

Lifelong Learning Academy
Session 2

The Rise of Progressivism in the United States
1890 - 1920

- I. Why Progressivism? - Listen to the Muckrakers
 - John Bunyan - Pilgrim's Progress
 - Upton Sinclair - The Jungle
 - Ida Tarbell - The History of the Standard Oil Company
 - Lincoln Steffens - The Shame of the Cities

- II. Early American Progressive Influences
 - Henry George - Progress and Poverty
 - William Jennings Bryant - Cross of Gold
 - Richard T. Ely - The property of the Nation
 - John Dewey - Education
 - Charles Merriam - Political Science

- III. Theodore Roosevelt - A "Square Deal" and "New Nationalism"
 - Presidential Power, Conservation, Mt. Rushmore
 - "The Man in the Arena" -The Strenuous Life - Archibald Butt
 - Trust Buster
 - "There once was a time in history when the limitation of governmental power meant increasing liberty for the people. In the present day the limitation of governmental power, of governmental action, means the enslavement of the people by the great corporations, who can only be held in check through the extension of governmental power."

- IV. Woodrow Wilson - "New Freedom"
 - "The bulk of mankind is rigidly unphilosophical and nowadays the bulk of mankind votes." Democracy empowers the "selfish, ignorant, timid, stubborn, and foolish." "Hope is not lost, there are hundreds who are wise."
 - Rule by a class of experts - a trained bureaucracy
 - A distrust of Republican self government

- Replace Jefferson's empire of liberty with a Beehive - Drones "We want a class of persons to have a liberal education, and we want another class of persons, a very much larger class of necessity in every society, to forego the privilege of a liberal education and fit themselves to perform specific difficult manual tasks."
- A living Constitution
- Not a fan of the Declaration of Independence - "It is of no consequence to us..." - the "question is not whether all men are born free and equal or not," because we all "know they are not."

V. Basic Foundational Ideas About Progressivism

- Push for more Direct Democracy in traditional politics - make government more accountable to its citizens
- Governments should become more efficient and less corrupt
- Establish greater and virtually unlimited governmental control so it could be more active in improving the lives of its citizens
- Replace Individual Rights, Separation of Power, System of Checks and Balances
- Redistribution of Wealth - government should curb the power and influence of the wealthy
- Increased Government Regulation - The Administrative State - Departments
- Increased Social Welfare Program
- Rule by experts and the highly educated - The Ruling Elite
- SEEK A PERFECT SOCIETY WHICH ONLY THE STATE CAN PROVIDE

VI. A Local View - "A dose of reality" - Aiken Standard, 1/15/2017