

CHAPTER 9 Section 3 (pages 341–347)

Teddy Roosevelt’s Square Deal

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about women who worked for reforms in their communities and for the right to vote.

In this section, you will learn about President Theodore Roosevelt’s success in promoting reforms at the national level.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes. Read the list of problem areas on the left and fill in the columns to give examples of how these problems were solved.

TERMS AND NAMES

Upton Sinclair Novelist who exposed social problems

The Jungle Novel by Upton Sinclair describing meatpacking

Theodore Roosevelt President from 1901 to 1909

Square Deal President Roosevelt’s program of progressive reforms

Meat Inspection Act Law reforming meatpacking conditions, 1906

Pure Food and Drug Act Law to stop the sale of unclean food and drugs, 1906

conservation The planned management of natural resources

NAACP National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, founded in 1909 to work for racial equality

PROBLEM AREAS	EXAMPLES	SOLUTIONS
Strikes	1902, Pennsylvania coal miners	
Trusts		
Meat processing		
The environment		

A Rough-Riding President

(pages 341–342)

What was Roosevelt like?

Theodore Roosevelt became president in 1901. He was bold, ambitious, and full of energy. He had been active in sports and politics. In the Spanish–American–Cuban War he led a fighting unit called the Rough Riders. His personality made him a popular president.

Roosevelt used his popularity to get his programs passed. He wanted to see that the common

people received what he called a **Square Deal**. This term referred to a program of progressive reforms sponsored by his administration.

1. How did Roosevelt’s personality shape his presidency?

Using Federal Power (pages 342–344)

How did Roosevelt handle big business?

President Roosevelt used the power of the government to help solve the nation's problems.

In 1902, about 140,000 coal miners in Pennsylvania went on strike. The mine owners refused to *negotiate* with them. President Roosevelt called both sides to the White House to talk. He threatened to have the government take over the mines. The two sides agreed to have an *arbitration* commission help settle their differences. The commission succeeded in reaching a compromise. From then on, the federal government would often step in to help settle a strike.

Roosevelt also used the power of his government to deal with the problem of trusts. Trusts were large companies that had control over their markets. Trusts, or monopolies, first drove smaller companies out by lowering their own prices. Then when the smaller companies were gone, the trusts could raise their prices. They no longer had any competition.

By 1900, trusts controlled about 80 percent of U.S. industries. Roosevelt supported big business, but he also wanted to stop trusts that harmed people. He had the government sue harmful trusts under the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. In all, Roosevelt filed 44 *antitrust* suits. He was called a trustbuster.

In 1887, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) had been set up to regulate the railroad industry. It had not been effective. Roosevelt pushed through laws that made it stronger. The results were fairer shipping rates and less corruption.

2. How did Roosevelt use the power of the federal government to change business practices?

Protecting Citizens and the Environment (pages 344–346)

What did Roosevelt do for public health and the environment?

In 1906, **Upton Sinclair** published a novel called *The Jungle*, describing filthy conditions in the

meatpacking industry. Roosevelt pushed for passage of the **Meat Inspection Act**. This law, passed in 1906, called for strict cleanliness requirements for meatpackers. It created a program of federal meat inspection.

Also in 1906, Congress passed the **Pure Food and Drug Act**. This law (1) regulated what manufacturers could put into foods and drugs and (2) said that these products must be labeled honestly. For instance, it stopped manufacturers from adding dangerous chemicals to foods to preserve them. It also stopped them from making false claims about medicines.

Before Roosevelt became president, the federal government had paid little attention to the nation's natural resources. Roosevelt supported the **conservation** of land. He believed that wilderness areas should be preserved and used wisely for the common good. He set aside land to use for its water and mineral resources. He established wildlife sanctuaries—places where animals would be safe from humans—and national parks.

3. What are two ways that Roosevelt helped to make people's lives safer and healthier?

Roosevelt and Civil Rights

(pages 346–347)

What did Roosevelt do for African Americans?

Roosevelt supported individual African Americans like Booker T. Washington. But he did not help African Americans in general. In 1909, black leaders, including W. E. B. Du Bois, founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (**NAACP**). The organization pushed for civil rights and racial equality. The progressive movement, however, continued to focus on the needs of middle-class whites.

4. What action did the NAACP take?

Answer Key

Chapter 9: The Progressive Era (pages 328–361)

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