THE PROGRESSIVE ERA (1900-1920)

The Industrial Revolution had a huge social, economical and political impact on the United States of America. While many Americans prospered from the advancements made during this time, many also demanded reform on all levels of government and society.

One of the biggest reform goals was the process in which government officials were elected. This, along with the need for government involvement in reform, were two of the motivating factors for people such as Eugene Debs, Susan B. Anthony and W.E.B. DuBois to become leaders during the Progressive Era.

The Progressive Era also saw a great deal of change in the White House and the presidential elections that took place during this period of time. The leaders of each party represented in government had different ideas as to how this reform should occur. This eventually led to the reform of the Republican Party.
Another issue that was at the front of the presidential elections was the issue of foreign policy. Presidents Wilson, Roosevelt, and Taft each had their own ideas of how the United States should intervene in foreign affairs; some historians feel that Wilson’s presidential win in 1916 was strictly due to his foreign policy beliefs amid the events of World War I in Europe.

The Progressive Era was a time for change in the United States on many levels. While it started as a response to the aftermath of the Industrial Revolution, the Progressives and the politicians of the time made changes that we are still seeing today.