The Death of Freedom?

· Progressive Era, 1898-1912
  - Who were the Progressives, and what did they stand for?
    - Centrists progressives: T. Roosevelt, Croly, Wilson, Booker T. Washington
    - Left progressives: Dewey, Addams, Kallen, DuBois
  - Differed on ideas of economic policies and issues of citizenship and American civic identity.

· Student presentation

· W. E. B. DuBois
  - Flirted with communism later in life
  - Influenced by German philosophers, including Hegel (argued that history driven by conflict of ideas) and Herder who believed in a theory of history that is linear in progress
  - Also, influenced by evolutionary theory.
  - Believed that source of inequity in American was due to social and economic conditions.

· Progressive Era
  - Spanish-American War (1898) marked the beginning.
  - Response to Gilded Age – new confidence of progressives.
  - Roosevelt – US can order the world.
  - 1912 presidential election – all 4 major candidates claimed some progressive ideals
  - Progressives believed that United States would lead world and that the country shared a homogenous national identity.
  - Inspired by Lincoln’s republican liberalism.
  - Professionalism and scientific approach to management; rational organization.
  - Pragmatism seen as important.
  - Collectively, supported democratic control of government.

· Centrist progressives:
  - Influenced by Sumner
  - Emphasis on scientific management.
  - Envisioned role for government, almost a corporatist vision.
  - Institutionalized reform – increase popular control through direct elections, primaries, secret ballots, initiatives and referenda.
- Challenged laissez-faire market (e.g., regulation to protect worker safety).
  - Lochner Era
    - Supported laissez faire – regulation seen as violation of economic liberty, and the rights of individuals to enter into contracts.
    - Curtailed progressive reforms.
- Regarding issues of citizenship
  - Feared “dangers” of immigration
  - Argued for Anglo-Saxon dominance; cultural homogeneity.
  - Against black suffrage
  - Argued for strong national government.
- Croly (political theorist at time):
  - Supportive of American imperialism.
  - Government should not be neutral.
  - Makes case for American nationalism.
  - Viewed history as march of Christian Americanism
  - Bias toward organized, powerful, and large organizations (industries, and unions).
- Booker T. Washington:
  - Blacks must prove fitness before demanding more political and economic rights.
  - Blacks need to work their way up.
  - Acquiesces to segregation and lack of political rights.

· Left progressives:
  - More inclusive than centrists.
- Dewey:
  - Argued for smaller government and more local participation; more Jeffersonian.
  - Rejected ascriptive doctrines.
- DuBois:
  - Accepted race as unit of division in society.
  - Racial differences spiritual and mental. Racial essentialist to some extent?
  - Believed that races must develop as distinct peoples.
  - Argued for equal opportunity for Blacks, but also thought that races should live and develop separately.
  - Skeptical of the masses; believed that Blacks needed to be led by elites – the “Talented Tenth”