

THE PROGRESSIVE ERA



AMERICA SEEKS REFORMS IN
THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

ORIGINS OF PROGRESSIVISM

- As America entered into the 20th century, middle class reformers addressed many social problems
- Work conditions, rights for women and children, economic reform, environmental issues and social welfare were a few of these issues



Leaders of Progressivism

MUCKRAKERS



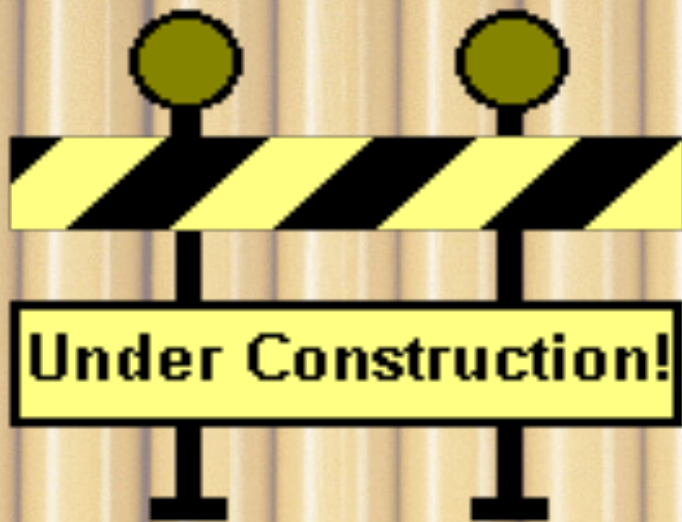
**Ida
Tarbell**

**Some view
Michael
Moore as a
modern
muckraker**



- Though most progressives did not embrace socialism, many writers saw the truth in Debs' criticism
- Journalists known as "Muckrakers" exposed corruption in business
- Ida Tarbell exposed Standard Oil Company's cut-throat methods of eliminating competition

GOALS OF REFORMERS



1. Political Reforms
2. Business Reforms
3. Women's Rights
4. Temperance
5. Immigration

Political Reform Disguised as Immigration Reform?



- Efforts at reforming local government stemmed from the desire to make government more efficient and responsive to citizens
- Some believe it also was meant to limit immigrants influence in local governments

PROTECTING WORKING CHILDREN



- **As the number of child workers rose, reformers worked to end child labor**
- **Children were more prone to accidents caused by fatigue**
- **Nearly every state limited or banned child labor by 1918**

EFFORTS TO LIMIT HOURS

- **The Supreme Court and the states enacted or strengthened laws reducing women's hours of work**
- **Progressives also succeeded in winning worker's compensation to aid families of injured workers**



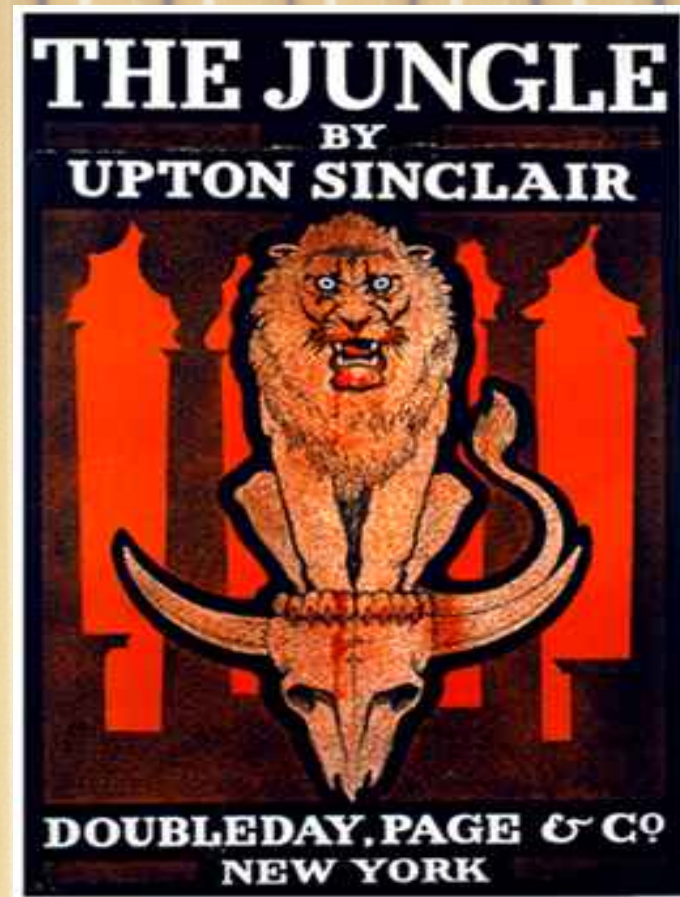
TRUSTBUSTING

- By 1900, Trusts – legal bodies created to hold stock in many companies – controlled 80% of U.S. industries
- Roosevelt filed 44 antitrust suits under the Sherman Antitrust Act



“THE JUNGLE” LEADS TO FOOD REGULATION

- After reading *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Meat Inspection Act of 1906
- The Act mandated cleaner conditions for meatpacking plants



PURE FOOD AND DRUG ACT



The Pure Food and Drug Act took medicines with cocaine and other harmful ingredients off the market

- In response to unregulated claims and unhealthy products, Congress passed the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906
- The Act halted the sale of contaminated foods and medicines and called for truth in labeling

DIRECT ELECTION OF SENATORS

- Before 1913, each state's legislature had chosen its own U.S. senators
- To force senators to be more responsive to the public, progressives pushed for the popular election of senators
- As a result, Congress passed the 17th Amendment (1913)



FEDERAL INCOME TAX ARRIVES

- **Wilson worked hard to lower tariffs, however that lost revenue had to be made up**
- **Ratified in 1916, the 16th Amendment legalized a graduated federal income tax**



DOMESTIC WORKERS



- Before the turn-of-the-century women without formal education contributed to the economic welfare of their families by doing domestic work
- Altogether, 70% of women employed in 1870 were servants

WOMEN IN THE WORK FORCE

- Opportunities for women increased especially in the cities
- By 1900, one out of five women worked
- The garment trade was popular as was office work, department stores and classrooms



WOMEN LEAD REFORM

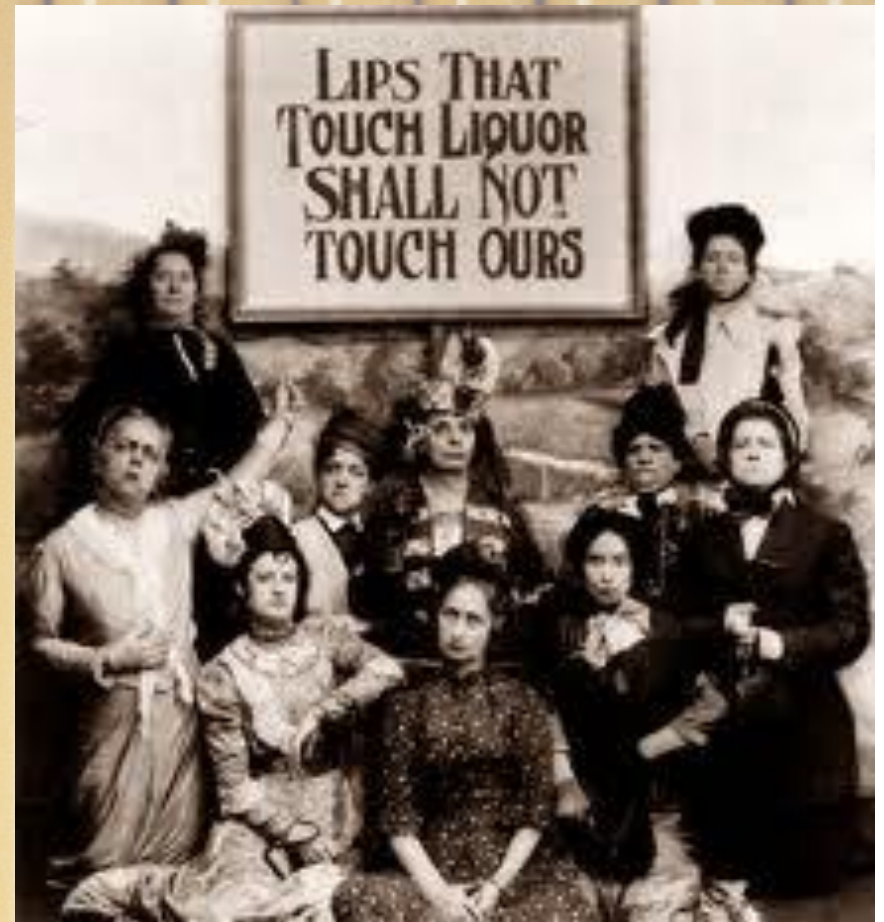
- Many of the leading progressive reformers were women
- Middle and upper class women also entered the public sphere as reformers
- Many of these women had graduated from new women's colleges



Colleges like Vassar and Smith allowed women to excel

Temperance Movement

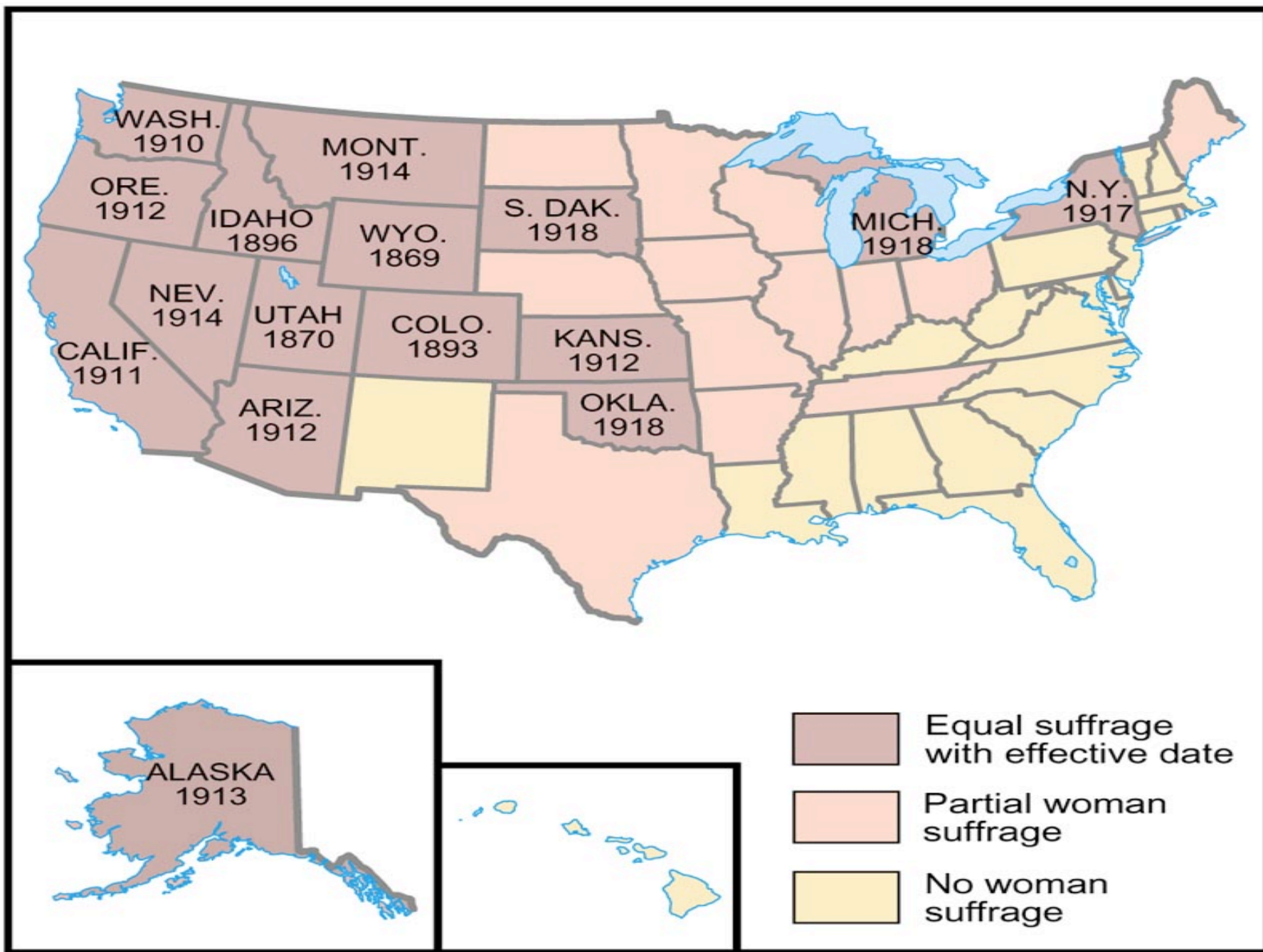
- The Temperance movement was a significant mass movement at this time and encouraged a general abstinence from drink. There was a general movement to build alternatives to replace the functions of public bars. While great strides were made during this period the temperance movement did not meet its goals until after WWI.



THREE-PART STRATEGY FOR WINNING SUFFRAGE

- Suffragists tried three approaches to winning the vote
- 1) Convince state legislatures to adopt vote (Succeeded in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Colorado)
- 2) Pursue court cases to test 14th Amendment
- 3) Push for national constitutional Amendment





WOMAN SUFFRAGE BEFORE 1920

WOMEN WIN SUFFRAGE



The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote in 1920

- Native-born, educated, middle-class women grew more and more impatient
- Through local, state and national organization, vigorous protests and World War I, women finally realized their dream in 1920

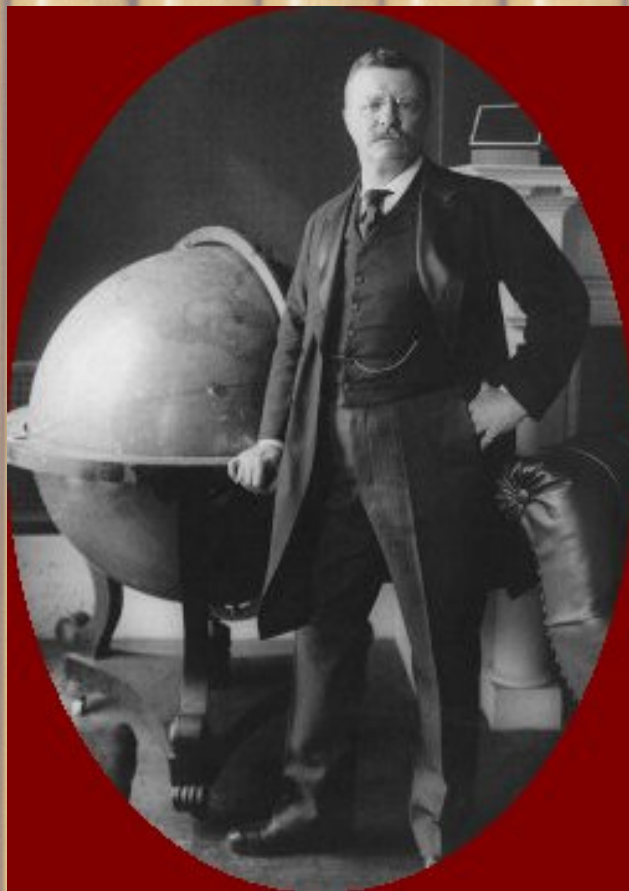
TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S SQUARE DEAL



- When President William McKinley was assassinated 6 months into his second term, Theodore Roosevelt became the nations 26th president

McKinley was assassinated by an anarchist in Buffalo in September of 1901

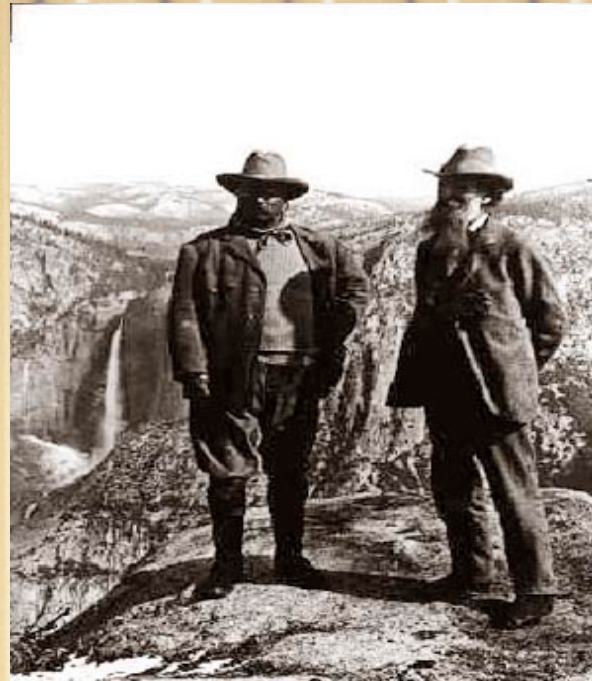
THE MODERN PRESIDENT



- **When Roosevelt was thrust into the presidency in 1901, he became the youngest president ever at age 42**
- **He quickly established himself as a modern president who could influence the media and shape legislation**

ROOSEVELT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Before Roosevelt's presidency, the federal government paid very little attention to the nation's natural resources
- Roosevelt made conservation a primary concern of his administration



Roosevelt, left, was an avid outdoorsman – here he is with author John Muir at Yosemite Park

ROOSEVELT'S ENVIROMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*Yellowstone National
Park, Wyoming*

- Roosevelt set aside 148 million acres of forest reserves
- He also set aside 1.5 million acres of water-power sites and he established 50 wildlife sanctuaries and several national parks



NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS

LIMITS OF PROGRESSIVISM

- While the Progressive era was responsible for many important reforms, it failed to make gains for African Americans and other minorities
- Like Roosevelt and Taft, Wilson retreated on Civil Rights once in office



The KKK reached a membership of 4.5 million in the 1920s