**Chapter 18, Section 1: The Roots of Progressivism**

**I. The Rise of Progressivism** *(pages 546–548)*

**A.** The era in American history from about 1890 to 1920 is known as the Progressive Era. **Progressivism** was a collection of different ideas and activities about how to fix the problems within American society. Progressives disagreed among themselves on the solutions, but agreed that the government should take a more active role in solving society’s problems caused by urbanization and industrialization.

**B.** Progressives believed that first the government needed to be fixed and made more responsive to people before other problems could be addressed. Progressives also believed that they could fix society’s problems by applying scientific principles to society.

**C.** The **muckrakers** were a group of journalists who investigated social conditions and political corruption. Their articles led to public debate on social and economic problems and put pressure on politicians to introduce reforms. Muckraker **Jacob Riis** focused on social problems in his book *How the Other Half Lives*, published in 1890. The book described poverty, disease, and crime in many immigrant neighborhoods in New York City.

**Discussion Question**

What kind of group were the Progressives? *(The progressives were a group with widely different views and ideas about how to fix society’s problems. They often disagreed with each other over the issues. They belonged to both political parties and were usually urban, educated middleclass Americans)*

**II. Making Government Efficient** *(page 548)*

**A.** There were many types of progressivism. Progressives often took opposing sides on issues and on how to solve the problems.

**B.** One group of progressives believed that problems in society could be solved if government was efficient. They felt that government could become efficient by applying the principles of scientific management. They thought that managing a city required experts, not elected politicians. They wanted to replace the existing system with a **commission plan** where a board of commissioners or a city manager with expertise in city services would select and hire specialists to run city departments.

**C.** In 1901 Galveston, Texas, was the first to adopt the commission system. Many cities followed shortly after.

**III. Democracy and Progressivism** *(page 549)*

**A.** Many progressives wanted more democracy in society. The governor of Wisconsin, **Robert La Follette,** criticized how political parties ran their conventions. He pressured the state legislature to require each party to hold a **direct primary,** a party election in which all party members vote for a candidate to run in the general election.

**B.** Three new reforms were introduced by progressives to force state legislators to respond to voter’s concerns. The **initiative** allowed a group of citizens to introduce legislation and required the legislature to vote on it. The **referendum** allowed proposed legislation to be submitted to the voters for approval. The **recall** allowed voters to demand a special election to remove an elected official from office.

**C.** To stop Senate corruption, progressives wanted the direct election of senators by all state voters. In 1912 Congress passed the direct-election amendment. In 1913 it was ratified, becoming the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution.

**IV. The Suffrage Movement** *(pages 549–551)*

**A.** The movement for women’s voting rights was known as the suffrage movement. **Suffrage** is the right to vote. In July 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first women’s rights convention. Many progressives joined the suffrage movement in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

**B.** After the Civil War, the Republicans in Congress introduced the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, which protected the voting rights of African Americans. The woman suffrage movement had wanted these amendments to apply to women as well. Republicans refused.

**C.** The debate over the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments split the suffrage movement into two groups and weakened its effectiveness. By 1900 only Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and Colorado had granted voting rights to women.

**D.** In 1890 the two groups united to form the **National American Woman Suffrage Association** (NAWSA). The head of the NAWSA’s congressional committee, **Alice Paul,** a Quaker social worker, used protests to force President Wilson to take action onwoman suffrage. After the NAWSA became alarmed at Paul’s activities, she left andstarted the National Woman’s Party. This group picketed the White House and wenton hunger strikes if arrested.

**E.** In 1918 the House of Representatives passed a woman suffrage amendment. The amendment failed by two votes. In June 1919, the Senate finally passed the Nineteenth Amendment. On August 26, 1920, the states ratified the amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.

**Discussion Question**

What was the difference between the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Suffrage Association? *(The National Woman Suffrage Association wanted to focus* *on passing a constitutional amendment for woman suffrage. The other group wanted state governments* *to give women the right to vote before trying to amend the Constitution.)*

**V. Social Welfare Progressivism** *(pages 551–553)*

**A.** Social welfare progressives created charities to help the poor and disadvantaged, and pushed for laws to help fix social problems.

**B.** In 1900 over 1.7 million children under the age of 16 worked outside the home. The National Child Labor Committee worked to end child labor.

**C.** Many adult workers labored in difficult and dangerous conditions. With the creation of building codes, workers’ compensation laws, zoning laws, and health codes, the work environment was made safer for workers.

**D.** Some progressives favored zoning laws and building codes to regulate how the land and buildings could be used.

**E.** The **temperance** movement called for the moderation or elimination of alcohol. Many progressives believed alcohol was the cause of many of society’s problems. In 1874 the **Women’s Christian Temperance Union** (WCTU) was formed. At first the temperance movement worked to reduce alcohol consumption, but later it pushed for **prohibition**—laws banning the manufacture, sale, and consumption of alcohol.

**Discussion Question**

How did social welfare progressives hope to solve society’s problems? *(Social welfare progressives created charities to help the poor and disadvantaged, and pushed for laws to help fix social problems.)*

**VI. Progressives Versus Big Business** *(page 553)*

**A.** Agroup of progressives focused on regulating big business, but they disagreed on the solutions. One side believed government should break up big companies to restore competition. The other group wanted the creation of government agencies to regulate big companies and prevent them from abusing their power.

**B. Socialism,** the idea that the government should own and operate industry for the community as a whole, was an idea shared by a small minority of progressives.

**C. Eugene Debs** led the American Socialist Party and was the party’s candidate for president in the election of 1912.

**D.** Most progressives and most Americans believed in the American system of free enterprise.

**Discussion Question**

Why did some progressives focus on regulating big business? *(This group felt that wealth was concentrated in the hands of too few people. They were concerned about trusts and giant corporations that dominated big business.)*