

Ch 17 Section 4 Progressivism under Taft

Taft Becomes President

Taft Stumbles

- 1908, Republican **William Howard Taft** wins with Roosevelt's support
- Has cautiously progressive agenda; gets little credit for successes
- Does not use presidential bully pulpit to arouse public opinion

The Payne-Aldrich Tariff

- Taft signs **Payne-Aldrich Tariff**—compromise bill, moderate tariffs
- Progressives angry, think he abandoned low tariffs, progressivism

Disputing Public Lands

- Conservationists angry Richard A. Ballinger named interior secretary
 - Ballinger puts reserved lands in public domain
- Interior official protests action, is fired, writes magazine exposé
- **Gifford Pinchot** head of U.S. Forest Service
 - testifies against Ballinger
 - is fired by Taft

The Republican Party Splits

Problems within the Party

- Republicans split over Taft's support of House Speaker Joseph Cannon
- Cannon weakens progressive agenda; progressives ally with Democrats
- 1910 midterm elections, Democrats get control of House

The Bull Moose Party

- 1912 convention, Taft people outmaneuver Roosevelt's for nomination
- Progressives form **Bull Moose Party**; nominate Roosevelt, call for:
 - more voter participation in government
 - woman suffrage
 - labor legislation, business controls
- Runs against Democrat **Woodrow Wilson**, reform governor of NJ

Democrats Win in 1912

The Election

- Wilson endorses progressive platform called the New Freedom
 - wants stronger antitrust laws, banking reform, lower tariffs
 - calls all monopolies evil
- Roosevelt wants oversight of big business; not all monopolies bad
- Socialist Party candidate Eugene V. Debs wants to end capitalism
- Wilson wins great electoral victory; gets majority in Congress