



Teddy Roosevelt:
Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick
President 1901-09

Progressive Domestic Policy

- A. Filed over 40 lawsuits against trusts
- B. Pennsylvania Coal Strike (1902): refused to send in troops to crush strike, insisted on arbitration to settle strike
- C. Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, prohibiting the manufacture of unsafe food and drugs; and another bill providing for inspection of meat-packing plants
- D. Conservation set aside over 200 million acres of land for public use
- E. Reclamation Act of 1902—irrigated 1.25 million acres of western land
- F. Enforced the federal 8-hour workday
- G. Favored a progressive estate tax and income tax

Aggressive Foreign Policy

- A. Panama Canal
 - a. When Columbia turned down \$10 million for land for the canal, Roosevelt encouraged Panamanian separatists and signed a canal treaty with them after they declared independence.
 - b. Canal shortened trip from east to west coast to 6,000 miles from 14,000.
- B. Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
 - a. US would intervene if Latin American countries refused to pay debts, to circumvent European interference
 - b. Dominican Republic—owed money to Europe; US took over customs house and delivered half of customs revenues to its creditors, still increasing the money allotted to the government of the Dominican Republic.
 - c. Venezuelan Republic—convinced European countries to take claims to arbitration
- C. Great White Fleet (1907)--worldwide naval tour
- D. As WWI started, he criticized Wilson and W.J. Bryan's "grape-juice diplomacy" as being too pacifistic, and encouraged American involvement against Germany.
- E. Avoiding taking a position on tariffs in general (Cleveland and Taft lost elections in large part due to this question), he did advocate low tariffs with Cuba, the Philippines, and Germany.

Formation of Bull Moose Party for 1912 Election:

Over opposition with Taft (seeing him as not progressive enough, and in favor of an unpopular tariff, the Payne-Aldrich Tariff of 1909), Roosevelt ran on a third-party ticket, and split the Republican vote (combined, they won 7.6 million popular votes, compared to Democrat Woodrow Wilson's 6.3 million votes, and *would have* won 370 electoral votes to Wilson's 150), throwing the election to Wilson.