Progressive Presidents: Teddy Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, & Woodrow Wilson
Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt (Republican)
The Square Deal – The name given to Roosevelt’s Progressive Reforms
Philosophy
He believed “It is the duty of the President to act upon the theory that he is the steward of the people, and... to assume that he has the legal right to do whatever the needs of the people demand, unless the Constitution or the laws explicitly forbid him to do it.”

As a result, his *policies expanded the power of the *federal government

Roosevelt saw the Presidency as a “bully pulpit,” from which he could influence the news *media and shape legislation.
For this, he earned the title the “Bull Moose”
Using Federal Power

1. Trust Busting
   - Trusts or monopolies controlled about 4 out of 5 (80%) industries in 1900
   - Roosevelt filed 44 antitrust suits as President
Using Federal Power

• 1902 Coal Strike
  – 140,000 coal miners were on strike for 5 months in Pennsylvania
  – When coal reserves began to run low Roosevelt stepped in to force both sides come to an agreement—WHY?
  – This set the precedent that when a strike threatened public welfare, the Federal government was expected to step in to do something about it
1. Regulating Foods and Drugs

- Roosevelt read *The Jungle* and was appalled
  - He pushed for the passage of the **Meat Inspection Act**, which forced meatpackers to use strict sanitation guidelines and created the program of federal meat inspection that was in use until the 1990s.
2. **Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)**

   - This was in response to false advertising of food and drugs as well as these products containing dangerous chemicals and additives such as opium, cocaine, or alcohol.

   - This law stopped the sale of contaminated foods and medicines and called for labels to be truthful.
Conservation and Natural Resources

Teddy Roosevelt
Conservation and Natural Resources

1. The environment was being **ignored** by the majority of people
   - Roosevelt knew that our resources were not **endless** and wanted to **preserve** them
   - set aside 148 million acres of forest reserves
   - Roosevelt also established over 50 wildlife sanctuaries and many **national parks**
Conservation and Natural Resources

2. National Reclamation Act of 1902 also known as the Newlands Act

- Money from the sale of public lands in the West funded large scale irrigation projects such as the Roosevelt Dam and the Shoshone Dam in Wyoming.
- The Newlands Act set the precedent that the federal government would manage the water resources of the West (an example of more expansion of Federal Power)
Shoshone Dam
William Howard Taft (Republican)
1. He was the hand-picked successor to Roosevelt

2. He kept with some progressive ideas
   - For Example: he busted 90 trusts during his four years in office

3. But he was not progressive in other ways
   - For example: he angered conservationists by removing 1 million acres of forest and mining lands form the reserved list and returning it to the public
2. This led to a split in the Republican Party

- Conservatives vs. Progressives within the Republican Party
- The cost of living was rising and people blamed a *tariff (tax on imported goods) that Taft had passed
3. The Bull Moose Party is formed

– The Republicans chose to support Taft (conservative) as their candidate for President in 1912

– Progressives formed their own party known as the “Progressive” or “Bull Moose” Party

– Teddy Roosevelt was their candidate for President
• Neither Roosevelt or Taft won
• Instead, Woodrow Wilson (A Democrat) took the Presidency
Woodrow Wilson
He was considered the last President of the Progressive Era

- **Anti-trust reforms**
  - **Clayton Anti-trust act (1914)**
  - Strengthened the Sherman Anti-Trust Act
  - Made it illegal for companies to buy stock in other companies if doing so would create a **monopoly**
  - Allowed for prosecution of violators
• He Formed the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**
  – A “watch dog” group
  – **Investigates** possible violations of trade laws
• Instituted a **Federal Income Tax**
  – 16th amendment made it legal for the Federal Government to tax income (1913)
  – Since *Tariffs* were gone or reduced, this was the best way for the government to raise money
• He formed the **Federal Reserve**
  – Divided the nation into 12 districts each with a **central bank**
  • These “Central Banks” have the **power to print $**
• The Central Banks loan money to smaller banks within each district
• Meant to keep banks from failing
  – They could borrow $ from the reserve bank if they needed it
• Determines Interest Rates for loans
• Wilson also established the National Park Service in 1916
• This agency’s job is to protect & care for our national parks
• In the end, however, Wilson’s Presidency was overtaken by Foreign Issues: mainly WWI--Which is considered to be the end of the Progressive Era