

Party Realignment during the Progressive Era: The Elections of 1912 and 1916

Italics indicate Progressive/big government/redistributionist ideology

	At the turn of the 20th century, progressive (big government/redistributionist) elements appeared in both the Republican and Democratic parties	By 1912, the Democrats were becoming solidly Progressive, and the incumbent president, William Howard Taft, was a conservative Republican	Election of 1912	Election of 1916	After the election of 1916, Democrats permanently became big government/redistributionist, while Republicans became the party of economic conservatism		
Republican Party	Conservative Republicans	→	Taft, the incumbent president, was a conservative, and conservatives controlled the party machinery, preventing Roosevelt's nomination	→	Charles Evans Hughes, moderate conservative	→	Conservative Republicans
	<i>Progressive Republicans (Theodore Roosevelt being the best example)</i>	→					
			<i>Progressive Republicans bolt the Republican Party and form a third party: the Progressive Republican Party (aka Progressive Party; Bull Moose Party), nominating Roosevelt</i>	→	<i>In 1916, The Progressive Party again nominates Roosevelt, who refuses the nomination: the progressive party then collapses, leaving displaced Progressives the option of supporting a Progressive Democratic incumbent (Wilson) or a Republican; The displaced Progressives migrate to the Democratic Party</i>		
Democratic Party	<i>Progressive Democrats (Woodrow Wilson being the best example)</i>	→	Wilson (wins election because of republican Party split)	→	Wilson (wins re-election)	→	Progressive Democrats
	Conservative Democrats						