Progressives

- Those who supported political, social, and economic change in the United States. They called for
- more regulation of business
- improved wages for workers
- regulations over work environments
- laws governing morality
- defined standards for education
- stricter regulation of professions like doctors, teachers, and lawyers.
Muckrakers

Journalists who wrote stories exposing abuse in government, big business, and expose many other social wrongs. President Theodore Roosevelt labeled these authors and journalists the muckrakers because they stirred up and uncovered much of the "muck" in US society.
Progressive Movement: Governmental Issues
Lincoln Steffens (1866-1936)
Muckraker who exposed political corruption in St. Louis and other cities.
Progressive Movement: Big Business
The Rise of Big Business

► **Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890**

- Law outlawing a combination of companies that restrained interstate trade or commerce; important to prevent monopolies. Not initially enforced properly.

“What can I do when both Parties insist on kicking”
Ida Tarbell

History of the Standard Oil Company

Exposed the monopolistic practices and abuses of the Standard Oil trust.

In Standard Oil v. U.S. (1911), the company was declared a monopoly and broken up.
Frank Norris: The Octopus

In Northern Securities v. U.S. (1904), the holding company controlling railroads in the Northwest was broken up.
Upton Sinclair: “The Jungle”

His description of diseased, rotten, and contaminated meat shocked the public and led to new federal food safety laws.

Government Regulations of Food and Drugs

Pure Food & Drug Act - Forbade the manufacture or sale of mislabeled or adulterated food or drugs, it gave the government broad powers to ensure the safety and efficacy of drugs. FDA. (June 30, 1906)

Meat Inspection Act

- Food processing plants forced to meet government standards.
- Products could now be seized and condemned, and offending persons could be fined and jailed.
- Ingredients listed on all products.
John Spargo: The Bitter Cry of the Children

Journalist and novelist, he wrote of the unfair treatment of children used as child labor. Stressed better education, better schools and teachers.
Child Labor Laws

- Limited the number of hours children could work.
- Age limit Laws that set limits on how young employees could be (ages ranged from 12 to 16).
- Restricted from certain jobs (safety issues)
The Presidents

Roosevelt  Taft  Wilson
Theodore Roosevelt

- **Trust Busting**
  - Trusts or monopolies controlled about 4 out of 5 (80%) industries in 1900
  - Roosevelt filed 44 antitrust suits as President

- **1902 Coal Strike**
  - 140,000 coal miners were on strike for 5 months in Pennsylvania
  - When coal reserves began to run low Roosevelt stepped in to force both sides come to an agreement
  - This set the precedent that when a strike threatened public welfare, the Federal government was expected to step in to do something about it
William Howard Taft

- He busted 90 trusts during his four years in office.
- But was not as strong a Progressive. This led to a split in the Republican party and the election of the Democrat Wilson.
Woodrow Wilson

Anti-trust reforms

Clayton Anti-trust act (1914)

- Strengthened the Sherman Anti-Trust Act
- Made it illegal for companies to buy stock in other companies if doing so would create a monopoly
- Allowed for prosecution of violators

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

- A “watch dog” group
- Investigates possible violations of trade laws
Federal Income Tax

- 16th amendment made it legal for the Federal Government to tax income (1913)

Federal Reserve

- Divided the nation into 12 districts each with a central bank
- These “Central Banks” have the power to print $
- Meant to keep banks from failing
- They could borrow $ from the reserve bank if they needed it
- Determines Interest Rates for loans
Progressive Movement: Temperance
Temperance Movement
A movement that originally wanted to limit, and eventually eliminate alcohol.

Carrie Nation
A prohibitionist. She believed that bars and other liquor-related businesses should be destroyed, and was known for attacking saloons herself with a hatchet.
Eighteenth Amendment (1919)
The government prohibited the making, selling, or transporting of alcoholic beverages. Commonly referred to as "Prohibition."
Progressive Movement: Suffrage
Suffrage - The right to vote

Susan B. Anthony

- She is best known for joining with Elizabeth Cady Stanton to fight for women's rights.
- She continued to be a leader in the women's suffrage movement until her death in 1906.

In 1980 Congress approved the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin to be minted in her honor.
Carrie Chapman Catt
A women's suffrage leader who served as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and was the founder of the League of Women Voters.

Nineteenth Amendment (1920)
- Gave women the right to vote.
Progressive Movement:
Civil Rights
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) "Separate But Equal"

Supreme Court ruled that segregated facilities for whites and blacks were legal as long as the facilities were of equal quality.
W. E. B. Du Bois (1868-1963)

- The first African American Ph.D. graduate from Harvard University.
- Founded the N.A.A.C.P.
Booker T. Washington

- Founded Tuskegee Institute 1881
- An educator who urged blacks to better themselves through education and economic advancement, rather than by trying to attain equal rights.
George Washington Carver (1860-1943)

- An African American chemist and director of agriculture at the Tuskegee Institute, where he invented many new uses for peanuts.
- He believed that education was the key to improving the social status of African Americans.
Other Government Reforms

Seventeenth Amendment
Established that US senators would be elected directly by the people, rather than by state legislatures.

Initiative
Allowed citizens of a state to force a vote on a certain issue without having to wait for public officials to bring it up.

Recall
Gave citizens the power to hold special elections to remove corrupt officials from office before their terms were up.

Referendum
Meant that public officials would be elected by popular vote, rather than by party bosses or state legislatures.