

Compare the goals and proposals  
of TR's New Nationalism and  
Wilson's New Freedom.

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# Thesis

- Roosevelt's New Freedom proposed broad social welfare, much like that seen in the 1930's from Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Wilson violently opposed welfare, saying that the little man must be forced into competition without head starts from the government.

# TR's New Nationalism

- Roosevelt made the case for what he called the New Nationalism in a speech in Osawatomie, Kansas, on August 31, 1910.
- He argued government protection of human welfare and property rights, but he also argued that human welfare was more important than property rights
- He insisted that only a powerful federal government could regulate the economy and guarantee social justice, and that a President can only succeed in making his economic agenda successful if he makes the protection of human welfare his highest priority

# TR's New Nationalism

- Roosevelt believed that the concentration in industry was a natural part of the economy. He wanted executive agencies to regulate business.
- The federal government should be used to protect the laboring men, women and children from exploitation
- The main theme of the platform was an attack on the domination of politics by business interests, which allegedly controlled both established parties.

# Wilson's New Freedom

- The plan was to break up trusts into smaller companies, he wanted to restore the competition that had been in the American economy before
- Wilson was an admirer of Thomas Jefferson. He wanted The agrarian idea of small, educated farmers that Jefferson wanted. Of course, the advent of industry could not be denied, but a nation of small farmers and small businesspeople seemed possible
- The New Freedom sought to achieve this vision by attacking what Wilson called the triple wall of privilege, the tariff, the banks, and the trusts.
- Free enterprise was important but opposed too much federal power, which was the opposite of what Roosevelt wanted.

# Comparing the Two

- New Nationalism and New Freedom had many similarities. Both obviously involved the Progressive movement. Both were anti-big business. And both favored the rise of the "little man".
- The two policies differed in what means would be used to achieve these goals. Roosevelt's New Freedom proposed broad social welfare. Wilson was against welfare, saying that the little man must be forced into competition without head starts from the government.
- Both favored a sort of free market for the economy: Wilson favored the pure market, Roosevelt allowed those who had losses to be given another chance.

# Conclusion

- Wilson won the election, but not necessarily because his New Freedom was superior: the Republican vote was split between Taft and Roosevelt, making Democratic victory a certainty.