

# Woodrow Wilson and World War I



AP United States History  
Unit 9  
Bishop Kenny High School

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## Election of 1912

- Taft-Roosevelt Rupture
- Dr. Woodrow Wilson to save Dem's (ardent Progressive)
- Roosevelt & the Bull Moose Camp.
- TR's New Nationalism vs. WW's New Freedom
- The Professor becomes President

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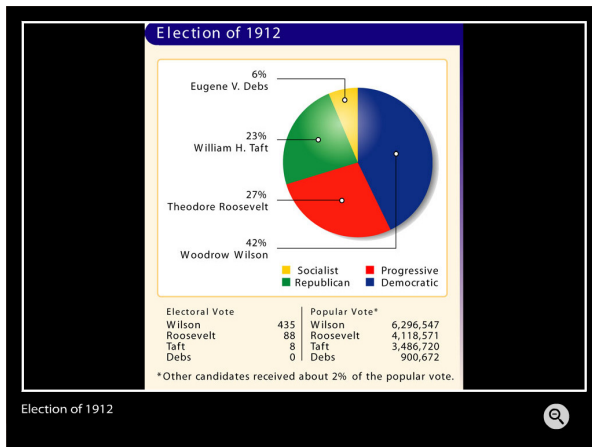
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## Wilson's Progressive Agenda

- ◉ Agenda: End the "triple wall of privilege":  
Tariff, Banks, Trusts
- ◉ Tariff: Underwood Tariff Bill (1913);  
Income Taxes
- ◉ Banking: Federal Reserve Act
- ◉ Wilson's Personal Appeal: goes to  
Congress himself; encourages people to  
"call congress"

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## Wilson's Progressivism, cont.

- ◉ Trust Reform: Federal Trade  
Commission
- ◉ Clayton Anti-Trust Act
- ◉ Unions could not be prosecuted as  
trusts

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## Additional Reforms by Dr. Wilson

- ◉ Federal Farm Loan Act (1916)
- ◉ Warehouse Act (1916)
- ◉ La Follette Seaman's Act (1915)
- ◉ Workingmen's Compensation Act
- ◉ Adamson Act
- ◉ Brandeis to the Supreme Court
- ◉ Results of the Progressives (AMSCO)

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## Wilson's Foreign Policy/Problems

- Lodge Corollary (1912)
- New Freedom / Moral Diplomacy
- Mexican Revolution – Pancho Villa
- See the handout on “Wilson & Mexico”
- Problems in Europe
- Causes of The Great World War in Europe (list in AMSCO, 447)
- Resource: [Europe at Start of WW I](#)

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Europe Goes to War, 1914



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## U.S. Neutrality and Problems

- U.S. neutrality in Europe since 1796
- Pull on the U.S. from both sides – Wilson urges civilian neutrality
- Financial Involvement & Blockade
- German U-boats: Submarine warfare
- *Lusitania* sinking & impending crisis
- Wilson's weak response?

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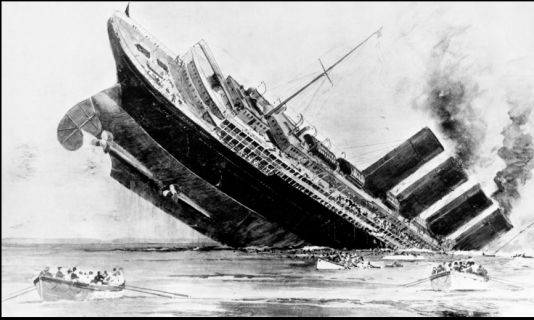
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Sinking of the British ship Lusitania by a German submarine on May 7, 1915.



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## Public Debate: Shall we go?

- German defiance (January 1917)
- Zimmermann Note (March 1917)
- Bolshevik Revolution in Russia
- Wilson requests war – April 2, 1917
- Prepared?
- Pacifism?
- How to gain support nationwide?

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## War Propaganda

- Mobilization and Financing War
- *PowerPoint on WW I Posters*
- George Creel – Committee on Public Information
- Industry and Labor
- War or Work (Women, too)

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## War Boards

- ◉ War Industries Board – B. Baruch
- ◉ Food Administration – Herbert Hoover
- ◉ Fuel Administration – Harry Garfield
- ◉ National War Labor Board – William Howard Taft
- ◉ Liberty Bonds

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## Public Opinion/Civil Liberties

- ◉ Propaganda and boards already discussed
- ◉ Espionage Act of 1917
- ◉ Sedition Act of 1918 (Debs jailed)
- ◉ *Schenck v. United States* (1919): Free speech can be denied when it was a “clear and present danger” to safety

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## Mobilization of Forces

- ◉ Conscription: All males 18-45 had to register for the draft
- ◉ Selective Service Act 1917
- ◉ Women in the armed forces
- ◉ Segregated units for African Americans
- ◉ Other Effects
- ◉ Convoy system

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## Fighting the War

- ◉ Bolshevik Revolution creates one-front war
- ◉ U.S. Operations in France
- ◉ American Expeditionary Force (AEF) – John J. Pershing
- ◉ Victory over Germany (Final Drive)
- ◉ Casualties / Types of warfare
- ◉ Resource: [Allied Victory](#)

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oldiers in trenches during World War I.



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## The Fourteen Points

- ◉ (Copy posted to BroachWeb)
- ◉ Delivered to Congress: Jan. 8, 1918
- ◉ Germans surrender Nov. 11, 1918: look to 14 points as saving grace
- ◉ “Peace without victory”
- ◉ Know the significant points (AMSCO, 457)

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## Peace negotiations

- ◉ Wilson the prophet?
- ◉ First sitting President to go to Europe
- ◉ Paris Conference: Big Four (Orlando, Lloyd George, Clemenceau, Wilson)
- ◉ League Covenant
- ◉ Final Treaty of Versailles

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## Ratification Fight

- ◉ Isolationism and criticism of treaty
- ◉ Henry Cabot Lodge
- ◉ Wilson's Speaking Tour 1919
- ◉ William Borah & Hiram Johnson
- ◉ President's Collapse – Sept. 1919
- ◉ Lodge Reservations
- ◉ Treaty rejected Nov. 1919; Mar. 1920

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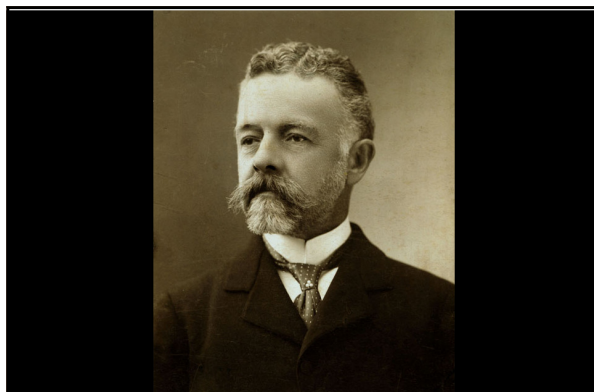
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Henry Cabot Lodge (1902-1985), U.S. diplomat and politician.



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## End of Great Hopes?

- Solemn Referendum 1920
- Election of 1920: Warren Harding & Calvin Coolidge (R) vs. James Cox & Franklin Roosevelt
- Failure of the Treaty = Rise of Adolf Hitler in Germany

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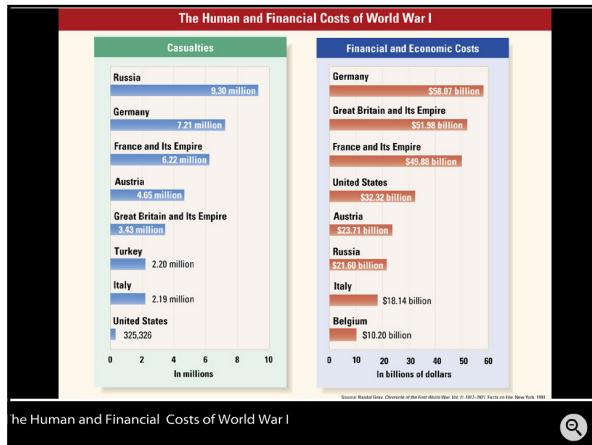
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## \*\*Social Changes during war

- Types of sacrifices endured by Americans
- Nativism returns!
  - Already discussed Espionage and Sedition Acts
  - Leads to later immigration restriction 1921-1924
- African Americans support the war effort
- Great Migration
- Women in the War → 19th Amendment
- Prohibition (18<sup>th</sup> Amendment)
- Flu Epidemic

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### Postwar problems

- Demobilization
- The Red Scare – A. Mitchell Palmer
- Sacco and Vanzetti
- Strikes of 1919
- Race Riots

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### Thinking Critically...

- DBQ on World War I from Ms. Pojer: [http://www.historyteacher.net/USProjects/DBQs2000/HerbM/serve\\_Sean.htm](http://www.historyteacher.net/USProjects/DBQs2000/HerbM/serve_Sean.htm)
- To what extent did the United States achieve the objectives that led it into the First World War?

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