

People to Know / Vocabulary

Chapter 27

As You Read

Who:

- *What did this person do for a living?*
- *Where are they from?*

Importance:

- *What did this person accomplish that made a difference then and/or now?*
- *How did they affect others then and/or now?*

Ida Tarbell

Ida Tarbell (1857-1944) grew up fairly well off in Pennsylvania during the oil boom. Her father prospered as an oil refiner but his business eventually failed after John D. Rockefeller used unfair business practices to destroy smaller refiners. Tarbell graduated college in 1880 where she was the only female graduate.

Tarbell wrote for a local magazine and then in 1890 she went to Paris to continue her graduate studies. While there, she got a job with *McClure's* magazine. She wrote articles and books on Napoleon Bonaparte and Abraham Lincoln. When she returned to the U.S. in 1894, she became an editor and writer for *McClure's*.

Tarbell received national attention when she published a series of articles (later put into book form in 1904) titled *History of the Standard Oil Company*. She exposed the ugly side of the oil business that helped lead to the breakup of Standard Oil. Tarbell was the

leading business writer of her time. In 1906, Tarbell became co-owner of the *American Magazine* where she continued to write about business, politics, and women's rights.

John Muir

John Muir (1838-1914) was born in Scotland and immigrated to America with his family. He grew up on a farm in Wisconsin. The natural surroundings of his childhood played an important role in his life.

Muir went to college but dropped out. He preferred the outdoors to academic work. He walked all over North America. Finally, he ended up in California in the Yosemite Valley. Alarmed at the damage ranchers and loggers were doing to the land, Muir began writing articles about protecting and preserving Yosemite and other natural places.

Muir's influence helped create a national park system that eventually included Yosemite in 1890. In 1892, he founded the Sierra Club to explore and preserve the Sierra Mountains.

Robert La Follette

Robert La Follette (1855-1925) was born in Wisconsin and grew up working on the farm. He graduated college in 1879 and became a lawyer in 1880. In 1884, he was elected to the House of Representatives for the Republican Party.

After losing reelection in 1890, La Follette turned to Wisconsin politics. This is when he began his push for reforms earning the nickname "Fighting Bob." He became governor of Wisconsin in 1900. He opposed government corruption, demanded corporations stay out of politics, and pushed for the direct primary in elections.

In 1906, La Follette became a Senator. He believed government needed to support the people against the corrupt businesses that tried to control politics. La Follette often targeted railroads, oil, and banks as being too powerful and having too much influence on government.

La Follette ran unsuccessfully for president in 1924 on a largely socialist platform.

W.E.B. Du Bois

William Edward Burghardt "W.E.B." Du Bois (1868-1963) was a successful activist and scholar. He graduated from Harvard with a BA in philosophy and in 1895 was the first African American to receive a PhD from that college. Over the decades he taught at several different colleges and wrote a number of articles and books on African life in the United States and the world.

For much of his life, Du Bois involved himself in civil rights for African Americans. In 1905, he was a founding member of the Niagara Movement—an organization that demanded full

equal rights for African Americans.

After the race riots in Springfield, Illinois, in 1908, Du Bois and others formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This civil rights group focused on national issues involving African Americans. They put pressure on politicians to pass laws to end discrimination and used the courts to throw out unfair laws.

As Du Bois aged, he became a supporter of communism believing it would end racial problems in the world. His communist sympathies led to problems with the U.S. government. In 1961, Du Bois went to Ghana to write the *Encyclopedia Africana*. He died in Ghana a few years later.

Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) was born into a wealthy family. He was a weak child and constantly sick. This forced young Roosevelt to lift weights and build himself up into a powerful man. He attended Harvard University and became active as a reformer and Republican Party politician in New York.

In 1897, he became the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, a job he quit to go fight in the Spanish-American War. As leader of the "Rough Riders" who attacked a Spanish position on San Juan Hill in Cuba, Roosevelt became a national hero.

New York voters elected Roosevelt governor in 1898. In 1900, Roosevelt became vice president. When an assassin shot and killed President William McKinley less than a year later, Roosevelt became president.

Roosevelt went to work to push for reforms. He broke up J.P. Morgan's railroad trust, Northern Securities Company, in 1902 and demanded government oversight of corporations. He supported conservation by creating national forests and parks. In 1903, he helped Panama gain its independence from Columbia so that the U.S. could build the Panama Canal.

Roosevelt won reelection in 1904 but declined to run again in 1908. However, in 1912, unhappy with the Republican Party, Roosevelt ran for president under the Progressive Party (a.k.a. Bull Moose Party). During a speech, Roosevelt was shot but survived. His wound affected his campaign and he lost to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.

Alice Paul

Alice Paul (1885-1977) was born into a respected Quaker family. She went to college and studied in the United States and Great Britain. Eventually she earned a PhD in sociology in 1912. Along the way, Paul became a suffragist.

While in England, Paul became involved with several militant women's rights activists. She protested, went on hunger strikes, and was arrested several times. She took that spirit with her when she returned to the United States.

In 1917, Paul helped form the National Women's Party. Her outrageous displays, for that time period, created publicity for the women's rights cause. She picketed in front of Congress and the White House. Her efforts did help pass the 19th Amendment in 1920 giving women the right to vote.

In 1923, Paul tried to get an equal rights amendment

through Congress but it failed. She continued to fight for women's rights until her death in 1977.

VOCABULARY

competition:

the contest between two or more businesses who try to get the business of the consumer
Passengers preferred to ride the B&O railroad because it was cheaper than the Reading railroad.

philanthropy:

acts of kindness or gifts to help humanity
Andrew Carnegie gave away all of his wealth to charity.