
The Taft Administration

- Describe President Taft's feelings towards his presidency.
 - Describe at least two conflicts Taft had with progressives.
 - Identify at least three reforms Taft introduces as President.
 - Describe how Roosevelt felt toward Taft's decisions and reforms.
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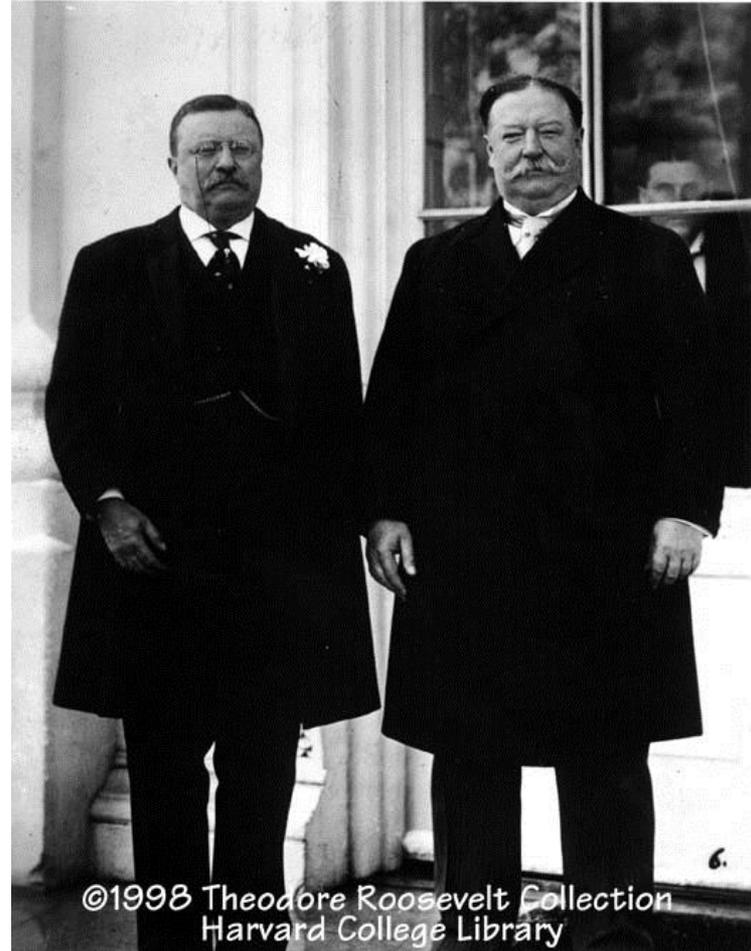
Essential Question:

- Why is it important for our leaders to be confident?



President Taft

- Roosevelt and Taft were two complete opposites.
- Roosevelt loved the attention and spotlight as President.
- He was “dynamic,” and skillful.
- Taft was fearful of being president.



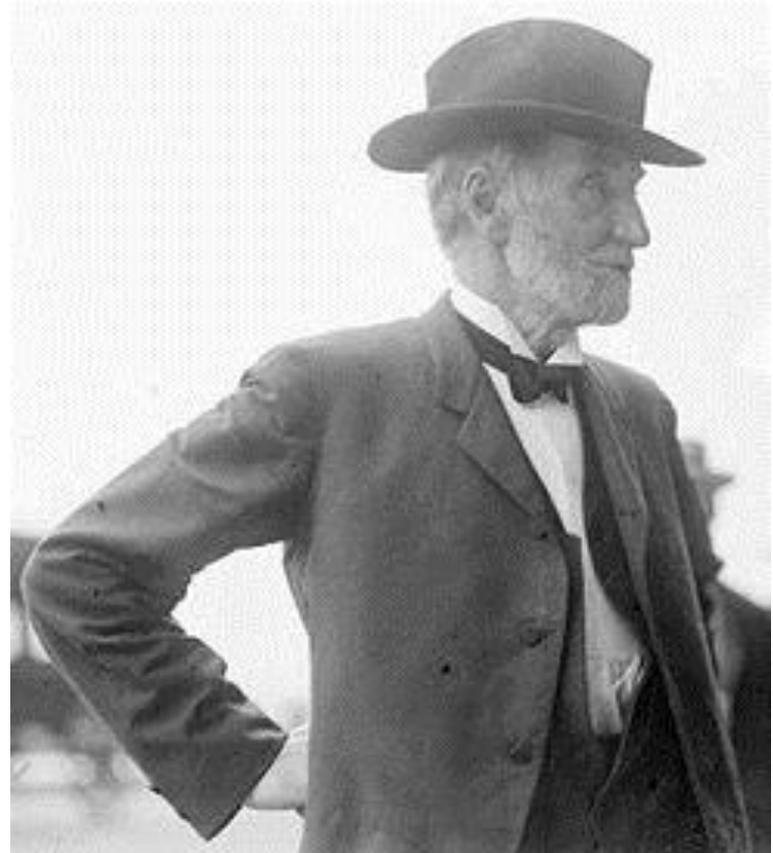
President Taft

- He hated the limelight and spotlight as President
- He hated politics and conflict.
- He was slow in approaching problems.
- Taft's personality and approach brought him into conflict with progressives



Conflict with Progressives

- Taft and progressives together begin to target tariffs. (Imports)
- They felt that high tariffs limited competition.
- They disagreed on Joseph Cannon.
- Progressive wanted to remove him from his position as speaker of the house.

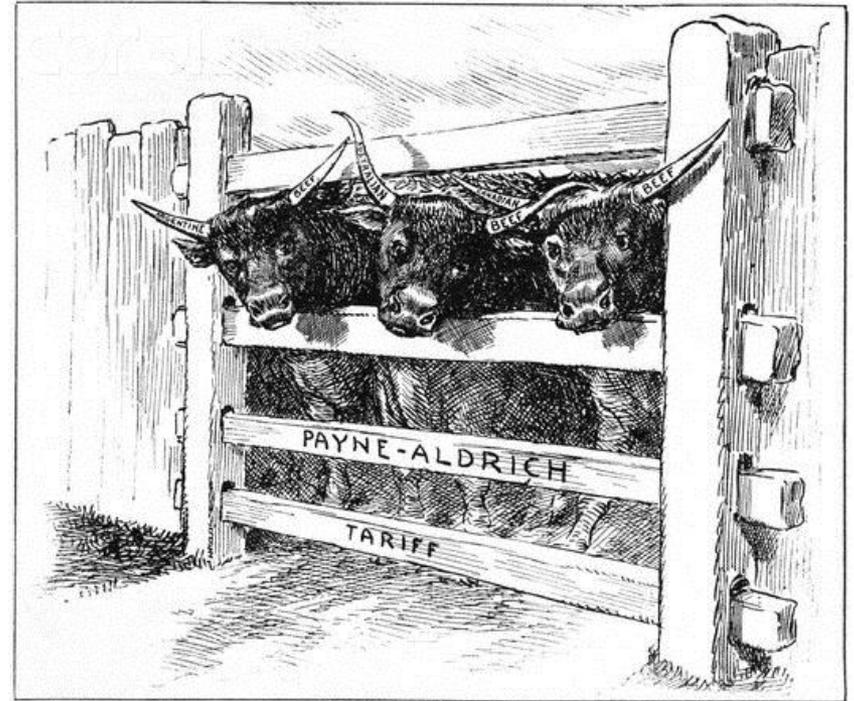


Conflict with Progressives

- As Speaker of the House Cannon often blocked progressives legislation.
 - Taft opposed progressives, and urged Republicans to keep Cannon in his current position.
 - Cannon responds to the Presidents support by passing the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act through the House of Representatives.
 - Progressives respond by siding with Democrats and removed Cannon from his position as Speaker.
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The Payne-Aldrich Tariff

- Cut tariffs hardly at all and it actually raised them on some goods.
- Taft decides to accept the new tariff and progressives feel betrayed and are outraged by Taft's decision.
- The legislation did not accomplish the goal of restoring competition as Taft and progressives wished.



LET DOWN THE BARS
(One way to lower the price of meat—let foreign beef come in free) From the World (New York)

The Ballinger-Pinchot Controversy

- President Taft decides to replace secretary of the interior James Garfield, who is an aggressive conservationist with Richard Ballinger, a corporate lawyer.
 - Gifford Pinchot reveals that Ballinger was trying to make some profit off of valuable public land in Alaska.
 - Congress eventually clears Ballinger of any wrong doing.
 - Taft's actions and support for Cannon and Ballinger eventually deteriorate any progressive support he had left.
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Taft's Progressive Reforms

- The Children's Bureau investigated and publicized problems with child labor.
 - Mann-Elkins Act of 1910 increased the power of the Interstate Commerce Commission. (Police and enforce Sherman Antitrust)
 - Bureau of Mines monitored activities of mining companies. (Conservation)
 - Expands the National Forest and protected water from private development.
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Roosevelt v. Taft

- Roosevelt believed Taft's focus on breaking up trust was wrong.
- According to Roosevelt Taft was destroying a carefully crafted system of cooperation and regulation.
- Roosevelt begins to publicly criticized Taft's decisions.
- Roosevelt decides to reenter politics and decides to run for office.
- His entrance to the Presidential race splits the Republican vote in the general election and allows W. Wilson to win the Presidency.

