

## US History Progressive Politicians

### Learning Target:

*I can identify and explain progressive reform enacted during Roosevelt's presidency.*

### 3. Progressive Reform Under Roosevelt

#### *Regulating Business:*

- Roosevelt believed big business was essential but should be forced to behave responsibly.
- “We don’t wish to destroy corporations but we do wish to make them serve the public good.”

#### *How did Roosevelt achieve this reform?*

##### 1. Trustbusting:

- Trust – Arrangement grouping several companies under a single board of directors to eliminate competition and to regulate production.
- Sherman Anti-Trust Act – Law prohibiting monopolies and trusts that restrained trade.

#### *Northern Securities Company Case:*

- 1902 President Roosevelt directed the attorney general to sue the Northern Securities Company
  - Controlled by J.P. Morgan and monopolized railroad shipping from Chicago to the Northwest US
  - US Supreme Court ruled that the Company violated the Sherman Anti-Trust Act
- Roosevelt launched a trustbusting campaign filing 44 suits  
-“We draw the line against misconduct, not against wealth.”

##### 2. Labor

#### *The United Mine Workers Strike and The Square Deal:*

##### *The Strike –*

- 1902 shortly after Roosevelt became president 150,000 coal miners struck for higher wages and recognition of their union the United Mine Workers Union
- Mine workers signed a petition organized by Washington Gladden and sent it to the White House asking the president to intervene on their behalf

*Conservatives vs. Progressives –*

- Conservatives urged the president to order the miners back to work
- Progressives urged the president to place the mines under federal control

*Roosevelt Intervenes –*

- Roosevelt instead encouraged both sides to agree to arbitration and convinced the owners to do so with a threat of taking over their mines
- Arbitration committee came up with a compromise giving the workers higher wages and a shorter workday and the owners did not have to recognize their union

*The Square Deal –*

- Marked the first time the federal government intervened in a strike to protect the workers and Roosevelt called the result a “square deal”
- The Square Deal became Roosevelt’s campaign slogan for the 1904 campaign
- He promised to “see to it that every man has a square deal, no less and no more.”

3. Food & Drug Regulation:

- By 1900s it became clear many drug companies, food processors, and meat packers were selling dangerous products to the public

Meatpacking Industry –

*-The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair

- Exposed the dirty and unsafe conditions of the meatpacking industry
- Roosevelt appointed a commission to investigate the meatpacking industry
- Commission backed up Sinclair’s account

-Meat Inspection Act

- Roosevelt pushed for its passage in 1906
- Dictated cleanliness requirements and federal meat inspection

Food & Drug Safety –

- Chemicals added to spoiled food to make it look & smell fresh
  - Formaldehyde added to spoiled eggs
- Drug companies sold worthless health tonics that actually cured no symptoms
  - Many contained opium, cocaine, or alcohol (even medicine for children)

-Pure Food & Drug Act

- Halted the sale of contaminated foods & medicines
- Called for truth in labeling; Did not ban harmful products but educated people

#### 4. Conservationism:

- Roosevelt's most enduring legacy – his work in the conservation movement
- 1800s through the early 1900s public land was being destroyed by business pursuits
  - Farmers and leveled forests, cattle overgrazed the Great Plains, Coal mines polluted water supply, lumber companies did not replant trees, cities dumped sewage in river

Gifford Pinchot –

- Close friend of Roosevelt and founder of modern conservation movement
- Convinced Roosevelt to protect the nations natural resources

Roosevelt's Solution:

- Withdrew the sale of millions of acres of public lands
- Convinced Congress to pass the Newlands Reclamation Act to make damaged land usable
- Added to the National Park System along with National Forests and National Monuments