

The Progressive Era

1901-1917

Ben Windle

Background:

As a result of the unprecedented growth in population, technology, wealth, etc. during the later half of the 19th century, the United States experienced an uneven distribution of its new wealth. This is why this period is referred to as the Gilded Age . By the turn of the century a wide range of Americans called PROGRESSIVES wanted to build and improve on our existing society. The actions of these reformers including 3 consecutive Presidents contributed to the next chapter in American History known as the Progressive Era.

**What were the problems
of the Gilded Age?**

McKinley is assassinated in 1901





Who were the Progressives?

- **Middle-Class**
- **Women's Reformers**
- **Labor Union Reps**



Who were not Progressives?

- **Conservatives**
- **Radicals/Revolutionaries**
- **Socialists/ Eugene Debs**

Who were the Muckrakers?

- **Reporters- Sam McClure, Lincoln Steffens**
- **Authors- Jacob Riis, Upton Sinclair**

What Local/State level Political Reforms Occurred?

- **Secret Ballot**
- **Direct Election of Senators (17th Amendment)**
- **Initiative/Referendum/Recall**
- **Temperance/Prohibition- 1915 (2/3 States banned alcohol)**

How Progressive was Teddy Roosevelt?

- Square Deal
- Anthracite Coal Miners Strike
- Trust-Regulator
- Consumer Protection- Pure Food and Drug Act, Meat Inspection Act
- Conservation



THE JUNGLE

UPTON SINCLAIR



Foreword by **ERIC SCHLOSSER**

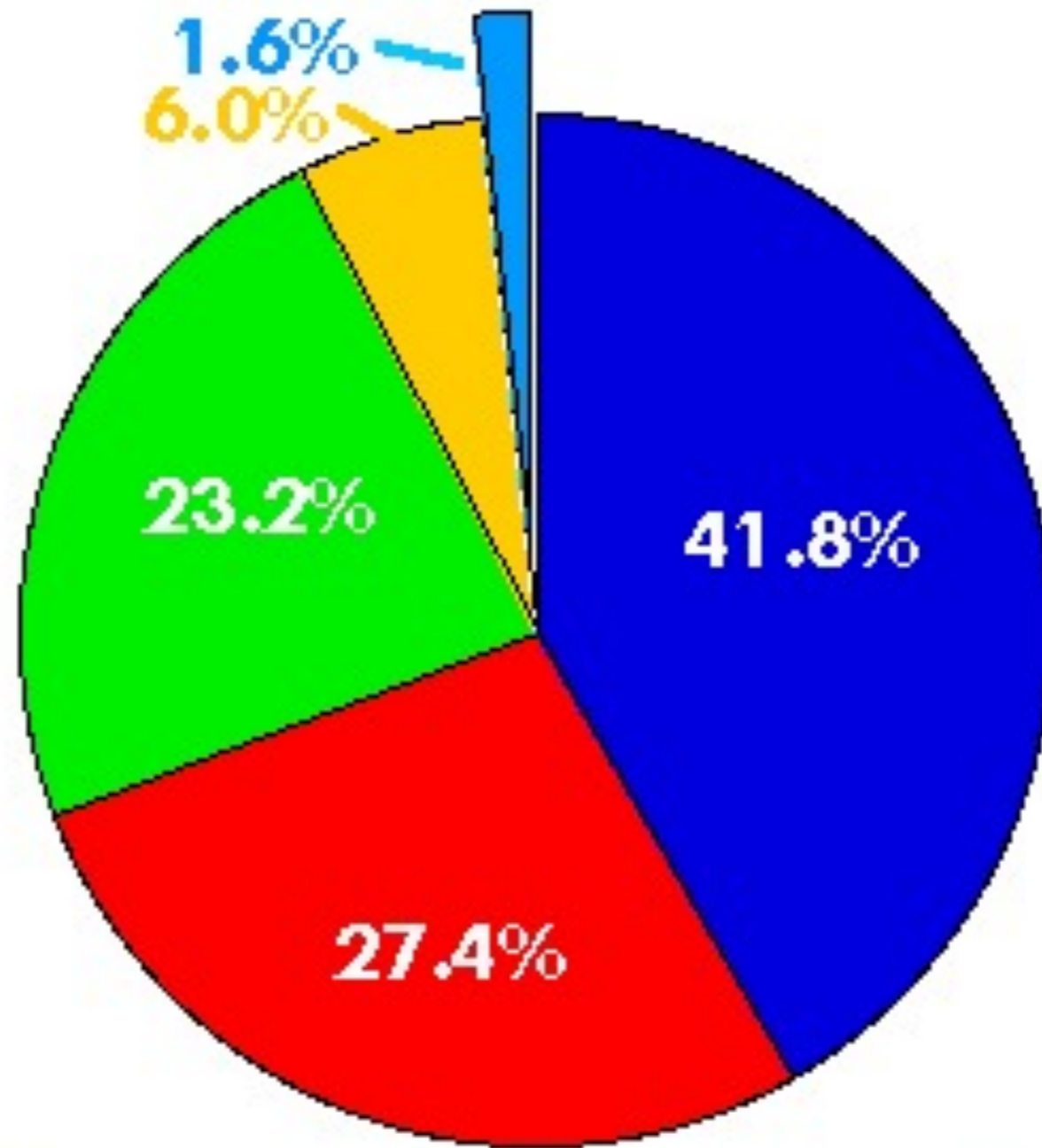
Penguin Classics  Deluxe Edition

How Progressive was Howard Taft?

- **Busts twice as many Trusts as Roosevelt**
- **Angers Roosevelt with the bust of U.S. Steel (Roosevelt deemed it a good trust)**
- **Splits Republicans in 1912 Election**



POPULAR VOTE



Legend:

- Woodrow Wilson (D)
- Theodore Roosevelt (P)
- Other
- William H. Taft (R)
- Eugene V. Debs (Soc.)



Roosevelt the Take-Back Giver (Knecht in the Evansville [Indiana] Courier.)

How Progressive was Woodrow Wilson?

- **Immediate tariff reduction (helps consumers)**
- **Clayton-Anti Trust Act**
- **Child Labor Act**



**When and Why does the
Progressive Era end?**

What were the effects and legacy of the Progressive Era?