

11.4

Reformers in the White House



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Analyze how Theodore Roosevelt influenced the changing relationship between the federal government and private business.**
- **Explain the impact of Roosevelt's actions towards managing the environment.**
- **Compare and contrast Roosevelt's policies with Taft's and Wilson's policies.**
- **Describe Wilson's efforts to regulate the economy.**
- **Assess the legacy of the Progressive Era.**

Roosevelt Presidency

Teddy Roosevelt became the 26th President of the United States & transformed the entire office

Roosevelt was a Harvard Graduate who moved to a ranch in the West, developing his love for the region

Teddy would eventually return to New York to fight Government corruption.

He left politics to begin the **rough riders** during the Spanish-American War

Roosevelt Presidency

When President McKinley was assassinated, he moved from Vice President to President of the United States

The *Square Deal*- Program to keep the wealthy & powerful from taking advantage of small businesses & the poor

Roosevelt believed that everyone should have a “good set of cards” to play

Roosevelt would step in & use the federal government to help workers, (first time for gov)

ICC & Railroads

The railroad companies often set their own policies & charged whatever they wanted.

The [Hepburn Act](#) allowed the ICC (Interstate Commerce Commission) to set maximum rates for sales

Roosevelt would go after the railroad, breaking up trusts & splitting them into smaller companies

This would earn him the title of “Trustbuster” & he went after corporate corruption

Food & Drugs

Meat Inspection Act- federal agents inspected meat sold across state lines & federal inspection of processing plants

The Pure Food & Drug Act – Federal inspection of all foods & medicines

Eventually this leads us to the Food & Drug Administration (FDA)

Manage the Environment

Roosevelt had a great admiration for nature & the nations environment

John Muir- Environmentalist who sought to protect wildlife & created Yosemite National Park

Roosevelt created a division of government that would look over the forest systems & set up national parks

Eventually led laws to protect the environment, private or public lands

Water Policy

Knowing that water was a big issue in the west, Roosevelt sought to create reservoirs.

National Reclamation Act- Federal government had the power to decide where & how water was distributed

This helped create dams & water systems to be used by populations for decades to come.

A New Direction

When Roosevelt left, he promoted Taft to replace him, hoping his policies would continue

However, Taft set his own agenda going against much of what Roosevelt created/wanted

Roosevelt believed in **New Nationalism- Government program that restored trust busting powers**

The republican party split in two with the **Progressive Party led by Roosevelt. AKA **The Bull Moose Party****

Woodrow Wilson

The republican votes were split & democratic nominee **Woodrow Wilson** becomes President

New Freedom- Strict government control over corporations

He set his sights on the “**Triple wall of privilege**”- Tariffs, banks, & trusts

He lowered foreign tariffs & the **16th Amendment** gave Congress the ability for an income tax

Regulations

Monetary Policy- Control of the supply of money in circulation at any given time.

Federal Reserve Act (1913)- A federal reserve board oversees commercial banks to protect consumers

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)- Watch over corporations & false advertisements

Clayton Antitrust Act (1914)- Strengthened earlier antitrust laws by spelling out what businesses could not do

Workers Rights

Workers could now organize freely without fear of being shut down.

Workingman's Compensation Act allowed employees to gain wages after being hurt or disabled

The **Ludlow Massacre** showed that not all workers were respected.

Miners who were striking were killed by the Colorado National Guard including families

*****Progressive Legacy**

**New voting laws allowed for a new voice in
American Politics**

**Anti-Trust laws protected consumers &
businesses for generations**

**Protection of natural resources allowed for agriculture
& respect for our environment**

**Government regulations gave everyone “the same hand
of cards”**