Progressives fiercely criticized a number of institutions and practices that they were unwilling to jettison altogether. As a result, a persistent series of conundrums pervaded their political ideas, and without closer attention to the issues behind these puzzles, it is hard for us today to reconstruct and reinvigorate their reform vision. Take first the Progressives’ stance toward the U.S. Constitution. Herbert Croly’s broadside against the monarchy of the Constitution was echoed by the economic and class analysis of Charles Beard. 

Characteristics of the Progressive Era include purification of the government, modernization, a focus on family and education, prohibition, and women’s suffrage. Progressives did little for civil rights or the plight of African Americans in the aftermath of Reconstruction, as the Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of many racist southern laws. Key Terms: muckraker: A reform-oriented investigative journalist during the Progressive Era. Start by marking “Congress, Progressive Reform, and the New American State” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Yet Harrison fails to demonstrate the formation of a new state, and instead shows that progressivism, while extremely important to America in general, wasn’t a huge deal in terms of changing political processes. Thus, his book isn’t a big deal either. ...more. flag Like · see review. Find many great new & used options and get the best deals for Congress, Progressive Reform, and the New American State by Robert Harrison (2004, Hardcover) at the best online prices at eBay! Free shipping for many products! “...this book is a valuable addition to the literature since it furthers our understanding of state building in the early 1900s and the role Congress played in that process.” The Journal of American History, David R. Berman, Morrison Institute, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, “This is an excellent analysis of congressional politics during a critical era of American political history.” Book Description: This series of case-studies of reform legislation in Congress during the early twentieth century explores the nature of progressivism and the processes of political change which resulted in the establishment of the modern American state. Among the topics covered are railroad regulation, labor relations, social policy of the District of Columbia, Republican insurgency, and the nature of Democratic progressivism. The work will be of interest to students of twentieth-century political history, the history of Congress, and the origins of the modern American state. Download (1.65M)