

Reforms of the Progressive Movement

Problem Before the Reform	The Reform(s)
<p style="text-align: center;">Spoils System/Patronage</p> <p>Victorious candidates used the spoils system to give government positions to friends and supporters. But many of these people lacked the qualifications necessary for doing a good job.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Voters Don't Select Candidates</p> <p>Candidates running for office were usually chosen by a small group of party leaders. Voters had no say in who the candidates would be.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Election Fraud</p> <p>Political leaders often lined up voters who were willing to be bought and gave them ballots on easily identifiable colored paper. Counterfeiting ballots, stuffing ballot boxes, and other illegal practices were widespread.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Political Machines & Party Bosses</p> <p>In New York City and other large urban areas, party bosses controlled strong political machines. Favors were done for people in return for their votes. Bribes were regularly accepted. "Boss" Tweed of New York was the worst of the corrupt politicians, stealing an estimated \$30 million or more of the taxpayer's money.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">High Railroad Rates</p> <p>In spite of the Interstate Commerce Act, railroad rates remained excessively high. Railroad companies found ways to avoid charging lower rates set by Interstate Commerce Commission.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Poor Working Conditions</p> <p>Workers, including women and children, were on the job 12 to 14 hours a day, six or seven days a week. Wages were terribly low. Bad working conditions often caused illness and accidents.</p>	

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<p data-bbox="342 170 781 205" style="text-align: center;">Tainted Food and Medicine</p> <p data-bbox="172 247 938 499">Terrible conditions existed in the food processing industry. Upton Sinclair, a muckraker, told how packing houses often kept meat on dirty floors. He found that chopped meat sometimes contained rat hairs, wood splinters, bits of rope, or pieces of spoiled meat.</p>	
<p data-bbox="467 510 656 546" style="text-align: center;">Monopolies</p> <p data-bbox="172 588 930 800">Many big businesses became monopolies or trusts. One company, or several companies working together, gained control of an industry, such as oil. They charged high prices because there was no competition to hold prices down.</p>	
<p data-bbox="245 810 873 846" style="text-align: center;">Pollution & Environmental Destruction</p> <p data-bbox="172 888 943 1100">Wilderness areas were being ruined. Great buffalo herds disappeared, the passenger pigeon became extinct, and other forms of wildlife were threatened. Government land and mineral resources were either sold cheaply or given away.</p>	
<p data-bbox="370 1110 748 1146" style="text-align: center;">Unfair Taxation System</p> <p data-bbox="172 1188 922 1400">Taxes were usually based on the amount of property a person owned. But many wealthy people hid some of their property from the government. Consequently, they did not pay their fair share of the taxes being collected.</p>	
<p data-bbox="331 1411 787 1446" style="text-align: center;">Indirect Election of Senators</p> <p data-bbox="172 1488 911 1610">The two Senators that each state sent to Congress were chosen by the members of the various state legislatures.</p>	
<p data-bbox="331 1621 787 1656" style="text-align: center;">Suffrage Restricted to Males</p> <p data-bbox="172 1698 938 1854">Only male citizens 21 or older could vote. In 1869 Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association which campaigned for the right of women to vote.</p>	

- 8 Hour Day
- Federal Reserve Act
- Clayton Anti-Trust Act
- Initiative
- 16th Amendment
- 17th Amendment
- 18th Amendment
- 19th Amendment
- 20th Amendment
- Referendum
- Bureau of Forestry
- Unemployment Insurance
- Increased Gov. Services (Fire, Police, Sanitation, Unemployment, etc.)

- Secret Ballot
- Interstate Commerce Act
- Newlands Reclamation Act
- Pendleton Civil Service Act
- Sherman Anti-Trust Act
- National Park System
- Direct Primary Elections
- Recall
- Minimum Wage
- Pure Food and Drug Act
- Workman's Compensation
- Meat Inspection Act