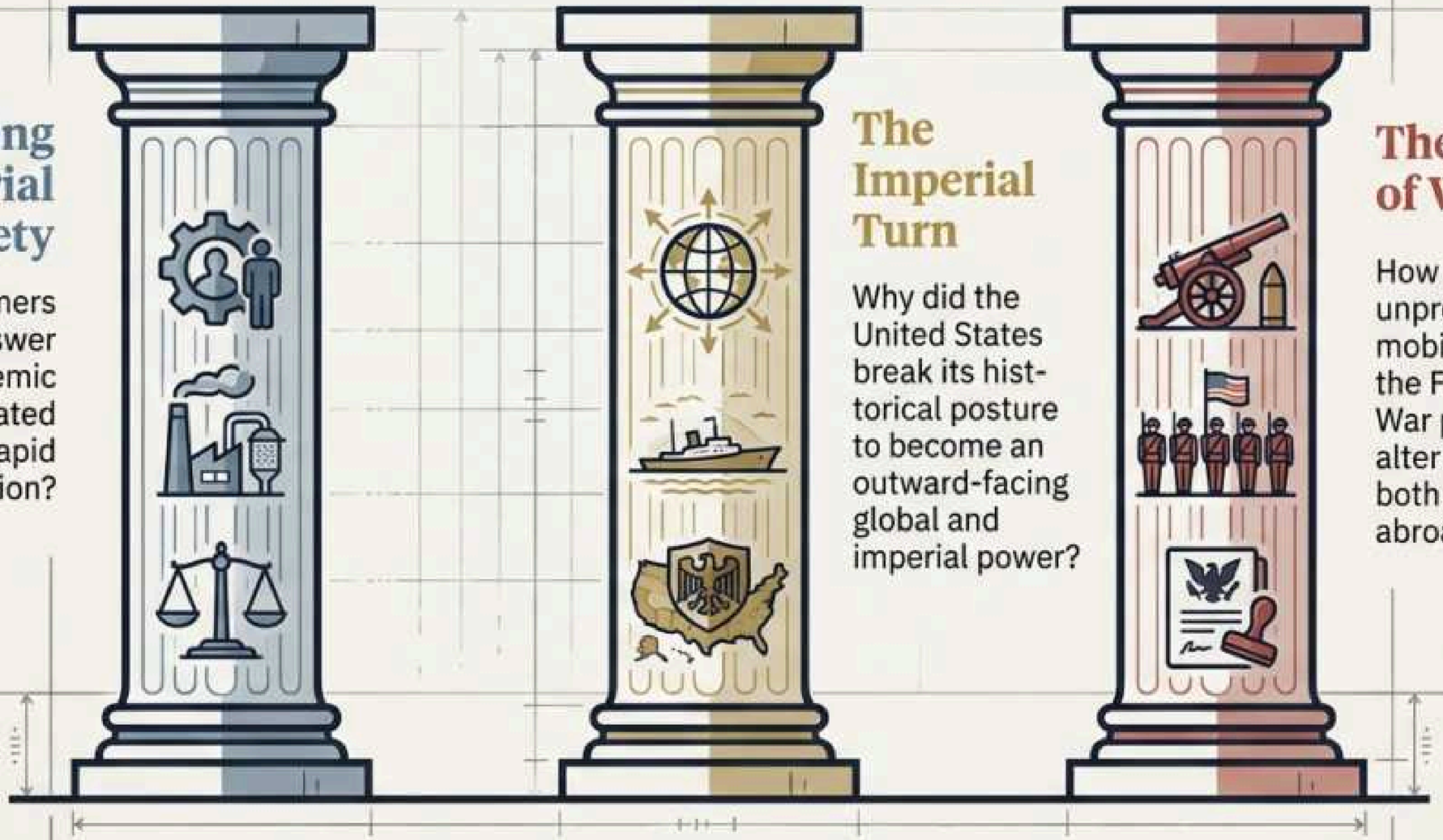
2.1

The Three Pillars of the Early Twentieth Century



Taming Industrial Society

How did reformers attempt to answer the deep systemic problems created by rapid industrialization?

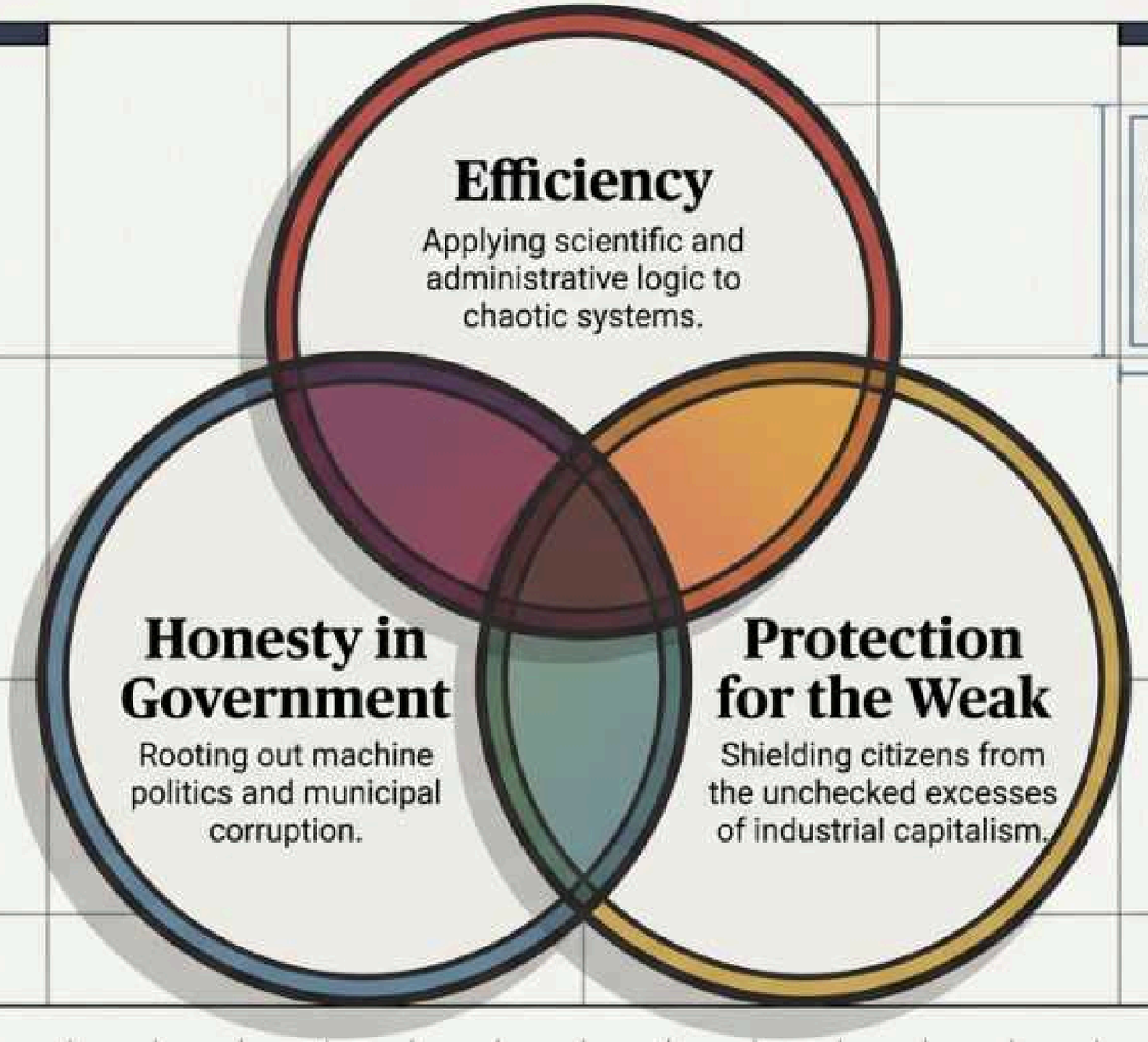
The Imperial Turn

Why did the United States break its hist-torical posture to become an outward-facing global and imperial power?

The Crucible of War

How did the unprecedented mobilization for the First World War permanently alter the country both at home and abroad?

2.2 Progressivism as a Reform Mood (1890–1920)



Supporters did not always agree on what these three goals meant in practice, creating inherent contradictions within the movement.

2.3 The Muckraker Effect: From Exposure to Legislation

The Exposure

Ida Tarbell: History of the Standard Oil Company (1904)

Targeting corporate monopoly.

Upton Sinclair: The Jungle (1906)

Shocking visceral details of the meatpacking industry.

Public Outrage

The Outcome

1906 Meat Inspection Act

1906 Pure Food and Drug Act

2.4 Neighborhood Reform and the Fight for Industrial Safety

Proactive Support:
The Settlement House



Jane Addams / Hull House
(Chicago, 1889)

- Classes for adults
- Child care
- Immigrant family advocacy

Reactive Legislation:
The Sweatshop Tragedy

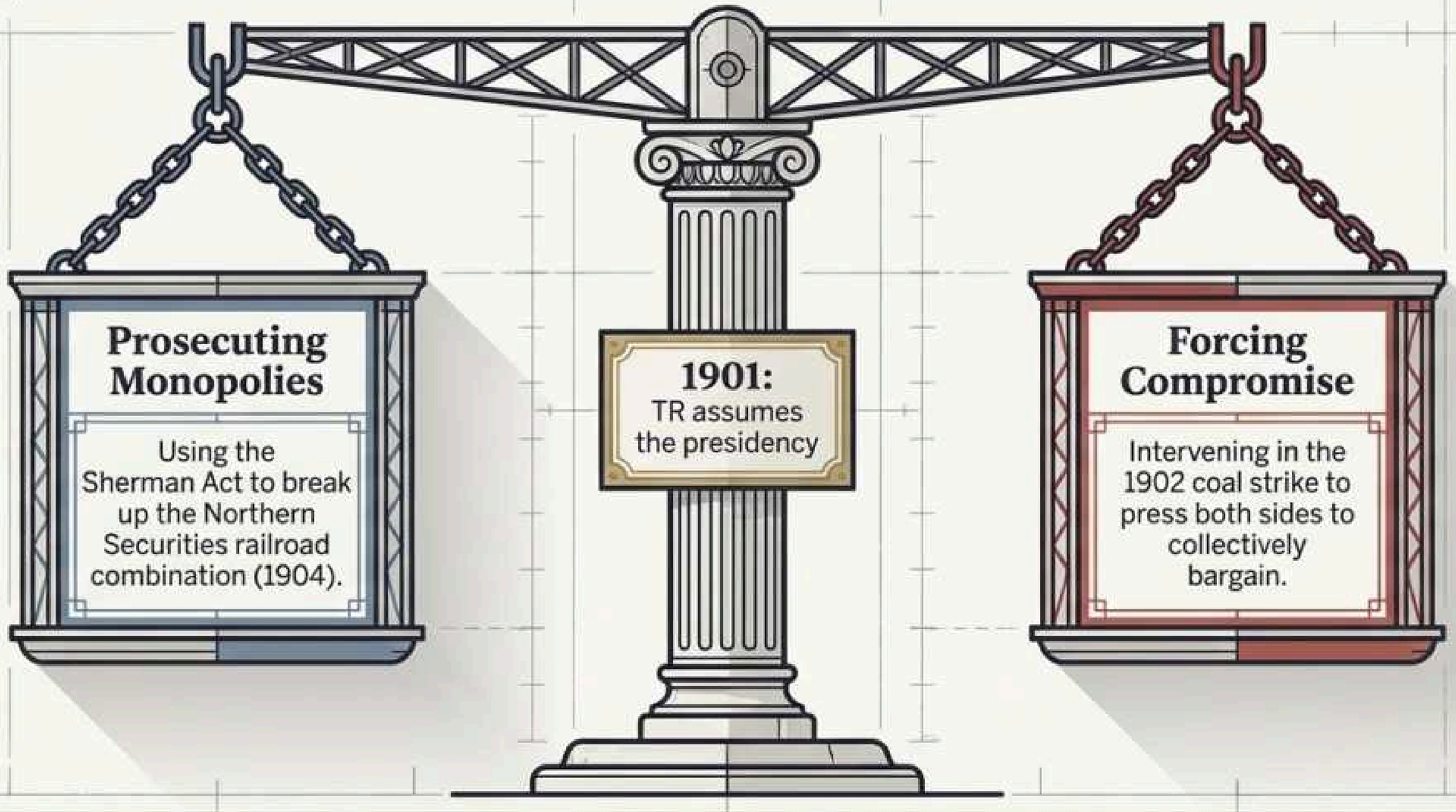


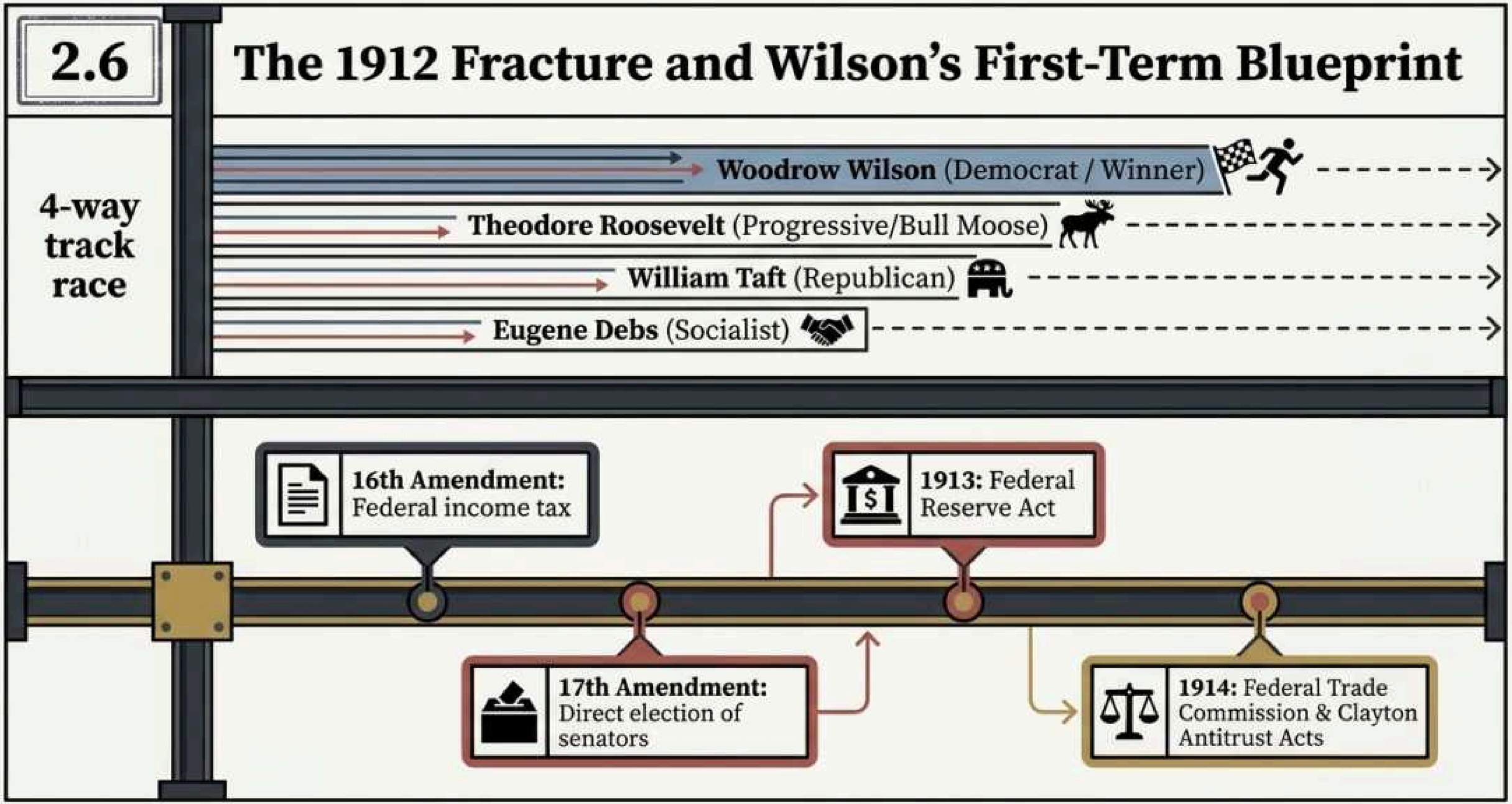
Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire
(New York, 1911)

146 workers dead, trapped behind locked doors.

Florence Kelley's successful crusade for new safety and child labor laws.

2.5 Theodore Roosevelt and the Square Deal




2.6
The 1912 Fracture and Wilson's First-Term Blueprint
4-way track race
Woodrow Wilson (Democrat / Winner)
Theodore Roosevelt (Progressive/Bull Moose)
William Taft (Republican)
Eugene Debs (Socialist)
16th Amendment: Federal income tax
17th Amendment: Direct election of senators
1913: Federal Reserve Act
1914: Federal Trade Commission & Clayton Antitrust Acts

ARCHIVAL STAMP
2.7

The Dual-Track Strategy for Women's Suffrage

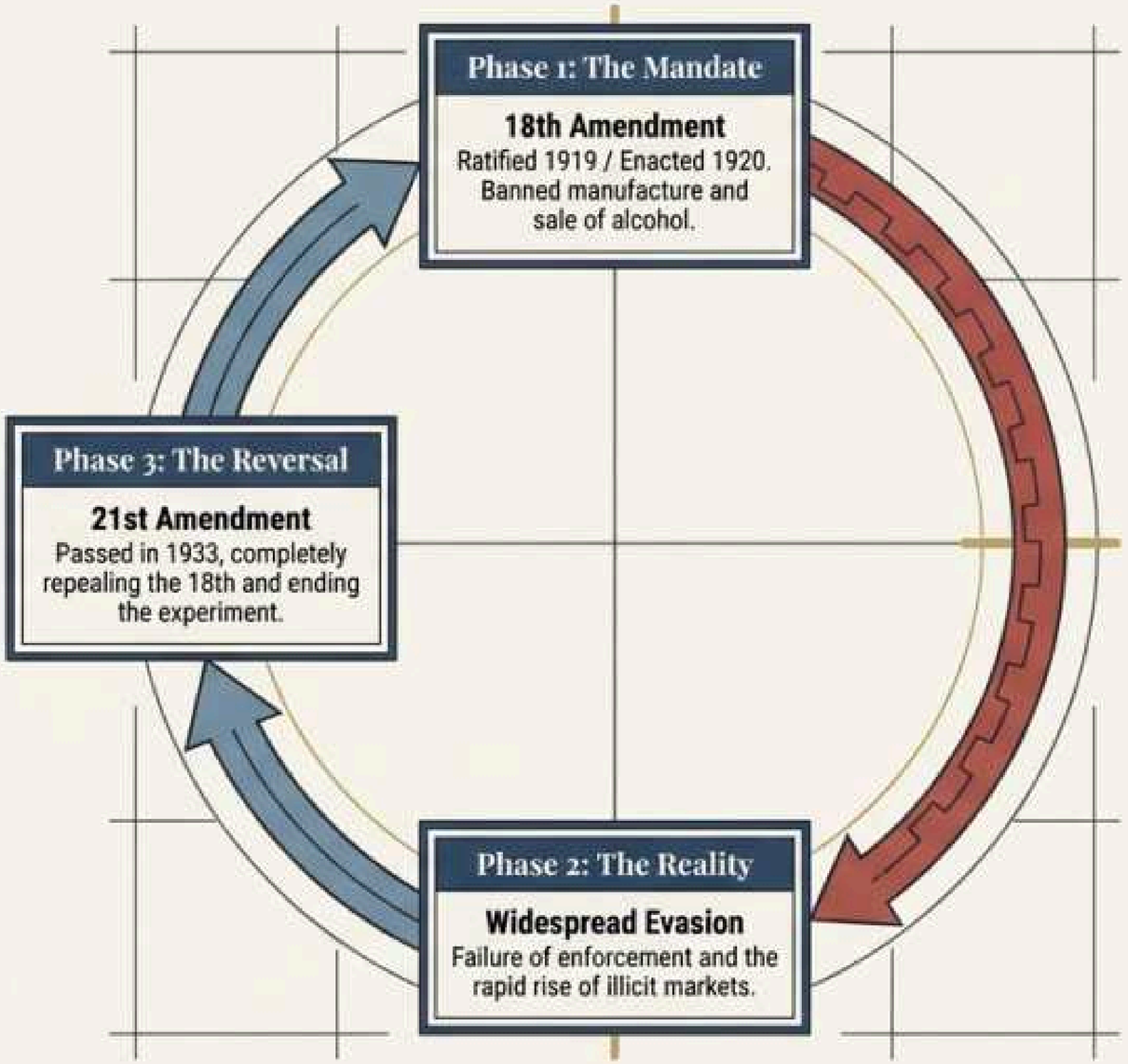
Mainstream Strategy	Confrontational Strategy
Led by **Carrie Chapman Catt**	Led by **Alice Paul**
State-by-state campaigns, mainstream political lobbying.	Direct action, White House picketing, militant disruption.

August 1920: 19th Amendment guarantees the vote regardless of sex.

The Jim Crow Exclusion. Despite the 19th Amendment, systemic lolocal laws ensured many Black women and men in the South remained violently shut out of the ballot box.

2.8

The Prohibition Experiment: Ideals vs. Reality



2.9

The Limits and Shadows of Progressivism

Systemic Failures

Jim Crow: Reforms actively ignored racial violence.

Federal Segregation: Wilson expanded segregation in government offices.

Social Control: Reformers championed immigration restriction and eugenics (a discredition of controlling reproduction).

Black Agency

The founding of the NAACP (civil rights litigation) and the launch of the Great Migration to northern cities, which accelerated with the war.

2.10 The Imperial Turn: The Spanish-American War (1898)

The Catalyst

Sinking of the USS Maine in Havana harbor triggers a quick American victory.

The Spoils (Treaty of Paris)

- ✓ The Philippines
- ✓ Guam
- ✓ Puerto Rico
- ✓ Nominal independence for Cuba

The Devastating Cost

The subsequent Philippine-American War (beginning 1899) resulted in a brutal toll: roughly 4,000 American soldiers dead, and many times that number of Filipino casualties.

2.11 Expanding the American Empire

1898

Annexation of Hawaii.

1899–1900

The Open Door Notes, demanding equal trade access and market entry into China.

1903–1914

The Panama Canal. Roosevelt backs a 1903 revolt in Panama to secure the route; canal opens in 1914.

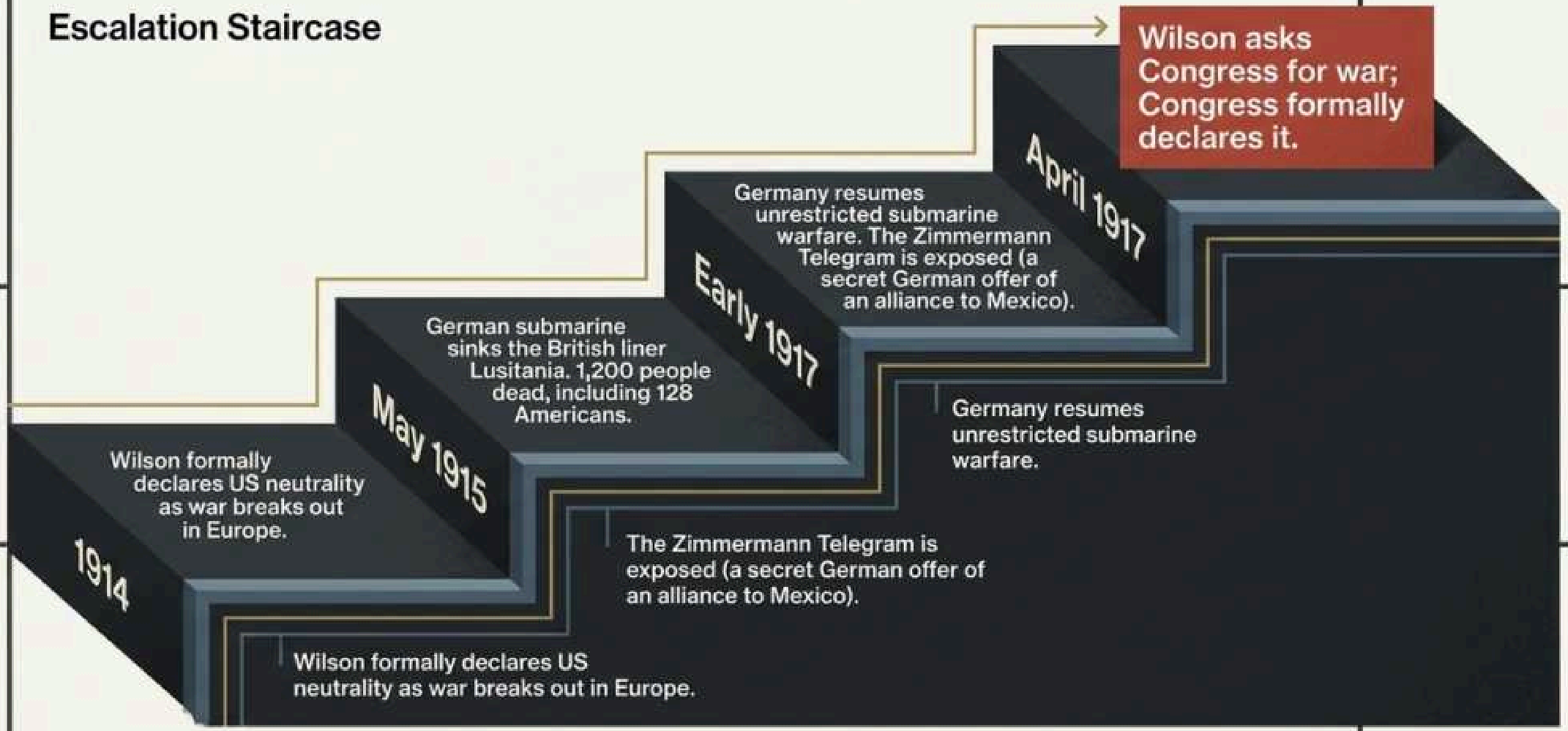
1904

The Roosevelt Corollary. An aggressive update to the Monroe Doctrine claiming the US right to actively intervene in Latin American countries to 'keep order'.

2.12

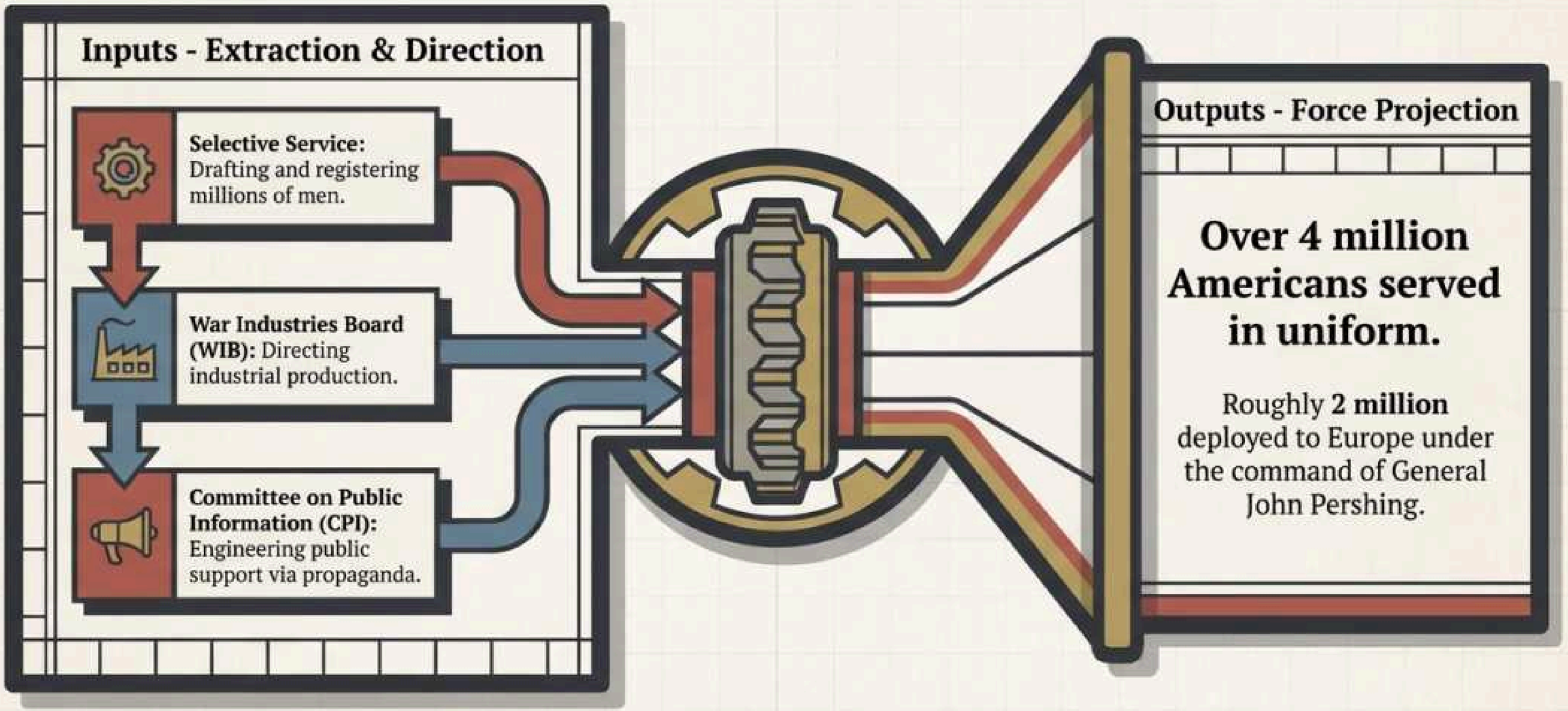
The Road to War (1914–1917)

Escalation Staircase



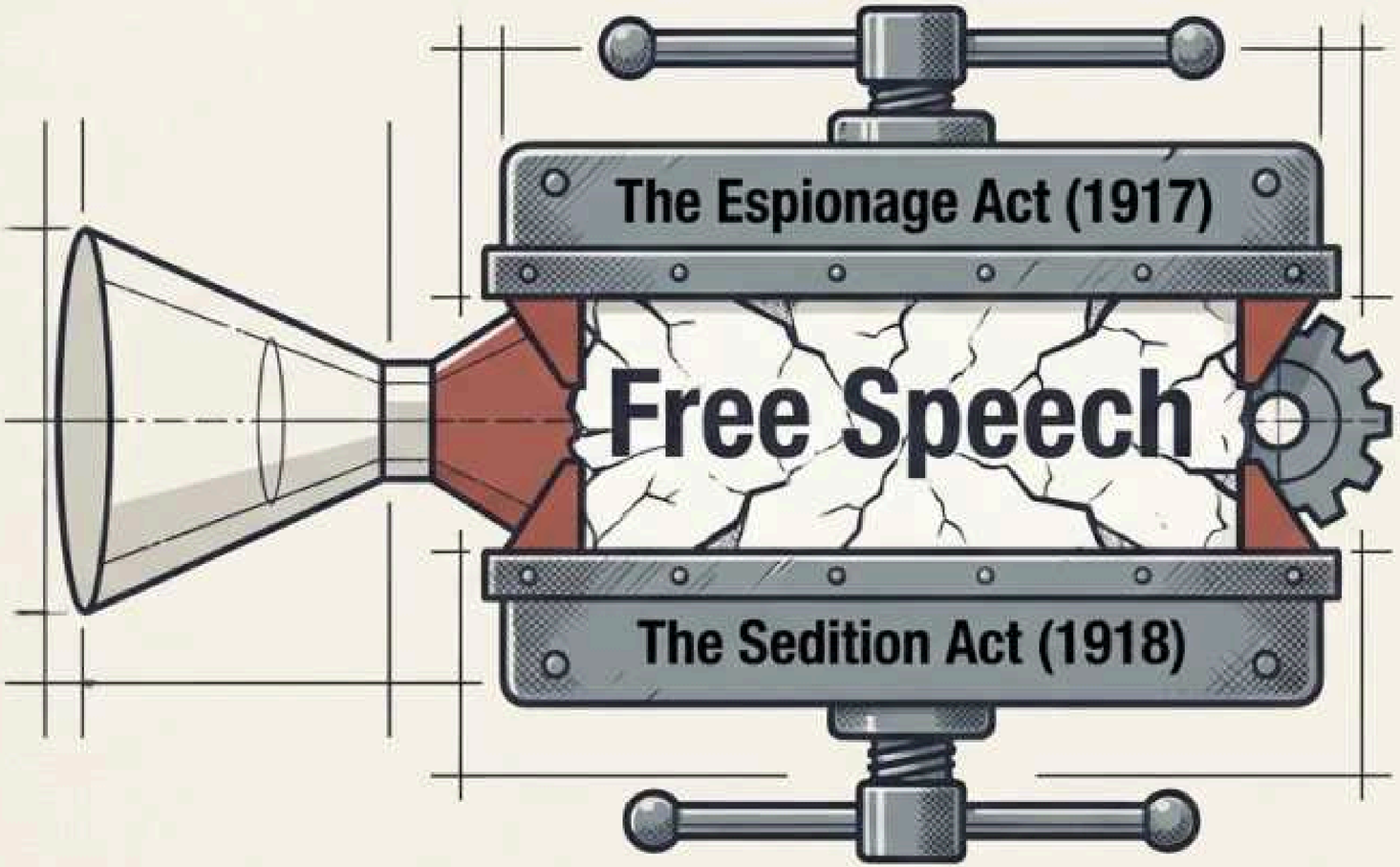
2.13

The Mobilization Machine



2.14 Repression on the Home Front

The Squeeze on Civil Liberties



The Judicial Precedent

Schenck v. United States (1919). Supreme Court establishes the "clear and present danger" test to uphold convictions for antiwar leaflets.

The Human Cost: Socialist leader Eugene Debs was sentenced to ten years in federal prison simply for delivering an antiwar speech.

2.15

A Changing Society and a Deadly Pandemic

Industry

Women enter heavy industry and manufacturing jobs left vacant by drafted men.

Migration

Hundreds of thousands of Black Southerners move North for war industry jobs.

675,000 Dead

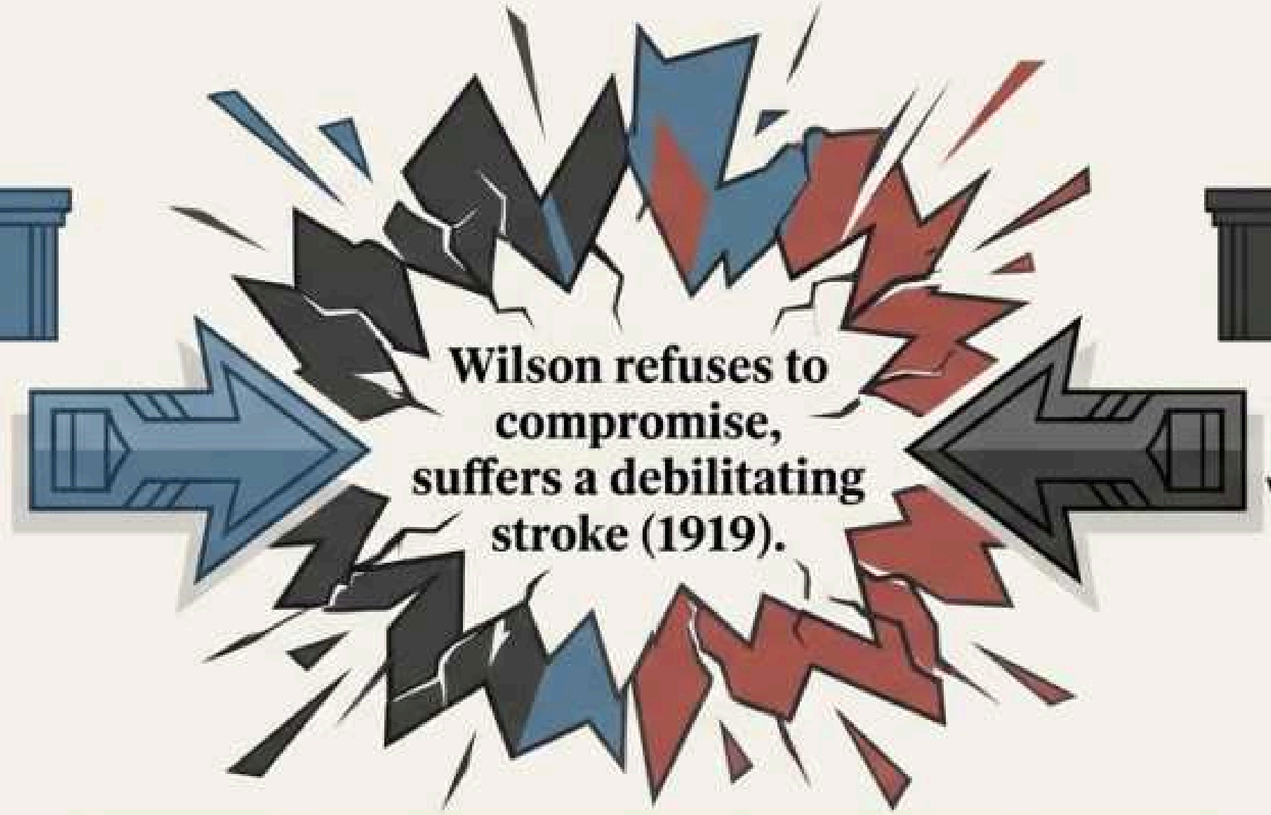
The 1918 flu pandemic killed more Americans than all of the nation's war deaths combined.

2.16

The Failed Peace

Wilson's Ideals

The Fourteen Points (open diplomacy, self-determination, League of Nations).



The Opposition

The harsher-than-expected Treaty of Versailles (1919) and the stubborn opposition of US Senators led by Henry Cabot Lodge.

The Senate officially votes down the treaty. The US never joins the League of Nations.

2.17

Postwar Turbulence (1919)

Racial Violence

The Red Summer. Deadly race riots erupting in dozens of cities across the country.



Labor Unrest

Massive industrial strikes shaking the steel industry and the Boston police force.



Political Paranoia

The Red Scare. A fever-pitch fear of Bolshevik revolution infiltrating American society.



State Crackdown

The Palmer Raids. Attorney General Mitchell Palmer orders raids, jailing and deporting hundreds of immigrants and suspected radicals.



2.18 The Larger Picture: Architectural Legacy

Economic Structure



The creation of the federal income tax and the central bank.

Administrative State



The establishment of a permanent tradition of federal regulation.

Global Posture



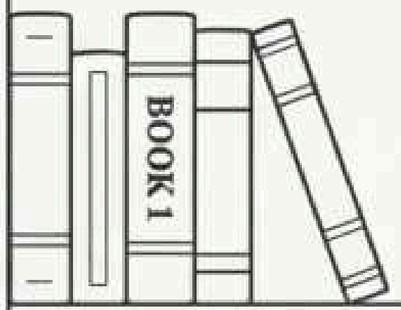
The definitive shift of the United States into a recognized world power.

The Historical Debate

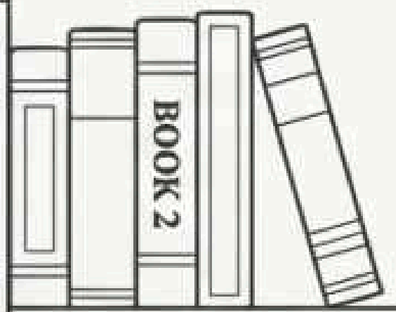
Was Progressivism a genuine democratic movement, an effort by elites to impose order, or a complex mix of both? The limits of reform define its era.

2.19

Where to Go Next



Richard Hofstadter:
The Age of Reform
(Classic text)



Michael McGerr:
A Fierce Discontent
(Broad survey of the movement)

Next Up: Lecture 3

- **The 1920s**
- **The Great Depression**
- **The New Deal**