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# The Wilson Administration

— Unit 3 —

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# Standard:

**US 17** Analyze the significant progressive achievements during President Woodrow Wilson's administration, including: the New Freedom, the Federal Reserve Act, and the creation of the National Park Service.

# President Woodrow Wilson



- Became 28th President of the United States after winning the 1912 Election
- Was a southern Democrat that was a leading force in the Progressive Movement

# The New Freedom

- Was a collection of speeches Wilson made during the campaign of 1912
- Promised significant reforms for greater economic opportunity for all while ensuring the tradition of limited government
- Wanted to focus on 3 types of reform:
  - Tariff Reform
  - Business Reform
  - Banking Reform

# The Underwood Tariff

- **Tariff:** a tax or duty to be paid on a particular class of imports or exports
- Re-imposed the federal income tax after the ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment and lowered basic tariff rates from 40% to 25%
- Established the lowest tariff rates since 1857

# The Federal Reserve Act

- A policy to regulate banking
- Established the Federal Reserve System as the central bank of the United States to provide the nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system
- The law sets out the purposes, structure, and functions of the System as well as outlines aspects of its operations and accountability.

# The Clayton Antitrust Act

- An amendment passed by U.S. Congress in 1914 that provides further clarification and substance to the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890
- The Act focuses on topics such as price discrimination, price fixing, and unfair business practices
- It also declared peaceful strikes, picketing, boycotts, agricultural cooperatives, and labor unions legal under federal law
- Prohibited exclusive sales contracts, certain rebates, and local price cutting

# Roosevelt v. Wilson:

## Roosevelt Platform: New Nationalism

-Continuation of his "Square Deal" which were reforms to help the common man

-Good trusts vs. bad trusts

Regulation on monopolies

-Protection for women and children in labor force

-Supported worker's compensation

## Wilson Platform: New Freedom

-Favored an active role in economic and social affairs

-Monopolies should be destroyed-favored small businesses

-Roosevelt's plan gave government too much power

-Sought to restore competition

-No free enterprise; no freedom at all