the creation of "wise" individuals, who would eventually see the uselessness of government and abandon it ("Politics," 483). Emerson seemingly expresses an "outlaw" mentality against the idea of government in general. Yet, he combines individual ideals such as "self-reliance" and the dissolution of government with a faith in the idea of new kind of community. Emerson believes that it was the destiny of America to create a society that would one day break the bonds of corrupt government and embrace the "unifying" concept of sensible individual rule. Still, for this rule to take place, it is up to the community to grow together, most likely sacrificing for the greater good. As Emerson said, it is only through man's love for one another that civilization will be able to survive ("Politics," 483).

Theodore Roosevelt examined American individualism in the context of a struggle to provide Americans with the basic necessities with which to succeed. For him, the success of the individual benefitted not only that individual, but the community and society as a whole: "The fundamental thing to do for every man is to give him a chance to reach a place in which he will make the greatest possible contribution to the public welfare" (1093). Here, one can see the break with the previous authors. While they both supported some limited government, neither saw the government as a positive force for social change. By the turn of the 19th century, with the rise of the Progressive movement, the idea of government intervention into the affairs of ordinary men seemed like a way to preserve both individual freedom and community bonds. The rampant inequality among the rich and the poor left many of the lower classes feeling as though only the government would be able to remedy their situation. Roosevelt viewed this struggle as a fight between men "who possess more than they have earned and … men who have earned more than they possess" (1088). Special privilege for some individuals, according to Roosevelt, had destroyed the ability of all individuals to properly progress. Active governments, thus, were necessary to the preservation of the American individual and the nation as a whole. Roosevelt saw the chief enemy of the individual as the special interests whose influence upon American politics sought to undermine the confidence of the American public (1089). Through their vast wealth, the industrialized and moneyed interests of America

would seek to grossly expand their holdings; this would increase the inequality among the people, further hindering America's growth as a nation: "The absence of effective state, and, especially, national, restraint upon unfair money getting has tended to create a small class of enormously wealthy and economically powerful men, whose chief objective is to hold and increase their power" (1091). To remedy this, Roosevelt believed that it was up to the government to regulate the influence of special interests, by curtailing political corruption and limiting corporate mergers (1090). Roosevelt also believed it necessary to install an expert tariff commission and to create a system of graduated taxes. The tariff commission would be vital to investigate the suitability of the tariffs toward the good of society, while graduated taxes would begin the change of affairs necessary to ensure that accumulated wealth would be a benefit to the community (1091-1092). In all, Roosevelt stood for the evolution of the rules of the "economic game." These new rules would give every person an honest chance to contribute to the public welfare, a "square deal" to succeed (1093).

It is easy to identify Roosevelt as an "official" hero, as his belief in the government being a force for egalitarian efforts was backed by his boisterous rhetoric affirming such. Yet Roosevelt carried with him a decidedly "outlaw" nature. He fought for what he believed was right, regardless of federal regulation. This led to such endeavors as his trust busting initiatives, where he became the spokesperson for the "little guy": the American people against the "big" corporations of the country. Furthermore, Roosevelt was heavily influenced by his emotions. His tireless initiative and work ethic was evident not only in his campaigns and administration but also in his decision to fight in the Spanish-American War in 1898. Roosevelt, thus, created in himself the model "composite" individual for the American people—a person who not only viewed the government as a vital resource for the betterment of the nation but also exuded qualities that portrayed him as a man too big for the constraints that befell society.

The American community, in essence, stems from the drive of individuals to forge their own way. Patrick Henry advocated for government placed in the hands of individuals, where "natural law"