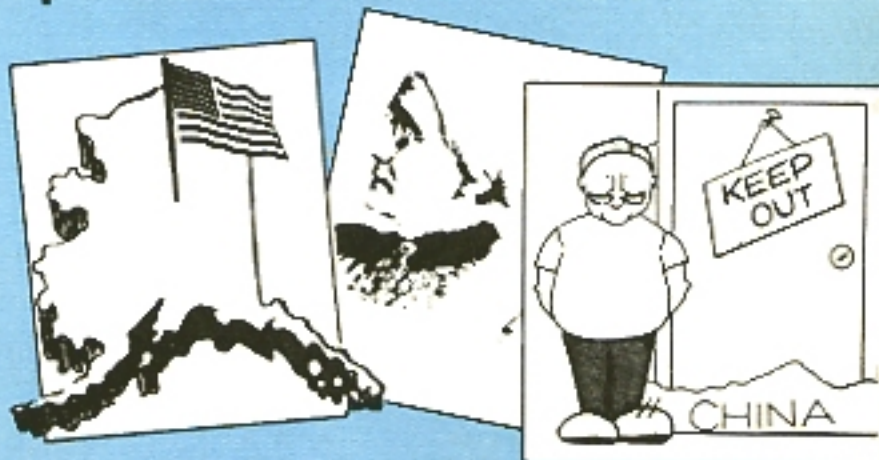


## TIMELINE: A Dateline Activity

# U.S. Gets an Empire/Reforms to 1900

### DATELINE EVENTS:

- Spanish forts on San Juan Hill surrender.
- Alaska is purchased from Russia.
- Susan B. Anthony is arrested for voting.
- Treaty of Portsmouth is signed.
- Plessy vs. Ferguson ruling.
- First Women's Rights Convention meets.
- U.S. declares war on Spain.
- Frances Willard heads WCTU.
- Jane Addams opens Hull House.
- Boxer Rebellion ends.



### Timeline Trivia: Answer the questions using the timeline.

1. How long after the U.S. declared war on Spain did Spanish forts on San Juan Hill surrender?
2. How many years after the first Women's Rights Convention was held was Susan B. Anthony arrested for voting?

Put the events (listed above) in their places on the timeline. See sample.

1848	1872	1889	April 1898	1900
1867	1879 FRANCES WILLARD heads WCTU	1896	July 1898	1905

# NATION: Reforms in the Early 1900s

## REFORMS ACROSS THE U.S.A.

### Reformers Set Fires

Washington, D.C., 1902

Teddy Roosevelt is trying to put out a fire. For years, different groups in the U.S. have been saying government, business, and society need reform. By speaking, writing, and voting, these groups have been lighting fires under the American people to get them moving on reform.

Here are some of the groups who made the reform fires hot:

■ **Mugwumps**—Middle-class Republicans who want to clean up government.

■ **Muckrakers**—Writers who write books and news stories about the bad side of U.S. government and business (rake up the muck). The muckrakers want to stir up the people so they will call for reform.

Now the fires are hot. The people are demanding reforms. And Roosevelt promises to put out the fires with his political, economic, and social reforms.

#### Leading muckraking writers:

■ **Lincoln Steffens**—writes about unlawful deals in government.

■ **Upton Sinclair**—writes about dirty meat packing plants and unsafe working conditions for meat packers.

■ **Frank Norris**—writes about railroads' unlawful deals with government and business.

■ **Ida Tarbell**—writes about Standard Oil Company and its unfair business deals.



**THE SQUARE DEAL:** Teddy Roosevelt said every American should be given a square deal (treated fairly). He got new laws passed. These laws made it easier for more people to get a square deal.

**Direct Primary:** People get to pick who will run for office for their political party.  
**HOW IT WORKS:**  
■ A primary (first) election is held before the general election.  
■ At this primary election, people in each political party get to pick their party's candidates.  
■ The winner gets to run in the general election even if party "bosses" want someone else.

**Referendum:** People can vote directly on a law.  
**HOW IT WORKS:**  
■ A number of people sign a petition (paper) asking to vote on a bill in the state legislature.  
■ At the next election, all people get to vote for or against the bill.  
■ If the bill gets enough votes, it becomes a law.

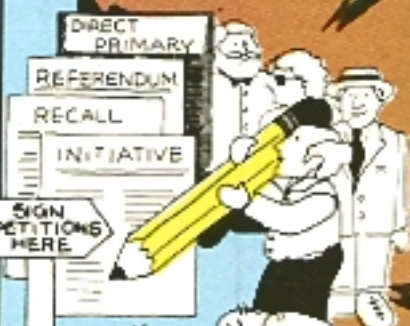
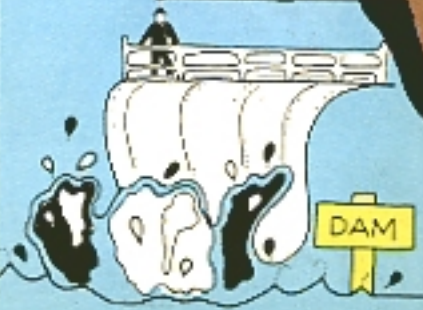
**Recall:** People can vote to recall (remove someone they elected to office because the person is not doing a good job).  
**HOW IT WORKS:**  
■ A number of people sign a petition (paper) asking for a special election.  
■ An election is called and all people get to vote for or against the person.  
■ If the person does not get enough votes, he or she loses the job.

**Initiative:** People can start a law in the legislature.  
**HOW IT WORKS:**  
■ A number of people sign a petition (paper) for a new law.  
■ The petition goes to the state legislature and becomes a bill.  
■ The state legislature debates (talks about) the bill and votes on it.  
■ If the bill passes, it becomes a law.

**Square Deal Law #1**  
**The Hepburn Act: 1906**  
**WHAT:** Let the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) set top rates for railroad shipping. Railroads then could not charge more than the ICC said they could.  
**WHY:** To make shipping rates fair. Railroads had been charging different rates to different people.



**Conservation Reform #1**  
**Newlands Act: 1902**  
**WHAT:** Set aside money for dams, canals, and ditches to carry water to desert land. Once the land had water, farmers could grow crops.  
**WHY:** To make all U.S. land useful.



# NATION: Reforms in the Early 1900s

**Secret Ballot:** People can vote so no one knows for whom a person is voting.  
**HOW IT WORKS:**  
 ■ The names of all candidates are put on one ballot [piece of paper] or in voting machines.  
 ■ Voters mark their choices behind a curtain in secret. Voters may vote for people in any political party.



**Square Deal Law #3**  
**Pure Food and Drug Act: 1906**  
**WHAT:** Said companies cannot make or sell food or medicine made with anything that hurts people. Companies must list on a label all that is in a product.  
**WHY:** To protect people's health.



**The Sherman Anti-Trust Act: 1890**

**WHO FIRST USED IT:** Teddy Roosevelt, nicknamed "The Trust-buster," began using it in 1902 to break up trusts.  
**WHAT:** If the president thought a business was too big, he could start a lawsuit in the court. In the lawsuit, he would ask the court to order the big business to break into smaller businesses.



**CONSERVATION REFORM:** Teddy Roosevelt saw water, land, trees, and minerals being wasted.

To conserve [use natural resources carefully], Roosevelt put aside government lands. It was the start of the national parks system.

**Conservation Reform #2**  
**White House Conference on Conservation: 1908**  
**WHAT:** Called all state governors plus leaders in other fields to the White House to talk about conservation.  
**WHY:**  
 ■ To get states and businesses to help in conservation.



**POLITICAL REFORMS:**  
**Governor Robert "Fighting Bob" LaFollette** reformed Wisconsin government by giving voting rights back to the people.



**Square Deal Law #4**  
**Department of Commerce and Labor: 1903**  
**WHAT:** Became part of the president's cabinet [group of advisers].  
**WHY:** To bring problems of workers and business to the attention of the president.

**Square Deal Law #2**  
**Meat Inspection Act: 1906**  
**WHAT:** Made government inspectors check all meat sent across state lines.  
**WHY:** To protect people's health. Muckrakers had told how dirty meat packing plants were. They told how meat packing plants were packing and selling meat from sick animals.



**More Reforms Needed in:**

**WHAT:** **Sweatshops**—small, hot, crowded factories.  
**THE GOOD:** They gave poor people jobs.  
**THE BAD:** Work hours were long. Pay was low. Work rooms were hot and dirty. Machines were not safe.



**WHAT:** **Child labor**—Children as young as 7 worked in sweatshops or other businesses.  
**THE GOOD:** The children could earn money to help their poor families.  
**THE BAD:** The children could not go to school. They got hurt in unsafe factories. They got sick from bad air, dirt, long working hours, and too little food.



## WORLD: Roosevelt and Foreign Policy

### Roosevelt Revives Monroe Doctrine—Europe, Stay Out!

Washington, D.C., May 1904

Like President Monroe, President Roosevelt is telling Europe to stay out of the Western Hemisphere. But Roosevelt adds more in his **Corollary** [addition] to the **Monroe Doctrine**.

He says the U.S. will be the police of the Western Hemisphere. If a Latin American country [see map at right] has trouble with another country, the U.S. will step in to help. Europe can stay out.

Roosevelt just finished working out a trouble spot in the **Dominican Republic**.

Here's what happened:

- The Dominican Republic could not pay back \$32 million it owes European countries.

- To keep European countries from going to war to get the money, the U.S. took over Dominican taxes on imports. The U.S. uses this money to pay back the loans.

European countries are happy. They are getting their money.

The U.S. is happy. Now foreign ships will stay out of the Caribbean Sea.

Not all Latin American countries are happy with Roosevelt, though. They ask, "Who gives the U.S. the right to police the whole Western Hemisphere?"



### Roosevelt Sends Great White Fleet on Peace Cruise

Washington, D.C., 1907

President Theodore Roosevelt has a plan for the U.S. Navy. He wants to show the world that the U.S. wants peace. So Roosevelt has had Navy ships painted white. He wants to show the world how strong the U.S. is. So Roosevelt is sending the "great

white fleet" around the world.

Roosevelt says his foreign policy is to "speak softly and carry a big stick." He thinks the U.S. should work for peace—and be strong enough to scare other countries into working for peace, too.

The "great white fleet" is sail-

ing first through the Pacific Ocean toward Japan. Japan is becoming a powerful country and it needs more land.

Roosevelt wants the U.S. Navy to send a message to Japan: The U.S. Navy is big enough to watch over its islands in the Pacific.