

Reading Guide for:
“Progressive Freedom”
chapter 7 of *The Story of American Freedom*
by Eric Foner

CQ#4: How successful were the Progressives? What did they achieve? What were the major obstacles to Progressivism?

Instructions: Consider the following prompts to help you focus your reading.

According to Foner,

1. Why did reformers prefer to speak of democracy rather than freedom?
2. What was the essential question of Progressivism?
3. Who were the Progressives?
4. Why and how did understandings of economic freedom change in the Progressive Era?
5. What is the difference between “wage slavery” and “slave wages?”
6. What was the “American Standard of Living?”
7. What made consumerism possible on a truly national scale?
8. How did new notions of economic freedom manifest in advertising?
9. How did new notions of economic freedom affect politics?
10. What did “one progressive commentator” mean when s/he referred to the federal government as “a moral agent?”
11. How did Progressive Herbert Croly synthesize Jeffersonian and Hamiltonian visions of American government?
12. What did T.H. Green mean when he argued that “freedom was a positive concept, a matter, ultimately, of power”?
13. What did an enlarged and empowered government mean for the boundaries of political freedom?
14. What is maternalist reform?
15. Why were mother’s pensions supported by both egalitarian and difference feminists?
16. What specific goals did the socialist party have in 1912?
17. Compare Wilson’s “New Freedom” to Roosevelt’s “New Nationalism.”
18. How did TR’s “campaign [help] give freedom a modern social and economic content and [establish] an agenda that would continue to define political liberalism for much of the rest of the century?”