

The Progressive Spirit of Reform

Section 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. Theodore Roosevelt's progressive reforms tried to balance the interests of business, consumers, and laborers.
2. William Howard Taft angered Progressives with his cautious reforms, while Woodrow Wilson enacted far-reaching banking and antitrust reforms.

Key Terms and People

Theodore Roosevelt vice president who became president upon McKinley's death

Pure Food and Drug Act law stopping the manufacture, sale, or transportation of mislabeled or contaminated food and drugs

conservation protection of nature and its resources

William Howard Taft president elected in 1908

Progressive Party nicknamed the Bull Moose Party; formed so Roosevelt could run for President in 1912

Woodrow Wilson Democratic president who worked to regulate tariffs, banking, and business

Sixteenth Amendment amendment that allows the federal government to impose direct taxes on people's incomes

Academic Vocabulary

various of many types

Section Summary

ROOSEVELT'S PROGRESSIVE REFORMS

Vice President **Theodore Roosevelt** became president when President McKinley was assassinated. Roosevelt was a progressive president. He believed the interests of businesses, workers, and consumers should be balanced, or even sided. This policy was called the Square Deal.

During a 1902 coal miner strike, Roosevelt forced mine managers and strikers to settle their dispute. This was done through arbitration, a formal way of settling an argument. Roosevelt's Square Deal idea helped him win the 1904 presidential election.

What did Theodore Roosevelt mean when he used the term *Square Deal*?

Section 4, continued

President Roosevelt made regulating big business a top goal. Muckrakers helped him by focusing public attention on industry problems. One muckraker, Upton Sinclair, wrote a book on meat processing. The terrible conditions he described led to a meat-inspection law. His book also led to the **Pure Food and Drug Act** of 1906.

Roosevelt was the first president to consider **conservation** an important national issue. Nearly 150 million acres of public land was saved from development under Roosevelt.

Why do you think many mining, logging, and railroad companies opposed conservation?

REFORMS OF TAFT AND WILSON

William Howard Taft became President in 1908 with Roosevelt’s support. He felt Roosevelt had more power than the Constitution allowed. So he moved toward reform slowly. **Various** Progressives, including Roosevelt, were not satisfied with some of his reforms. In 1912 Roosevelt ran with the **Progressive Party** against Taft. However, Democrat **Woodrow Wilson** won the election.

Why did Theodore Roosevelt form a third party for the 1912 elections?

President Wilson immediately began to push for reforms. He was especially interested in tariffs and banking. His tariff reforms led to passage of the **Sixteenth Amendment**. This allowed a direct income tax.

What was the purpose of the Federal Trade Commission?

Wilson worked to regulate banking with the Federal Reserve Act in 1913. Passage of the Clayton Antitrust Act and the creation of the Federal Trade Commission helped regulate big business. These programs also helped Wilson win re-election in 1916.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Write to See Connections Write a short paragraph explaining how muckrakers played an important role in the reforms backed by U.S. presidents.