

Welcome to History!

**Me: This show is
boring.**

**Boss: Again, this is a
Zoom conference.**



Up Next: The Progressive Era

What should you know about the Progressive Era overall?

- Concepts/arguments that are still relevant today
- How did the Progressive Era emerge? What was the impetus for change and what were their goals?
- Recognizable individuals/organizations
- What was accomplished? What progress was/was not made?

LASTING QUESTIONS that are STILL RELEVANT today:

What responsibilities do we have FOR TAKING CARE OF one another?

What is/should be the role of government in America?

WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROVIDE FOR/ SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED?

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Goals of Progressives:

- Political Reform:
 - Reduce corruption in govt.
 - Make govt. more accountable to citizens
- Economic Reform
 - Improve social welfare (with govt help)
 - Improve working conditions
- Moral Reform

Goals of Progressives:

- **Did most want drastic/radical change?**
 - **NO! Most did NOT support radical changes to the economy or government**
 - Further explanation:
 - Most **opposed govt. control of business** except for those that supplied essential services (electricity and water)
 - Most **didn't want radical political adjustments**, they just wanted to free existing govt of corruption and refocus energy on welfare of workers & poor
 - Most **didn't want to totally change the economic system**, they **simply sought minimum social welfare programs** to ensure a minimum standard of a living (ideas included unemployment and accident/health insurance)
- **Not all Progressives agreed on everything.** Like all movements, many had conflicting/contradictory ideas about how to accomplish these goals.

Roots of Reform:

- **Many Progressives reform movements grew out of earlier reform movements**
- **Most reformers were middle class, educated people from cities**
- **What were they reacting to/up against?**
 - Effects of rapid industrialization, immigration, and urbanization

Roots of Reform:

Continued: What were they reacting to/up against?

- **Graft (and other forms of political corruption) that diminished the benefits of earlier efforts:**

- State and local governments had expanded public services such as schools, pure water, and healthcare services. But political corruption and graft often kept these services inadequate.

It can be difficult to tell the difference between graft and other types of corruption. In some cases, the differences are slight. For instance, the main difference between bribery and graft is the element of public finance. A police officer who looks the other way because criminals pay him off is accepting a bribe. A senator who approves a military budget that includes \$1,000 hammers and \$2,000 toilet seats is engaging in graft.

A current example: If a senator who sits on the armed services committee in the U.S. senate used his knowledge of military contracts to buy stock in a defense contractor's company. His position gives him unfair advantage over other investors. It is similar to the notion of insider trading in business.

What is graft?

Graft is a term used to describe a specific type of political corruption, where a politician uses his/her authority for personal gain.

Political graft occurs when funds for public projects are intentionally misdirected and used to improve the fortunes of public officials.

Roots of Reform:

Continued: What were they reacting to/up against?

- **Resistance to change from:**

- **Courts:** Usually ruled in favor of businesses & against government intervention

- Often said:

- The government should not intervene in their constitutional right to make contracts.
- Intervention violated private property rights by telling them how to use their property.
- Labor Unions were acting as “monopolies” by limiting competition.

- **From those who would be receiving help:**

- Examples: Ending child labor or limitations on hours

**Progressives – Recognizable
Groups, Individuals, and
Organizations**

Progressives – Recognizable Groups, Individuals, and Organizations

Writers!

• Vocab: Muckrakers

- **Definition:** Investigative journalists who sought to expose problems
- *Despite some author's exaggerations, the muckrakers included many respected writers who identified serious abuses.*

“It seemed they must have agencies all over the country to hunt out old and crippled and diseased cattle to be canned. There were cattle which had been fed on whisky malt, the garbage of the breweries, and had become what the men called steerly – which means covered in boils... It was the stuff such as this that made the embalmed beef that had killed several times as many U.S. soldiers as all the bullets of the Spaniards in the [Spanish-American War].” – Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*, 1906

There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt, and sawdust where workers had trampled and spit uncounted billions of consumption germs. There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and the water from leaky roofs would drip over it, and thousands of rats would race about on it... a man could run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handful of the dried dung of rats. These rats were a nuisance, and the packers would put out poisoned bread for them, they would die, and then rats, bread and meat would go into the hoppers together.” – Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*

Muckrakers continued:

- **Examples:**

- **Ida Tarbell:** Wrote about the abuses committed by the Standard Oil Trust
- **Lincoln Steffens:** The Shame of the Cities – exposed political corruption in St. Louis & other cities
- **Upton Sinclair:** The Jungle – plight of workers & disgustingly unsanitary food products

- **What other topics did they write about?**

- **Others wrote about social evils:** child labor, discrimination, human trafficking/red-light districts, life in the slums

Muckrakers continued:

“Muckrakers signified much about the nature of the progressive reform movement. They were long on lamentation but stopped short of revolutionary remedies. To right social wrongs, they counted on publicity and an aroused public conscience.” – American Pageant

• Most counting on democracy to work...

- Counting on the **force of change coming from the educated public, not the political officials** who are more likely to be affected by short-term self-interest.
- Increasing public consciousness DOES WORK if the public puts pressure on legislators to pass and enforce new laws, they will give in to get elected. Even political machines would have to give in!

Our citizens may be deceived for awhile, and have been deceived; but as long as the presses can be protected, we may trust to them for light.” Thomas Jefferson

Progressives – Recognizable Groups, Individuals, and Organizations

- Labor Unions
- Socialists
 - Progressive Era saw a rise in the popularity of socialism
 - 1901: Formed Socialist Party of America - had some success (e.g., election of 1912)
 - BUT most Progressives did **NOT** support socialism
 - *Reminder: Make sure to read the insert on “Why is there no socialism in the United States?” in your reading and be able to explain the four reasons*

Progressives – Recognizable Groups, Individuals, and Organizations

- **Influential Women's Groups/Individuals:**
 - **BIG IDEA:** Rising to new levels of activism, women played a pivotal role in reform movements of Progressive Era
- **Examples:**
 - Florence Kelley:
 - Joined Jane Addams's Hull House and was recommended to investigate child labor conditions.
 - Largely as a result of her efforts, Illinois passes a law prohibiting child labor, limited working hours for women, and regulating sweatshop conditions.
 - When she could find no lawyer in Chicago to child labor cases she went to law school, passed the bar exam, and argued the cases herself.

Not in your notes – just another example to consider!

- **Another example:**
 - **Rose Schneiderman: A Jewish immigrant from Poland would become one of the best known women labor leaders.**
 - **Called on the city to appoint fire inspectors, make fire drills compulsory, to unlock fire proof exists, and require automatic sprinklers in buildings more than 7 stories high**
 - **New York's Tammany Hall political machine would give in to this pressure and adopt new workplace regulations**

Every week I must learn of the untimely death of one of my sister workers.... But everytime the workers come out in the only way they know to protest against conditions which are unbearable, the strong hand of the law is allowed to press down heavily upon us.” - Rose Schneiderman

Progressives Era Actions at the City (Municipal) and State Level

Municipal (city level) Reforms

- **BIG IDEA:** Cities were an important part of the era's spirit of reform. Cities were home to most Progressives; settlement workers, club members, and professionals who pushed for change.
- **In short:** At the heart of reform = local movements

Municipal (city level) Reforms

- **Examples of actions taken:**
 - Attacked influence of political machines (with limited success)
 - Tried to replace with more efficient systems of municipal government - argued for a **civil service system** based on merit and sought an end to political appointees in important jobs related to public safety
 - Many cities took over some utilities (water)
 - Welfare services such as parks, work-relief programs, playgrounds, free kindergartens, homeless shelters, and [public baths](#)

***Further explanation:
Employees would be selected through competitive exams and basis of merit. It also prevented elected officials from firing civil servants, removing civil servants from the influences of political patronage and partisan behavior.***

State Level Reforms

- **BIG IDEA: Voters gained more direct influence in lawmaking and in choosing candidates (more direct democracy, by bypassing politicians who might be tied to special interest groups)**

Before:

- Party leaders choose candidates for state and local offices.
- State legislatures choose U.S. senators
- Only members of the state legislature can introduce bills.
- Only legislators pass laws.
- Only courts or the legislature can remove corrupt officials.

After:

- Direct Primaries: Voters select their party's candidates.
- 17th Amendment: U.S. Senators are elected by popular vote.
- Initiative: People propose a law. Voters can put a proposed new law directly on the ballot in the next election by collecting voters' signatures on a petition.
- Referendum: People change/repeal a law. Voters can approve/reject a law (or part of it) already passed by the legislature.
- Recall: Voters can remove elected officials from office (before the next election).

What are the benefits of direct democracy tools like initiative?

What might be some of the unintended negative consequences of the initiative, among other forms of direct democracy?

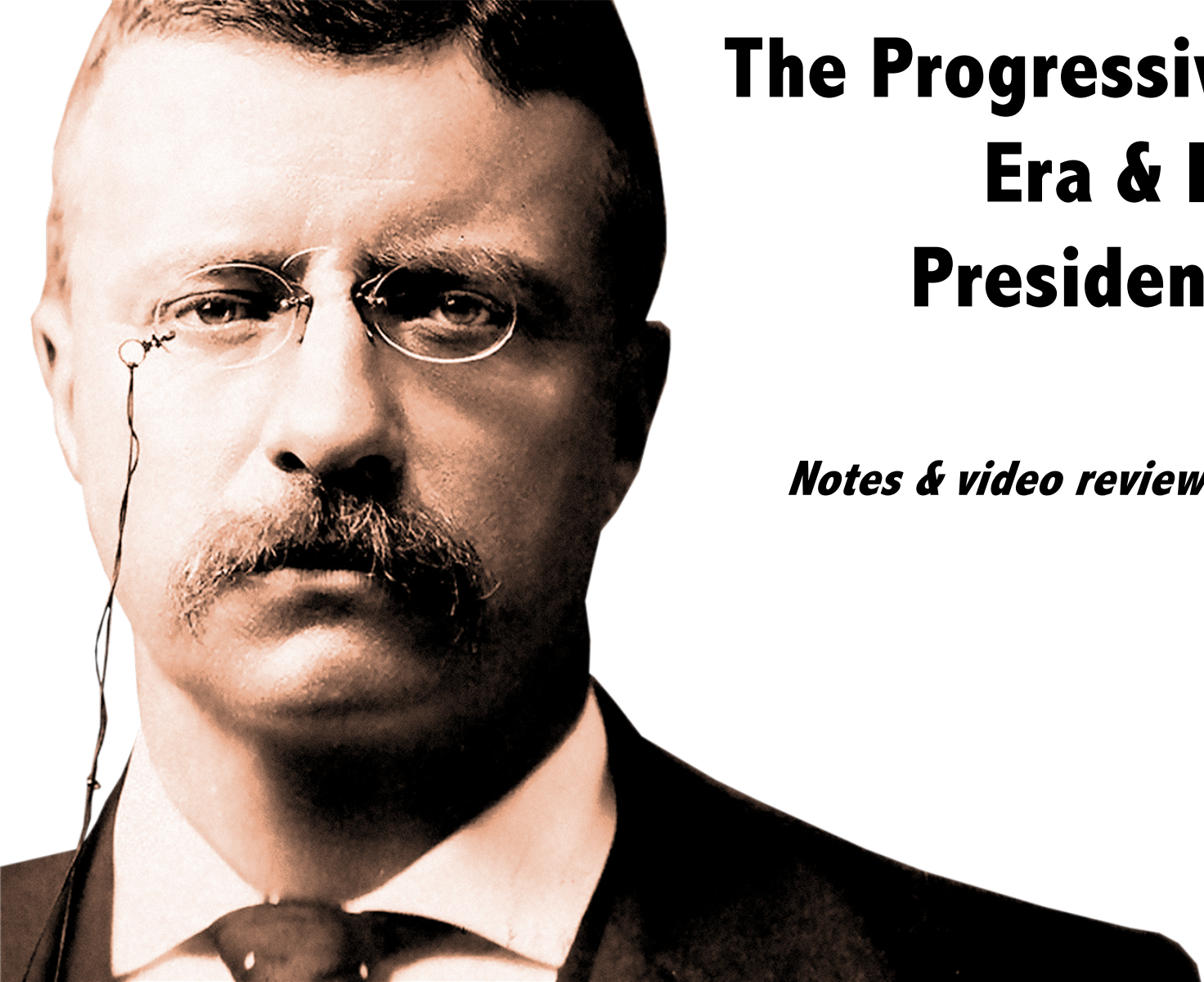
State Level Reforms

- **Other developments:**
 - **Establishment of labor departments**
 - **Workers' accident compensation systems**
- ***Note:* A regulation would only be deemed Constitutional if reformers could PROVE that it was needed to protect workers' health:**
 - **Example (from your reading):**
 - ***Muller v. Oregon.* Court said it was okay to limit hours of female laundry workers to 10 hours because there were harmful effects on women's weaker bodies.**

Progressives Era Actions at the Federal Level

Federal Reforms

- **BIG IDEA: A number of important Progressive reforms were made at the the Federal level.**
- **Starts with: Teddy Roosevelt - White House became a powerful voice for change.**
- **What three Progressive Era Presidents are in this unit?**
 - **Teddy Roosevelt**
 - **William Howard Taft**
 - **Woodrow Wilson**



The Progressive Era & Its Presidents

Notes & video review!

Teddy Roosevelt

Not in your notes – just read 😊

At the Republican convention in 1900, a senator warned his colleagues not to make Theodore Roosevelt their vice-presidential nominee: "Don't any of you realize that there's only one life between this madman and the presidency?" As New York's governor, Roosevelt had challenged banking and insurance interests; Republican Party boss Tom Platt wanted him out of state affairs.

Born in New York City in 1858, Roosevelt was, in his own words, "nervous and timid" as a youth. He suffered headaches, fevers, and stomach pains. He was so frail and asthmatic that he could not blow out a bedside candle. So he hiked, swam, boxed, and lifted weights to build up his strength and stamina. In 1912, he would be shot in the chest by a deranged man, but proceeded to deliver an hour-long speech before having the bullet removed.

At the age of 23, Roosevelt was elected to the New York state legislature. Then in 1884, his wife and his mother died on the same day. To distance himself from these tragedies, he retreated to a 25,000-acre ranch in North Dakota's Badlands and became a cowboy. He wore spurs and carried a pearl-handled revolver from Tiffany, the New York jewelers.

Roosevelt returned to serve as a U.S. Civil Service commissioner; he also served as New York City's crusading police commissioner, wearing disguises in order to root out corruption. He subsequently became assistant secretary of the Navy and governor of New York, before his election as vice president in 1900.

Teddy Roosevelt

Lacking any military experience and wearing a uniform custom-tailored by Brooks Brothers, Roosevelt served as second-in-command of the Rough Riders, a volunteer cavalry unit that fought in Cuba during the Spanish American War. With William McKinley's assassination, he became, at the age of 42, the youngest president in American history.

Even those who know nothing about his presidency instantly recognize his image carved on Mount Rushmore--his huge, toothy smile and his wire-rimmed glasses. As president, he made anti-trust, conservation of natural resources, and consumer protection national priorities. He forced coal operators to recognize the United Mine Workers.

Roosevelt's life was filled with contradictions. He was a member of one of the country's 20 richest families, yet he denounced business magnates as "malefactors of great wealth." The first president born in a big city, he was a hunter as well as a conservationist. He was a bellicose (aggressive) man who boxed in the White House. He was also the first American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for brokering peace between Russia and Japan.

Incredibly active and energetic, Roosevelt was "a steam engine in trousers" who somehow found time to write three dozen books, on topics ranging from history to hunting and in languages ranging from Italian and Portuguese to Greek and Latin. He was the first celebrity president known simply by his initials. Said a British envoy, "You must always remember the president is about six."

Teddy Roosevelt

In office, Roosevelt greatly expanded the powers of the presidency. A bold and forceful leader, he viewed the White House as a "bully pulpit" from which he could preach his ideas about the need for an assertive government, the inevitability of bigness in business, and an active American presence in foreign policy. He broke up trusts that dominated the corporate world and regulated big business. He created the Departments of Commerce and Labor and the U.S. Forest Service. He supported a revolt in a province of Colombia that allowed the United States to build the Panama Canal. He sent a Great White Fleet on an around-the-world voyage to symbolize America's rise to world power. He made a dramatic public statement about race when he invited Booker T. Washington to dine at the White House.

Roosevelt pushed legislation through Congress, authorizing and establishing the authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission to set railroad rates. In 1904, he won reelection by the largest popular majority up to that time. But on election night, he announced that he would not seek reelection in 1908--a statement that undercut his influence during his second term. In 1909, he retired to hunt big game in Africa, and passed the presidency to his hand-picked successor, William Howard Taft.

Apart from his philosophy of an active, interventionist government, Roosevelt's most lasting legacy is that he became the model for a new kind of president: a charismatic, hyperkinetic, heroic leader, who sought to improve every aspect of society. He made the presidency as large as the problems posed by industrialization and urbanization.

**Please watch the first Edpuzzle Clip:
The Presidents – Teddy Roosevelt**

4th hour

6th Hour

7th Hour

A close-up portrait of Teddy Roosevelt, showing his face from the nose up. He has a prominent mustache and is wearing round-rimmed spectacles. The background is a solid, bright green color.

Teddy Roosevelt

- **Political Party: Republican**
 - **Later ran as part of the Progressive/Bull Moose Party**
- **When President: 1901-1909**
- **Bully Pulpit: Refers to opportunity he had to speak about and influence issues (using his power not just politically but also socially).**

He viewed the presidency as the ideal platform from which to guide or rally the American public to support causes he deemed moral and worthy.

Teddy Roosevelt

- **SQUARE DEAL** = AKA A “FAIR” Deal for
 - His domestic program (and slogan of Presidency)
 - Included a number of social/economic reforms
 - Focused on “Three C’s”
 - Control of corporations
 - Consumer protection
 - Conservation of natural resources

- **FIRST TO** side with labor
 - Example: Anthracite Coal Mine Strike

Remember: Rather than trust-buster, better remembered as a trust regulator.

Teddy Roosevelt

- **CONSERVATION:**

- **Launched conservation as a national political movement.**
- **Preserved more than 200 million acres for national forests, mineral reserves, and water projects**
- **U.S. became one of first nations in the world to create wilderness parks.**

Teddy Roosevelt

- **PUBLIC HEALTH REFORMS:**

- **Pure Food & Drug Act:** prohibiting false advertising and harmful additives in food
- **Meat Inspection Act:** mandating government enforcement of sanitary and health standards in meatpacking plants

Protecting Public Health

At the beginning of the 20th century, milk distributors frequently adulterated milk by adding chalk or plaster to improve its color and molasses and water to cut costs. Meatpackers killed rats by putting poisoned pieces of bread on their floors; sometimes, the poisoned rats made their way onto the production lines. The publication of Upton Sinclair's book, *The Jungle*, exposed unsanitary conditions in the meatpacking industry. A muckraking journalist named Samuel Hopkins uncovered misleading and fraudulent claims in non-prescription drugs.

These and other muckrakers generated widespread public support for federal inspection of meatpacking plants and other production methods.



Something to Consider:

The people vs. business?

Progressives often portrayed their battles as simply the latest example of an older struggle between "the people" and business interests and proponents of democracy against the defenders of special privilege. In fact, this view is quite misleading. Corporate managers were often strong supporters of Progressive reform. During Theodore Roosevelt's presidency, mining companies worked closely with the administration in order to try to rationalize the extraction of natural resources. Big meatpackers promoted the Meat Inspection Act of 1906 to prevent smaller packers from exporting bad meat and closing foreign markets to all American meat products.

– Digital History

Taft (elected in 1908)

Not in your notes – just read 😊

Of all the people T.R. could've picked as his preferred successor, he chose a guy who shared virtually nothing in common with him. William Howard Taft was unsure of himself, unimaginative, and lacked the energy and desire to battle in the political field the way that Roosevelt did. Sadly, by the time Taft's presidency was drawing to a close, Roosevelt and virtually every other American couldn't wait to get rid of him. Today, William Howard Taft is better known for his weight than for his presidency.

Taft had served as a federal judge and actually racked up an impressive record of public service even before he'd become president. However, his talents as administrator served him poorly as a president. He was perceived, wrongly, as a tool of entrenched interests. Thankfully, Taft would find greater success in 1930 when he was appointed chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.



**Please watch the next Edpuzzle Clip:
The Presidents – William Howard Taft**

4th hour

6th Hour

7th Hour

Taft (elected in 1908)

Back to your notes!

Political Party: Republican

When President: 1909-1913

Progressive Era Accomplishments - examples

- **Many anti-trust suits (2x as many as Roosevelt)**
- **Reserved more public lands for conservation than Roosevelt**
- **Created a *Children's Bureau* within the Labor Department**
- **Called for a constitutional amendment to permit an income tax (*the amendment was ratified in 1913 during the waning days of his administration*).**



Did his reputation reflect these achievements:

- **NO (Roosevelt turned against him)**

**When leaving the Presidency, Taft said
“I’m glad to be going... this is the
loneliest place in the world.”**

Election of 1912

Who was in this election?

Democrat = Wilson

Republican = Taft

Progressive/Bull Moose Party = Roosevelt

Socialist = Labor leader Eugene V. Debs

Notable: “The election of 1912 thus offered the voters a choice not merely of policies but of political and economic philosophies – a rarity in U.S. history [up to this point].” – *Digital History*

Woodrow Wilson

Wilson was president from 1913-1921.

After his election, the moralistic, self-righteous Wilson told the chairman of the Democratic Party:

"Remember that God ordained that I should be the next president of the United States."

Wilson later said that the United States had been created by God "to show the way to the nations of the world how they shall walk in the paths of liberty."

Woodrow Wilson

Political Party: Democrat

When President: 1913-21

New Freedom – Domestic Agenda

- **Included three reforms:**
 - **Lowering protective tariffs**
 - **Creating better banking system**
 - **Strengthening antitrust laws**
- **Did NOT want too big of govt (didn't want more and more powerful regulatory agencies)**
 - **said people did not want the government to take care of them, they just simply wanted competition restored so that the free-enterprise system could work & citizens could thrive)**
- **Did not include any social justice reforms**

Comparison of Progressive Era Presidents Roosevelt and Wilson: They both wanted the government to take an active role in economic matters, but they wanted to use different strategies.

First Southerner elected President since Civil War

Woodrow Wilson

Progressive reforms passed during his Presidency:

- **Federal Reserve system:** established a Federal Reserve Board and 12 regional Federal Reserve banks to **supervise the banking system**, setting interest rates on loans to private banks and controlling the supply of money in circulation
- **Federal Trade Commission:** sought to preserve competition by preventing businesses from engaging in **unfair business practices**
- **Anti-Trust legislation: Clayton Anti-Trust Act** - defines unethical business practices, such as price-fixing and monopolies, and upholds various rights of labor (recognized the right of labor to strike and picket and barred the use of anti-trust statutes against labor unions).
- **Graduated income tax**
- **Tariff Reduction**

Woodrow Wilson

Constitutional Amendments during his Presidency:

- **16th Amendment (1913)** gave Congress the power to impose an income tax
- **17th Amendment (1913)** required the direct election of senators
- **18th Amendment (1919)** banned the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages *(more on this later!)*
- **19th amendment (1920)** gave women the right to vote *(more on this later!)*

**Please watch the next Edpuzzle Clip:
The Presidents – Woodrow Wilson**

4th hour

6th Hour

7th Hour

What's Next?

**AMERICAN IMPERIALISM
& FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT
THE TURN OF THE
CENTURY**