**Study Guide**

**The Progressive Era (1890-1920)**

The Progressive Era was the result of the Gilded Age’s problems. It was the Age of Reform or Age of Progress in which issues such as child labor, poor working conditions, political corruption, women not being allowed to vote, low wages, and other unfair social issues were addressed.

In many cases, the federal government stepped in to pass laws to remedy these issues stemming from the Gilded Age. Like the Gilded Age that can be summed up as the Age of Big Business---the Progressive Era can be summed up as the **Age of Reform.**

**Key Terms:**

**Muckrakers**

These were investigative reporters (writers) who exposed corruption and abuses in politics, business, meatpacking, child labor, and more. Their goals included exposing these “abuses” in order to generate public outcry thus pressuring politicians to initiate laws to change these problems.

**Upton Sinclair**

Arguably the most famous muckraker. He went undercover in the Chicago meatpacking industry. His book ***“The Jungle”*** exposed the horrible working conditions and meatpacking processing that was taking place. This was resulting in many people becoming ill or even dying from eating spoiled meat.

The changes that occurred include the passage of the ***Pure Food and Drug Act*** by the federal government that requires foods to be inspected by federal agents in order to show they are suitable for people to eat—public safety!

**Jane Addams**

Social reformer who built the **Hull House** in Chicago that helped immigrants assimilate into American society by providing assistance such as learning how to read and write in English, seek employment, register to vote, and register their kids for school.

**WEB DuBois**

Co-founder of the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** that demanded immediate racial equality.

**Ida B Wells**

Social reformer who advocated for laws outlawing lynching---the murder of African-Americans by hanging.

**Susan B Anthony**

Social reformer who advocated for women’s suffrage (women’s right to vote). This led to the passage of the **Nineteenth Amendment** given women the right to vote.

**Pendleton Act**

Political reform aimed at reducing the number of political appointments by replacing them with candidates who had passed a competitive examination.

**Social Gospel Movement**

During the Progressive Era, this movement called for social reforms that included the abolition of child labor, a ban on alcoholic beverages, and safer working conditions. They emphasized that it was man’s Christian duty to help those who were less fortunate with acts of charity and goodness.

**Interstate Commerce Act**

Law passed to regulate railroad prices—thus helping farmers with more uniform and fair prices for shipping their goods to market.

**Third Parties**

Are “minor” parties that provide an outlet for minorities to voice grievances and generate new ideas. Consider the two major parties---Democratic and Republicans. Any other party has a small chance of winning an election, but they can bring ideas that can pressure the two major parties to either adopt these ideas or lose votes to these “minor” or **“Third Parties”.**

**William Jennings Bryan**

Third Party (Populist Party) candidate for president in 1896 who was famous for his **“Cross of** **Gold”** speech denouncing bankers for taking advantage of consumers. Bryan was a three (3) time candidate for president (lost them all) but was very influential in politics.

Bryan also pushed for **“free coinage of silver”** in which silver would be introduced into the money stream causing more money to circulate---thus more money people could pay for farm products. Bryan was a big supporter of farmers.

**Three (3) Progressive Era Presidents of the era:**

* Theodore Roosevelt (Square Deal, started the Bull Moose Party, and founded the National Parks Service. Also broke up many business monopolies)
* William H Taft---Continued with many of Roosevelt’s breaking up of business monopolies
* Woodrow Wilson—helped pass the Sixteenth Amendment (income tax)