

Student's Name

Instructor's Name

Course

Date

The Progressive Era

The Progressive Era marked a period of significant change in American society. In particular, there was a major push to end political corruption, there were vast improvements in areas such as education and science, and of course, the Suffrage Movement succeeded in granting women the right to vote while Prohibition led to the temporary ban of alcohol in America. Many of the U.S. regulatory agencies that exist today were also created during this time. Perhaps the most notable are the IRS following the enactment of the federal income tax in 1912 and the Food and Drug Administration, which was created in part due to the uproar caused by Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, an expose on the horrible conditions inside a Chicago meat processing plant. Reforms that sought to break up monopolies also occurred, such as the Antitrust Act, which was signed into law in 1914. The Progressive Era ultimately could not be sustained. While there is no consensus when it comes to identifying the exact moment when the era came to an end, Cooper (2010) argues that American's entry into World War I was when the downward trend began.

It could be argued that to some extent, issues that were important during the Progressive Era have remained so. For instance, the focus on education as well as the trend towards anti-war policies. On the other hand, I am not convinced that we have entered a new era of progressive reforms, especially in light of the 2016 election of Donald Trump as president. In fact, it appears that a lot of the positive changes that took place during the turn of the 20th century, such as tacking corruption and providing protection through the creation of unions are being rolled back.

Question: Which notable Progressive leaders made the biggest impact? Why do you think so? What factors and contemporary attitudes allowed the Suffrage Movement to succeed?

Works Cited

Cooper, John Milton, *Breaking the Heart of the World: Woodrow Wilson and the Fight for the League of Nations*. 2010.