

Helen, Justin, EA, Ava
G Block
Progressivism

WHAT IS PROGRESSIVISM?

1. Ava: (textbook definition) A loose term for the cause of political reformers- especially those from the elite and middle classes- who worked to improve the political system, fight poverty, conserve environmental resources, and increase government involvement in the economy. Giving their name to the “Progressive Era”, such reformers were often prompted to act by fear that mass, radical protests by workers and farmers would spread, as well by their desire to enhance social welfare and social justice. (pg. 575)
2. Helen: Progressivism is the term applied to a variety of responses to the economic and social problems rapid industrialization introduced to America. Progressivism began as a social movement and grew into a political movement. The early progressives rejected Social Darwinism. [The Progressive Era](#)
3. Justin: support for or advocacy of social reform.
4. EA: Political and social reform movement that brought major changes to American politics and government during the first two decades of the 20th century

WHAT WERE PROGRESSIVES IN FAVOR OF?

Helen: “On a national level, progressivism gained a strong voice in the White House when [Theodore Roosevelt](#) became president in 1901. TR believed that strong corporations were good for America...” [The Progressive Era](#)

To come to terms with the extreme [concentration of wealth](#) among a tiny elite and the enormous economic and political power of the giant trusts, which they saw as uncontrolled and irresponsible.

3 principal causes:

1. Promoted a new governing philosophy that placed less emphasis on [rights](#), especially when [invoked](#) in defense of big business, and stressed [collective](#) responsibilities and duties.
2. called for the reconstruction of American politics, hitherto dominated by localized parties, so that a more direct link was formed between government officials and [public opinion](#).
3. demanded a revamping of governing institutions, so that the power of state legislatures and [Congress](#) would be subordinated to an independent executive power—city managers, governors, and a modern [presidency](#)—that could truly

represent the national interest and tackle the new tasks of government required by changing social and economic conditions.

WHAT WERE PROGRESSIVES AGAINST?

- Unrelegated [large](#) businesses
- Uneven distribution [of](#) wealth
- Unsafe food regulations
- Unsafe buildings

RELATION TO OUR TOPICS:

Helen: **Jacob Riis**

Jacob Riis took pictures in order to show the awful conditions of life for the lower class and start the progressive movement of people cleaning the streets.

Justin Baugh: **Mutual Aid Societies**

Mutual aid societies were progressive because it was people taking care of each other even at the expense of a little sacrifice

Ava: **Political Machines**

Progressives were against political machines because they were unfair to the lower class and caused uneven distribution of wealth.

EA: **Urban Amusements**

With urban amusements progressivism is linked because it provided a way for lower class citizens to have new ways of entertainment that the upper class could already enjoy.