



Welcome!

Lecture 15:
*The Progressive
Impulse*



UNIT 3 ➤ EXPANDING FREEDOM'S BOUNDARIES ◀

Lecture 15: The Progressive Impulse



“We’ve stumbled along for awhile, trying to run a new civilization in old ways, but we’ve got to start to make this world over.” Thomas Edison



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Gilded Age responses to industrialization:

~ laissez-faire capitalism and social Darwinism

~ socialism and anarchism

~ Populism

~ Unionism



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The Progressive consensus:

- ~ working class
- ~ middle class
- ~ upper class



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Key Progressive ideas:

- ~ rejection of social Darwinism
 - ~ cooperation instead of competition
 - ~ human agency produces progress
 - ~ civic activism required when power is too concentrated



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Key Progressive ideas (con't):

- ~rejection of formalism
 - ~economic realism
 - ~legal realism
 - ~pragmatism

- ~social Gospel
 - ~morality requires social justice
 - ~churches should help solve society's problems

- ~scientific management
 - ~collect data & analyze it rationally
 - ~legislate change



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Main areas of Progressive reform:

- ~ political reform
 - ~ city government
 - ~ direct election
 - ~ recall & referendum
 - ~ women's suffrage

- ~ economic reform
 - ~ regulate competition
 - ~ regulate worker safety
 - ~ regulate consumer safety
 - ~ conservation



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Main areas of Progressive reform (con't):

- ~ social reform
 - ~ settlement houses
 - ~ housing and public health
 - ~ birth control

- ~ moral reform
 - ~ prohibition