



# Vic Progressive - Launch of Sky Track

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## Progressive Presidents Report Card: Who was the most Progressive???

Was it the war hero, Theodore Roosevelt?



The expansionist of US trade, William Howard Taft?



Or the man who created New Freedom, Woodrow Wilson?





## Theodore Roosevelt

A-

I believe that Theodore Roosevelt deserves an A- because many of his reforms were great, but there were a few minor flaws. His reforms for limiting the power that business's had were amazing because businesses had far too much power at the time. His conservationist ideas of preserving the wilderness and creating national parks were hugely successful. His foreign policy was good in some ways, but a little too powerful to some extent with his Big Stick Policy. Overall TR was a very influential President whom has made a great impact on American.

### Friends and enemies?

- TR was apart of the Republican Party in his elected terms and a Progressive Party candidate so the Democrats disliked him
- Giant corporations disliked him because of his business regulations (particularly JP Morgan)
- Anti-Imperialists disliked him because they did not like his "Big Stick" policy
- Many people rallied for him because of the way in which he spoke; very influential leader

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### What motivated him?

- TR wanted government to have a large hold on the economy
- conservationist: wanted to preserve the wilderness
- international diplomacy; strong foreign policy
- Used a "big stick" approach: assertive approach to intervening in Latin American and Caribbean affairs

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### What changes he they seek?

- thoroughly engaged in domestic and foreign policy
- Square Deal: separate good vs evil corporations; ex. JP Morgan and the railroads
- Hepburn Act of 1907 capped railroad rates and enforced ICC
- national parks
- theory of new nationalism
- Panama Canal

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## William Howard Taft

C

I believe that William Howard Taft deserves a C. Taft never really wanted to be president, but was pushed into it by his wife and Theodore Roosevelt. He was never a very good politician, but he was an effective administrator. He was far more Conservative than Roosevelt which was refreshing for Americans. His Imperialistic views were, in my opinion, much better than those of Roosevelt. He regulated trade and gave loans to other countries rather than sending troops in. Overall, Taft had good ideas, but was just not right for the power of President.

### Friends and enemies?

- Roosevelt chose Taft as the next President, but ended up disliking his Conservative views
- he was an effective administrator, but a poor politician so many disliked him
- Progressives were pleased with Taft's election
- Conservatives were elated to get rid of TR

### What changes did he seek?

- Didn't see big business as being a bad thing until it stifled competition
- did not believe in stretching Presidential Power like TR
- Wanted expansion of US trade
- Was more concerned with peace than TR

### What changes did he seek?

- supporter of the 16th Amendment that allowed Congress to have an income tax; this ultimately caused the Prohibition because they did not need the income of alcohol
- Trust Buster: broke up standard oil in 1911
- Dollar Diplomacy: no troops sent over but he still gave loans; more economic Diplomacy



## Woodrow Wilson

**B-**

Although personally I do not like the character of Woodrow Wilson, with his beliefs against Women Suffrage and African American rights, I believe he did many things for the benefit of America. His acts: The Keaton Owen Act, the Adamson Act, and the Clayton Act all benefited the workplace. Also, his income tax on the top 5% helped the economy greatly for those of the lower classes. In addition, he also founded the Federal Reserve System, which gave government control over banks. His war efforts to "keep democracy" in WWI, in my opinion, were probably more tied to economic issues which does not constitute for the loss of so many lives. Overall, Wilson made many great reforms for the economy and the work force, but he was not a good person.

### Friends and enemies?

- many Women suffragist's disliked him because he kept a "blind eye" to them
- later on in his presidency, after much protesting, women got the rights that they deserved backed up by Wilson
- disliked by many African Americans because he did not do much for their equality
- he was a Republican, so many of his party were pleased

### What motivated him?

- New Freedom: restored democracy and allowed competition between businesses
- stronger antitrust laws
- wanted to export extreme amounts of American Products
- At first, he did not want war, but because of the sinking of the Lusitania and the Zimmerman telegraph, they went to WWI
- with the war, he wanted to "make the world safe for democracy"

### What changes did he seek?

- graduated income tax on top 5% in order to help economy
- Clayton Act: made it easier for unions to strike
- Keaton Owen Act: outlawed child labor and manufacturing
- Adamson Act: 8 hour work day
- founding of federal reserve system: gave government control over banks
- segregated the white house and made interracial marriage a felony