**Chapter 18, Section 3: The Taft Administration**

**I. Taft Becomes President** *(pages 562–565)*

**A.** Endorsed by Theodore Roosevelt, the Republican candidate, William Howard Taft, easily defeated the Democratic candidate, William Jennings Bryan, in the election of 1908. Taft, a skillful administrator and judge, had a slow approach to problem solving that led to conflicts with the progressives.

**B.** Taft, like many progressives, felt high tariffs limited competition, hurt consumers, and protected trusts. Taft called Congress into session to lower tariff rates.

**C.** Speaker of the House **Joseph G**. **Cannon** had the power to push bills through without discussion. Many progressives wanted to unseat him because he blocked their legislation. Taft stopped the Republican campaign against Cannon, and in return Cannon pushed the tariff bill through the House. These actions angered many progressives.

**D.** With the approval of the **Payne**-**Aldrich Tariff,** which raised some tariffs instead of lowering them, Taft had further alienated progressives. Gifford Pinchot, along with other progressives, felt betrayed and angry with Taft.

**E.** Taft’s position with Republicans took a final turn for the worst with the hiring of **Richard Ballinger** as secretary of the interior. Gifford Pinchot charged that Ballinger had tried to turn over valuable public lands in Alaska to a private **syndicate,** or business group, for his own profit. The charges were groundless, but Pinchot leaked the story to the press. Taft fired Pinchot for **insubordination,** or disobedience.

**F.** The progressives’ feeling that Taft had “sold the Square Deal down the river” resulted in a 1910 Democratic victory, with Democrats taking the majority in the House and Democrats and Progressive Republicans gaining control of the Senate from the conservatives.

**Discussion Question**

How did President Taft differ from President Theodore Roosevelt? *(Where Roosevelt was charismatic and loved politics, Taft was the exact opposite. He did not like the spotlight and reacted to issues by approaching them from a legal point of view.)*

**II. Taft’s Progressive Reforms** *(page 565)*

**A.** Taft brought twice as many antitrust cases as Roosevelt and established the **Children’s Bureau** to fight child labor. He was a conservationist who monitored the activities ofthe mining companies, expanded national forests, and protected waterpower sitesfrom private development.

**B.** Theodore Roosevelt refused to criticize Taft’s actions as president until Taft brought an antitrust lawsuit against U.S. Steel—a trust Roosevelt had established. Progressives convinced Roosevelt to reenter politics and attempt to replace Taft as the Republican nominee for president in the election of 1912.

**Discussion Question**

What caused Roosevelt to publicly criticize Taft’s actions as president? *(Roosevelt criticized Taft after he broke up trusts, destroying Roosevelt’s system of cooperation and regulation that he set up with big business through the Bureau of Corporations.)*

***Answer the following questions from Chapter 18, Section 3:***

1. Define syndicate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. Define insubordination: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Who was Joseph G. Cannon: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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4. What was the Payne-Aldrich Tariff: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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5. Who was Richard Ballinger: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Describe how Taft helped conservation efforts, alleviated child labor problems, and strengthened the ICC. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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7. How did replacing Roosevelt’s secretary of the interior case a dispute between Taft and the progressives? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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8. What was the difference between Roosevelt and Taft regarding the relationship between the president and Congress? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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9. Make a list of Taft’s Progressive reforms. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. Write a magazine article in which you defend of criticize President Taft’s administration in terms of its support of progressivism. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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