

TOPIC 4: America Comes of Age (1890-1920)

Lesson 4 Reformers in the White House



Learning Objectives

- Analyze how Theodore Roosevelt influenced the changing relationship between the federal government and private business.
- Explain the impact of Roosevelt's actions towards managing the environment.
- Compare and contrast Roosevelt's policies with Taft's and Wilson's policies.
- Describe Wilson's efforts to regulate the economy.
- Assess the legacy of the Progressive Era.

Roosevelt Changes the Relationship Between Government and Business

- 1901-TR became president after McKinley's assassination (Progressive Republican)
 - Harvard grad
 - Loved the wilderness
 - NY-fought corruption
 - Rough Riders during Spanish American War



Roosevelt Changes the Relationship Between Government and Business

- TR's progressive, domestic policy= **Square Deal**
- Followed the “3 C's”
 - Control of corporations
 - Consumer protection
 - Conservation of natural resource

Roosevelt Changes the Relationship Between Government and Business

- 1902 coal strike- Roosevelt helped the workers AND mine owners
- **Hepburn Act**-gave government authority to set and limit shipping costs for RR (expanded ICC)
- Enforced Sherman Antitrust act→ “**trust busting**”
 - “monopolies in restraint of trade”
- Differentiated between “bad” and “good” trusts (**Northern Securities Company**)- RR company ordered to break apart
- Regulated food and drug industries
 - **Meat Inspection Act 1906**
 - **Pure Food and Drug 1906**- FDA to monitor



Source: *Triumph of the American Nation*, Harcourt Brace



252 Dressing room of a meatpacking plant, Springfield, Mass., 1906. The King of Meat & Bone Co. Photo by J. A. M. Smith.

Roosevelt Changes the Relationship Between Government and Business

Progressive Legislation During Roosevelt's Presidency

LEGISLATION	EFFECT
Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)	Outlawed monopolies and practices that restrained trade, such as price fixing
National Reclamation Act (1902)	Provided for federal irrigation projects by using money from the sale of public lands
Elkins Act (1903)	Imposed fines on railroads that gave special rates to favored shippers
Hepburn Act (1906)	Authorized the federal government to regulate railroad rates and set maximum prices for ferries, bridge tolls, and oil pipelines
Meat Inspection Act (1906)	Allowed the federal government to inspect meat sold across state lines and required inspections of meat-processing plants
Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)	Allowed federal inspection of food and medicine and banned the shipment and sale of impure food and the mislabeling of food and medicine

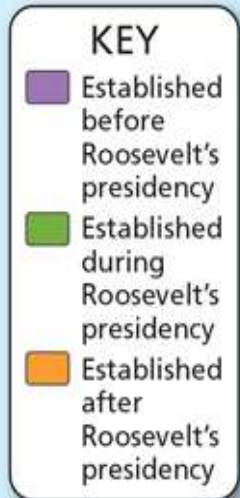
Analyze Charts Which of these acts do you believe was the most important? Why?

Managing the Environment

- Preserved 18 national forests and created 5 national parks (Antiquities Act)
 - Gifford Pinchot: preserve forests homes from lumber
 - Multiple use resource management
- **Newlands Act** (National Reclamation Act) 1902- Irrigation systems in West to manage water



National Land Conservation



Analyze Maps Based on the information in the map, when were the majority of national parks established? What region of the country holds the largest parks?

A New Direction in Presidential Politics

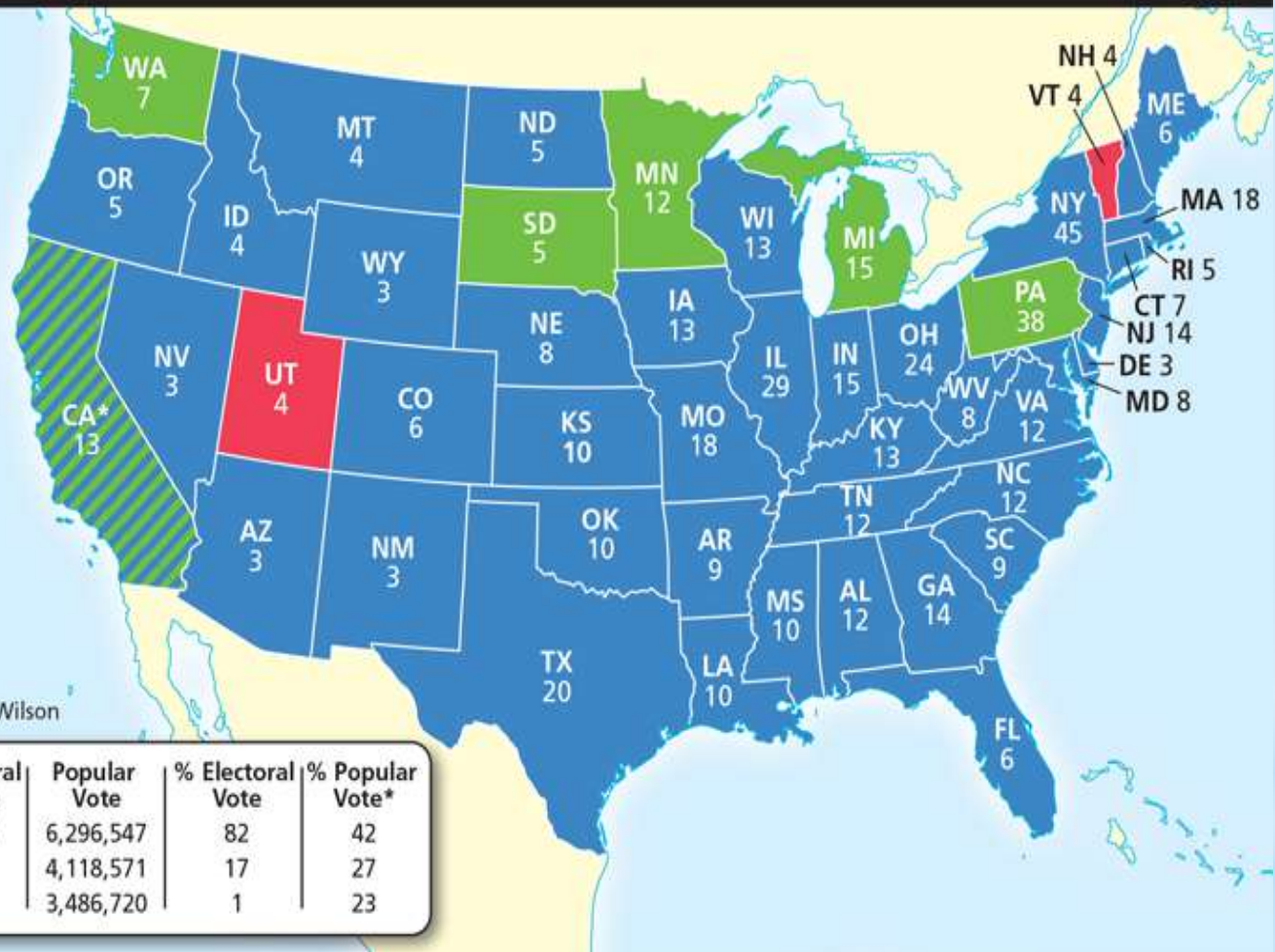
- Helped William Howard Taft win presidency in 1908
 - Expected him to keep on with policies
- Taft's own course
- Broke up Standard Oil in 1911 and went after US Steel (TR had deemed it a “good trust”)
- TR proposed **New Nationalism**
 - Platform for 3rd term



A New Direction In Presidential Politics

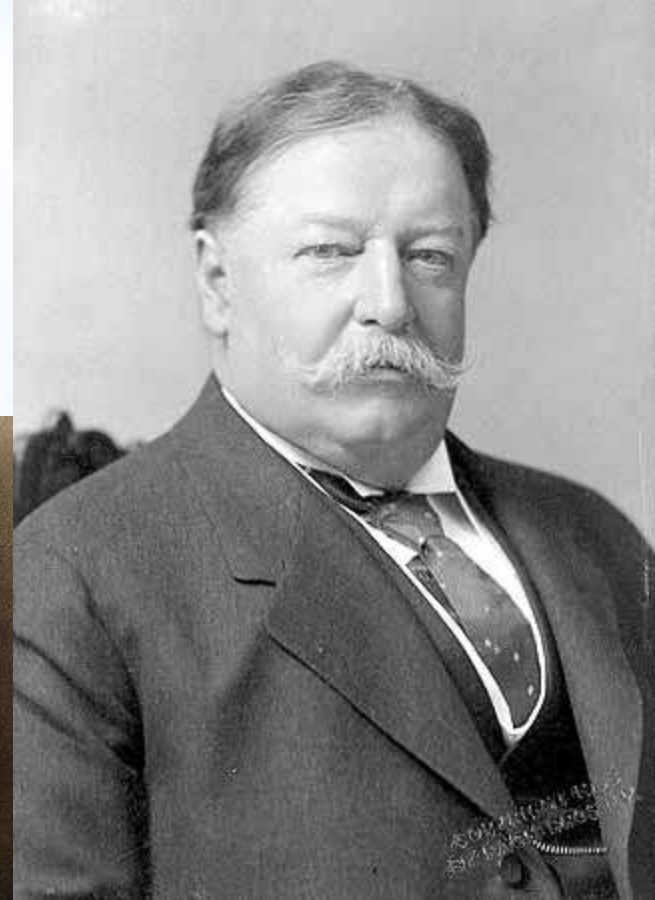
- Republican party (nominated Taft) split between progressives and conservatives in 1912
- 3rd party formed- **The Progressive Party (Bull Moose Party)**
 - TR nominated
 - Platform= New Nationalism
- Democrats nominated **Woodrow Wilson**
 - Platform= **New Freedom** (progressive!)
 - “**Triple Wall of Privilege**” → tariff, banks, trusts
- Wilson won because of split within party
- Real winner= progressivism

Presidential Election of 1912



Analyze Maps What evidence shown on the map supports the conclusion that divisions within the Republican party made the Democrats more likely to win the 1912 election?



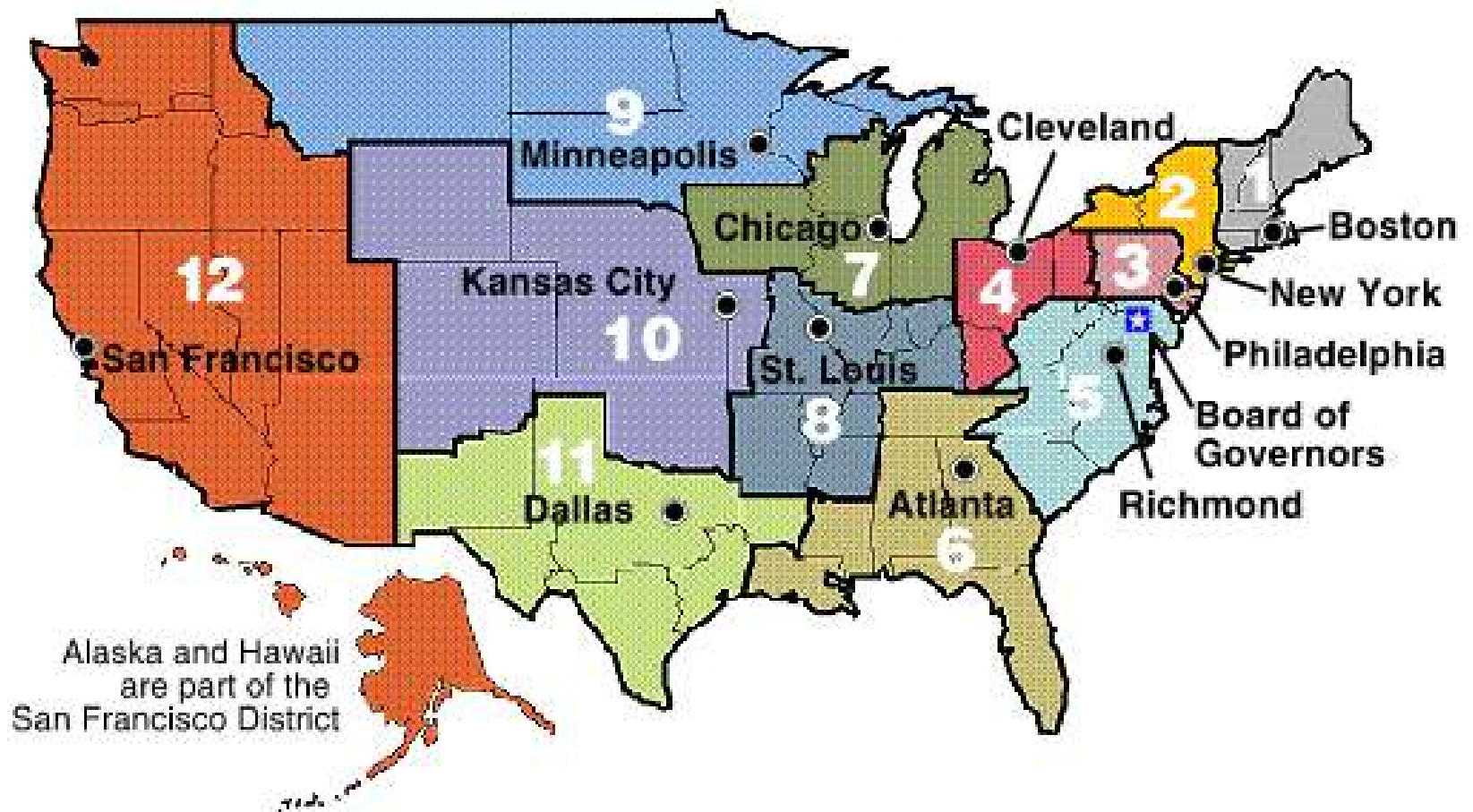


Wilson's Triple Wall of Privilege

- **TARIFF REFORM**
- Wanted a lower tariff → increase competition!
- Underwood Tariff Bill
 - **Reduced tariff rate and establish a graduated income tax (after 16th amendment)**
 - By 1917: more revenue from income tax than the tariff

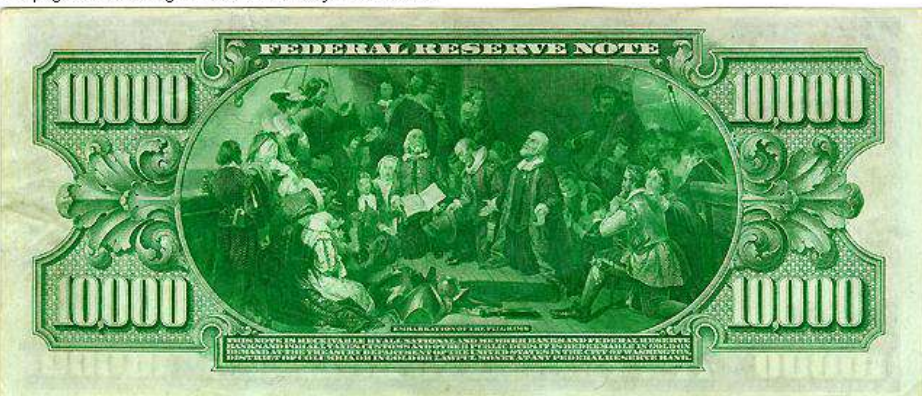
Wilson's Triple Wall of Privilege

- **BANK REFORM**
- Needed a national banking system (problems with elasticity in money supply)
- Fluctuating interest rates= bad for economy
- **Federal Reserve Act of 1913**
 - 12 regional reserve districts, board appointed by President, acted independent afterward
 - Issue Federal Reserve Notes
 - Hold money in reserve across US
 - Control interest rates
 - Expand and contract economy as necessary





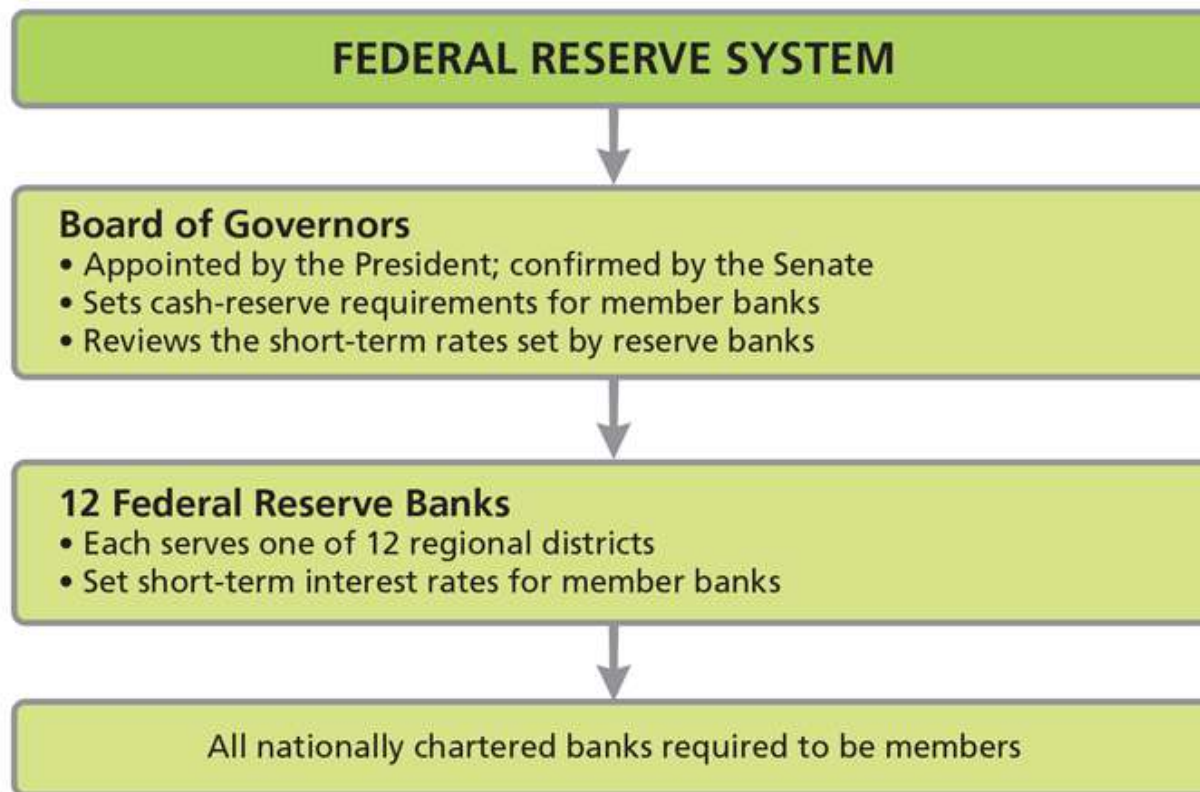
A \$10,000 Federal Reserve Note of 1918. This was the first year that Federal Reserve Notes were issued, and they are the currency we still use today. Silver Certificates were also used for a long time along with Federal Reserve Notes. Salmon P. Chase's portrait is above. He was Treasurer of the United States during the Civil War. He is also featured on the series 1928 \$10,000 bills, and the series 1934's. Below is a picture showing the pilgrims crossing the Atlantic to Plymouth Rock.



A \$5000 Federal Reserve Note from 1918. James Madison's portrait is above. I think this note is unusual because it has a dollar sign on it. If you think about it, not very many notes ever printed had that.



Wilson Endorses Further Regulation



Analyze Charts Which part of the Federal Reserve System determines the reserve requirements for member banks?

Wilson's Triple Wall of Privilege

- **TRUST REFORM**
- Federal Trade Commission Act of 1914
 - Monopolies using unfair trade practices
 - Consumer protection (mislabeling, false advertising)
- **The Clayton Anti Trust Act of 1914**
 - Expand on Sherman Anti Trust Act
 - Exempted labor unions and agricultural organizations (close loophole)

The Progressives' Legacy

Constitutional Amendments of the Progressive Era

AMENDMENT	YEAR	EFFECT
Sixteenth Amendment	1913	Gave Congress the power to collect taxes on people's income
Seventeenth Amendment	1913	Instituted the direct election of senators by the people of each state
Eighteenth Amendment	1919	Banned the making, selling, and transporting of alcoholic beverages in the United States
Nineteenth Amendment	1920	Gave women the right to vote in all elections

Analyze Charts Why do you think that so many constitutional amendments were passed during the Progressive Era?

Quiz: Roosevelt Changes the Relationship Between Government and Business

How did President Theodore Roosevelt earn a reputation as a trustbuster?

- A. Many Americans considered him to be untrustworthy.
- B. He worked to eliminate corruption in big business.
- C. He sought to destroy big businesses by making them illegal.
- D. Many Americans thought his reforms were unconstitutional.

Quiz: Managing the Environment

How did scarce water cause problems in the Southwest?

- A. People fought over rights to scarce supplies of water.
- B. Everyone benefited from the value of water in the region.
- C. It gave everyone a private share of the region's natural resources.
- D. It influenced the federal government to outlaw private land ownership.

Quiz: A New Direction In Presidential Politics

How did the split in the Republican Party influence American politics?

- A. It helped the Democratic Party win the following election.
- B. It influenced Progressives to support the Republican Party.
- C. It eliminated the New Freedom ideas from government legislation.
- D. It negatively impacted Woodrow Wilson's campaign for office.

Quiz: Wilson Endorses Further Regulation

What did President Wilson refer to as the 'triple wall of privilege'?

- A. race, gender, and class
- B. tariffs, banks, and trusts
- C. saving accounts, stocks, and bonds
- D. the Elkins Act, the Hepburn Act, and the Federal Reserve Act

Quiz: The Progressives' Legacy

Which statement is not a legacy of the Progressive Era?

- A. It expanded the role of the federal government.
- B. It expanded voter's influence.
- C. It eliminated unfair employment practices.
- D. It provided protection for consumers