

# BACKGROUND: THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. was born on October 27, 1858, in New York City.

Roosevelt graduated magna cum laude in 1880, then enrolled at Columbia Law School. Roosevelt didn't stay long at law school, opting instead to join the New York State Assembly as a representative from New York City—becoming the youngest to serve in that position. Following the deaths of his mother and his first wife, (they died the same day - February 14, 1884), Roosevelt relocated to the Dakota Territory for two years. There, he lived as a cowboy and cattle rancher, leaving his infant daughter in the care of his elder sister.

Returning to political life in 1886, Roosevelt was defeated for the New York City mayorship. Around the same time, he married his second wife, Edith Kermit Carow, whom he had known as child. Roosevelt soon resumed his career trajectory, first as a civil service commissioner, then as a New York City police commissioner and U.S. Navy assistant secretary under President William McKinley.

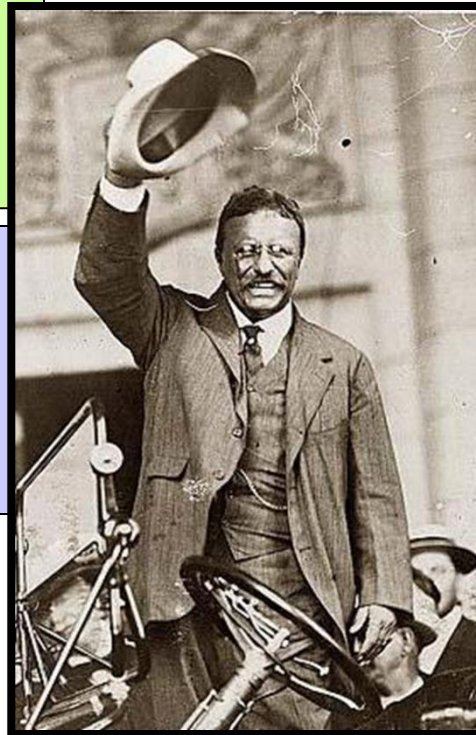
Taking a keen interest in the Spanish-American War, Roosevelt left his government post to organize a volunteer cavalry known as the *Rough Riders*, which he led in a bold charge up San Juan Hill in the Battle of San Juan Heights, in 1898. A war hero, and nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor, Roosevelt was elected governor of New York in 1898.

# PROGRESSIVE PRESIDENT: THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Was Vice President under McKinley. Became president when McKinley was assassinated in 1901.

Believed the gov't ought to take responsibility for the welfare of the people

Was the first president to regulate big business and break up corporate monopolies; earned the nickname "trustbuster"



He used the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to break up ("bust") 25+ monopolies while president

When Upton Sinclair wrote *The Jungle* in 1906, President Roosevelt pressured Congress to create consumer safety laws (*Meat Inspection Act, Pure Food & Drug Act*)

He saw the benefit of efficient monopolies, but wanted to control bad trusts



# BACKGROUND: WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

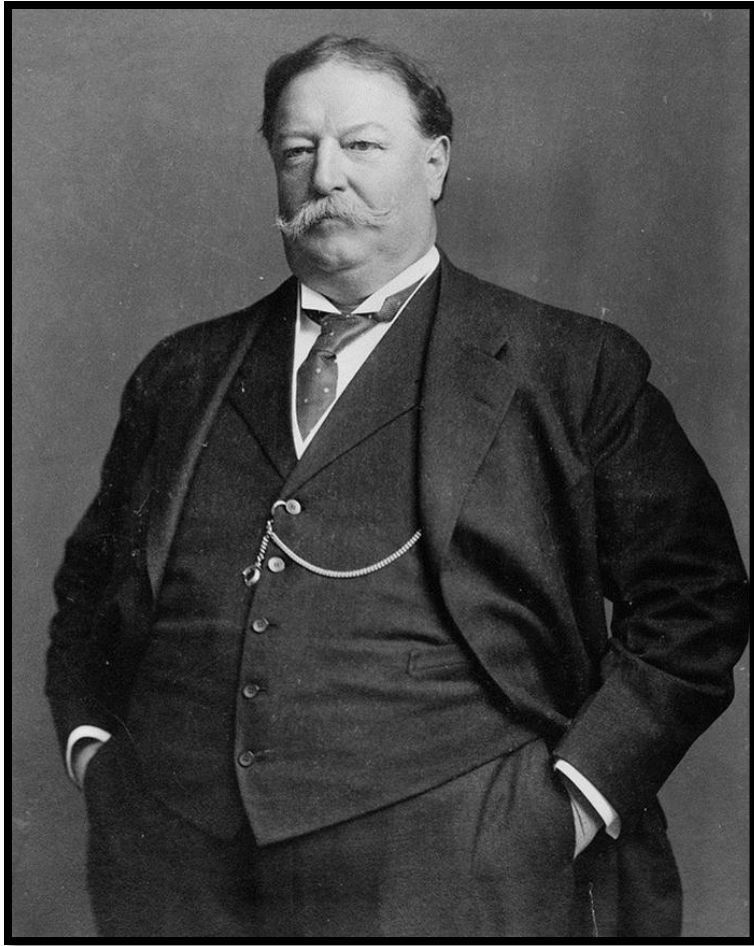
William Howard Taft, born on September 15, 1857, in Cincinnati, Ohio, was one of six children of Louisa Maria Torrey and Alphonso Taft. Taft went to private school and, like his father, attended Yale College. After graduation, he went on to attend the University of Cincinnati College of Law, and was admitted to the Ohio State Bar Association in 1880.

As a young lawyer from a politically prominent family, Taft rose swiftly through the ranks, as county prosecutor, state judge, then at 32, in 1890, he became the youngest appointee as U.S. Solicitor General by President Benjamin Harrison.

Several other posts followed back in Cincinnati, but a decade later, President William McKinley appointed Taft governor general of the Philippines. The portly judge then took his wife and three children to Southeast Asia, where they lived for four years, visiting China, Japan and the Vatican. Taft improved the Filipino economy and infrastructure, and expanded opportunities for governmental participation for Filipinos.

By 1904, Taft became President Theodore Roosevelt's secretary of war. Four years later, he was elected President.

# PROGRESSIVE PRESIDENT: WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT



As president, Taft broke up twice as many monopolies as Roosevelt

Taft helped establish the Children's Bureau, the Department of Labor, and child labor laws

He helped create safety codes for coal miners and railroad workers

Taft angered progressive Republicans when he supported a high tariff which helped large corporations

Elected in 1908 -  
Republican

Taft allowed 1 million acres of Roosevelt had set aside as conservation forests to be sold to businesses

# BACKGROUND: WOODROW WILSON

Thomas Woodrow Wilson was born on December 28, 1856. "Tommy" was raised in the South, where he witnessed the ravages of the Civil War up close. He saw Confederate president Jefferson Davis march through Augusta in chains, and always remembered looking up into the face of the defeated General Robert E. Lee.

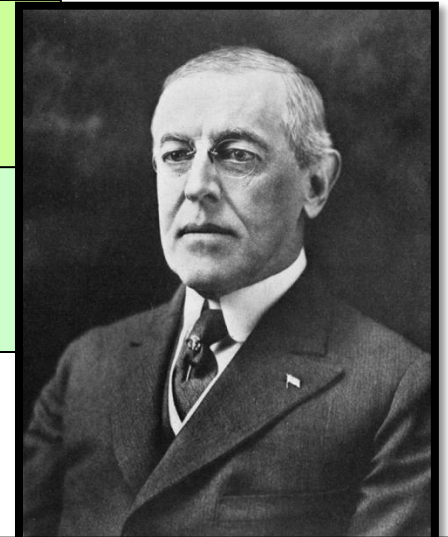
Less than stellar in school—scholars now think that Wilson had a form of dyslexia—Reverend Wilson rigorously trained his first son in oratory and debate, which became a particular passion for the boy. Wilson went on to study law at the University of Virginia, and earned his Ph.D. in political science and history at Johns Hopkins University. Wilson's dream job was a professorship at Princeton, which he achieved in 1890, becoming the university's 13th president in 1902.

Political ambitions and university politics had transformed Wilson into a social Democrat, and he was tapped for the governorship of New Jersey in 1910. A determined reformer, his successes made him the darling of Progressives, and he was nominated as the Democratic presidential candidate on the New Freedom platform in 1912.

# PROGRESSIVE PRESIDENT: WOODROW WILSON

Won the election of 1912 (defeated Taft and T. Roosevelt)

President Woodrow Wilson oversaw a great wave of progressive reforms



"Progressive Amendments"

**16<sup>th</sup> Amendment** created the first national income tax

**17<sup>th</sup> Amendment** allowed for the direct-election of U.S. Senators

**18<sup>th</sup> Amendment** outlawed alcohol (prohibition)

**19<sup>th</sup> Amendment** granted women's suffrage

Wilson regulated big business by pushing for the Clayton Anti-Trust Act (protected workers' right to strike) and...

...created the Federal Trade Commission to monitor unfair business practices