THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
THE PROGRESSIVE ERA AND WORLD WAR I (1900-1920)

Two handouts
Populists' successes in both local and national elections encouraged others to seek change through political action
Poor farmers’ daily struggle to make a living made political activity difficult, so …

Progressives came to dominate
Progressives achieved greater success in part because theirs was an urban, middle-class movement.
Started with more economic and political clout than the Populists
Progressives could devote more time to the causes
Progressives were Northern and middle class, so the Progressive movement did not intensify regional and class differences
Roots of Progressivism lay in the growing number of associations and organizations.
e.g. National Woman Suffrage Association, the American Bar Association, and the National Municipal League are some of the many groups
Members were educated and middle class further boost from a group of journalists dubbed "muckrakers"
Revealed widespread corruption in urban management
Progressives achieved great successes
Du Bois headed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

After a lifelong struggle, Du Bois abandoned the United States and moved to Africa
Robert LaFollette led the way for many Progressives
Most prominent Progressive: Theodore Roosevelt
Presidents Taft and Wilson continued to promote Progressive ideals
Progressivism lasted until the end of World War I
War had torn apart the Progressive coalition; pacifist Progressives opposed the war while others supported it
Red Scare, heightened by the Russian Revolution further split the Progressive coalition by dividing the leftists from the moderates
achieved many of its goals

Progressive movement was brought to an end, at least in part, by its own success.
FOREIGN POLICY AND U.S. ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR I
Roosevelt was an even more devout imperialist than McKinley had been
strong-armed Cuba into accepting the Platt Amendment
Roosevelt's actions were equally interventionist throughout Central America.
Country set its sights on building a canal through the Central American isthmus
American foreign policy continued to adhere to the Monroe Doctrine
Wilson won the election of 1912, a three way race in which the third party candidate, Theodore Roosevelt, outpolled Taft, the Republican incumbent.
When war broke out in Europe in August 1914, Wilson immediately declared the U.S. policy of neutrality.
Owing to America's close relationship with England and relatively distant relationship with Germany and Austria-Hungary a number of Wilson's advisors openly favored the Allies.
England's superior navy allowed it to impose a blockade on shipments headed for Germany (namely, American shipments).
The British government confiscated American ships. They then paid for the cargo, reducing the pressure that American merchants would otherwise have put on the U.S. government to take action.
Germany attempted to counter the blockade with submarines
When the Germans attacked civilian ships, it was usually because those ships were carrying military supplies.
German submarines sank the passenger ship *Lusitania* in 1915
In 1916, while Wilson was campaigning for reelection on the slogan "He kept us out of war," Germany sank another passenger liner
Popular support for entry into war was beginning to grow.
1917 the British intercepted a telegram from German Foreign Minister Zimmerman
Telegram convinced many Americans that Germany was trying to take over the world
WORLD WAR I
AND ITS
AFTERMATH
Government's power expanded greatly
Government took control of the telephone, telegraph, and rail industries
Curtailed individual civil liberties
Still sizable opposition to U.S. involvement
Espionage Act in 1917 and the Sedition Act in 1918
Americans began to fear a Communist takeover
Radical labor unions, such as the International Workers of the World, were branded enemies of the state.
Unions lost power
Eugene Debs, the Socialist leader, was also imprisoned for criticizing the war.
Federal Bureau of Investigation, was created to prevent radicals from taking over
Palmer Raids in early 1920: the government abandoned all pretext of respecting civil liberties as its agents raided union halls, pool halls, social clubs, and residences to arrest 4,000 suspected radicals.
Committee on Public Information created the image of the Germans as cold-blooded, baby-killing, power-hungry Huns
Americans rejected all things German; for example, they changed the name of sauerkraut to "liberty cabbage."
New opportunities for women

Southern blacks, realizing that wartime manufacturing was creating jobs in the North, migrated to the big cities
Two years after America's entry, the Germans were ready to negotiate a peace treaty. Wilson wanted the war treaty to be guided by his Fourteen Points.
The European Allies wanted a peace settlement that punished Germany.
The Senate rejected the treaty and American participation in the League of Nations
America was receding into a period of isolationism
The Roaring Twenties
coincided with the "return to normalcy" promised in the 1920 election by Warren G. Harding.
Normalcy in business meant a *laissez-faire* pro-business attitude
(1) passing the Fordney-McCumber Tariff, (2) in promoting foreign trade through providing huge loans to the postwar Allied governments who returned the favor by buying U.S.-produced goods and foodstuffs, and (3) by cracking down on strikes
Once the war was over, farmers were left with surplus goods

... lobbied for the federal government to buy the excess
Coolidge vetoed the bill twice. In 1929, Congress established the Farm Board to buy surpluses and maintain prices, but farmers continued to grow as much as they wanted.
Harding administration is remembered for its scandals

Teapot Dome Scandal
reserve land with rich oil deposits had been set aside under the jurisdiction of the Navy Department
... involved a member of Harding's cabinet, two oil speculators, and large bribes to open the reserve for drilling.
Twenties was also known as the **Jazz Age**

The **Great Migration** had transformed parts of some Northern cities into all-black neighborhoods.
flowering of African-American culture called the Harlem Renaissance. Harlem attracted African-American writers, artists, and musicians from around the nation to what was known as the New Negro Movement.
Henry Ford perfected the assembly line and mass production, which lowered the cost of automobiles. This allowed those who worked in the cities to move farther away from city centers, thus giving birth to the suburbs.
radio followed automobiles in changing the nation's culture
As more houses gained access to electric power, household appliance sales boomed
advertising industry grew up during the decade
Temperance Movement

By 1917, two thirds of the states had passed laws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol
With the entrance of the United States into World War I, prohibitionist forces cloaked themselves in the mantle of patriotism.
(1) prohibition would shift thousands of tons of grain from liquor manufacture to war uses; (2) alcoholism led to drunkenness, and a drunken man was of no use to the war effort;
and (3) most breweries and whiskey distilleries were owned by Germans. In 1917, Congress passed the Eighteenth Amendment, and the states ratified it by 1919.
The large-scale manufacture and smuggling of alcohol became the business of organized crime.

Prohibition was repealed in 1933.
red scare at the end of war also resulted in legislation restricting immigration

1921, the Immigration Restriction Act was passed and in 1924, the National Origins Act
aimed at restricting immigrants from southern and central Europe and Asia
resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan
Anti-Catholic sentiment was a factor in the 1928 election

Al Smith lost.
Smith had other liabilities. He was a product of the New York City machine

Hoover ran on his record of public service and on Republican prosperity
THE GREAT DEPRESSION
Check your notes for handout re. The Great Depression and new deal
Herbert Hoover took office in 1928

Lots of speculation in the stock market. But that was just one of a number of problems.
Among the weaknesses in the U.S. economy

(1) the amount of stock being bought on margin;

(2) depressed agricultural prices
(3) the unequal distribution of wealth

5 percent of the population provided the nation's investment capital and the majority of its purchasing power
(4) the tax policies that contributed to the unequal distribution of wealth;

(5) the expansion of businesses
(6) easy-to-get installment credit

(7) the size and influence on segments of the economy of holding companies
(8) the weakness of the banking system because of many small and mismanaged banks

(9) high tariffs that closed off foreign markets
(10) the Allies' insistence on collecting war debts that depressed foreign trade, especially for U.S. foodstuffs
Overproduction and underconsumption joined to create financial problems for businesses that now found themselves with surplus inventory and their own loans to meet.
By the fall of 1929, more than $7 billion had been borrowed to buy stocks on margin. Many stocks were hugely overvalued.
Professional speculators began to cash out of the market in September.
After the Crash

many stocks were worthless
People lost their life savings
Banks foreclosed on loans and mortgages
When their borrowers could not repay their loans, the banks went under
Businesses went bankrupt as inventories piled up
Hoover believed the Depression would be short-lived
He authorized the funding of the Home Loan Bank Act and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Hoover believed ...
helping the unemployed was the responsibility of churches, private agencies, and local and state governments.

that giving a handout to the unemployed would destroy their self-respect and individual initiative.
(3) that a federal relief program would bankrupt the nation
(4) that a federal relief program would dangerously enlarge the power of the federal government and create a bloated bureaucracy
Farmers organized farm committees to prevent creditors from foreclosing on their neighbors. In 1932, some twenty thousand unemployed veterans descended on Washington, D.C., demanding payment of bonus not due until 1945.
Hoover dispatched the capital police to remove the veterans

General Douglas MacArthur, who had been told to stand ready in case of trouble, ordered troops and tanks into the fray
KEY PEOPLE and terms
Romare Bearden, Sargent Johnson, Augusta Savage
expatriates, "lost generation," alienation, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein
Billie Holiday,
Duke Ellington,
Jelly Roll Morton,
Bessie Smith,
William Grant Still
Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson
Andrew Mellon, cut excess profits tax, tax the poor rather than the rich to stimulate investment
KEY TERMS/ IDEAS

anti-Semitism,
consumer culture: the automobile, radio, movies, sports
Sacco-Vanzetti case, Scopes trial, evolution, William Jennings Bryan, religious fundamentalism
THE NEW DEAL

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified fear."
Roosevelt summoned an emergency session of Congress

The period that followed is often called the First Hundred Days
It was during this time that the government implemented most of the major programs associated with the First New Deal. Consult your text and notes for program details.
The First New Deal was an immediate success
In the midterm elections of 1934, the Democrats increased their majorities in both houses.
Emergency Banking Relief Bill

fireside chats

American banks, once on the verge of ruin, were again healthy
Banking Act of 1933, which created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
Agricultural Adjustment Act

Paid farmers to cut production

Farm Credit Act

Provided loans
New Deal programs established government control over industry
National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) consolidated businesses and coordinated their activities.
Public Works Administration (PWA) created jobs building roads, sewers, public housing units, etc.
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

provided grants to the states to manage their own PWA-like projects
Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) provided energy to the Tennessee Valley region
Conservatives opposed the higher tax rates that the New Deal disliked the increase in government power over business
deficit spending was also anathema to conservatives
Leftists complained that the AAA policy of paying farmers not to grow was immoral.

They felt that government policy toward businesses was too favorable.
the left blamed corporate greed for the Depression
Socialists and the Communist Party of America were gaining popularity.

Called for the nationalization of business.
1935, the Supreme Court started to dismantle some of the programs
declared the NIRA illegal
invalidated the AAA
Roosevelt responded with a package of legislation called the Second New Deal
created the Works Progress Administration (WPA)
broadened the powers of the NLRB
created the Social Security Administration
ROOSEVELT'S TROUBLED SECOND TERM
Consult your “alphabet soup” worksheet
After World War I, American foreign policy objectives aimed primarily at promoting and maintaining peace.
Washington Conference (1921-22) gathered eight of the world's great powers; the resulting treaty set limits on stockpiling armaments
1928, 62 nations signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact
In Latin America, the U.S. tried in the 1920s to back away from its previous interventionist policy and replace it with the Good Neighbor policy.
the United States continued to actively promote its interests in Latin America, often to the detriment of those who lived there
U.S. mainly achieved its foreign policy objectives through economic coercion and support of pro-American leaders (some of whom were corrupt and brutal).