

**AP United States History, 2006-2007**  
*Reading Assignment: The Progressive Era*

After our Presidents Quiz on Monday (DE mods)/Tuesday (F mod), we will discuss the Progressive Era. In the interest of time, I ask that you read Kennedy's Chapter 28 and answer the following questions. This will help facilitate our in-class discussion as we explore how progressives sought to achieve the demands for reform of the previous "Gilded Age."

Topics:      *Answer on a separate sheet of paper **or** on your notes outline from the website.*

- How did writers help begin the Progressive Age? Give examples.
- Examples of "muckrakers" and how they exposed problems in American society and businesses.
- Why are muckrakers significant?
- Why did they decline?
- Local political progressivism: Initiative, Referendum, Reform (define)
- Voting reform and the secret ballot?
- Direct election of senators, primaries? Why did reformers want these changes?
- How were the cities targeted for social reform?
- Know: Robert LaFollette; Hiram W. Johnson; Charles Evans Hughes
- Describe the growth of women's progressivism leading to eventual suffrage by constitutional amendment (take good notes for p. 661-665)

**\*\*MAJOR TOPIC QUESTIONS:**

Why did the progressives believe that strong government action was the only way to tackle social and economic problems of industrialization? How did this approach differ from traditional American emphasis on voluntary solutions to social problems?

Why were women so critical to the successes of the progressive movement? Were there any weaknesses in their ideas and approaches to social reform?

While you read, consider...

***This is not an assignment. Rather, while you begin the study of the Progressive Era, think about the following essay prompts that have appeared on previous AP exams.***

- 2006 AP Exams (both regular and form B) addressed progressivism within the context of the 1920s. We will discuss these topics after our unit on World War I.
- **How successful were progressive reforms during the period 1890 to 1915 with respect to the following: Industrial Conditions; Urban Life; Politics (2005 Form B AP Exam)**
- 2004 AP Exam: Compare/contrast essay on Progressive Era vs. New Deal (1930s)
- **Evaluate the effectiveness of Progressive Era reformers and the federal government in bringing about reform at the national level. In your answer be sure to analyze the successes and limitations of these efforts in the period 1900 – 1920. (2003 Form B D.B.Q. Essay)**
- Essays on the 2002, 2001, 2000, and 1999 exams have included the following related topics:
  - Government/social reform – New Deal Era (1930s)
  - Growth of Nativism, 1900-1920
  - Achievements of labor unions, 1875-1900