

The Progressive Era and the 'New Liberalism', 1894-1916

2/05/2008

I. Progressivism and the 'New Liberalism'

- A. The Problem of Industrial Growth and American Freedom
- B. *What Was Progressivism and Who were the Progressives?*
- C. The New Liberal **Vision**: Rethinking the Relationship between Freedom and Government

II. Progressive Politics

- A. Reform and Democracy in the Cities and States
 - 1. Municipal & State Reform
 - 2. Limits on Democracy
- B. 'Spearheads for Reform'
 - 1. The 'New Woman': Jane Addams
 - 2. Hull House
- C. Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment

III. National Politics

- A. Theodore Roosevelt & 'The Square Deal', 1901-1908
 - 1. Remaking National Government
 - 2. Regulating the Marketplace
- B. Woodrow Wilson & 'The New Freedom', 1912-1916

Comment [PT1]: Opening: In 1902, the monthly magazine *The Independent* organized a forum on economic inequality in the US. On one side, defenders of laissez-faire Social Darwinism: convinced that disparities in wealth the natural consequence of individual freedom. Opponents: monopolistic control of industry stifled competition; an economic aristocracy had arisen that threatened republican gov't; calls for new democracy of industry, with unions and perhaps even socialism.

Comment [PT2]: 1. New view of human nature and its relation to the environment: social problems not the result of individuals' failings—bad character (Victorian)—but the result of bad environment. If the environment improved, people would improve. Thus, needed to intervene in the env somehow.
2. Inspiration for these ideas came from:
a) Evangelical religion: the urge to purge the world of sin a strong current in US history and culture. New liberal Protestantism sought to make the Gospel relevant to conditions of industrial society. Nevertheless, Progressivism remained secular in its orientation.
b) Science: Science and technology had transformed the nation's industrial system. Progressives close to the mainstream of industrial and scientific development, tended to believe that scientific and technological expe (... [1]

Comment [pt3]: 3. How did Addams accomplish this? By drawing upon her moral authority as a woman to solve public social and political problems. Before 20thC, politics a man's activity. But the problems of industrialization and urbanization affected the family—women's domain. So, women organized, first in private voluntary associations and then in politics while embracing social science method, to correct those problems and justified their incursion in the public sphere on the basis of their duty to protect the family. The 'family' redefined to mean any place where women and children present; 'public motherhood' the (... [2]

Comment [pt4]: Why focus on presidents here? Why not earlier? Because the presidents btw end of the Civil War and TR boring, forgettable men. Why? Political system 1870s-1890s elected boring, forgettable men president. Why? Close competition btw Ds and Rs, did not permit free gov't action; Congress the dominant branch of gov't—it led, not the President; the two political parties controlled Congress, congressmen more concerned with reelection and patronage than in any kind of meaningful legislation. Gov't stagnant, unresponsive...one reason the Populists emerged. LaFeber, Am (... [3]

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 - b) Science: Science and technology had transformed the nation's industrial system. Progressives close to the mainstream of industrial and scientific development, tended to believe that scientific and technological expertise could solve the problems of industrialism. But not eliminate problems/evils simple solutions, rather "manage" them. Thus, many Progressive believed in govt by 'expert'.
 - c)

3. How did Addams accomplish this? By drawing upon her moral authority as a woman to solve public social and political problems. Before 20thC, politics a man's activity. But the problems of industrialization and urbanization affected the family—women's domain. So, women organized, first in private voluntary associations and then in politics while embracing social science method, to correct those problems and justified their incursion in the public sphere on the basis of their duty to protect the family. The 'family' redefined to mean any place were women and children present; 'public motherhood' the idea. Forced/persuaded city/state/and national govts to take on new responsibilities.
- 4.

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