

Progressive Era: Taft and Wilson



Rockefeller and his associates did not build the Standard Oil Co. in the board rooms of Wall Street banks. They fought their way to control by rebate and drawback, bribe and blackmail, espionage and price cutting, by ruthless efficiency of organization.

— *Ida Tarbell* —

AZ QUOTES

Ida Tarbell

- Investigates the Standard Oil Trust in 1900 through an interview of Henry H. Rogers (a leader of Standard)
- Published in Nov. 1902 issue of *McClure's*, along with Lincoln Steffens' *Shame*; article would run for 19 issues
- Stirs public opinion against Standard Oil → govt taking action against the trust

“Progressive Amendments”

16th: income tax (1913)

17th: direct election of senators
and Australian “secret” ballot
(1913)

18th: prohibits the
manufacture, transportation,
consumption, production of
alcoholic beverages (1919)

19th: women’s suffrage (1920)

“Income the Senators with Booze and Women”



Progressive Reforms in Voting

Initiative: citizens draft a bill or amendment (a “measure”), which they then propose by petition; if the petition receives sufficient support, the measure is then placed on the ballot and can be enacted into law by a direct vote of citizens

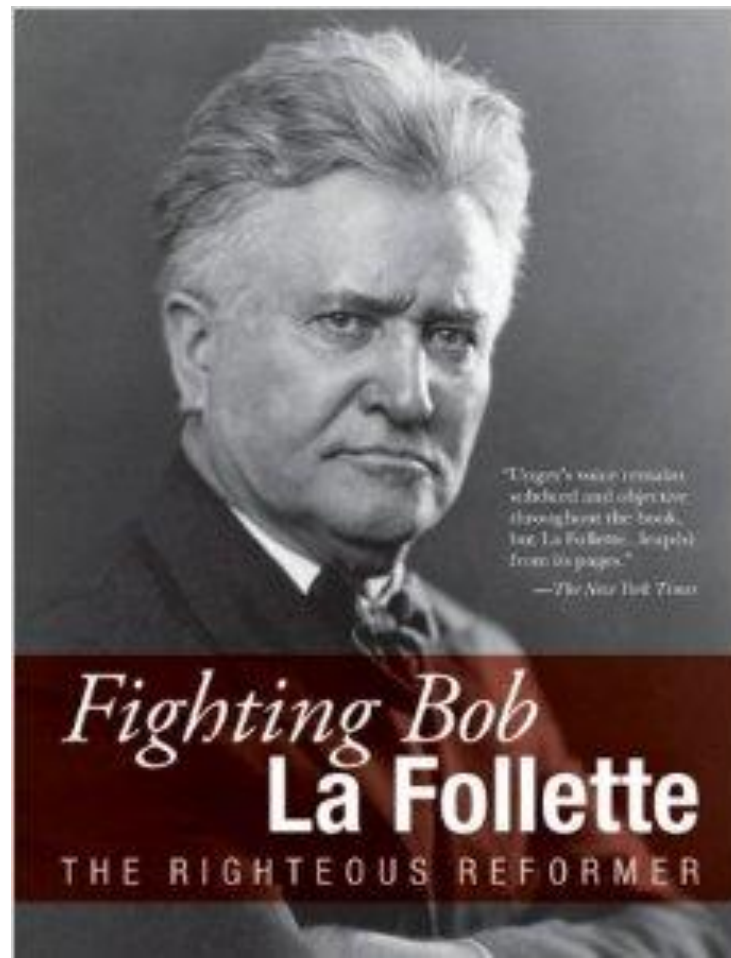
*Think “citizens have taken the initiative to add it to the ballot for a vote”

Referendum: allows voters to approve or repeal an act; if the legislature passes a law that voters do not approve of, they may gather signatures to demand a popular vote on the law; during the time between passage and the popular vote, the law may not take effect

*Think the govt is “referring” back to the citizens for their vote on a law

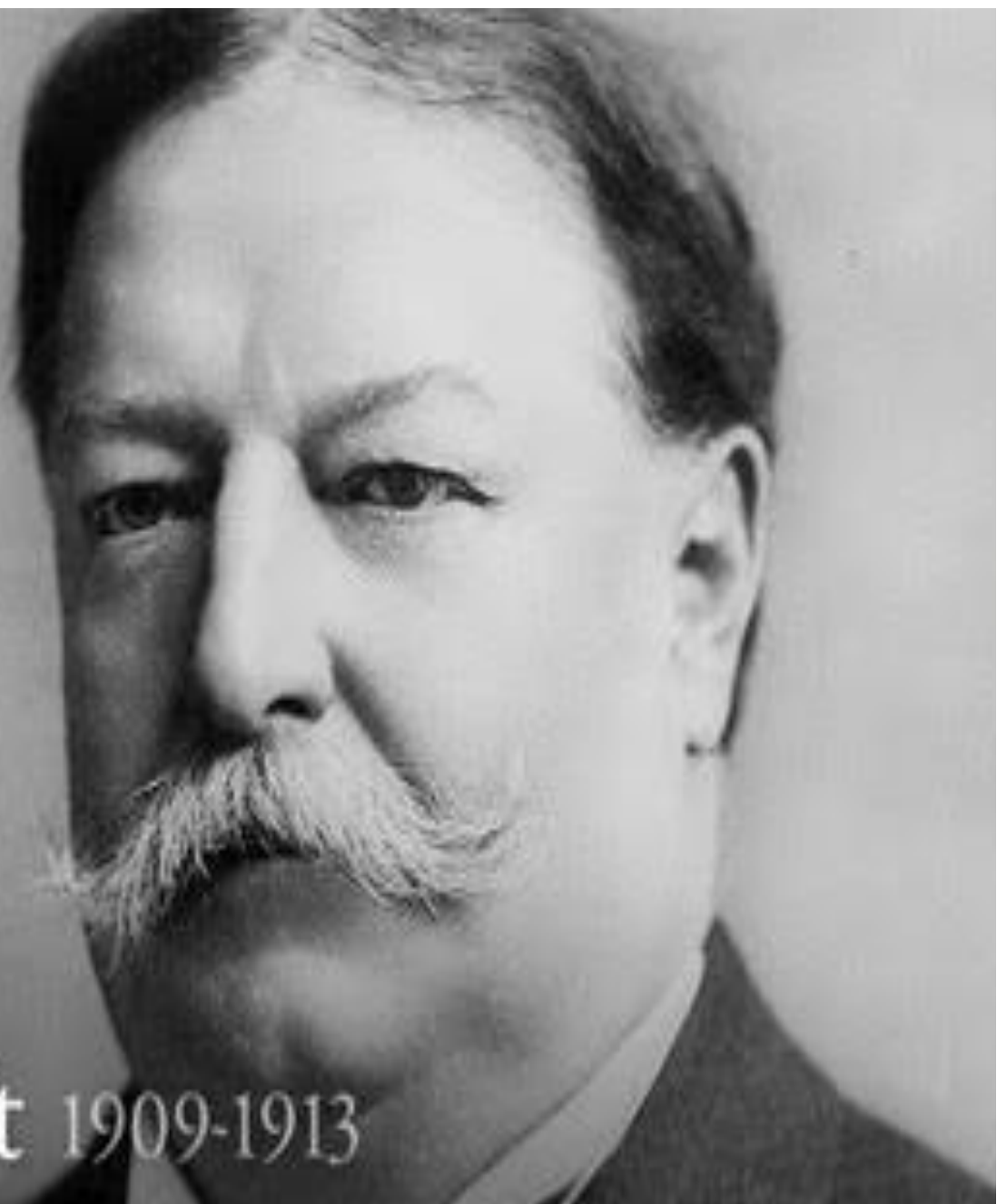
Primary: a preliminary election to appoint delegates to a party conference or to select the candidates for election

“**Fighting Bob**” La Follette (Wisconsin) experimented with these voting reforms; Wisconsin became known as the “Laboratory for Progressivism”



27.

William H. Taft 1909-1913



William H. Taft (1857-1930)

Childhood & Early Life:

- Born into wealthy Ohio family
- Admired his father as a successful lawyer, judge, Attorney General, and Sec. of War
- Educated in law at Yale University
- Dream to become Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court





Action for which I become responsible, or for which my administration becomes responsible, shall be within the law.

(William Howard Taft)

izquotes.com

Successes as President

- Added additional acres of public parks & forests (not as much as TR)
- Broke up more than 90 monopolies, including Standard Oil in 1911
- Set up the Dept. of Labor & the Bureau of Mines to protect workers
- Supported the passage of the 16th and 17th Amendments
- Established the 8-hour day for govt workers

Split Between Progressives & Conservative Republicans:

-Taft signed **Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act** → raised tariffs on certain imports and very slightly lowered rates in others

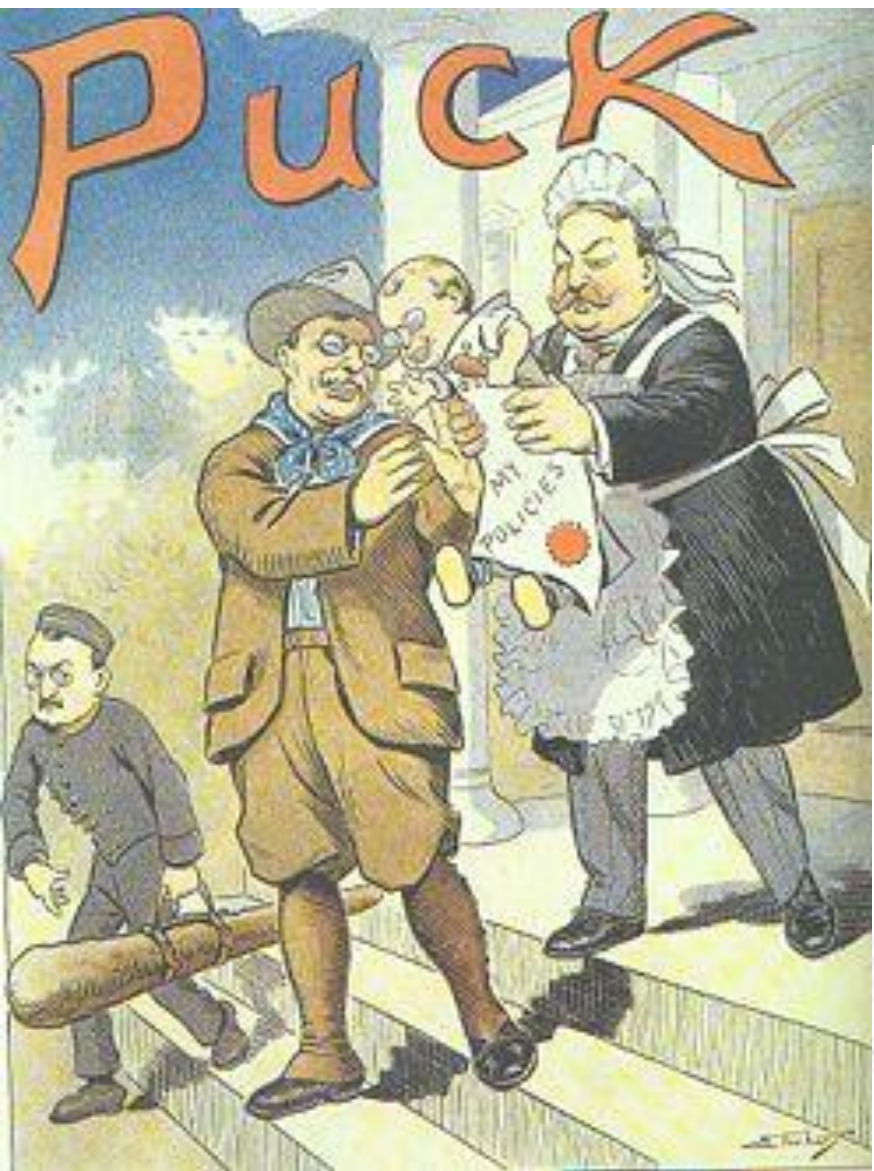
1. Pleased “big business”
2. Angered progressives and farmers

-Appointed Richard Ballinger as Secretary of the Interior

1. Favored industrial development of wilderness area
2. Accused by Pinchot of giving wealthy Americans access to Alaskan coal lands
3. Taft fires Pinchot

-TR became Taft’s #1 critic



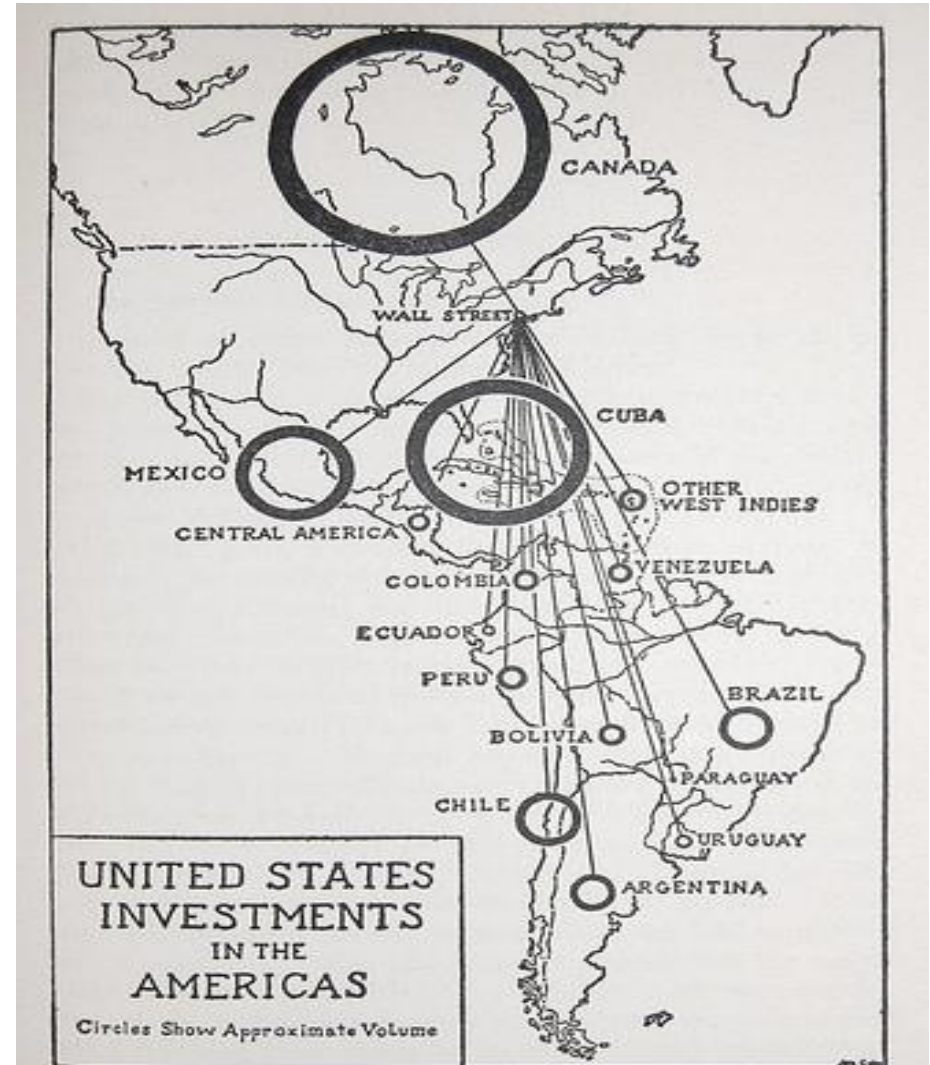


PADDING THE BIG STICK.



Taft's Foreign Policy: Dollar Diplomacy

- Effort of the U.S.—particularly under President Taft—to further its aims in Latin America and East Asia by guaranteeing loans made to foreign countries
- Justified it as a means to protect the Panama Canal
- Allowed the U.S. to gain financially from countries, but also resisted other foreign countries from reaping any sort of financial gain





Election of 1912



- Taft wins nomination of Republicans
- TR breaks away, forms Progressive Party AKA the “Bull Moose” Party

Promises a “New Nationalism”

Platform: tariff reduction, women’s suffrage, business regulation, child labor ban, 8 hour workday, direct election of senators

- Wilson is nominated by Democrats

Promises a “New Freedom”

Platform: many of the same reforms as TR, but more “soft” on business and farmer-friendly





Taft after Presidency

1921: named 10th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by President Harding

-Served until 1930

-Considered it the “greatest honor” of his life



28.

Woodrow Wilson 1913-1921

Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924)

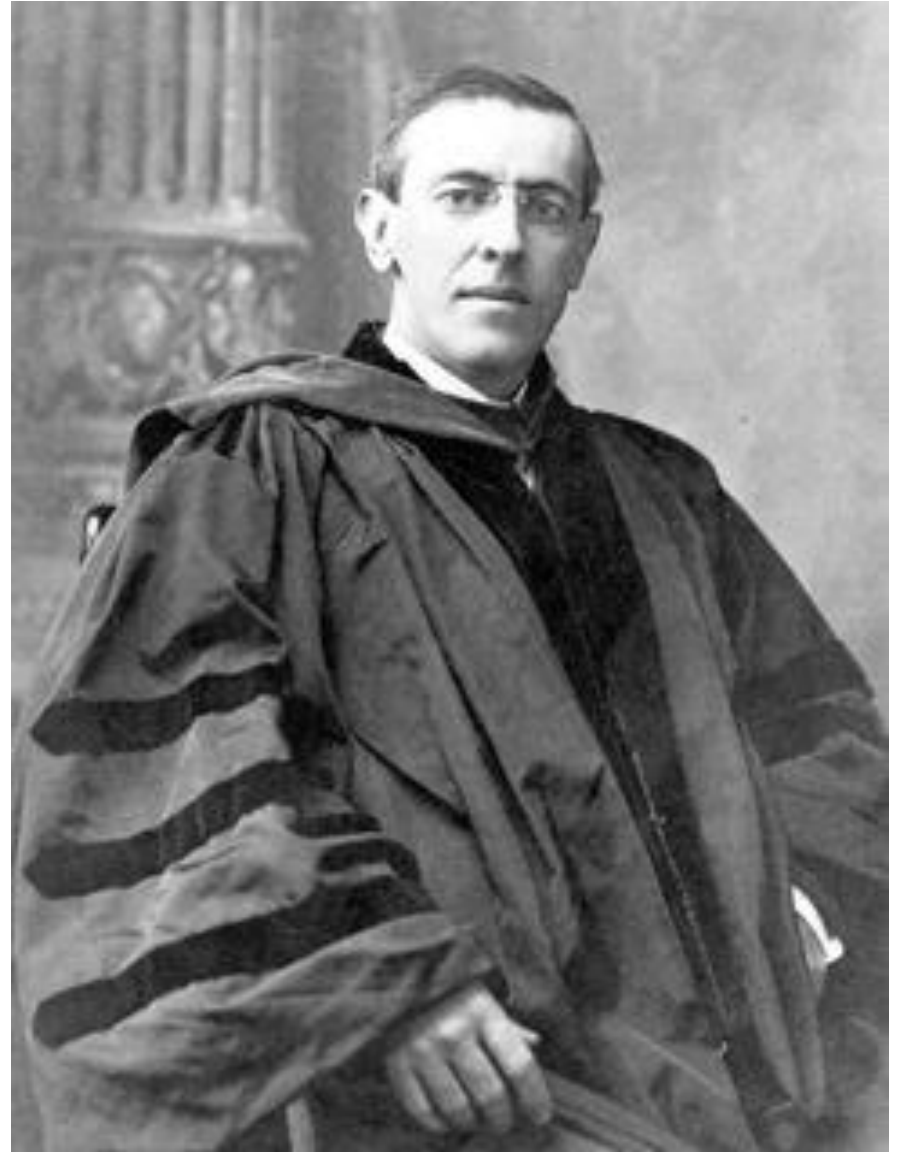
Childhood

- Born in Staunton, VA to a middle-class family
- Father was a minister and strict with his family
- Family moved often



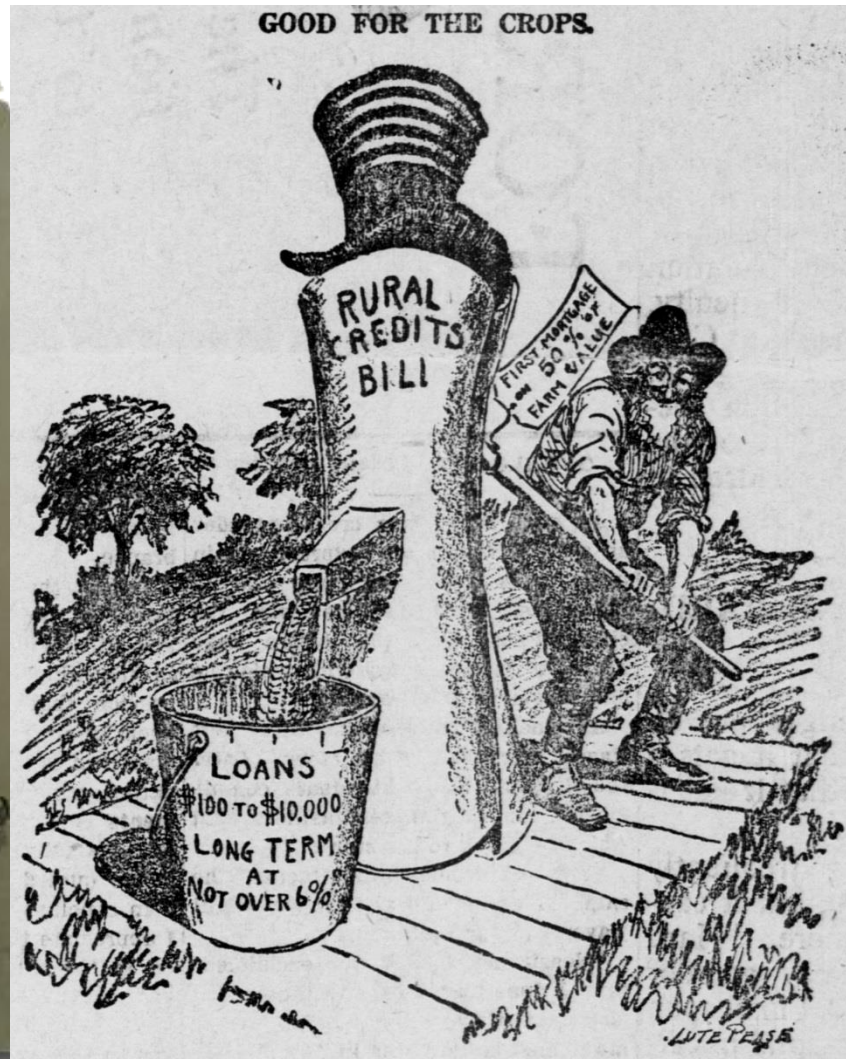
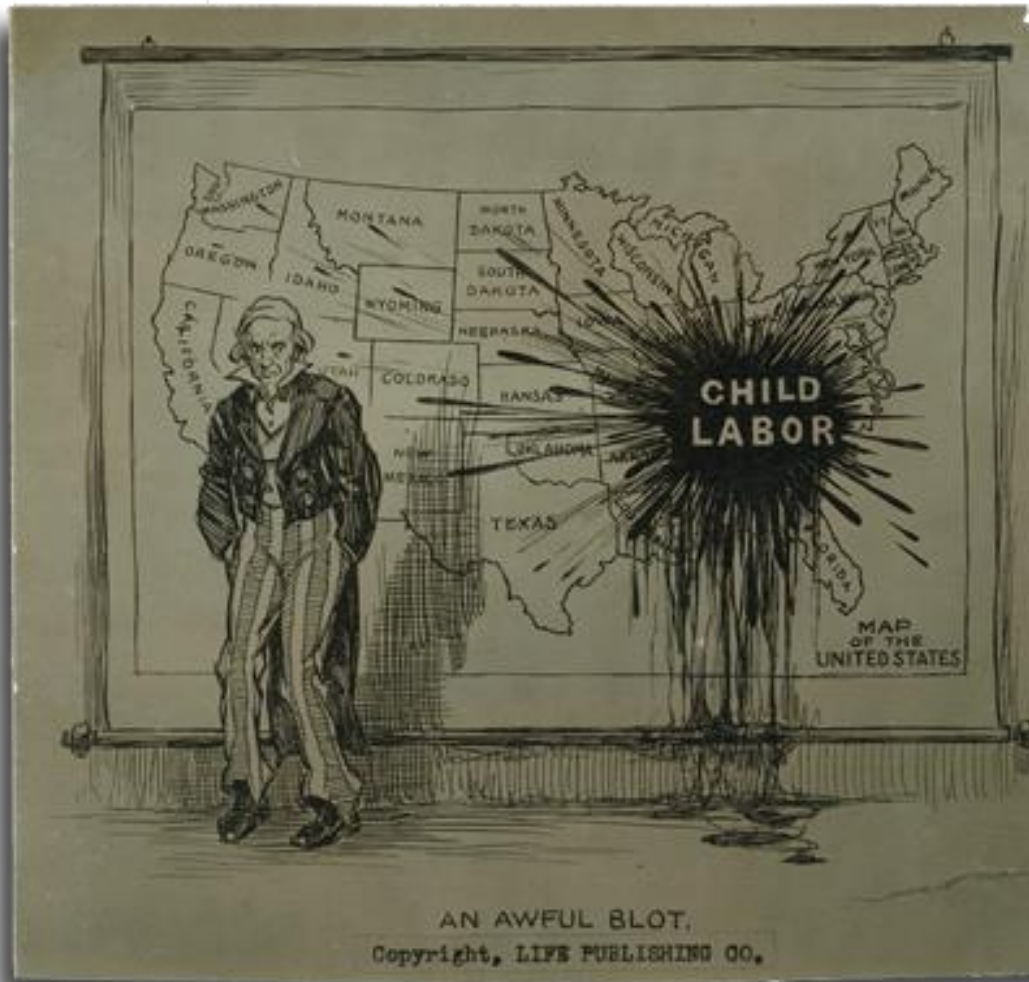
Early Career

- Graduated from Princeton University in 1879
- Practiced law in Atlanta for a year
- Became professor of law & economics at Princeton
- 1902: named president of Princeton University
- 1910: elected governor of New Jersey

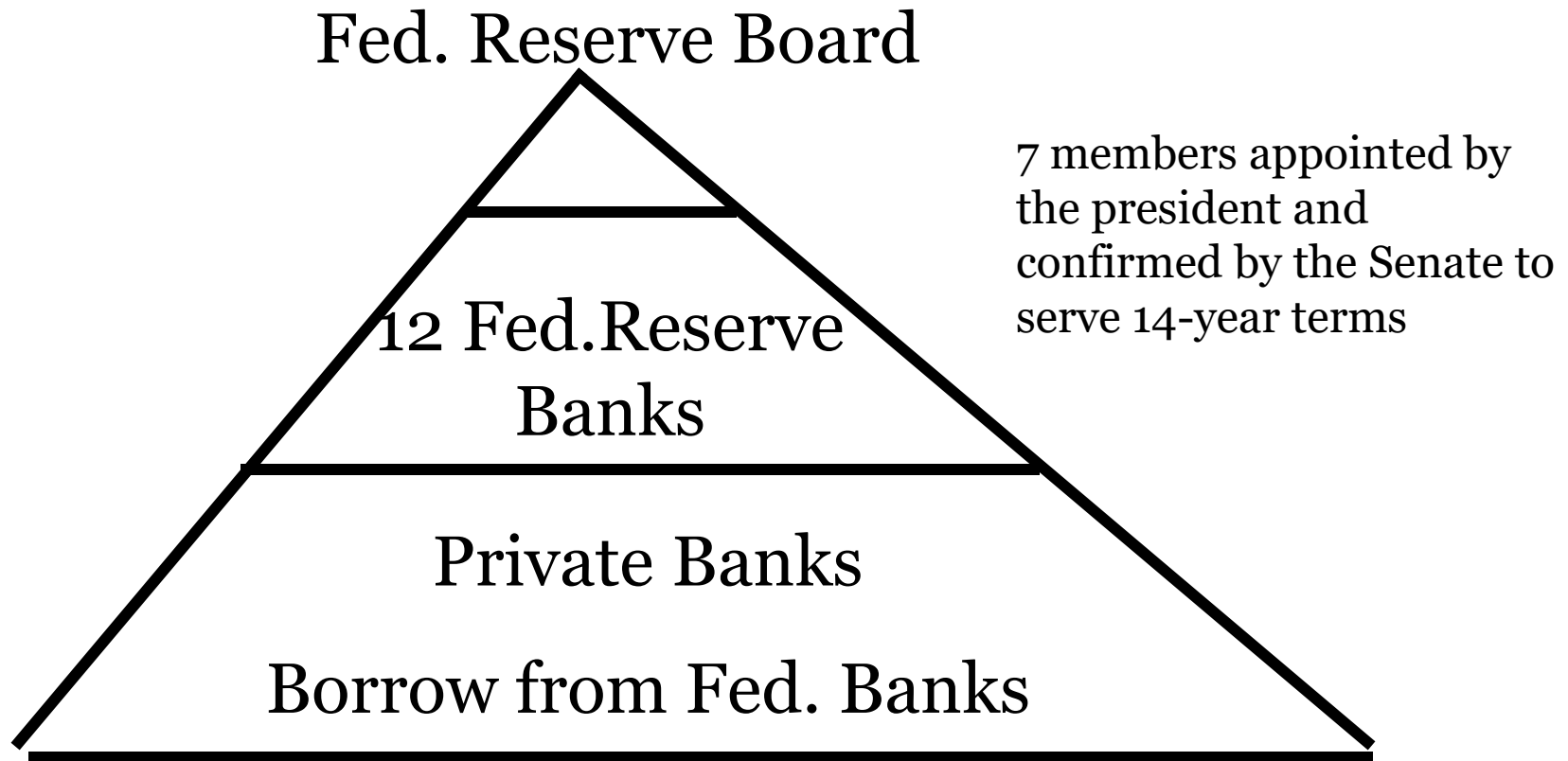


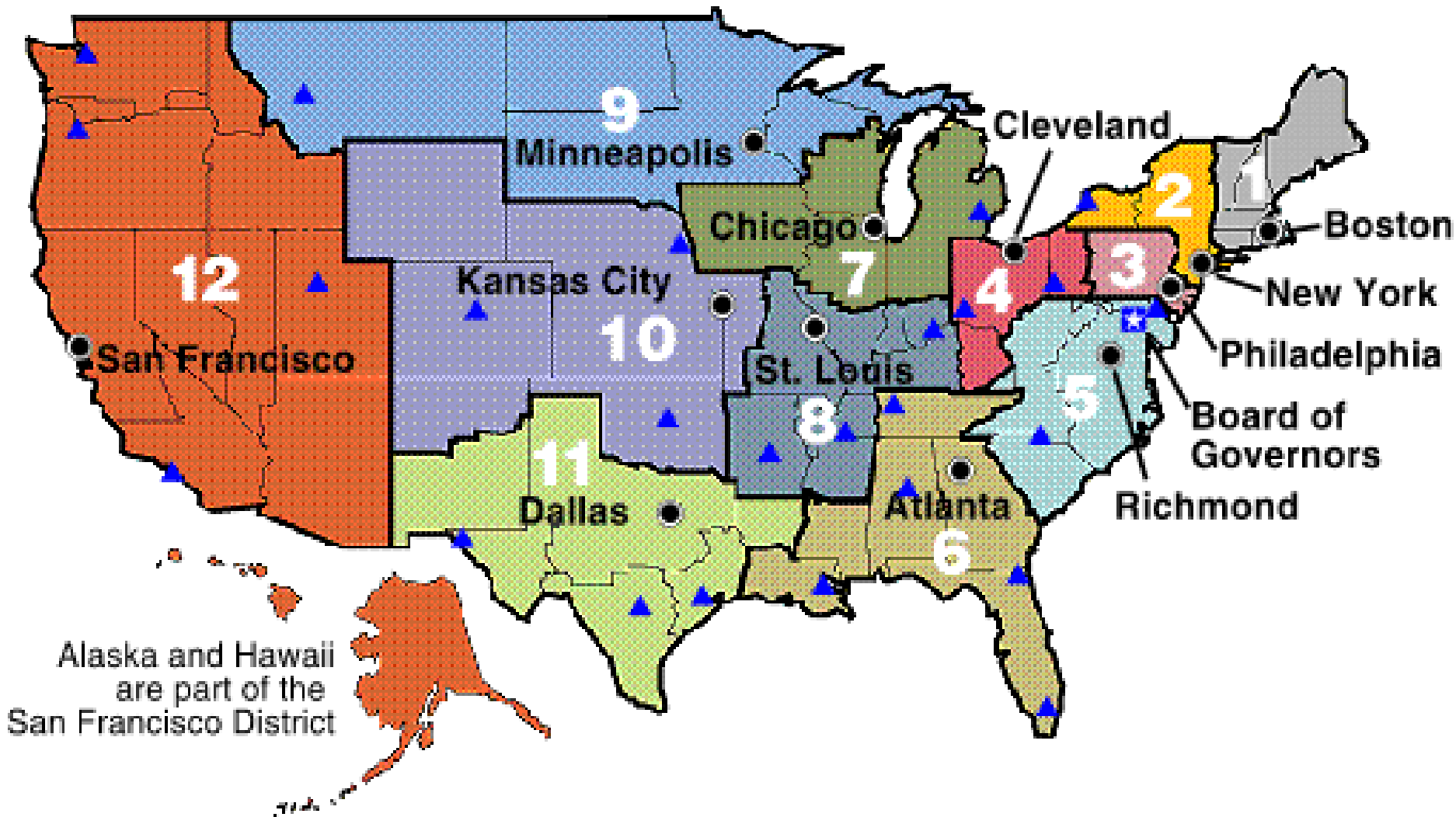
Wilson's New Freedom:

- Underwood-Simmons Act (1913): lowered import tariffs from 40% to 25% and re-imposed an income tax
- Keating-Owen Act (1916): curbed the use of child labor
- Federal Farm Loan Act: gave farmers low interest loans



Federal Reserve Act: 3-tiered banking system designed to a) Regulate banks b) Maintain the nation's money supply with elastic currency





Alaska and Hawaii
are part of the
San Francisco District

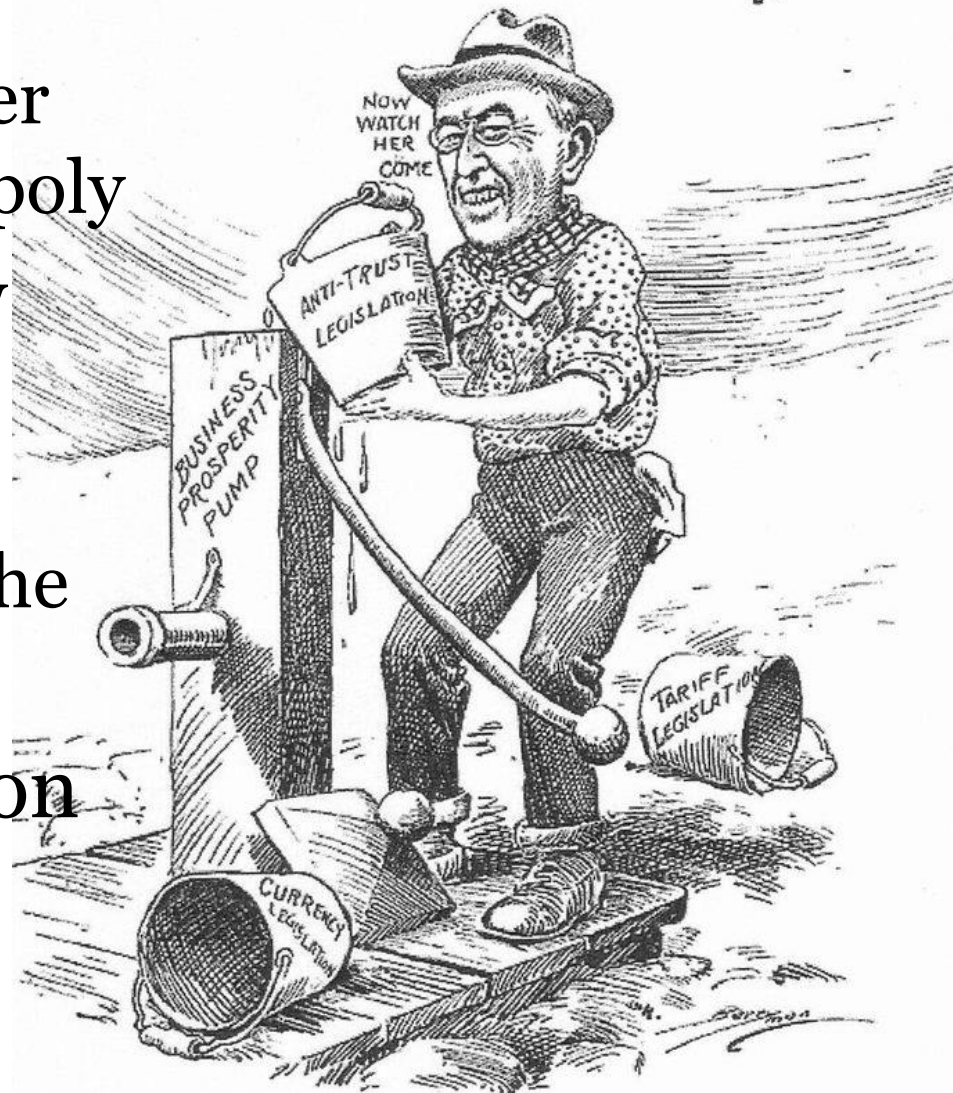
Stronger Anti-Trust Law

Clayton Anti-Trust Act:

- Could not buy out another company to form a monopoly
- Strikes and boycotts now legal – protects union workers
- Closed the loopholes of the Sherman Anti-trust Act

Federal Trade Commission created:

- Enforced anti-trust laws
- Investigates businesses



Wilson as a Progressive?



Wilson and Minority Rights

-Wilson believed states should handle anti-lynching legislation

-His cabinet members continued to segregate their departments (even requiring photos as part of their hiring practices)

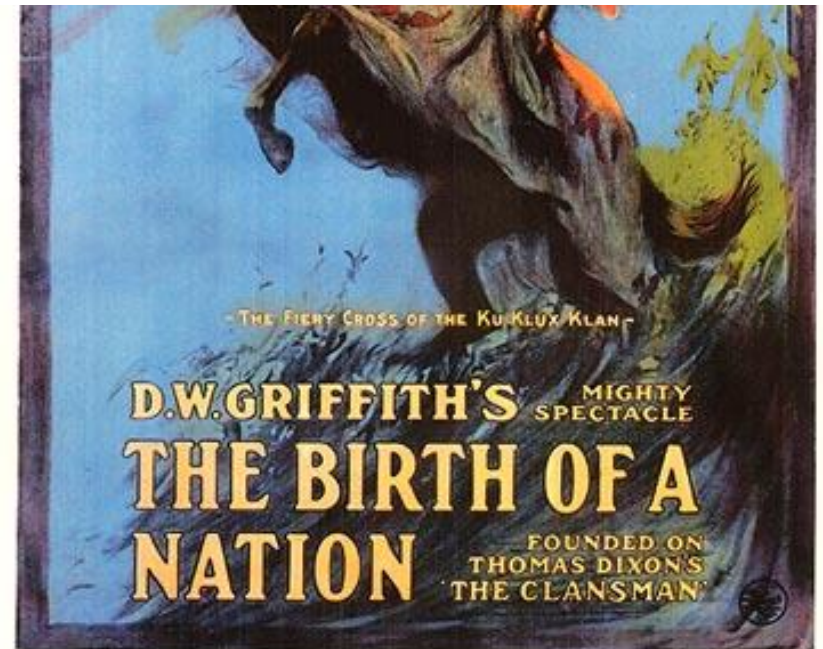
-Silent on a Congressional law making it illegal for interracial marriage in D.C.

WHY?

-“Birth of a Nation” revived KKK membership (1915)

"In every man's life, there's the possibility of making a considerable difference. By attitude, by word spoken, by something done or not done. You'd have to say that in the area of race relations, Woodrow Wilson was deficient on all those points."

-David Levering Lewis, Historian



COMPARING THE KLAN

The First Ku Klux Klan	The Second Ku Klux Klan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Founded by ex-Confederate soldiers during Reconstruction - Greatest influence: 1866-1872 - A secret society dedicated to the restoration of white supremacy in the South - Led by General Nathan Bedford Forrest, Imperial Wizard, a former Confederate general 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Founded by Protestant fundamentalists in the period before WWI - Greatest influence: 1922-1928 - A national secret society dedicated to the promotion of white Anglo-Saxon Protestant ideals and "one hundred percent Americanism" - Led by Doctor Hiram Wesley Evans, Imperial Wizard, a dentist and former KKK Grand Dragon from Texas
Major Objectives	Major Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration of constitutional rights for all Southern whites - Protection of Southern women from carpetbaggers, scallywags, and freedmen - Reestablishment of white citizens' home rule and the end of Reconstruction in the South 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protection of the U.S. government from foreign and/or radical elements - Preservation of white supremacy and suppression of non-white influences - Reestablishment of isolationist policies and restrictions on immigration to the U.S.
Reasons For Decline	Reasons For Decline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Klan terrorism, especially against black people, led to the passage of restrictive acts - The Force Act and the Ku Klux Act - in 1870-1871 - Reconstruction came to an end with the reestablishment of predominantly white governments in all Southern states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing incidents of violence forced many political allies to withdraw public support for the Klan - Scandals and charges of corruption discredited the KKK and the Protestant heartland abandoned the movement

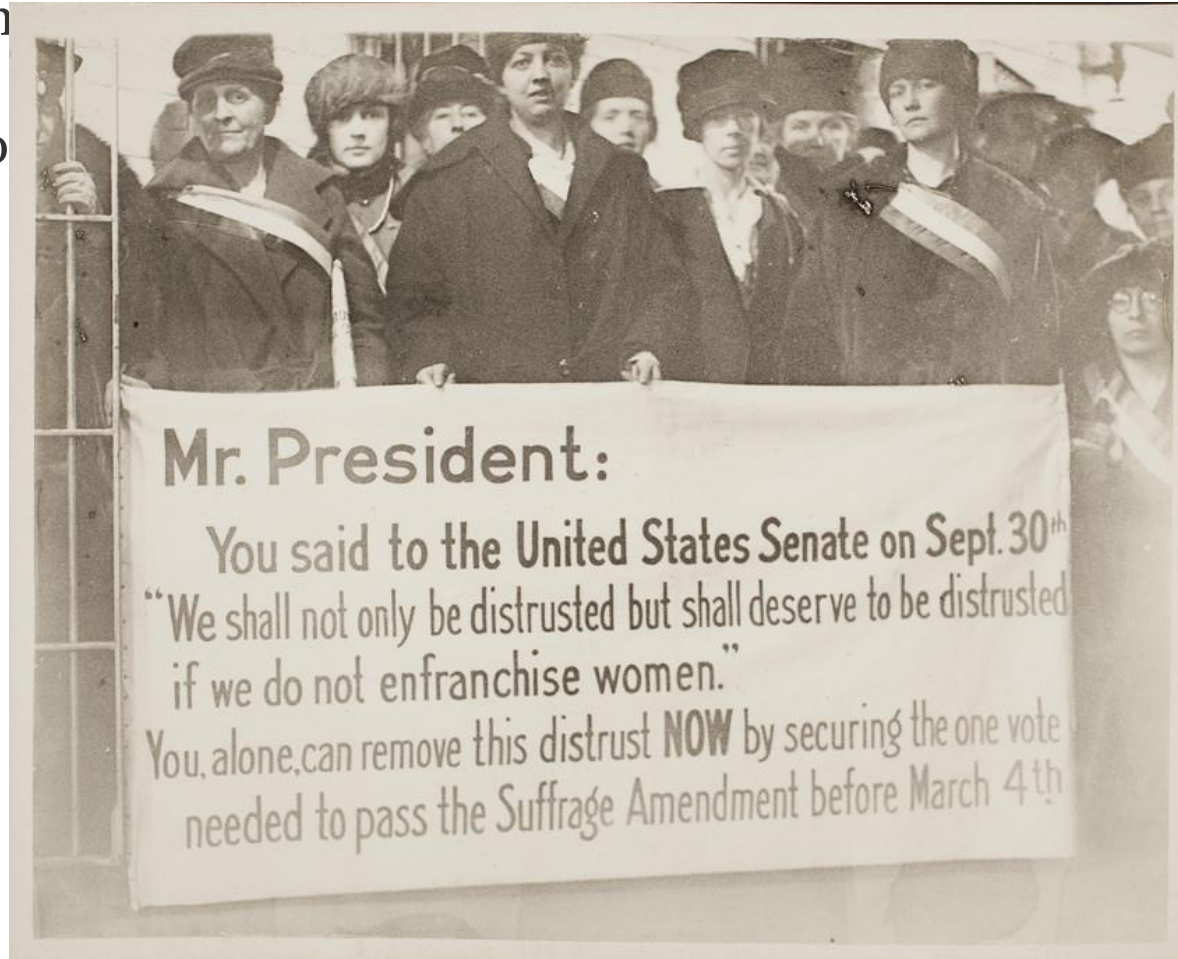
“Silent Sentinels”

17 March 1913: Alice Paul and other suffragists met with Wilson, who said it was not yet time for an amendment to the Constitution

“I believe the time has come to extend the privilege and responsibility to the women of the State, but I shall vote...only upon my private conviction. I believe that it should be settled by the State and not by the National Government...”

-Woodrow Wilson,
1915

-Paul was sentenced to jail for
7 months

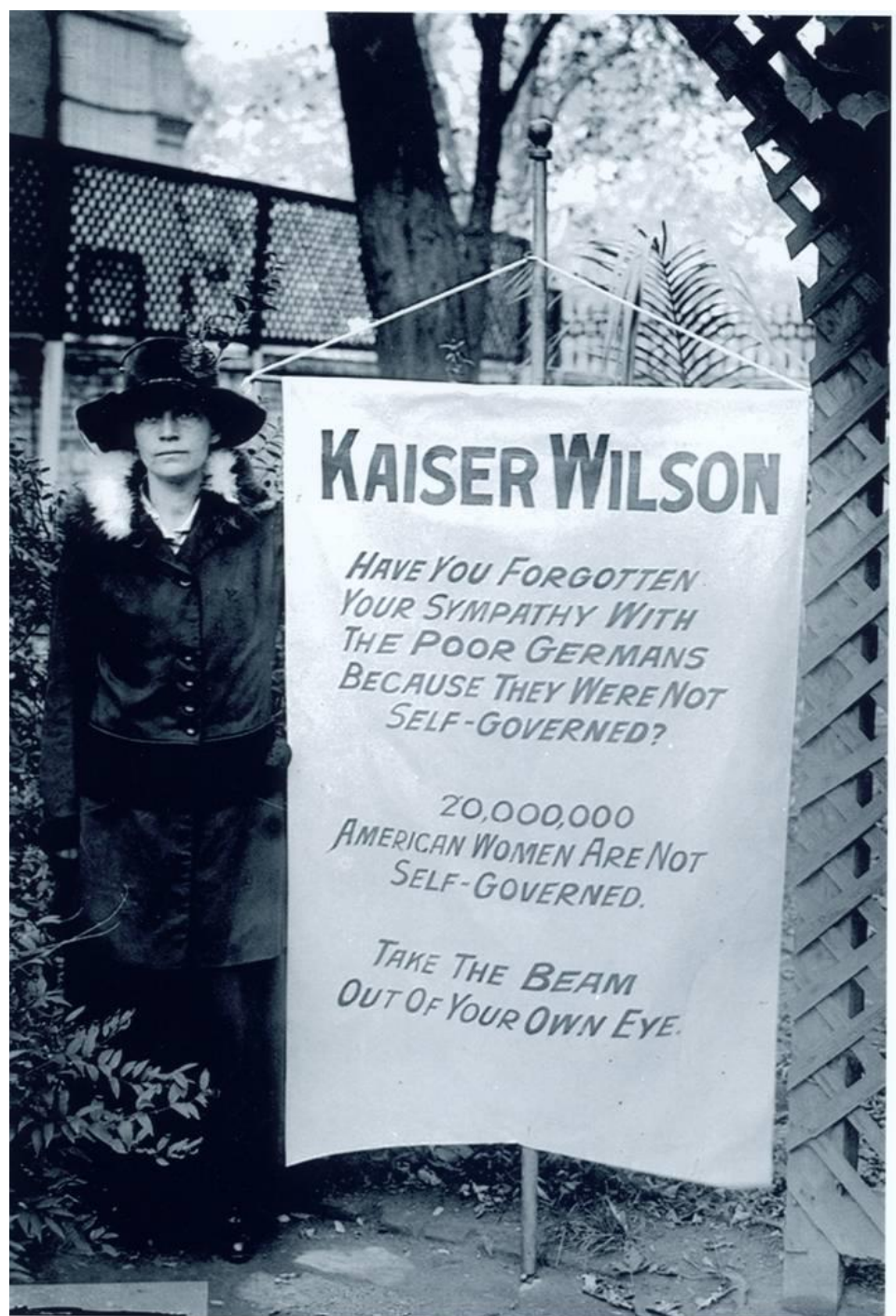


Feb. 1919

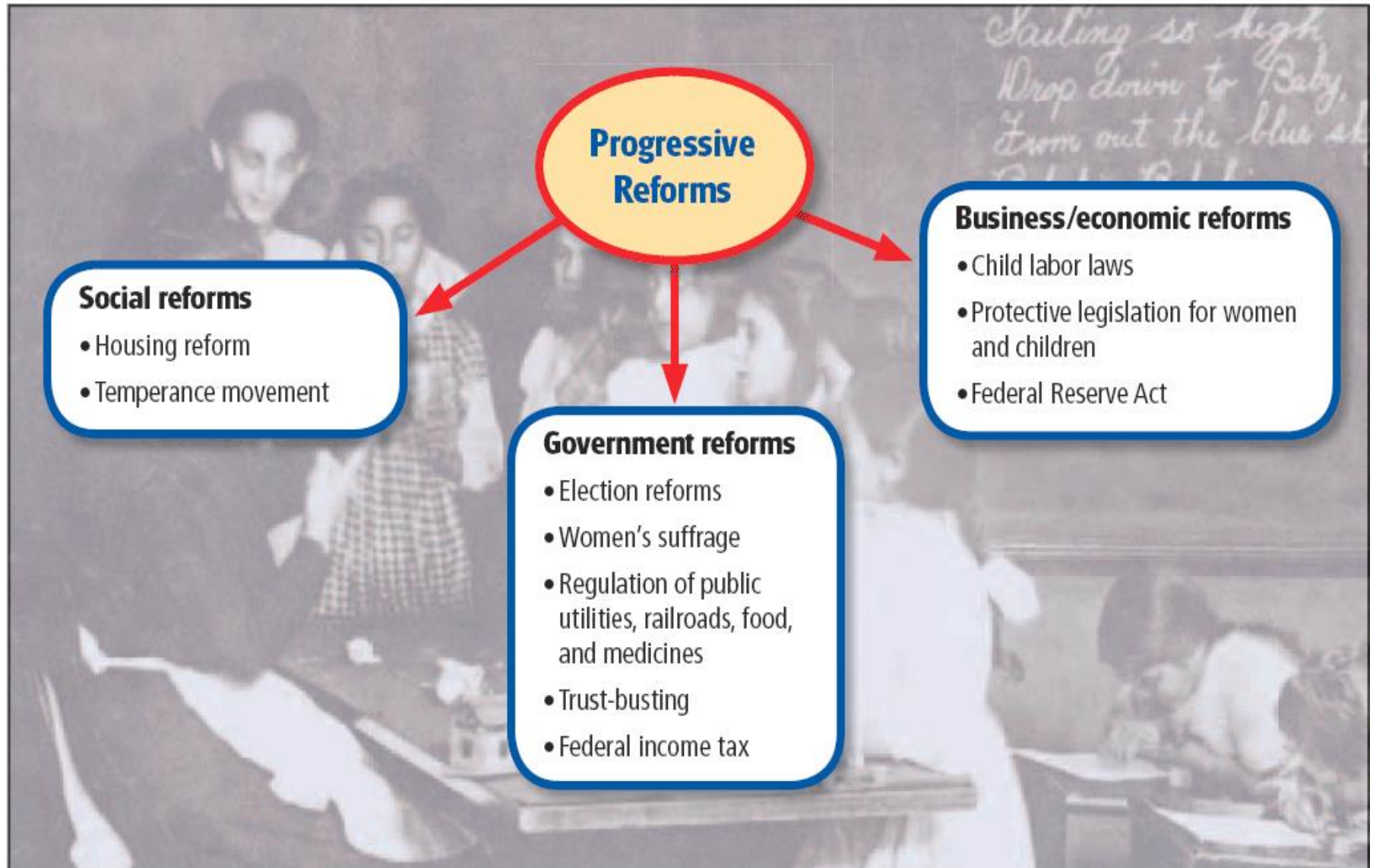
Wilson & Women's Suffrage

-Wilson continued to “flip-flop” on the subject of women's suffrage into his 2nd term; managed to keep suffragettes at bay once WWI started

-Gave a speech to the Senate in 1918 urging support of the 19th Amendment after members of the National Women's Party were jailed at Occoquan Workhouse after picketing in front of the White House



Visual Summary: The Progressives



War broke out in Europe in 1914 (later called WWI)

- Wilson called for U.S. neutrality (he was a pacifist)
- 1917: entered war with reluctance, saying we must go to war to “Make the world safe for democracy”
- Focus would now be on foreign affairs



To Be Continued...

-We will talk more about Wilson next:

-WWI

