

Name: _____ Class Period: _____

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS – Cause & Effect *Progressivism*

Directions:

Complete the activity on the back of this page, and then write a thesis addressing the following prompt, *Explain the forces that led to the Progressive Era reforms from 1900-1920, and evaluate the impact these reforms had on the American government.*

Skill 1: Historical Causation (cause and effect/impact)

Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships among multiple historical causes and effects, distinguishing between those that are long-term and proximate, and among coincidence, causation, and correlation.

Proficient students should be able to ...

- Compare causes and/or effects, including between short-term and long-term effects.
- Analyze and evaluate the interaction of multiple causes and/or effects.
- Assess historical contingency by distinguishing among coincidence, causation, and correlation, as well as critiquing existing interpretations of cause and effect.

Skill 6: Historical Argumentation

Historical thinking involves the ability to define and frame a question about the past and to address that question through the construction of an argument. A plausible and persuasive argument requires a **clear, comprehensive, and analytical thesis**, supported by **relevant historical evidence** — not simply evidence that supports a preferred or preconceived position. In addition, argumentation involves the capacity to describe, analyze, and **evaluate the arguments of others** in light of available evidence.

Proficient students should be able to ...

- Analyze commonly accepted historical arguments and explain how an argument has been constructed from historical evidence.
- Construct convincing interpretations through analysis of disparate, relevant historical evidence.
- Evaluate and synthesize conflicting historical evidence to construct persuasive historical arguments.

Reminders About Causation

Historians often debate the causes and effects of events, because history is complex and filled with multiple variables. Some facts are facts: black and white. But most of history is gray: up for interpretation. When analyzing causation, we must remember that we are making a judgment and defending our viewpoint. And, remember... every viewpoint has an opposing or differing viewpoint.

Analyzing the effects of historical events requires similar skill. It is not only listing ways the event impacted the nation, for example, it is analyzing historical significance of those effects. Did the effect stem directly from the event? Or, was it simply a coincidence in time and place? Was the effect short term or long term? Which cause was most significant? Which effect was most significant? Etc.

From the Period 7 Content Outline

Key Concept 7.1: Governmental, political, and social organizations struggled to address the effects of large-scale industrialization, economic uncertainty, and related social changes such as urbanization and mass migration.

- II. **Progressive reformers** responded to **economic instability**, **social inequality**, and **political corruption** by calling for **government intervention** in the economy, **expanded democracy**, greater **social justice**, and **conservation** of natural resources.
 - A. In the late 1890s and the early years of the 20th century, **journalists and Progressive reformers** — largely urban and middle class, and often female — worked to **reform** existing social and political institutions at the **local, state, and federal levels** by creating **new organizations** aimed at addressing social problems associated with an **industrial society**.
 - B. **Progressives** promoted **federal legislation** to regulate **abuses** of the economy and the **environment**, and many sought to expand **democracy**.

Illustrative Examples: Clayton Antitrust Act, Florence Kelley, Federal Reserve Bank

Explaining Causation... *Progressivism*

Causes: Industrialization, Urbanization, Immigration & Migration Effects: Changing Role of Government

Explain how industrialization, urbanization, and demographic changes led to new calls for reform during the late 19th century and early 20th century. Identify one political, economic and social issue for each cause.

Industrialization and Rise of Big Business
Created call for political reform by...

Created call for economic reform by...

Created call for social reform by...

Urbanization
Created call for political reform by...

Created call for economic reform by...

Created call for social reform by...

Demographic Shifts; Peopling; Immigration and Migration
Created call for political reform by...

Created call for economic reform by...

Created call for social reform by...

Identify three specific reforms that resulted from the problems created by Industrialization.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did these reforms impact American government? (from what to what?)

Identify three specific reforms that resulted from the problems created by Urbanization.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did these reforms impact American government? (from what to what?)

Identify three specific reforms that resulted from the problems created by peopling changes.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did these reforms impact American government? (from what to what?)