

## 1 | Reading Notes

### 1.1 | That the process of reform was "convulsive": A

Convulsive reform movements swept across the American landscape from the 1890s to 1917.

### 1.2 | "Progressivism" became a word that was shunned

Thelen perhaps exaggerated the point, but this much, at least, is true: there is a malaise among historians about the concept of progressivism and a growing urge to avoid the word itself whenever possible.

### 1.3 | That progressivism is often pained as being too positive

Historians, being naturally wary of such value-laden terms, tend to seek a more neutral language that is better suited to impartial analysis

### 1.4 | That the liberal progressivism is a way of quelling discontent

They were not genuinely intended to uplift the disadvantaged, but rather to assuage guilty liberal consciences. And the devices upon which they relied, namely, expensive governmental bureaucracies,

### 1.5 | That progressives pivoted to the ceremonial fixes than those that are systemic

progressives' attraction to "ceremonial," rather than far-reaching, solutions by observing the reformers' own deep need to feel better about American society

### 1.6 | That liberals frequently invent problem and try to solve them

But liberals often seem (and seemed) to occupy the foolish, middle position of alternately recognizing and denying the existence of basic social and economic divisions.

### 1.7 | Early 20th century conservative reform is often messy

historians are dissatisfied with the concept of progressivism is the awful complexity and diversity of early twentieth-century reform.

### 1.8 | One way to define "Progressives" as a product of business collaboration

a number of scholars have located the progressive impulse in the drive of newly formed business and professional groups to achieve their goals through cooperation and expertise

### 1.9 | **Business collaboration model of progressivism is too heartless compared to the progressive agitation seen**

Hays's and Wiebe's organized, expert progressives seem too bland, too passionless, and too self-confident to have waged the frantic battles many reformers did.

### 1.10 | **Perhaps the disorganization of progressivism is because progressivism doesn't exist, so we need to ignore this framing**

Filene proposed the more drastic response to the complexity of progressivism: abandon the concept of a progressive movement.

### 1.11 | **To understand progressivism, we first need to define the underlying trend across all progressive reforms: B**

The first is to identify the basic characteristics that were common, in varying measure, to many (and probably most) progressive reforms.

### 1.12 | **Progressives solidified big business, while improving the conditions of industrial life**

They undertook reforms not to dismantle modern industry and commerce but rather to improve and ameliorate the conditions of industrial life.

### 1.13 | **Nevertheless, progressives often took issue with the wrongdoings of big industry**

Outpourings of anger and dismay about corporation wrongdoing and of suspicion for industrial values frequently punctuated the course of reform.

### 1.14 | **Progressives wanted overall control over their governments**

Progressive intellectuals, as well as popularizers, produced a vast literature denouncing laissez-faire and affirming the capacity of men and women to better their conditions.

### 1.15 | **Progressives wanted to work independently of gov't originally, but realised that most reforms relied on governmental support**

Most progressives preferred to work through voluntary associations for non-coercive improvements in economic and social conditions. As time passed, however, more and more of their reforms relied on the hand of government.

### 1.16 | **Progressivism came from evangelical protestants and natural/social sciences**

Progressivism took its inspiration, as well as much of its substance and technique, from two bodies of belief and knowledge: evangelical Protestantism and the sciences, both natural and social.

**1.17 | Progressivism was the first universal reform movement**

Finally, progressivism was the first (perhaps the only) reform movement to be experienced by the whole American nation.

**1.18 | Traditionally, it is believed that what was agitated for was the goal and once the agitation was achieved the goal is too: C**

Older interpretations of progressivism implicitly assumed that the rhetoric explained the goals and that if a reform became law the results fulfilled the intentions behind it.

**1.19 | Public involvement and regulations became much more rampant in the 1900s**

public officials became widely involved in monitoring and regulating how people lived and worked

**1.20 | Although the call to reform were always in moralistic language, the true purpose were often much more complicated**

Commonly the progressives presented their plans in moralistic, democratic language, but often the true purposes of many reformers were more complicated.

**1.21 | By the end of the progressive era, there became more regulation on political parties, and voting turnout was lower**

Political parties had been regulated. and the active electorate had become relatively smaller and less enthusiastic.

**1.22 | There were good and bad components of the new system, and no clear "progressivism": D**

Voting had become more difficult for many (especially blacks and new immigrants), but for others new avenues of political participation had opened.

**1.23 | That the progressive enforcement of uniformity upon diversity was actually threatening the health of a community**

Numerous social reforms of the early twentieth century expressed the progressives' desire to impose uniform living habits on a culturally diverse population whose behavior sometimes seemed to threaten the morality and health of the community.

**1.24 | Example of uniformity in action and mind is demonstrated by prohibition**

The prohibition of alcoholic beverages was perhaps the prototypical reform of this type .

**1.25 | Although: inability to fulfill promised reform is not unique to progressivism**

The failure of reform to fulfill all of the expectations behind it was not, of course, unique to the Progressive era.

**1.26 | Progressive insistence on modernity actually hindered them: E**

Often their methods worked, but often progressive programs simply did not prove capable of accomplishing what had been expected of them.

**1.27 | Scientific data collection quantified the degree of failure**

Worse, the progressives' scientific reforms frequently involved the collection of data, making it possible to know just how far short of success their programs sometimes fell

**1.28 | Progressives also disregarded the consequences of industrialization**

progressives' deep ambivalence about industrialism and its consequences.

**1.29 | That progressivism failed because it is promising too much**

it is important to recall how terribly ambitious were the reformers' stated aims and true goals. They missed some of their marks because they sought to do so much