

Progressivism

CQ#3: What was Progressivism?

Who were the Progressives? How did Progressivism attempt to deal with the profound social, economic and political changes brought about by Industrialization?

What is Progressivism?

- Social Movement
- Response to Profound Changes of 1800s
 - Industrialization, Rise of Big Business & Robber Barons/Captains of Industry
 - Populism; Labor Conflict
- When: c1890 - c1920
- Felt at all levels of society & government
 - Local → State → National

What is a Social Movement?

- **Broad Based**—lots of different kinds of people involved
- **Grass Roots**— Starts locally but grows to state & national levels
- **Reform**— Fix society
- **Movement**—not comprehensively unified (leadership, organization, goals)

Forward-Looking (Progress...ive)

- Liked Industrialization
- Did *not* want to return to agrarian past
- Only wanted to correct evils and abuses of Gilded Age
 - Concentration of Wealth & Power
 - Disruption of Populism & Labor Conflicts
- Believed in science & engineering and ability of experts to solve problems

Roots of Progressivism

■ Long Term:

- America = Land of the Free & Opportunity

■ Medium Term:

- Industrialization, Expansion, Civil War & Reconstruction (Rise of Gov't Power)

■ Short Term:

- Laissez Faire v Social Gospel debate...
- Rise of Big Business & Big Fortunes
- Populism & Labor Conflict