AP US HISTORY – CHAPTER 20 OUTLINE

The Course of Reform

1. The Progressive Mind
   a. Progressivism was a large, not unified effort in early 20th century America to improve societal conditions.
   b. Hard facts and scientific thought processes created the foundation of progressivism. This, at least, unified the movement intellectually.
   c. Law
      i. Legal Realism put the human experience over logic or “first principle”
      ii. Pragmatism stated that law and philosophy should be aimed at problem solving rather than at “absolute ends.”

2. Progressivism’s Beginnings
   a. Progress and Poverty (1879) by Henry George questioned America’s wealth gap, serving as the commencement piece of progressive thought.
   b. Many progressives joined this movement after having participating in socialism.
   c. Religion’s cause of “social justice” led to many progressive ideas spurring from it.

3. Muckraking
   a. This term was coined by Theodore Roosevelt in 1906.
   b. Muckrakers exposed the negative aspects of American society.
   c. Muckrakers helped draw the public into the reform movement by alerting them of awful conditions.

4. Women Progressives
   a. The National Consumers’ League
      i. It blossomed from the New York Consumers’ League, which was originally started by Josephine Shaw Lowell.
      ii. This organization protected the legal rights of women and children.
         1. The most important case was Muller v. Oregon (1908), which limited a woman’s workday to 10 hours.
         2. This triumph led to many similar laws enacted nationwide.
   b. Settlement houses
      i. They were essentially early community centers.
      ii. Hull House (established by Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr in Chicago in 1889 began the use of settlement houses in America.
      iii. These places provided meaning for many women – it gave them places to live and people to help out without becoming a simple wife or lonely spinster.
   c. Revival of the Suffrage Movement
      i. Social reformers founded the National Women’s Trade Union League in 1903.
         1. Women workers played a role in the strikes fighting for better working conditions. The Union was founded and led by wealthy supporters.
      ii. Suffrage activity began to quicken around 1910 and tactics became more confrontational.
         1. Alice Paul advocated an amendment that would give women everywhere the right to vote. She also organized the militant National Woman’s Party.
      iii. The National American Woman Suffrage Association was rejuvenated.
         1. NAWSA brought a broad-based organization to the campaign for a federal amendment.
   d. The Birth of Feminism
      i. Feminists considered themselves fully equal to men.
         1. They were militarily pro-suffrage, but they had no interest in arguing that women would have an uplifting effect on American Politics.
      ii. Feminism brought forth a more radical type of women social progressive.
         1. Margaret Sanger devoted herself to the cause of birth control by handing out pamphlets, giving speeches, and by opening the first birth control clinic in 1916.
      iii. Protection for working women was based on the idea that women were the weaker sex.
         1. This belief rang true in the Muller case in the Supreme Court, which argued that women have different body structure and muscle strength than men. Therefore that difference was to compensate for some of the burdens placed on women.
2. The governor of Maryland, Charles J. Bonaparte, encountered opposition to his 1914 minimum wage bill for women’s industries because suffragists objected to the idea that women need special care, protection, and privileges.

5. Reforming Politics
   a. La Follette: Political Reformer
      i. Robert M. La Follette was born in 1855 in Wisconsin.
      ii. After he was offered a political bribe, he quit the political machine system and became a strong proponent of political reform.
      iii. He became the governor of Wisconsin in 1900.
      iv. La Follette felt that to reform political parties, nominations should be decided by popular vote.
      v. The use of direct primary to gain power created a new kind of politics.
      vi. Initiative and recall worked the same way; they also exercised power politics since only well-monied groups could support either one.

   b. Municipal Reform
      i. People were starved for a more efficient government by now.
      ii. The national drive to put municipal affairs on the level of business commenced with a five member nonpartisan commission instituted to run and rebuild Galveston, Texas after a hurricane in 1901.
      iii. The model for municipal reformers was typically an appointed city manager combined with an elected commission.

   c. Urban Liberalism
      i. Since cities were ran as businesses under municipal reform, they lost hints of democracy. This, however, was counterbalanced by a large amount of public participation in politics.
      ii. Hiram Johnson was the reform candidate in the election of 1910 for governor of California, championing the working class after his win.
      iii. Urban Liberalism sought to improve living conditions for the working class in cities through reform of laws.
          1. It was really kicked off by the Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire on March 25th, 1911, which resulted in the creation of many laws by separate political machines.
          2. To make these laws unified and potent, the state itself passed the laws.

   d. Cultural Pluralism Embattled
      i. The movement to impose Protestant morality on America was revived after 1900.
      ii. The Anti-Saloon League was a prohibitionist group, condemning alcohol as a source of society’s ills.
      iii. Immigration was now becoming more frowned upon, for fear of the degradation of American culture.
          1. This resulted in the creation of the Immigration Restriction League to restrict immigration.
          2. Urban Liberals thought that prohibition and anti-immigration policies were awful and that they took away freedoms.
      iv. The large number of immigrants (who mainly became democratic) allowed the democrats to regain power in the 1930s.

   e. Organized Labor
      i. Trade unions wouldn’t accept urban liberalism, although their policy of voluntarism (the doctrine of opposing the state’s interference in the affairs of labor) was quickly losing steam.
      ii. In Danbury Hatters (1908) case, the boycott of the Hatter’s Union against D.E. Loewe & Company was declared a conspiracy in the restraint of trade by the supreme court under the Sherman Act.
      iii. In 1906, Congress granted unions immunity from antitrust suits and injunctions
          1. This allowed unions to get involved in politics and support candidates.
      iv. Unions soon became the largest proponents of progressive reforms.

   f. Towards Social Insurance
      i. Workplace accidents were rarely compensated justly.
ii. From 1910-1917, insurance laws were enacted to cover these on the job accidents.

iii. That was about it, though – the pension system was the big thing on the national agenda at the time. Since Civil War Benefits were already provided to vets, the system was complicated even further.

6. Racism and Reform
   a. In the South, the Democratic Primary was ‘whites only.’
   b. Blacks were deprived of political rights.
   c. White Supremacy
      i. The 15th Amendment (that gave blacks the right to vote) was considered evil.
      ii. Even Northern whites saw blacks as inferior.
      iii. W.H. Taft supported keeping blacks “down.”
      iv. 200,000 blacks moved from the South from 1900-1910.
      v. This resulted in increased northern white resentment. Even riots took place in Springfield.
      vi. P.W. Griffith’s “Birth of a Nation” film demonstrated blacks as barbaric and the KKK as chivalrous.
      vii. Woodrow Wilson agreed with Griffith, oppressing the rights of blacks almost completely.
   d. Civil Rights Struggle
      i. Young blacks began to fight back.
      ii. Lead by William Trotter and W.E.B. Du Bois, the group was forced to have supporters meet in Canada instead of the US at Niagara Falls.
      iii. The “Niagara Movement” was to be the basis of the whole Civil Rights movement.
      iv. Blacks wanted Black Pride encouraged and legal equality for all, as well as an end to oppression.
      v. Whites joined in, led by Mary White Ovington and her National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
      vi. Soon, the Niagara Movement began to break up.
      vii. Most joined with the NAACP, led by mostly whites.
      viii. The National Urban League also started in 1911, which worked like the NAACP.
      ix. It was concerned with women and led social welfare.
      x. Because most whites didn’t feel threatened by NUL, many white women from the south allied with this group.
      xi. All organizations began long processes that would end in the Civil Rights Movement.

Progressivism and National Politics

1. Creating a Progressive President
   a. Theodore Roosevelt came from a rich family and went to Harvard.
   b. He thought of himself as righteous but did not scorn power.
   c. He then rose in the New York republican party.
   d. Became the governor of NYC after the Spanish American war and discharged the superintendent of insurance for corruption against the party’s wishes.
   e. Roosevelt was hoped to be neutralized by making him the vice president, but McKinley was assassinated.
   f. Once in office, he moved cautiously at first, trying to gather support from his party.
   g. Roosevelt was a conservationist and started the Newlands Reclamation Act. He also expanded national sanctuaries, prosecuting those who broke conservation laws.
   h. He put down the coal strike of 1902 and started the arbitration commission.
   i. Although he was unsympathetic of the labor force, Roosevelt blamed the labor crisis on mine owners.

2. Regulating the Market Place
   a. 1910- 1% of the nation accounted for 44% of its industrial output
   b. Roosevelt wanted to limit corporate action and wanted to trust bust
   c. 1903 Bureau of Corporation-allowed mor anti-trust sits
   d. Roosevelt took on 4 of the nation’s giant firms- went against those that abused their power
   e. Sherman Act- the courts could decided is an act was excessive and harmful to the public interest
f. “Gentlemen’s Agreement”- US Steel Corp opened their books to the B of C and was told privately of wrong doings

g. Railroad Regulation
   i. Hepburn Railway Act-set max shipping rates, uniform method of bookkeeping

h. Consumer Protection- The Jungle
   i. Food and Drug and the Meat Inspection Acts- FDA
   ii. Square Deal- Roosevelt’s program to protect American’s from corporate abuse

3. Fracturing of Republican Progressivism
   a. Taft disliked give and take politics, but still beat Bryan for office
   b. Taft’s Troubles
      i. Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act 1909-won over by a conservative Rep. bloc
      ii. Pinchot-Ballinger Affair- Pinchot charged Ballinger w/ conspiring to transfer Alaska land; reflected badly on the pres.
   c. Taft-Roosevelt Split- Taft’s court filed suit against US Steel-amounted to an attack on Roosevelt who’d protected US Steel earlier
   d. New Nationalism- Human welfare vs. Property rights
      i. Roosevelt proposed a federal child labor law, regulation of labor relations, and a national minimum wage for women
      ii. Roosevelt campaigned in 1912 under the Progressive Party- “Bull Moose” party

Woodrow Wilson and the New Freedom

1. The New Freedom
   a. Wilson created this program, which resolved our nation’s crisis with corporate power.
   b. Politically, Wilson supported a strong federal government and free enterprise, but was against Roosevelt’s welfare.
   c. He won in the election of 1912 due a split republican party.

2. Tariff Reform and the Federal Reserve
   a. The democrats first instituted the Underwood Tariff Act of 1913, which reduced rates. This was expected to make prices go down, helping out consumers.
   b. Then, Wilson created the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 to much debate. This created a system that couldn’t weaken or collapse, giving financial functions to 12 district reserve banks, all of which would be checked by the others.
   c. This act also created a Federal Reserve Board, which allowed the public to regulate the entire system.

3. Settling the Trust Question
   a. Wilson wanted to prevent trusts from becoming powerful monopolies.
   b. The Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914 broadly supported this policy of his, stating it was illegal if a business, “substantially lessened competition or tended to create a monopoly.”
   c. Since this definition of legality was so broad, Wilson then created the Federal Trade Commission to investigate illegal and unfair industry.

4. Wilson’s Social Program
   a. Dramatic strikes soon made labor an important national issue.
   b. In 1915 and 1916, Wilson created a federal child labor law, the Adamson eight-hour law for railroad workers, and the Seamen’s Act (this eliminated the abuse of sailors aboard ships).
   c. In 1916, Wilson also approved the Federal Farm Loan Act. This created a low interest rural credit system for farmers.