

## Handout A: Background Essay: The Rise of Reform Politics Answer Key

1. In the late nineteenth century, the industrial factory system was growing and drawing millions of immigrants into large cities in the Northeast and Midwest. As millions of new migrants flocked to these cities, infrastructure and resources became strained. As a result, many were desperately searching for both work and a share of the available resources. These immigrants were easily preyed upon by machine bosses who were able to leverage their finances in exchange for political power through votes.
2. Political machines assisted citizens by providing jobs, housing, food, and a number of other small gifts. These were given with the expectation that those given gifts would support and vote for the machine's candidates in the next election. These machines also thrived on graft, bribery, and payoffs in doling out government contracts or land deals in which they personally would benefit.
3. Following a period in which politics were dominated by corrupt political machines, progressives desired to provide the framework that would allow citizens to participate in the political process. These devices were designed to give people more democratic voice in government. Additionally, they were intended to fight corruption because voters could bypass the state legislatures that many progressives saw as corrupt. The frameworks of initiative, recall, and referendum especially, allowed citizens to directly impact and influence government.
4. Prior to the Seventeenth Amendment, many progressive reformers felt that the election of senators by the state legislature was undemocratic. Furthermore, they believed that it prevented senators from having to be accountable to the people they were supposed to represent. However, current and past critics of the Seventeenth Amendment often point out that the system of senators being elected by the state legislatures was entirely intentional and established for a specific reason.
5. In an effort to better mobilize following American intervention in World War I, the federal government would create a number of agencies that would move the country towards greater efficiency centered on the war effort. However, some of the government regulations that would come into existence during this era would never fully leave. Following World War I, new regulatory agencies would come into existence to fill the void left by those organized specifically for the war. These agencies sought to continue the type of efficiency that the nation benefited from during the war-time efforts.
6. The progressives largely believed that the American principles of limited government and separation of powers were outdated concepts that were insufficient to address the problems of a modern industrial and urban society. Progressive reformers would expand government to attempt to deal with the challenges of modern society. They hoped to establish agencies that would make decisions, free from partisan politics, which would provide basic services that had only been provided by private charity and civil society. Overall, Progressives saw the role of government as needing to meet the real needs of the people in a changing economy and society.

# Handout E: Comparing the New Nationalism and New Freedom Answer Key

## Diagram #1

**Theodore Roosevelt, The New Nationalism:** self-interest, property used selfishly, and other reasonable answers.

**Woodrow Wilson, The New Freedom:** individualism in decline, no equal opportunity, no real competition, and other reasonable answers.

**Ideas in common:** great inequality of wealth, wealthy few have all the power, and other reasonable answers.

## Diagram #2

**Theodore Roosevelt, the New Nationalism:** federal regulation of business, federal regulation of the use of property and wealth, strong executive power, publicize corporate activities, possible government ownership of industry, community over the individual, and other reasonable answers.

**Woodrow Wilson, the New Freedom:** restore individualism, restore competition, destroy business rather than regulating it, and other reasonable answers.

**Ideas in common:** control wealth, increased federal power, and other reasonable answers.