



A FIERCE DISCONTENT

THE
RISE AND FALL
OF THE
PROGRESSIVE
MOVEMENT
IN AMERICA

1870-1920

MICHAEL MCGERR

Fierce Discontent

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Fierce Discontent:

A Fierce Discontent Michael McGerr, 2010-05-11 The Progressive Era a few brief decades around the turn of the last century still burns in American memory for its outsized personalities Theodore Roosevelt whose energy glinted through his pince nez Carry Nation who smashed saloons with her axe and helped stop an entire nation from drinking women suffragists who marched in the streets until they finally achieved the vote Andrew Carnegie and the super rich who spent unheard of sums of money and became the wealthiest class of Americans since the Revolution Yet the full story of those decades is far more than the sum of its characters In Michael McGerr's *A Fierce Discontent* America's great political upheaval is brilliantly explored as the root cause of our modern political malaise The Progressive Era witnessed the nation's most convulsive upheaval a time of radicalism far beyond the Revolution or anything since In response to the birth of modern America with its first large scale businesses newly dominant cities and an explosion of wealth one small group of middle class Americans seized control of the nation and attempted to remake society from bottom to top Everything was open to question family life sex roles race relations morals leisure pursuits and politics For a time it seemed as if the middle class utopians would cause a revolution They accomplished an astonishing range of triumphs From the 1890s to the 1910s as American soldiers fought a war to make the world safe for democracy reformers managed to outlaw alcohol close down vice districts win the right to vote for women launch the income tax take over the railroads and raise feverish hopes of making new men and women for a new century Yet the progressive movement collapsed even more spectacularly as the war came to an end amid race riots strikes high inflation and a frenzied Red scare It is an astonishing and moving story McGerr argues convincingly that the expectations raised by the progressives utopian hopes have nagged at us ever since Our current less than epic politics must inevitably disappoint a nation that once thought in epic terms The New Deal World War II the Cold War the Great Society and now the war on terrorism have each entailed ambitious plans for America and each has had dramatic impacts on policy and society But the failure of the progressive movement set boundaries around the aspirations of all of these efforts None of them was as ambitious as openly determined to transform people and create utopia as the progressive movement We have been forced to think modestly ever since that age of bold reform For all of us right center and left the age of fierce discontent is long over

A Fierce Discontent Michael E. McGerr, 2005 *American Ideal* Paul M. Rego, 2008-04-28 This book examines the political thought of Theodore Roosevelt specifically his ceaseless desire and effort to reconcile America's individualistic tradition with the more collectivistic ideals of his Progressive brethren Many scholars and lay people alike cast Roosevelt as either conservative or liberal but his political thought defies so simple an interpretation it was more nuanced and had a larger purpose than mere ideology A thorough study of Roosevelt's writings reveals his conviction that the concepts of personal autonomy and civic concern were not mutually exclusive In fact Roosevelt argued that it was because the principles of self reliance and personal freedom were important that it was sometimes necessary for the entire

community to use its collective power and in some cases the institutions of the government to enable individuals to do what they could not do alone Moreover while Roosevelt advocated and was responsible for a great expansion in the regulatory powers of the national government he understood in contrast to many other Progressive reformers that inspirational rhetoric and positive example could be as good as institutional reform and the force of law in compelling individuals to support one another in a spirit of civic attachment In his public writings Roosevelt sought to shape the American mind in ways that he thought proper Even his writings on nature hunting ranching and military life were part of his political thought in that they were intended to teach Americans about the importance of balancing those individualistic values that are healthy and vital to a society discipline personal responsibility and a strong work ethic with such positive collectivistic values as an appreciation for mutual support and a concern for the good of the community

The New American Social Compact Jane A. Grant,2008-02-28 The New American Social Compact examines the need to redefine the social compact in twenty first century America Grant explores the two components of this compact the rights and obligations of citizenship as well as what she sees as the four substantive areas that are critical to realizing a new social compact in America Grant proposes a new social compact that would honor the expansion of civil political and social rights in America and would integrate these rights within a new civic procedural ethos clarifying our obligations to each other future generations other nations and other species

Moral Panics, Sex Panics Gilbert Herdt,2009-06 This work focuses on case studies ranging from sex education to AIDS to race to illustrate how sexuality is at the heart of many political controversies

Bulwer's Novels Edward Bulwer Lytton Baron Lytton,1892

A manual of the principles of government Hugh Seymour Tremenheere,1882

The Independent ,1906

Putnam's Monthly and the Critic ,1907

Presidential Addresses and State Papers Theodore Roosevelt,1910

Works: Presidential addresses and state papers, Dec. 3, 1901, June 1910, and European addresses. 8 v Theodore Roosevelt,1910

The Phrenological Journal and Life Illustrated ,1878

Roxy Edward Eggleston,1878

Belford's Monthly Magazine ,1878

The Search-light ,1905

Scribners Monthly Josiah Gilbert Holland,Richard Watson Gilder,1878

Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine ... ,1878

The Cambridge Modern History Planning by the Late Lord Acton ... Sir Adolphus William Ward,1904

The Monthly Review ,1905

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