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**History Essay**

The progressives define middle class women or Christian ministers who aimed at the progressive movement addressing the impacts of globalization, industrialization, migration and political corruption. Progressives were “social reformers” who targeted political machines and eras especially during the progressive era in the United States of America which took place between 1896 to 1916 (Zinn 13). These social reformers took down or brought down corrupt political representatives and replaced them with just ones prompting direct democracy. The progressives also sought monopoly regulation through antitrust laws which formed corporation which promoted equal competition for the legitimate competitors’ advantage and through trustbusting (Dawley, 2013). Progressives are the people who advocated for new governmental laws and regulations, and new agencies to perform the roles such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Progressives played a vital role in the American history because they supported alcohol prohibition which destroyed the political power for saloon-based bosses and those out of religious motivation. Efficiency movement was another theme which ensured movement in every sector and identified ways that needed modernization. In short, progressives made a social and political transformation and personalization in history.

Progressives gave an impressive array reform. Progressives targeted four major goals and themes towards array reforms. Progressives made a significant impact in the American history through various social and political transformations. Progressives protected social welfare by relieving urban problems such as through social gospel movement, salvation army by feeding children, Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) through opening libraries and ethical justification of governmental intervention. Also, they had the authority of eliminating corrupt political leaders by challenging them ensuring justification. Progressives promoted moral reform by eradicating alcoholic beverages and supporting alcohol prohibition towards improving the lives of people. Economic reform was another reform goal pursued by the progressives. Progressives advocated for “laissez-faire economics”—the government should leave the economy alone, advocate socialism, and muckrakers by Teddy Roosevelt (Zinn 12). Socialism advocated for the communal ownership of land, natural resources and some social amenities and structures such as railroads and mines. The fourth theme, fostering efficiency, dealt with the scientific management and efficiency in the work place for example Henry Ford’s assembly line. The progressives did these reforms to improve the social and political welfare of the individuals towards attaining a sustainable development.

The US during the Gilded Age which occurred in the 18’s became more prosperous and there was unprecedent growth technologically and in globalization. There was aim increase in the population growth of the American citizens. Between “1860 and 1914, New York grew from 850,000 to 4 million, Chicago from 110,000 to 2 million, Philadelphia from 650,000 to 1 ½ million” (Zinn 11). However, the period had sinister side where the wealthy people benefited greatly through greed and corruption at the expense of the working-class individuals. It was the wealthy tycoons and not the political leaders who held much power and were in much control during the Gilded Age. There some sort of exploitation where the wealthy people could depend on the working class to generate their income and ideas bringing a social imbalance. Also, some individuals used other people’s interventions to create business opportunities for their survival. Gustavus Swift, a Chicago butcher who “put together the ice-cooled railway car with the ice-cooled warehouse to make the first national meatpacking company in 1885” (Zinn 11). Work place safety was a challenge during this period because of the unpleasant conditions, “low pay, dangerous conditions” and “dangerously broken stairways...filthy, malodorous lavatory” (Zinn 11). Some of the proposals during this period included having safe workplaces eradicating dangerous and corrupt environments for workers, and eliminating citizen exploitation by the wealthy tycoons, for example, Cornelius Vanderbilt and Gould. All these proposals would promote a sustainable growth and development of the social, political and economic dimensions of the citizens. The proposals would support the four main goals of the progressive movement which include laissez-faire economics, fostering efficiency, eliminating political imbalance by eliminating political corruption and prohibiting harmful social behaviors such as exploiting workers by working in unsafe environments. The extent of the movement was positive because there was a positive impact in several life dimensions. Socially, economically and politically, there was a positive change which impacted the American government up to date.

Modernization was one of the key points that made the US kinder to progressivism. The movement reached the height of influence and impacted modernization which made the US respond positively to the change. There were different reforms such as growth corporations, and railroads and the people were also afraid of political corruption hence a positive impact. Democratic and publican parties and leaders such as the Bull-Moose Republicans, and the Californian Lincoln-Roosevelt League Republicans took part in the movement hence a gentle approach. The American Progressives shared a common goal in pursuing reforms. Trust-busting pursuit was a key aim in garnering support from workers, labor unions, and decreasing corruption as William Leuchtenburg describes, “who would restrict the power of the national government to act against social evils and to extend the blessings of democracy to less favored lands” (Zinn 11).

Several historians have a wide definition of the progressive movement. Charles A. Beard, a popular American Historian describes progressivism in the aspect of ''powerful elite'' and the ''people'' (Zinn 11). The aspect denotes personal financial interests and how they are affecting the other populations. This aspect describes the movement towards a laissez-faire economy that balances all populations, a goal achievement of progressivism. Richard Hofstadter describes “reform movements” from his book, “The Age of The Reform” (Zinn 12). The movement is relevant to Richard’s definition because it is more of a reform array platform of the social, political and economic dimension of people.

Reference List

Dawley, A. (2013). *Changing the world: American progressives in war and revolution* (Vol. 101). Princeton University Press.

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