay & safer working conditions.**
- **Mine owners refused to negotiate.**
- **Public feared a major coal shortage would result, leaving them without heat (most had coal-burning stoves) and shutting down railroad shipping (trains then ran on coal).**
- **T.R. told mine owners to make a deal with the miners & reopen the mines – or else the army would take over the mines.**
- **Mine owners were forced to agree – miner’s union got better pay & working conditions – and the coal shortage was avoided.**

# T.R. & the Northern Securities Case

- **Northern Securities was a railroad trust (monopoly) in the Northwest – officially several different railroads, but all owned by the same people, so they didn't compete against each other.**
- **Because there was no competition, Northern Securities could charge as much as it wanted.**
- **T.R. had Northern Securities sued for violating the Sherman Antitrust Act.**
- **Supreme Court ruled that Northern Securities had to be broken up into (actual!) different railroad companies.**

# T.R.: “The Trust-Buster”

- Roosevelt later used the Sherman Act to break up “bad” trusts in the beef, oil, and tobacco industries.
  - “Bad” meaning that they charged too much, didn’t provide good service or products, etc.
- “Good” trusts (ones that didn’t overcharge, provided good products, etc.) had to submit to federal regulation and follow the new laws, but were not sued under the Sherman Act – they were allowed to keep existing.



# T.R.: More Reforms in His 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

- After he was elected to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term in 1904, Roosevelt signed the following reforms into law:
- **Hepburn Act:** strengthened the Interstate Commerce Commission's (ICC) power to regulate the railroads.
- **Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act** (passed in response to Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*) improved quality and safety.
- **Employers Liability Act:** required employers to provide accident insurance for workers injured on the job.
- Roosevelt also passed several conservation acts to protect forests, water resources, & wildlife – created 5 new national parks, 51 national wildlife refuges, and 150 national forests – Roosevelt is famous for conservation.

# President William Howard Taft

- Election of 1908: Taft (R) defeated William Jennings Bryan (D) – Taft was T.R.’s hand-picked successor.
- People hoped Taft would be “another Roosevelt,” but he lacked T.R.’s energy and personality – allowed Congress to take the lead in policy.
- Angered progressives by appointing no progressives to his Cabinet, and passing the protective Payne-Aldrich Tariff.



# More Problems for Taft

- **The Ballinger-Pinchot Affair:** controversial sale of public land in Alaska to coal investors – led to firing of Forest Service head Gifford Pinchot and resignation of Secretary of Interior Richard Ballinger – also made Taft look bad.
- **T.R. returned from African safari in 1910 and denounced Taft for failing to be progressive enough.**
- **Republicans in turmoil:** angry with his old friend Taft, T.R. campaigned for Progressive Party in 1910 congressional elections.
- **Democrats gained control of both houses of Congress; this meant Taft (a Republican) couldn't get Congress to pass many bills he liked.**

# Teddy Roosevelt's African Safari

- T.R. with an elephant he shot while on safari.
- Ironic, because some claim he soon killed the chances of the Republican Party – whose symbol is the elephant – to win the White House in 1912.

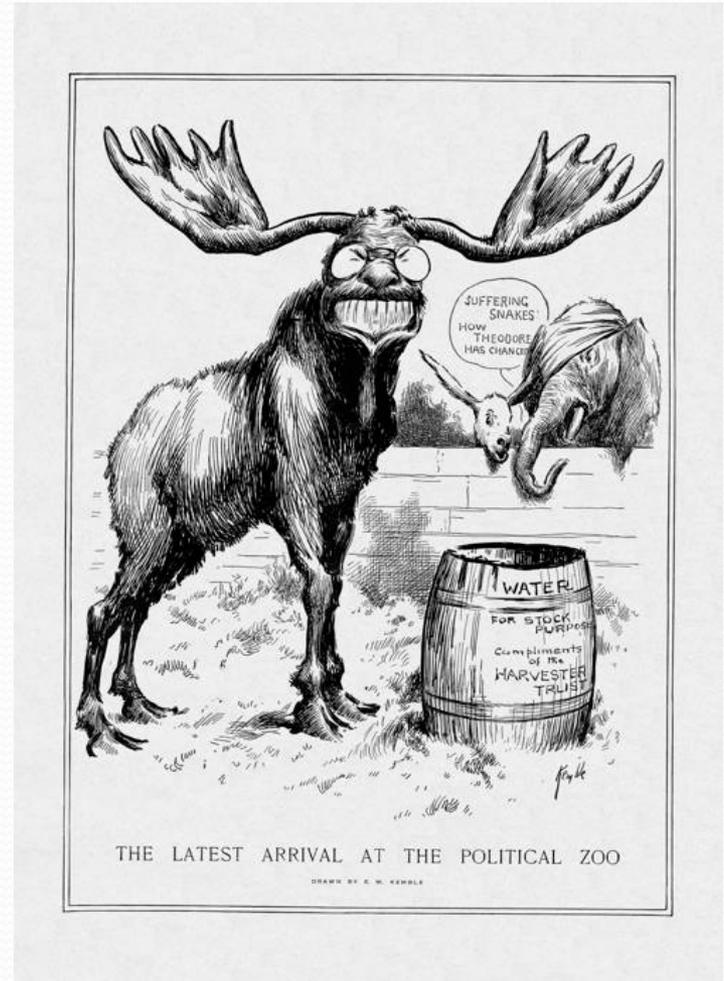


# Election of 1912

- **T.R. came out of retirement to run for president again, challenging Taft for the Republican nomination.**
- **T.R. won the Republican primaries, but Taft won the Republican nomination at the party convention.**
- **T.R. denounced the Republicans as thieves and walked out of the convention.**
- **T.R. was then nominated as candidate for the Progressive Party, aka the Bull Moose Party.**

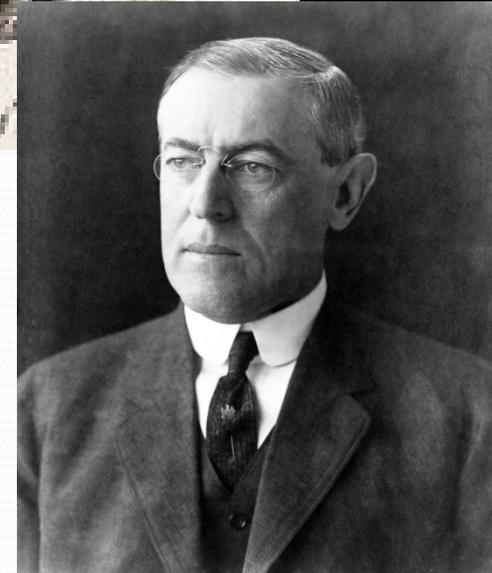
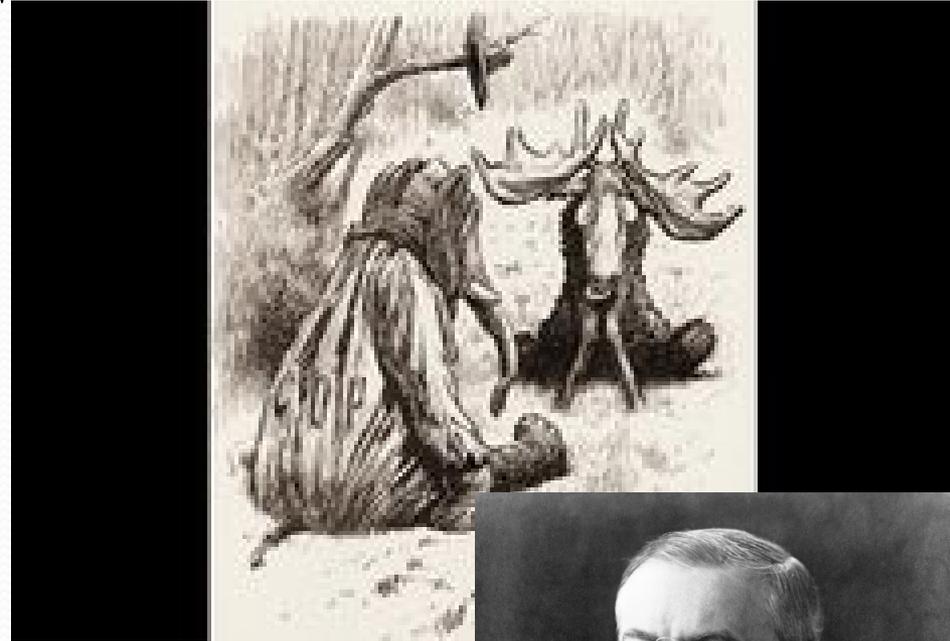
# Election of 1912 (continued)

- T.R. was shot during a campaign speech, but continued to run (he actually finished the speech before going to the hospital)!
- It was a 3-way race: Roosevelt (Bull Moose) vs. Taft (Republican) vs. Woodrow Wilson (Democrat).
- Wilson ran on a “New Freedom” platform of antitrust laws and economic competition (similar to T.R., who was known as the Trust-Buster).



# Wilson is Elected

- Because Republicans split their votes between Roosevelt and Taft, but Democrats basically all voted for Wilson, Wilson won the election and became president.
- If Taft had dropped out, Roosevelt probably would have defeated Wilson (but if Roosevelt had dropped out, Wilson probably still would've defeated Taft, who just wasn't that popular).
- World War I started when Wilson was president – world history may have turned out differently if Roosevelt had been president then instead.



# Looking Back on Taft

- Taft actually hated being president and was glad to leave office.
- Progressives criticized Taft for not making reforms, but he actually reserved even more public land and brought even more antitrust suits than Teddy Roosevelt had.
- Taft later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court – this position and the presidency are considered the two most powerful in the U.S. government, and Taft is the only man in history to have had both jobs.
- He was actually better as Chief Justice than as president – it fit his personality better, and he enjoyed it more.



# Wilson as President

- **Passed the Underwood Tariff, which lowered tariff tax rates.**
- **Federal income tax went into effect under Wilson.**
- **Clayton Antitrust Act: strengthened the Sherman Antitrust Act & regulated business through the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).**
- **Federal Reserve System was created to try to prevent bank failures – U.S. was divided into 12 banking districts, all banks had to put cash into their district's reserve bank – could withdraw cash from it when needed.**
- **Appointed Louis Brandeis as first Jewish justice on the Supreme Court.**
- **World War I began in 1914; Wilson promised to keep U.S. out of war – and did, until after he was re-elected in 1916; he then called for declaration of war by U.S. in 1917, & U.S. entered World War I.**

# Limits of Progressivism

- **Focused on urban (big city) problems – didn't do much to help rural poor.**
- **Did little for African Americans – Wilson (who believed in racial superiority of whites and supported the KKK) even re-segregated the Civil Service, which had been desegregated before he became president.**

# The Prohibition and Women's Suffrage Movements Were Linked



# The Progressive Era Ends

- Last major reforms of the Progressive Era were the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment of 1919 (prohibition of alcohol) and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920 (gave women the right to vote throughout the U.S.) – this is considered the end of the Progressive Era.
- The 1920s brought a “return to normalcy” as many Americans were tired of the constant changes of progressivism and wanted to just let things “settle down and stay the same for a while.”
- As progressivism grew less popular, many progressives started calling themselves liberals – today, many liberals have started calling themselves progressives again – no real difference between the two.