



SIXTH EDITION

UNITED STATES HISTORY



Challenges to Christianity

Modernism

Orthodox, or traditional, Christianity faced challenges from related movements that grew during this period. One was a theological movement known as **modernism**. Modernists were attempting to “save” Christianity and keep secular and liberal people in the church by adapting Christianity to modern ideas. Influenced by Darwin’s emphasis on natural processes, modernists (also called liberal theologians) said that all claims to theological truth must be based on reason or experience alone, not on an external authority. They denied the inspiration of the Bible (that the Bible was written by men who were guided by the Holy Spirit) and treated it as a purely human book. Modernists contended that the Israelites preserved a series of stories, legends, and myths and that the priests and royal scribes gradually shaped those tales into the biblical books. Thus, they rejected the idea that Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. Additionally, they denied biblical teachings such as the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, and atonement for sin through His blood. This movement came first to American colleges and seminaries and soon spread to American churches through graduates who became pastors. Instead of “saving” Christianity, modernists created an alternative religion under the name of Christianity.

Reform Darwinism and the Social Gospel

In the late nineteenth century, a movement known as **Reform Darwinism** emerged. Lester Frank Ward and other Darwinists were not satisfied with the assertions of Social Darwinism (see Chapter 12). Ward argued that human progress was best achieved not through competition but through cooperation. He believed that government was best equipped to promote human progress through this cooperation. As a result, government—as an active agent for social change—could remove what he saw as the two great barriers to a better world: poverty and ignorance. Ward’s ideas would have a tremendous impact on social thinking and public policy in the twentieth century.

As noted in Chapter 12, many orthodox Christians tried to reach the urban poor through the reform efforts of various organizations. The YMCA continued to expand in cities during the Gilded Age. The Salvation Army, originally from Great Britain, was active in providing relief for the poor and establishing rescue missions in many of the slums of US cities. These rescue missions met spiritual needs by presenting the gospel and physical needs by offering food and shelter. Others outside of the Salvation Army also started rescue missions. Jerry McAuley, who had served jail time for robbery and who had converted to Christianity, established the Water Street Mission in New York City in 1872. He wanted to reach the “down-and-outers” who lived in the worst parts of the city. In 1877 Colonel George Clarke and his wife, Sarah, founded the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago.

Unorthodox Religions

In addition to modernist teachings, two unorthodox religious groups emerged in late nineteenth-century America. Mary Baker Eddy founded Christian Science, which teaches that matter, death, disease, pain, and sin were mental illusions. Christian Science emphasizes spiritual healing, but denies the Trinity, the inspiration of the Bible, and the atonement of Christ.

The Watch Tower Society (Jehovah’s Witnesses) was founded in 1872 by Charles Taze Russell. While Jehovah’s Witnesses believe in the inspiration of the Bible, they deny the Trinity and eternal punishment in hell and believe that 144,000 will rule with Jesus in heaven while remaining believers live eternally on the new earth.

▼ Salvation Army workers providing doughnuts to arriving immigrants at Ellis Island



But a movement related to Reform Darwinism presented what many saw as an unorthodox alternative to traditional Christian outreach: the **social gospel** movement. It replaced an emphasis on regeneration of individuals with an emphasis on “regeneration” of society through social and political reform. The social gospel often grew out of a genuine concern to relieve the misery of the slums and was based on the belief that the essence of Christianity was the command “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” This love, however, embraced primarily the present life. Although some of their reforms were worthwhile, advocates of the social gospel joined with the modernists in rejecting the orthodox teachings of Christianity. Social gospel leaders departed from correct doctrine and emphasized “soup and soap”—feeding and cleaning people and society.

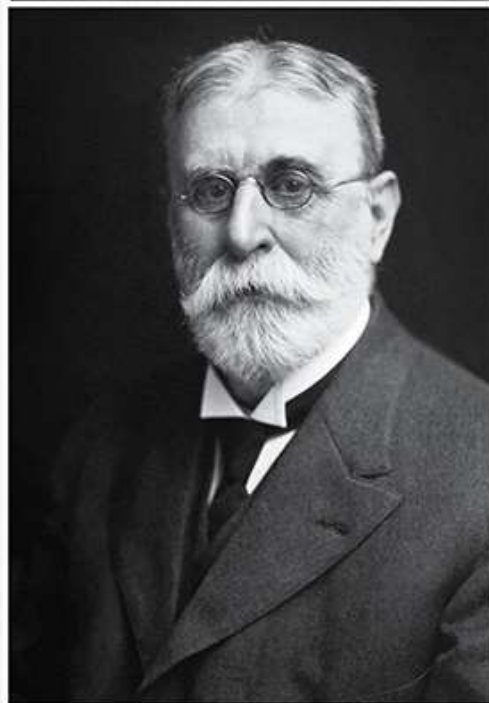
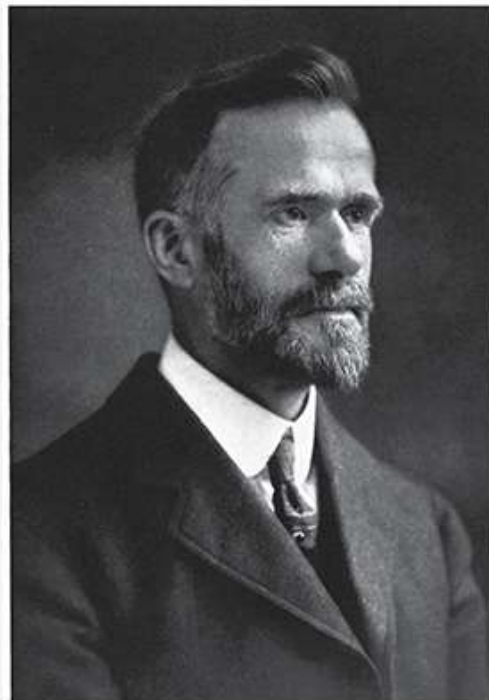
Christian Responses

Orthodox Christians responded vigorously to modernist attacks on their faith. One of the centers for the defense of orthodox Christianity was Princeton Theological Seminary. Perhaps the greatest defender of orthodox Christianity at the time was Benjamin B. Warfield, professor at Princeton from 1887 until his death in 1921. Countering modernist claims that there were errors in the Bible, Warfield argued that Christians must accept what the Bible teaches about itself, namely that it is inspired (breathed out) by God. He noted that the prophets, beginning with Moses, repeatedly said that they were writing a message received from God and that Jesus accepted the Old Testament as being without error. Warfield then demonstrated that the Bible’s authors believed that Jesus is God. By his careful scholarship, Warfield contended that modernist attempts to reinterpret the Bible were not legitimate.

Some Christians opposed unbiblical teachings by thoroughly educating other believers in the truths of Scripture. One educational method was the Bible institute, a school similar to a college but whose curriculum usually consisted almost entirely of courses in Bible or church-related subjects. One of the earliest major Bible institutes was Nyack Missionary College in New York City, founded by A. B. Simpson of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in 1882. Another was D. L. Moody’s Chicago Bible Institute, founded in 1889 and renamed Moody Bible Institute after its founder’s death. In 1908 the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (present-day Biola University) was established.

Another educational method was the Bible conference. Not all Christians could attend Bible institutes, so many of them spent their vacations at Bible conferences, held in resort spots for a week or more during the summer. These sessions featured noted preachers and Bible teachers. Three important American Bible conferences were the Niagara Conference in Ontario, D. L. Moody’s Northfield Conference in Massachusetts, and the Winona Lake Bible Conference in Indiana.

» (top) Baptist reformer and social gospel advocate Walter Rauschenbusch; (bottom) Benjamin B. Warfield



Comprehension Check 15.1

- Henry Ford's Ford Motor Company featured the following characteristics except _____.
 - the assembly line method of production
 - high prices for its Model Ts
 - standardized, interchangeable parts
- _____ was the first president of the Tuskegee Institute.
 - George Washington Carver
 - John Dewey
 - Booker T. Washington
- The Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson* decreed that _____ were constitutional.
 - literacy tests and poll taxes
 - marriages between people of different races
 - separate but equal facilities for blacks and whites
- _____ sought equality for black people through legal battles.
 - The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
 - The "Atlanta Compromise"
 - Eugenics
- Reform Darwinism thought human progress was best achieved through _____.
 - Christianity
 - competition
 - cooperation

MAKING CONNECTIONS

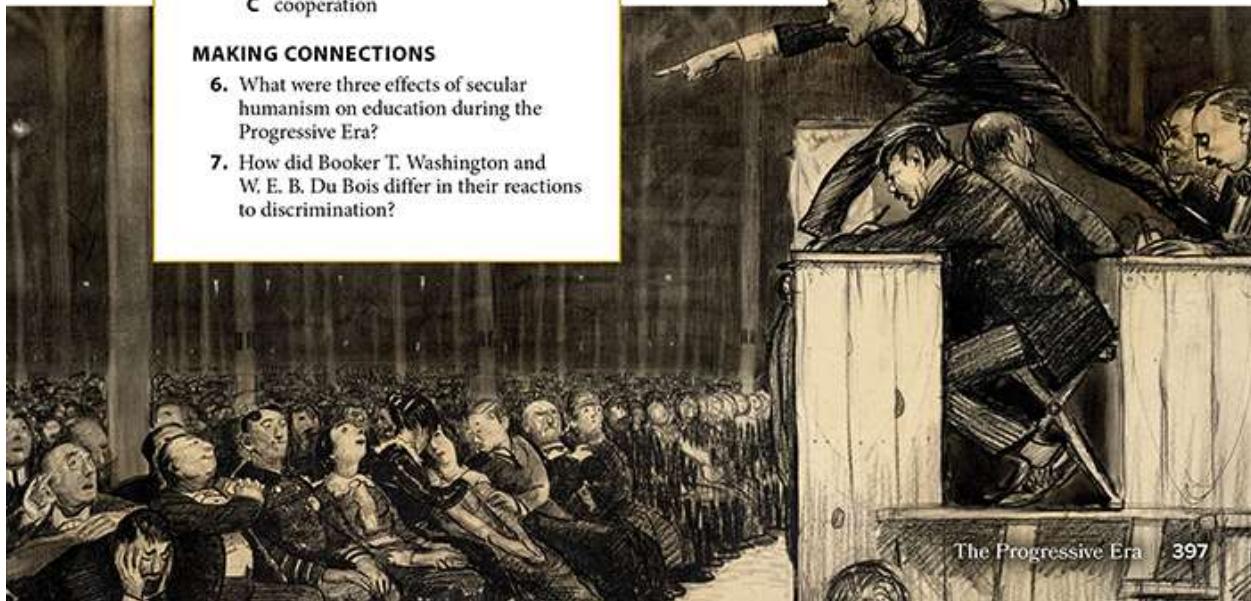
- What were three effects of secular humanism on education during the Progressive Era?
- How did Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois differ in their reactions to discrimination?

One notable orthodox means of defending and furthering the Christian faith was the continuation of the urban revivals popularized by D. L. Moody. After Moody's death in 1899, the most important urban evangelist was former professional baseball player William "Billy" Sunday. In 1886, while drinking with his teammates, Sunday heard a group of workers from the Pacific Garden Mission singing in the street and followed the singers back to the mission. After attending several services there, Sunday became a Christian.

Leaving baseball and working for a time at the YMCA, Sunday later became an evangelist. His popular style of preaching, characterized by dramatic gestures as well as illustrations drawn from his baseball career, brought in large crowds. When church and city auditoriums proved too small, he used the tabernacle, a wide, low, wooden, barn-like structure built especially for the campaigns. His most famous campaign was in New York City in 1917. In that ten-week campaign, nearly one and a half million people attended his meetings, and almost one hundred thousand responded to his invitations for salvation.

Gradually, an orthodox alliance was forming in the United States. Theologians such as Warfield, popular preachers such as Sunday, and other Christians were finding that they had a common interest in defending Christianity against modernism. From 1910 to 1915, Christian businessmen sponsored the publication and distribution of *The Fundamentals*, a series of essays by some of the leading Christian scholars of the day to defend key doctrines such as the authority of the Bible and Christ's deity, vicarious (substitutionary) atonement, resurrection, and second coming. In 1920 a Christian editor suggested the name "Fundamentalists" for those who defended these fundamental doctrines. These Fundamentalists would face continuing challenges in the 1920s (see Chapter 17).

▼ Satirical drawing of Evangelist Billy Sunday



GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How did Progressives want to reform government?
- How did Progressives want to reform society?
- How did the Progressive amendments meet Progressive goals?

15.2 Goals of the Progressive Era

What were the goals of Progressivism?

One assumption of progressivism was that people and their behavior were primarily shaped by their environment. Therefore, they believed, people's lives could be improved through reforms meant to change the environment in which they lived. Social improvement, however, was often brought about through the exercise of social control by means of legislation, regulation, reliance on experts and social scientists, and the establishment of government agencies.

Government Reforms

Most progressives believed that government should take an active role in solving the problems of society, but that the government itself needed reforming before it could do so. These reforms had both populist and elitist elements. Generally, the progressives favored reform through (1) advocating government intervention for fighting corruption, (2) promoting direct democracy, and (3) increasing government efficiency through hiring unelected experts.

Fighting Corruption

The progressives strongly believed that they could best achieve reform by direct government action or government intervention. However, they did not always agree about which action to take. For instance, progressives were united in attacking the alleged corruptions of trusts and abuses of big business. But they differed on how to deal with the problem. Some progressives favored "trust-busting," breaking up the monopolies and restoring competition to the marketplace. Others favored leaving the trusts intact but regulating their operations.

For some progressives, government ownership of businesses was the answer. The most extreme progressives—the socialists—wanted the government to take over major businesses. Most reformers, however, preferred only limited government ownership. The most widely accepted form of control was "gas-and-water socialism," city or state control of utilities such as gas and water companies. The progressives argued that a monopoly was the most efficient way to operate a utility and that the safest monopoly was one owned and operated by the government.

Progressives also promoted government intervention on behalf of labor. They favored legislation that was sympathetic to labor unions and that would force businesses to negotiate fairly with the unions. In this way, unions could provide a check to the power of big business.

Increasing Democracy

Many progressives believed "the cure for the ills of democracy is more democracy." Progressives thought that direct democracy, or placing power in the hands of the people, would naturally result in better government. William Jennings Bryan, an orthodox Christian, said that he favored "anything that makes the government more democratic, more popular in form, anything that gives the people more control over government."

Progressives tried to further the growth of democracy through several specific reforms. They favored the secret ballot for elections. Before this time, Americans had to indicate publicly which candidate they preferred as they voted. The secret ballot reduced the possibility of influencing or intimidating voters, and it frustrated corrupt politicians who now could not be sure whether their bribery had secured votes.

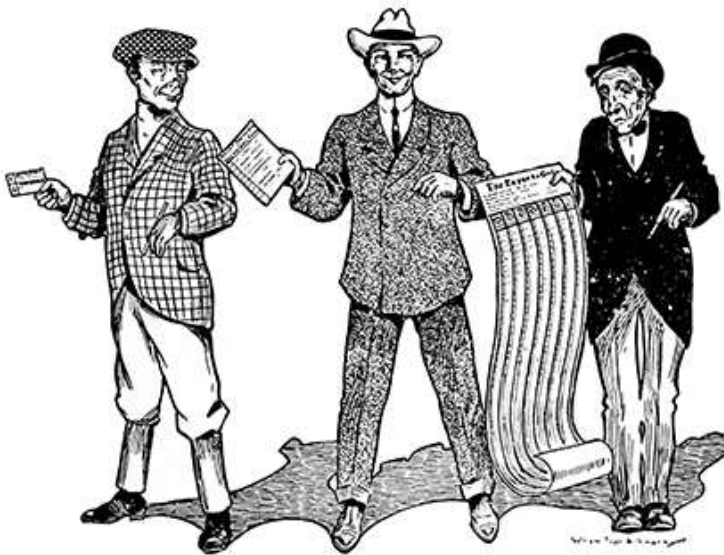
Progressives also wanted to discard the system of nomination of candidates by party conventions and caucuses and replace it with a system of direct primaries where a party nominated its candidates by popular vote. In theory, the direct primary took power from party bosses and gave it directly to the people.

Progressives also called for greater popular participation in legislation through the initiative and the referendum. **Initiative** is a process in which voters initiate legislation. After a certain number of signatures is collected on a petition, the proposed laws are sent to the state legislature or directly to the people to be accepted or rejected. A **referendum** allows the people to vote directly on whether a law passed by the legislature should be enacted.

Closely related to these two processes is **recall**, in which voters petition to hold a special election to decide whether to remove an elected official from office before his term expires. Although the national government accepted none of these innovations except the secret ballot, many state and city governments embraced them.

Progressive Voting Reforms

Initiative	Voters initiate legislation.
Referendum	Voters decide whether passed legislation should be enacted.
Recall	Voters petition to hold a special election to decide on removing an official.



◀ 1912 political cartoon showing an overwhelmed Oregon voter (far right) with a complex voting ballot, an unintended consequence of progressive political reforms that put an increasing number of decisions in the hands of the voting public

Improving Efficiency

Progressives sought to make government more efficient by putting qualified technical experts in positions of responsibility. City governments showed the greatest zeal for such improvements. Some cities adopted the city manager form of government, under which the city council either removed the office of elected mayor or reduced the mayor's power and hired a qualified city manager who served as the administrator of the city government. Other cities adopted the city commission form of government. This plan divided city government into several departments, each one under an expert commissioner's control. For example, a city's water or street commissioner could be a trained civil engineer.

The emphasis on technical experts grew from the increased trust in social scientists to address difficult problems. Progressives thought experts would be guided by impartial science and would therefore develop the best policies. While relying on specially trained individuals was sometimes helpful, experts were not always impartial, and their solutions did not always benefit society.

Social Reforms

As mentioned in Chapter 7, reformers sought solutions to problems created by industrialization and urbanization. The work of reformers in areas such as labor, temperance, and women's rights continued in the Progressive Era with many successes.

▼ The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City, March 25, 1911



Labor Issues

Employees in the steel, meatpacking, and textile industries faced unsafe working conditions. For example, workers in Southern textile mills inhaled cotton lint because of a lack of filtering systems. Some of these workers developed brown lung disease and later died from the condition. In March 1911 unsafe conditions in New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Company led to one of the worst urban disasters in the early twentieth century. A fire broke out and spread in the top three stories of the building in which the company was located. Because doors had been locked to keep the workers on the job until the end of the shift, nearly 150 workers, mostly women and teenage girls, died in the fire. After the tragedy, the state set up a commission to investigate factory conditions throughout New York, and many new laws were established to improve health and safety among workers.

Whereas the AFL (see Chapter 12) had often excluded women and African Americans from participation, new unions established during the Progressive Era welcomed them. The Women's Trade Union League was founded in 1903 and participated in calling for regulations after the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire. The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), also called "Wobblies," was founded in 1905 and included socialists such as Eugene V. Debs. Unlike the AFL, the organization welcomed unskilled workers, women, and African Americans.

Progressives favored legislation directly helping the worker. For example, progressives on the city, state, and national levels sponsored laws establishing minimum wage levels, prohibiting child labor, limiting the number of hours in a workday, and mandating safety standards for factories.

Quality of Life

Many tenements lacked indoor plumbing or running water while some had toilet facilities that large numbers of residents shared. Epidemics often spread in the crowded, unsanitary conditions. Some reformers responded to these conditions by founding **settlement houses**, where they "settled" in slum areas and provided childcare, clothing, medical care, and food as well as recreational and educational opportunities for the urban poor, who were often immigrants. One of the most famous settlement houses was Chicago's Hull House, founded in 1889 by Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr. These women and others at Hull House advocated for improvements in wages and working conditions and child labor laws.

Other reformers worked to improve living conditions in prisons and mental hospitals, where filth and cruelty were common. Reform efforts included some states establishing juvenile courts and ending the convict lease system in which convicts, many of whom were African American, were "hired out." However, many states later replaced convict leasing with chain gangs.

Some progressives, advocating eugenics, urged states to pass laws that led to sterilizing criminals and those with mental illness. Eugenics advocates claimed they were using science to help society progress. Critics argued they were unjustly denying due process to prisoners and establishing cruel and unusual punishments.



◀ Hull House founder Jane Addams with children

Progressive Amendments

Four progressive ideas eventually became a part of the US Constitution by the amendment process. These four additions to the Constitution were also known as the “progressive amendments.”

16th Amendment

The **Sixteenth Amendment** established the federal income tax and was ratified in 1913. Progressives had two reasons for favoring the tax. First, income taxes would provide the government with funds to initiate reforms and provide the expanded social services that the progressives wanted. Second, the tax rate was graduated, that is, the more money one made, the higher percentage of income one must pay in taxes, and money would be redistributed from the wealthy to benefit all Americans.

17th Amendment

Another progressive effort to increase democracy was to have US senators directly elected by the people rather than by state legislatures (as directed by Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution). Progressives charged that senatorial elections had become corrupt auctions in which the wealthy sometimes bribed state legislators to elect them. Direct election, they believed, would end this abuse by giving the decision to the voters of each state. The **Seventeenth Amendment** was passed by Congress in 1912 and ratified in 1913. Opponents argued that senators directly elected by the people would be more interested in reelection than in making the best decisions for the nation and that direct election would destroy an important aspect of federalism by removing the state legislatures’ check on federal power.

18th Amendment

The **Eighteenth Amendment** (ratified in 1919) established Prohibition, which banned the manufacture, sale, or transportation of alcoholic beverages. The progressives saw the amendment as a simple means of solving major social problems resulting in part from the consumption of alcohol.

19th Amendment

The **Nineteenth Amendment** (ratified in 1920) granted women suffrage nationwide and climaxed a movement much older than the progressive movement. Although Susan B. Anthony died fourteen years before the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified, it was sometimes called the “Anthony Amendment” in her honor.

Comprehension Check 15.2

- The following measures were intended to increase democracy except _____.
 - initiative
 - recall
 - prohibition
 - referendum
- The fire in ____ led to the passage of several laws mandating health and safety regulations for factories.
 - the Hull House
 - the Triangle Shirtwaist Company
 - the Women’s Trade Union League
- The Sixteenth Amendment _____.
 - banned the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcohol
 - established a federal income tax
 - granted women the right to vote
 - set up the direct election of US senators

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- What were two ways progressive city governments tried to increase efficiency through technical experts?
- What was one positive result and one negative result of progressive prison reform?

CHAPTER 15 REVIEW

Chapter Summary

15.1 Society of the Progressive Era

- Progressivism was a collection of people and ideas which favored achieving political and social reform through education, wider political participation, and direct government action. The period from the 1890s to around 1920 was called the Progressive Era.
- Life for many Americans was transformed through new leisure activities and advances in faster transportation, including air travel. Education, not the Bible, was viewed as the best way to improve society.
- African Americans faced discrimination in the form of Jim Crow laws and voting restrictions. Responses varied from Booker T. Washington's advocacy of industrial education and economic progress to W. E. B. Du Bois's advocacy for voting and other political rights.
- Modernism attempted to adapt Christianity to modern ideas by rejecting doctrines such as the inspiration of the Bible and the deity of Christ. Reform Darwinism and the social gospel emphasized the physical rather than the spiritual needs of people.
- Christians responded to these challenges by defending the authority of the Bible, establishing Bible institutes and conferences, and evangelizing.



TERMS

progressivism
Henry Ford
Orville and Wilber Wright
Titanic
Booker T. Washington
George Washington Carver
Jim Crow laws
literacy tests
poll taxes
grandfather clauses
Plessy v. Ferguson
W. E. B. Du Bois
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
modernism
Reform Darwinism
social gospel
Fundamentalists

TERMS

initiative
referendum
recall
settlement houses
Sixteenth Amendment
Seventeenth Amendment
Eighteenth Amendment
Nineteenth Amendment

15.2 Goals of the Progressive Era

- Progressives sought to reform government by fighting corruption through trust-busting and government ownership of utilities; increasing democracy through secret ballots, initiative, referendum, and recall elections; and improving efficiency by hiring experts as city managers or commissioners.
- Progressives achieved reforms in areas such as labor hours and working conditions, living conditions, temperance, and women's voting rights.
- The Sixteenth through Nineteenth Amendments accomplished four progressive goals: an income tax, the direct election of US senators, prohibition of alcoholic beverages, and women's suffrage.



CHAPTER 15 REVIEW

Chapter Summary

15.3 Presidents of the Progressive Era

- Theodore Roosevelt pursued a progressive agenda. Muckrakers exposed corruption and problems in society, which sometimes led to legislation to address abuses. Roosevelt used the Sherman Antitrust Act against trusts he saw as bad but preferred to use government agencies to regulate businesses. He sided with unions in labor disputes and promoted conservation of America's natural resources.
- Democrat Woodrow Wilson defeated Taft and Roosevelt in the 1912 election. Wilson's progressive agenda was called "New Freedom" and included lower tariffs, an income tax, the creation of the Federal Reserve Bank, new antitrust legislation, and the creation of the Federal Trade Commission to regulate businesses.
- Republican William Howard Taft succeeded Roosevelt in 1908. He pursued a foreign policy known as "dollar diplomacy." He achieved several progressive goals, but his actions on tariffs, conservation, and trust-busting angered Roosevelt and other progressives.



TERMS

muckrakers
Pure Food and Drug Act
Meat Inspection Act
William Howard Taft
dollar diplomacy
Underwood Tariff Act of 1913
Federal Reserve Act
Clayton Antitrust Act
Federal Trade Commission

Chapter Review Questions

RECALL

1. What were two inventions that transformed transportation during the Progressive Era?
2. What industrial college was founded by Booker T. Washington?
3. What organization was formed in 1909 to seek equality for African Americans?
4. What Princeton Seminary professor defended orthodox Christianity from modernism?
5. What former professional baseball player became a leading urban evangelist?
6. What did progressives believe primarily shaped people and their behavior?
7. What tragedy in New York City led to new laws to improve health and safety among factory workers?
8. What party did Roosevelt create to oppose Taft in the election of 1912?
9. Who were the four major candidates and their parties in the election of 1912? Who won the election?

UNDERSTAND

10. What is progressivism? What were two reasons people believed that society was progressing?
11. What were two ways people spent their leisure time during this era?
12. How was Henry Ford able to lower the cost of the automobile?
13. What were three ways education changed during the Progressive Era?
14. What contributions did George Washington Carver make to the field of agriculture?
15. What were two ways African Americans faced discrimination during this period?
16. What did the Supreme Court rule in *Plessy v. Ferguson*?
17. How did some people use science to defend discrimination?
18. How did modernists attempt to adapt Christianity to modern ideas?

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19. How did Reform Darwinism differ from Social Darwinism?
 20. What was the social gospel movement? What aspect of Christianity did it embrace, and what aspect of Christianity did it neglect?
 21. What were four ways orthodox Christians responded to modernism and the problems of society during the Progressive Era? How did these efforts differ?
 22. What were three ways progressives attempted to fight corruption?
 23. What were three ways progressives attempted to increase democracy?
 24. What were two ways progressives tried to improve government efficiency?
 25. What acts were the result of the publication of the muckraking book *The Jungle*?
 26. How did Roosevelt distinguish between "good" trusts and "bad" trusts?
 27. What were Roosevelt's actions during the coal strike of 1902? How did his actions differ from previous government actions involving labor issues?
 28. What were three ways Taft's domestic and foreign policies differed from Roosevelt's?
 29. What were four progressive policies enacted by Woodrow Wilson?

THINK ABOUT IT

30. Contrast the views of Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois regarding how African Americans should respond to discrimination.
31. Why do increased democracy and reliance on experts not always lead to better government?
32. How did each of the progressive amendments accomplish a goal of progressivism?
33. Why could progressivism's goal of changing society by changing man's environment never be fully successful?

▼ Roosevelt on the campaign trail in 1912

