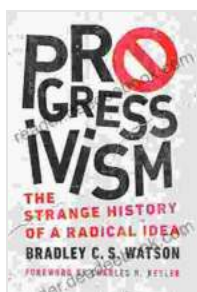


# Progressivism: The Strange History of a Radical Idea

Progressivism is a political philosophy that advocates for the advancement of human rights, social justice, and economic equality. It first emerged in the late 19th century and has since evolved into a complex and multifaceted movement with a wide range of goals and objectives.



## Progressivism: The Strange History of a Radical Idea

by Bradley C. S. Watson

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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The term "progressive" was first used in the early 19th century to describe people who supported the idea of progress—the belief that society could be improved through rational inquiry and scientific knowledge. By the late 19th century, the term had come to be associated with a specific set of political beliefs that emphasized the need for government intervention to address social and economic problems.

The Progressive Era, which lasted from the 1890s to the 1920s, was a time of great social and economic change in the United States. The Industrial

Revolution had led to the rise of large corporations and the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few. This, in turn, led to widespread poverty and inequality. Progressives believed that government had a responsibility to intervene in the economy and society to address these problems.

Progressives advocated for a wide range of reforms, including the establishment of a minimum wage, the regulation of child labor, the creation of a social safety net, and the expansion of voting rights. They also supported a number of progressive causes, such as women's suffrage, civil rights, and environmental protection.

The Progressive Era was a time of great progress for the United States. Progressives helped to improve the lives of millions of Americans and to create a more just and equitable society. However, the Progressive movement was also marked by a number of setbacks. The outbreak of World War I in 1914 led to a conservative backlash against progressivism. And in the 1920s, the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups led to a resurgence of racial violence and discrimination.

Despite these setbacks, progressivism has remained a powerful force in American politics. In the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal policies were based on progressive principles. And in the 1960s, the civil rights movement and the Great Society programs were also inspired by progressive ideas.

Today, progressivism is a major force in both the Democratic and Republican parties. Progressives continue to advocate for a wide range of reforms, including universal healthcare, affordable housing, environmental protection, and gun control. They also support a number of progressive

causes, such as LGBTQ rights, immigration reform, and reproductive rights.

Progressivism is a complex and multifaceted political philosophy. It has a long and storied history, and it continues to play a major role in American politics today. Progressives believe that government has a responsibility to intervene in the economy and society to address social and economic problems. They also support a number of progressive causes, such as women's suffrage, civil rights, and environmental protection.

### **The Legacy of Progressivism**

The Progressive Era left a lasting legacy on American society. Progressives helped to create a more just and equitable society, and their ideas continue to inspire activists and policymakers today. Here are some of the key legacies of the Progressive Era:

- The establishment of a minimum wage
- The regulation of child labor
- The creation of a social safety net
- The expansion of voting rights
- The establishment of the Food and Drug Administration
- The creation of the National Park Service
- The passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act
- The passage of the Clayton Antitrust Act

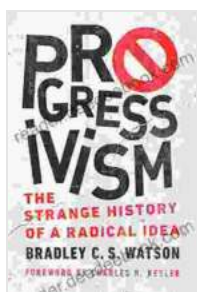
These are just a few of the many legacies of the Progressive Era. Progressives helped to make the United States a more just and equitable society, and their ideas continue to inspire activists and policymakers today.

## Progressivism in the 21st Century

Progressivism is alive and well in the 21st century. Progressives continue to advocate for a wide range of reforms, including universal healthcare, affordable housing, environmental protection, and gun control. They also support a number of progressive causes, such as LGBTQ rights, immigration reform, and reproductive rights.

Progressives are a diverse group of people with a wide range of views. However, they are all united by a shared belief in the power of government to make a positive difference in people's lives. Progressives believe that government has a responsibility to ensure that all Americans have access to healthcare, education, and other essential services.

Progressivism is a powerful force in American politics today. Progressives are working to make the United States a more just and equitable society for all.



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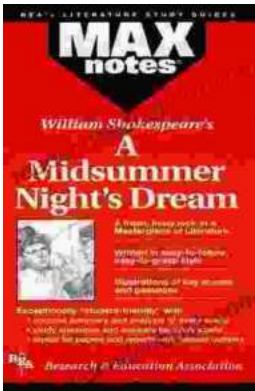
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