

UNIT 7 NOTES

Progressive Movement Chapter 21

Progressivism – a movement to improve American life by expanding democracy and achieving economic & social justice.

- Progressives believed in the benefits of industrialism but sought to correct the evils associated with it.
- Progressives hoped to achieve political, social, & economic reforms

Political Reforms

- Wanted to wipe out corruption, machine politics, business domination of government
- Wanted to set up procedures for closer control of govt.

Social and Economic Reforms

- Wanted to eliminate practices that harmed farmers, workers, tenement dwellers, and consumers
- Wanted to expand govt. regulation over economy

Sources of Progressive Support

- **Farmers** – wanted railroad regulation and easier credit
- **Urban Middle Class** – wanted regulation of industry and political machines
- **Workers** – laws regulating work by women & children, safety requirements, workmen’s compensation benefits
- **Writers** – known as muckrakers – including Frank Norris & Upton Sinclair
- **Politicians** – including Robert La Follette (gov. of Wis.), Hiram Johnson (gov. of CA.), T. Roosevelt (Prez), and Woodrow Wilson (Prez)

Accomplishments of the Progressive Era

Political: City and State

- Direct primaries – people, not parties nominate candidates
- Limits on political contributions and campaign spending
- “Australian” secret ballot
- Initiatives and referendums by citizens
- Recall of elected officials
- City govts run by commissions rather than just mayor
- Civil service exams reduce # of political appointments
- Individual states allowed women to vote

Political: Federal

- 17th Amendment (1913) – direct election of senators
- 19th Amendment (1920) – Women’s suffrage

Social/Economic: State and Local

- Regulation of industries
- Consumer protection laws
- Fair tax laws
- Child & women labor laws
- Welfare & workmen’s compensation laws
- Improved work site safety

Social/Economic: Federal

- Regulation of industries & banks
- Conservation laws to preserve natural resources
- Consumer protection laws
- 16th Amendment (1913) – income tax
- Protection of unions
- Federal aid for farmers

Weaknesses of the Progressive Movement

- **Uneven patterns of reform**
 - Some states more progressive than others
- **Court roadblocks**
 - Many progressive initiatives held up in court
- **Survival of political machines**
 - Despite political reforms, party bosses were able to evade laws aimed at controlling their activities

The Progressive Era of reform ended by the 1920's

The Presidents of the Progressive Era Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft

McKinley Arrives

- William McKinley won 1896 election
 - Versus William Jennings Bryan (D-NE)
 - Main election issue - Silver vs. Gold
- Highlights of 1st term
 - Dingley Tariff Act (1897) - avg. 57%
 - Gold Standard Act (1900)
 - Increase in American Imperialism

McKinley Departs

- Imperialism the major campaign issue of 1900
 - Dems - Bryan & Adlai Stevenson
 - Reps - McKinley and T. Roosevelt
- Renewed prosperity at home - prestige abroad brought easy victory for McKinley
- Sept. 6, 1901 - McKinley assassinated by crazed anarchist

Look out! Here comes Teddy!

- Theodore Roosevelt (R-NY)
 - Elected Gov. of New York (1898)
 - Reform minded – angers Rep. leaders
 - TR “kicked upstairs” - party leaders got him nominated for Vice Prez.
 - “Powerless” position – safe to have him there
 - Oops! McKinley dies - the job is TR's!

TR's “Square Deal”

- Said his admin. would afford all groups (biz, labor, farmers, consumers, etc.) a “square deal”
- Believed govt. should assure:
 - honesty & fairness in govt. & biz
 - more econ. opportunity for individuals
- Opposed radicals from left and right
 - Represented middle-class moderate progressive reformers

TR's Goals

- Greater control of corporations by fed. govt.
- Increased power for ICC
- Conservation of natural resources
- Extension of merit system in civil service
- Strong foreign policy

Govt. Regulation of Big Business

- Believed in regulating “bad” trusts
 - Benefiting public welfare = “good”

- Remembered as a “trust buster”
 - Filed over 40 anti-trust suits
 - Northern Securities v. U.S. (1902)

1902 Coal Miner’s Strike

- TR stepped in to settle a strike by the United Mine Workers in PA
- TR found mine owners to be unyielding and difficult
- TR threatened to take over the mines - convinced owners to come to the table
- Workers given raise & shorter hours but were denied recognition of the union
 - TR viewed as a friend of labor

Election of 1904

- Square Deal and strong leadership won public support
- Campaign issue - continued reform
- TR easily defeats little known Democrat Alton Parker (NY)
- Now prez by election - TR aggressively pursued his progressive goals

♪ “I’ve been breakin’ up the railroads...” ♪

- TR worked to strengthen Int. Comm. Act
 - ICC was weakened by court decisions
- Pushed for stronger legislation:
 - Elkins Act (1903) - forbid secret rebates, reinforced adherence to published rates,
 - Hepburn Act (1906) increased authority of I.C.C. to oversee railroads

TR & preservation/conservation

- Enthusiastic advocate of preservation
- “Wilderness vogue” - outdoor enthusiasts take to the forests & mtns.
- Gifford Pinchot - 1st head of U.S. Forest Service - conservationist appointed by TR
 - Conservation = planned, regulated use of forest lands for public & commercial purposes
 - vs. total preservation

TR - Protector of consumers

- Scandals in meat packing industry kicked off move to regulate
- Muckrakers (e.g. Sinclair) exposed deplorable conditions & abuses
- Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)
 - No false labeling of food or drugs
- Meat Inspection Act (1906)
 - provided for supervision of meat packing & for federal inspection

TR bows out - Taft steps in

- TR opted not to seek 2nd elected term
- William Howard Taft (R) TR’s hand-picked successor
- Ran on pledge to continue TR’s reforms
- Soundly defeated W.J. Bryan (D)
- More conservative than progressive
- Lacked TR’s dynamic personality

Taft as the President

- Lacked TR’s ability to arouse public support for programs
- Unwilling to battle with Congress over issues
- Support of conservative right over progressive right drove wedge between him & TR
 - TR would run against him as a 3rd party candidate in 1912
- Though more conservative than TR – initiated 2X more anti-trust suits
- During his admin. Congress proposed 16th (income tax) and 17th (direct election of senators) Amendments to the Const.
- Congress increased the powers of the Interstate Commerce Comm.

TAFT TO WILSON 1908 to 1912

Taft Tackles the Tariff Issue

- Called a special session of Congress in 1909
- Fulfilling a campaign pledge, Taft called for a reduction of tariff rates
- An unskilled negotiator, he was instead talked into supporting a rise in the tariff rate on some items

The Payne-Aldrich Tariff

- Taft unwilling to fight the conservatives
- P-A Tariff raised rates on hundreds of items
- Taft could have vetoed and kept the support of progressive Reps.
- Chose to sign
- Called it “the best bill the Repubs. ever signed.”

Payne-Aldrich Tariff sets off a split within the Republican party

- Conservatives favored its protectionism
- Progressives opposed its preservation of high rates

Taft and Joe Cannon

- Cannon a powerful Speaker of the House - like Czar Reed
- “Revolt of 1910” – Progressive Reps. challenged “Cannonism”
- Progressives expected Taft to back their push against Cannon
- Taft supported Cannon
- A split develops in Repub. party

Taft’s Conservation Policies

- Taft set aside more public lands
- Expanded the National Park system
- Had a better record on conservation than TR, but...

Ballinger-Pinchot Controversy (1910)

- Ballinger opened fed. land to private leasing
- Pinchot denounced Ballinger’s actions
- Taft sided with Ballinger and fired Pinchot
- Progressives were predictably angry

Taft’s Progressive Record

- 90 Anti-Trust Suits
- Standard Oil v. U.S. breaks up S.O. trust (1911)
- U.S. v. American Tobacco Co. (1911) forces reorganization
- Mann-Elkins Act (1910) strengthened the ICC

MORE...

- Worked for child labor laws
- Imposed safety laws on mines and railroads
- Instituted 8-hour workday for govt. employees
- Expanded civil service system

Taft’s Weaknesses

- He was no Teddy Roosevelt!
- He was not a unifying force - often created more problems than he solved with Congress
- Better suited for his later job as Chief Justice of the Supreme Ct.

Hey! You’re Not a Reformer!

- Teddy’s back & mad at Taft!
- Campaigns for Progressive Candidates
- Osawatomie, KS - TR speech on 8/31/10 outlines “New Nationalism”
- “National need before sectional or personal advantage”

More on New Nationalism

- Calls for tighter govt. regulation of business
- Programs for public welfare
- Limits on Supreme Court's power to strike down progressive reforms

The Election of 1912

- TR denounced Taft - announced he would run for Rep. nomination
- Progressive rebellion split party
- Bob LaFollette (R-WI) challenged Taft for the Repub. nomination
- Entrance of TR in race funneled support away from LaFollette

TR's Problem - Taft Controlled the Convention

- Taft won the party nomination
- Outraged progressives storm out of the convention
- Formed the Progressive Party
- Progressives nominated TR - party comes to be known as the "Bull Moose Party"

Democrats Nominate Wilson

- Wilson's program - "New Freedom"
- TR pushes "New Nationalism"
- American Socialist Party ran Eugene Debs (American Railway Union)
- Wilson wins [435 to 88(TR) & 8 (Taft)]
- 1st Dem. President of 20th century

A Highly Successful President

- 1st president to appear before Congress & request legislation since Jefferson
- Appealed to people to pressure Congress for support of Wilson's goals
- Set out to reform the "Triple Wall of Privilege"
 - Tariffs
 - Banking System
 - Trusts

The Triple Wall of Privilege

- Underwood Tariff (1913) - downward revision of tariff rates
 - Also included a graduated income tax
- The Federal Reserve Act (1913)
- Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914)
- Federal Trade Commission Act (1914)

Limitations of "New Freedom"

- Wilson slow to embrace woman suffrage movement
- Reluctant to push for child labor laws
- Believed racial segregation was in best interests of blacks
- Rumblings of war diverted attention away from reform
- Despite these, Wilson was re-elected in 1916 - "He kept us out of the war"

U.S. Imperialism and the Spanish-American War Chapter 20

- What is imperialism?
 - Stronger nations attempt to create empires by dominating weaker nations. The late 1800s marked the peak of European imperialism, with much of Africa and Asia under foreign domination.
 - Several factors account for the growth of imperialism.
 - **Economic factors:** The growth of industry increased the need for natural resources.
 - **Nationalistic factors:** Competition among European nations for large empires was the result of a rise in nationalism—or devotion to one’s own nation.
 - **Military factors:** Europe had better armies than Africa and Asia, and it needed bases around the world to refuel and supply navy ships.
 - **Humanitarian factors:** Europeans believed that they had a duty to spread the blessings of western civilizations to other countries.
 - By 1890, the United States was eager to join the competition for new territory. Supporters of expansion denied that the United States sought to annex foreign lands. Yet annexation did take place.

- Following the Civil War, U.S. focused on domestic issues, not expansion
 - Purchase of Alaska from Russia (1867) was an exception
 - Called “Seward’s Folly” - \$7.2 million for frozen tundra
- By end of century, attitudes changed
 - Many thought U.S. needed overseas colonies
 - U.S. agriculture and industry quickly expanding
 - Sen. Albert J. Beveridge (IN) stated that U.S. needed new markets, places to invest capital, work for growing labor force
 - U.S. needed raw materials (rubber, tin) only available overseas
 - Imperialism – conquering other countries to build an empire - would provide markets and raw materials
- U.S. also wanted to keep up with imperialist European powers
 - Busy dividing Africa, Asia, Middle East into colonies
 - Fed by combination of Darwinian “survival of the fittest” and white racial superiority
 - “White man’s burden” to civilize rest of world
- A chief advocate of U.S. imperialism – Admiral Alfred T. Mahan
 - Said if U.S. is going to be strong in peace and war, would need a strong navy to protect its interests
 - Specifically – would need:
 - Modern naval fleet
 - Naval bases in the Caribbean & Pacific
 - Panama Canal
 - By 1898 – U.S. had 3rd largest fleet
 - Won bases after Spanish-American War (1898)
 - Panama Canal opened in 1914
- Those in favor of imperialist expansion argued:
 - Increase U.S. prestige
 - Increase trade with Far East
 - Prevent naval and commercial expansion of Germany & Japan in Pacific
 - “Uplift and civilize” peoples of Caribbean and Pacific
- Many opposed imperial expansion and ratification of Treaty of Paris (Spanish-American War)
 - Anti-Imperialist League formed to oppose expansionist policies
 - Bi-partisan membership – varying reasons for opposition, incl.:
 - Against American ideal of liberty to occupy other countries
 - Maintaining empire would be costly for American people

- U.S. was particularly interested in Cuba
 - Cuban Insurrection (1868-78), Spain beat rebels but agreed to reforms
 - of reform unfulfilled
 - U.S. business invested \$50 million in Cuba
 - Built sugar plantations - became main market for Cuban sugar
 - Cuba prospered until Panic of 1893 & the Wilson-Gorman Tariff (1894) caused widespread economic depression on the island.
 - Cuban War for Independence (1895)
 - Rebels led by José Martí, engaged in guerilla warfare & destruction of American-owned property
 - Hoped that U.S. would intervene & get rid of Spain
 - U.S. divided over who to support
 - Spanish sent General Valeriano Weyler to put down the revolt
 - Used “reconcentration camps” to contain rural population
 - Rebels strongest in countryside
 - Disease & famine killed 200K in 2 years
 - Atrocities against rebels by Weyler caused outcry in U.S. - supporters in U.S. sent \$ & guns
 - Pulitzer (NY World) & Hearst (NY Journal) fought circulation war using situation in Cuba for sensational headlines
 - Mixed real and fake stories of atrocities
 - Yellow Press key in starting war with Spain
 - Hearst to illustrator Frederic Remington:
 - “You furnish the pictures and I’ll furnish the war.”
- President McKinley was resistant to war w/ Spain
 - Believed atrocities were committed by rebels & Spanish
- Before McKinley committed to war, Spain softened Cuba policy
 - Weyler was recalled to Spain
 - Spain promised more autonomy but rebels demanded independence
- McKinley urged the “war hawks” to give Spain a chance to change
 - 2 incidents provoked demands for war
 - The de Lome letter
 - Private letter from a Spanish diplomat – intercepted
 - De Lome called McKinley weak and indecisive
 - Hearst published the text – seen as an insult to U.S.
 - Unflattering remarks help fuel aggressive, warlike foreign policy
 - Sinking of the Battleship U.S.S. Maine 2/15/1898
 - Mysteriously exploded in Havana harbor, killing 266 crewmen
 - U.S. Navy & the press blamed Spain
 - Ammunition explosion due to coal fire on board the cause
 - The pressure on McKinley was too strong – he called for war
 - War declared on 4/20/1898
 - Stated intention was the liberation of Cuba
 - Teller Amendment – statement by Congress assuring Cubans U.S. did not want to annex Cuba – would guarantee self-rule
 - Battle cry: “Remember the Maine! To hell with Spain!”
- S-A War fought on two fronts – Caribbean & Philippines
 - Sec. of War Roosevelt ordered U.S. Naval commander in Philippines Commodore George Dewey to attack Spanish fleet if war broke out
 - His famous quote: “You may fire when ready, Gridley”
 - U.S. sank Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in 7 hours – May 1, 1898
 - U.S. teamed w/ Filipino rebels led by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo

- In Cuba, U.S. admiral William Sampson formed naval blockade
 - Sealed Spanish fleet in Santiago Harbor
 - U.S. ground troops captured heights around harbor
 - One group – Rough Riders – led by T. Roosevelt
 - Most famous battle – Battle of San Juan Hill (7/1/98)
 - Rough Riders & 2 Black regiments beat the Spanish
 - Spanish fleet destroyed while trying to escape
 - 5000 U.S. deaths (only 345 from battle)
- The Spanish surrendered – signed the Treaty of Paris (12/10/98)
 - Among “prizes” of U.S. victory, U.S. gets Puerto Rico & Guam
 - Cuba was to become independent
 - U.S. paid Spain \$20 million for Philippines
 - Legal status of Philippines unclear for several years
- What was the Platt Amendment (1901)?
 - Authorized American withdrawal of troops only after Cuba agreed to not make any treaty with a foreign power limiting its independence and to not borrow beyond its means
 - U.S. reserved right to intervene in Cuba when it saw fit
 - U.S. maintain a naval base (Guantanamo Bay)
- Despite opposition, the Treaty of Paris (1898) passed by a narrow margin with some Democratic support
 - The U.S. was on the way to being an empire

**American Imperialism
Asia and Latin America
Chapter 20**

Purposes for American Imperialism

- Closing of the frontier – Turner Thesis
- Desire for new markets
- Diversion from domestic problems
- Competitive spirit
- Increased involvement in world affairs
- Social Darwinism & White Man's Burden

Hawaii

- Economic ties w/ U.S. established 1875
 - Heavy U.S. investment in sugar
- 1887 - U.S. renewed ties and obtained Pearl Harbor as naval station
- Hawaiians a minority in their own land
 - Queen Liliuokalani - "Hawaii for Hawaiians"
- There was a revolt by some pro-American Hawaiians
 - Supported by U.S. diplomat John L. Stevens
 - Queen Liliuokalani overthrown and imprisoned
 - Stevens recognized the provisional govt. that took her place
 - Pineapple grower Sanford B. Dole – President of new Republic of Hawaii
 - Republic of Hawaii sought U.S. annexation
- Liliuokalani appealed to President Cleveland – he demanded that the Queen be restored
 - Cleveland withdrew annex treaty from Senate
 - Provisional govt. ignored him
- U.S. did nothing about it – didn't want to interfere
 - Attitude changed w/ S-A war
 - McKinley decides to annex Hawaii (8/21/1898)
 - Becomes 50th state in 1959

Foreign Policy in Latin America under T. Roosevelt

- Hay-Pauncefote Treaty (1901)
 - W/ GB - U.S. given right to build & control canal in Central America
 - U.S. to maintain neutrality of canal
- Spooner Act (1902)
 - Authorized purchase of French rights to build in Panama (part of Columbia)
 - Negotiate w/ Nicaragua if Columbia refused
- T. Roosevelt's Latin American Policy
- Hay-Herran (Columbia) Treaty - 1903
 - Failed to be approved by Col. Senate
 - Would have granted 99-year lease on canal zone in province of Panama
 - In exchange for \$10 mil. & \$250K/yr
- Panamanian rebels revolted, broke from Columbia - U.S. recognized new country
- Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaty (1903)
 - U.S. given canal zone in perpetuity

Panama Canal

- 10-mile wide zone across Panama
- \$10 mil. & \$250K annually
- Major engineering feat
- Opened in Aug. 1914
- U.S. acquisition did not win U.S. friends in Latin America

Cuba - U.S. Protectorate

- Platt Amendment (1901) the basis for U.S. relationship w/ Cuba
 - Part of Army Appropriations Bill (1901) & later part of Cuban Constitution
 - Cuba could not make treaties that impaired its independence (except w/ U.S. :-)
 - Could not incur debt it could not pay
 - Would Lease Guantanamo Bay to U.S.
 - U.S. could intervene to preserve independence
- U.S. additionally helps provide health, education, and sanitation services to Cuba

Puerto Rico - Commonwealth

- Territory acquired from Spain in 1898
- Foraker Act (1900) - U.S. Congress established govt. of P.R.
 - Elected assembly with an exec. council appointed by U.S. Prez
- Jones Act (1917) - U.S. citizenship for Puerto Ricans, Prez appoints governor
- A commonwealth as of 1952 - semi-independent

Roosevelt Corollary (to the Monroe Doctrine) - 1904

- According to TR - U.S. should assume police power in Western Hemisphere
 - To prevent Euro interference
 - Justified intervention in Latin America
- An interpretation of Monroe Doctrine
- U.S. could prevent nations from acting “wrongly” & inciting foreign intervention
 - “wrongly” included going into debt
- “Speak softly, and carry a big stick”

Taft & Wilson on Latin America

- Dollar Diplomacy of Taft Admin.
 - Dramatic increase in U.S. investment abroad to expand influence
 - “Exchanging bullets for dollars”
 - Policy used to safeguard Panama Canal
- Wilson preferred moral rather than \$ diplomacy
 - Used troops when he had to
 - Favored elected, constitutional govts.

Wilson and Mexico

- Unstable Mex. govt. a problem for U.S.
- 1913 coup by Gen. Victoriano Huerta
 - U.S. biz liked Huerta - Wilson supported his rival, Venustiano Carranza
 - Carranza’s power ↑ w/ U.S. support
- Carranza the eventual leader of Mex.
- Pancho Villa terrorized the Southwest

U.S. foreign policy in Asia

- By 1917 - U.S. controlled: Philippines, Guam, Wake Is., Midway, Johnston Is., Howland & Baker Is., Samoa, Jarvis & Palmyra Is., Hawaii, Alaska, Panama Canal Zone, Virgin Is., Puerto Rico, & Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- Overseas empire required military deployment and alliances to maintain

The Insular Cases 1900-01

- A series of Supreme Court cases defining legal status of Puerto Rico
 - Do citizens of U.S. territories enjoy same rights as Americans?
 - Supreme Court ruled that Constitution did not necessarily follow the flag
 - Congress could grant rights if it desired
 - Ruling effects all U.S. holdings

The Philippines

- 1899 Philippine Insurrection led by Aguinaldo - resisting U.S. occupation
- 3-years of fighting - U.S. waged brutal campaign to crush resistance
 - Similar to Spanish methods

- 1902 - Philippine Government Act
 - Becomes a U.S. Territory w/ citizenship... William H. Taft appointed gov.
- Jones Act (1916) promised eventual independence

Open Door Policy - 1900

- McKinley's Secretary of State John Hay's agreement with Europeans and Japan
 - Equal trading rights for all nations in China
 - Uphold China's independence and territorial integrity
- Boxer Rebellion a rejection by Chinese of foreign intervention
 - Put down by U.S., Japanese & Europeans

T. Roosevelt & Treaty of Portsmouth (1905)

- TR mediated an end to the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)
 - Fought over Manchuria and Korea
- TR won Nobel Peace Prize in 1906
- Taft-Katsura Agreement 1905
 - U.S. & Japan agree not to interfere w/ each other in Pacific (Philippines & Korea)
- Root-Takahira Agreement 1908
 - U.S. & Japan to maintain status quo

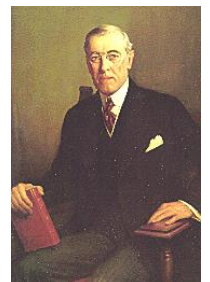
The Great War Begins

- First World War called the “Great War”
 - Bloodiest war in history up to that time
 - About 15 million soldiers and civilians killed
 - 32 different nations involved in some way
 - Settlement of the war left more questions than it solved
 - Legacy of the war was international hatred, extreme nationalism, & economic depression
- 4 **MAIN** long-term causes of the war
 - ❖ **Militarism**
 - ❖ **Alliance system**
 - ❖ **Imperialism**
 - ❖ **Nationalism**
- 1 short-term cause
 - Assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- **Nationalism** = Often extreme patriotism for one’s country
 - People of ethnic or linguistic groups uniting to form countries
 - Desired freedom & self-determination
 - Many willing to go to war to attain goals
 - Examples – Italians, Germans, Serbs
- **Imperialism** = policy & practice of forming & maintaining an empire for control of resources, markets, and territory
 - Major Euro powers busy carving out empires for themselves
 - There was competition for control of colonies
 - French & Germans the strongest rivals
 - French feared growth of German Empire
 - Russians also playing the game
 - Looking to regain lost stature after Russo-Japanese War
 - Considered themselves leader of Slavic peoples
 - Including the Serbs
 - Serbia independent country but millions of Serbs under rule of Austria-Hungary
 - Russia a rival of Austria-Hungary in the Balkans
- **Military Alliance System** – countries banded together through agreements to defend one another against attack
 - By 1914 – 2 major alliances
 - Triple Entente (later the “Allies”)
 - France, Great Britain, & Russia
 - Triple Alliance
 - Germany, Austria-Hungary, & Italy
 - Italy later bows out & Turkey joins
 - From then on known as Central Powers

- **Militarism** – maintaining strong military in preparedness for war
 - Euro powers wanted armies stronger than potential enemies
 - Most powers, including U.S., built up naval fleets
 - Concentrated on battleships
 - Set off an arms race
- Assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand – 6/28/14
 - He & wife shot by Serbian – Gavrilo Princip
 - Member of the Black Hand – organization devoted to unifying all Serbs under one flag (nationalism)
 - Austrians respond by declaring war on Serbia (7/28/14)
 - Had been given a “blank check” of support by Germany
 - Serbia a secret Russian ally – 7/30/14 Russia mobilizes army
 - 8/1/14 – Germany declared war on Russia – felt threatened by Russian build-up
 - 8/3/14 – Germany declared war on France – Russian ally
 - 8/4/14 – Great Britain declared war on Germany
 - Very suddenly – network of alliances led to a world war
- Most Americans saw no reason for involvement in a European war
 - No direct threat to U.S.
 - Most favored allies but not strongly enough to help
 - German invasion of neutral Belgium viewed negatively – especially slaughter of civilians
- Very quickly – war was a stalemate
 - Trench warfare
 - Many new weapons including gas, tanks, flame throwers
 - War of horrors and mass death
- British blockade of German ports – U.S. shipping sometimes seized
 - U.S. claimed neutral shipping rights
 - U.S. protested seizures but continued to trade w/ Britain
 - Though neutral, trade w/ Britain up - trade w/ Germany down
- Germans used submarines to break British blockade & establish own blockade of Britain
 - Unrestricted submarine warfare
 - Angered international community
 - May 7, 1915 sinking of Lusitania caused outrage
 - 1,198 dead (128 Americans)
 - Germans claimed ship was carrying weapons
 - It was – but intl. law said passenger ships must be warned before firing on them
 - Germans actually placed ads in NY papers warning of possible attack on Lusitania
- U.S. protested strongly against German sub warfare
 - Germans agreed not to sink more liners w/out warning
 - Soon broke pledge – torpedoed French vessel Sussex
 - 80 Americans killed
 - U.S. threatened to stop diplomatic relations w/ Germany
 - “Sussex Pledge” by Germans said they would stop attacking ships if the British stopped food blockade against Germany
 - If GB did not lift blockade – more unrestricted sub warfare
- President Wilson tried hard to stay out of war but realized that U.S. had to prepare in case of war
 - Improvements in army & navy
 - Wilson ran for re-election on fact that he kept the U.S. out of the war
 - But also pointed out that he was keeping the military prepared for a fight
 - Also ran on his progressive record
 - Wilson wins a close 1916 election



THE BETTMANN ARCHIVE



- After re-election, Wilson tried to mediate the war
 - Called for “Peace without victory” meaning neither side would impose harsh terms on the other
 - Germans chose to continue unrestricted sub warfare
 - Broke Sussex Pledge – U.S. had threatened to break off diplomatic relations w/ Germany if they did
 - U.S. closer to war
 - Interception of Zimmerman note and sinking of unarmed U.S. ships the last straws
 - Zimmerman note from German foreign secretary to German diplomat in Mexico
 - Suggested alliance between Ger. & Mex.
 - Mex. would attack U.S. – Ger. would help Mex. get back territory lost to U.S.
 - Clearly a threat to U.S.
- April 2, 1917 – Wilson calls for war with Germany
 - War declared April 6, 1917
 - Senate votes 82 - 6
 - House 373 - 50
 - Opposition mainly from mid-west Progressives
 - Americans enter the war with idealistic goals
 - “Making the world safe for Democracy”

The U.S. Joins the Fight

- When he called for war against Germany and the Central Powers (4/2/17), Wilson said “The world must be made safe for democracy”

“We are glad...to fight thus for the ultimate peace of the world and for the liberation of its peoples, the German people included; for the rights of nations great and small and the privilege of men everywhere to choose their way of life...”

- Wilson claimed U.S. had no selfish motives in fighting the war
 - Above claim tested when Russia turns communist
- U.S. had to mobilize the army once war was declared
 - Only had 200K troops in uniform
 - Selective Service Act passed, creating a draft for the war
 - 4.2 million men inducted out of pool of 24 million men
 - Underwent total of 9 months of training
 - Many African American troops – usually segregated
 - Many weapons outdated
 - Air force still small – 55 planes & 130 pilots
 - Industry had to react quickly to make new weapons
- Major task for U.S. – transporting & supplying troops overseas + supporting the Allies – now suffering from the long war
 - Wilson given broad emergency powers by Congress to direct the economy (hold prices in check) and spur the war effort
 - Wilson commanded govt. agencies representing a huge expansion of federal & executive power
 - Govt. agencies included:
 - War Industries Board (under Bernard Baruch) – allocated raw materials, eliminated waste, expanded production
 - War Labor Board – mediated labor disputes to head off possible work stoppages
 - Railroad Administration – controlled & unified rail operations
 - Shipping Board – responsible for transport of troops and materials to Europe (“a bridge of ships” to Europe)
 - Fuel Administration – increased production of fossil fuels and fought wastefulness
 - Food Administration (under Herbert Hoover) – increased farm output, encouraged public conservation (wheatless & meatless)
 - U.S. used a propaganda campaign to “educate the public”
 - Committee on Public Information (George Creel)
 - Task - get people to hate Germans & support the war effort
 - Caused cases of super-Americanism – focused on immigrants (especially German-Americans)...An extreme response to propaganda

- Suspicion of espionage (spying) or sedition (inducing rebellion) sometimes led to violations of civil rights
 - Espionage Act (1917) punished spying, sabotage, obstructing war effort, and banned anti-war material
 - Sedition Act (1918) punished those who spoke or wrote against America or the war effort
 - 1500 pacifists and pro-German critics of the war arrested
 - Leads to a Supreme Court Decision – Schenck v. United States (1919) – 1 of many free speech cases
 - Schenck convicted of violating Espionage Act
 - In the decision, distribution of anti-war material presents a clear & present danger to the U.S.
 - Not protected by 1st Amendment
 - The acts aimed at socialists, anarchists, labor
- To finance the war, the govt.:
 - Raised income taxes
 - Sold war bonds
 - War cost U.S. \$21 billion
- U.S. entry into the war assured the Allies final victory
 - Fresh troops, weapons, etc. while the enemy had no more
 - U.S. Navy helped shut down the U-boats
 - Use of convoy system – merchant ships escorted by military
 - U.S. forces known as the American Expeditionary Force (AEF)
 - Led by General John J. (Blackjack) Pershing
 - AEF was instrumental in repelling German offensives driving toward Paris (battles of Belleau Wood & Chateau-Thierry)
 - Led Allied counteroffensives at St. Mihiel & the Argonne Forest
 - U.S. lost 48K in battle & 56K to disease
 - Russians pulled out of the war soon after the 1917 Russian Revolution
 - Bolsheviks (Communists) signed treaty with Germans 3/3/18
 - No more Eastern Front but too late to benefit Germany
 - By Sept. 1918, Allied power was too much for Germany
 - Defeat of Central Powers was imminent
 - In Nov. 1918, Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated
 - Nov. 11, 1918 – Germany signed an armistice (truce) ending the fighting
 - A peace conference would be held in Versailles, France to decide on a treaty to end the war

Fourteen Points & Wilson's Fight for Peace

- Anticipating the end of the war – Wilson presented a message to Congress on **1/8/1918** that outlined his vision for the post-war world
 - Known as the **14 Points**, Wilson suggested **ground rules for peace**
 - 5 points dealt with **eliminating the causes of the war**
 - No secret treaties, freedom of seas, removal of trade barriers, arms reduction, adjustment of colonial claims
 - 8 dealt with the **self-determination of nations in Europe**
 - Last - **League of Nations** to keep world peace - ancestor of U.N.
- President Wilson went to **Versailles** himself to seek an ideal peace
 - Viewed as moral leader of the Allies – 1st U.S. pres. to go to Europe
 - His partners at the conference, however, wanted Germany to pay
 - Allied delegates known as **the Big Four**
 - Wilson, **Georges Clemenceau** (FR), **David Lloyd George** (GB), and **Vittorio Orlando** (It)
 - France & Britain wanted revenge, Italy wanted land
 - **No delegates from Cen. Powers, Russia, or others**
 - To get agreement on his most important point – the L. of N's – Wilson made concessions on other points
- **Treaty of Versailles** was signed **6/28/1919** – Among the provisions:
 - **9 new nations** were created (among them Poland, Czechoslovakia)
 - Boundaries of others were shifted
 - At the expense of Germany, Austrian Empire, Ottoman Empire
 - **Germany forced to give up all of her colonies** to Allies
 - Become **mandates** – temporary colonies pending independence
 - **Germany had to disarm** – no more than 100K soldiers, no draft, no military in Rhineland, no war industries, navy gutted (no subs!), no military aircraft.
 - **Germany had to accept full responsibility** for starting the war (not true) and agreed to pay **reparations** (\$33 billion) for war damages
 - A **League of Nations** would be formed
- The Treaty of Versailles had **serious flaws**
 - Failed to create a lasting peace
 - Laid groundwork for postwar problems & WWII
 - Germans resented loss of key industrial areas
 - Germans **HATED** war guilt clause – contributed to rise of **Hitler**
 - **Russia**, which fought for Allies & lost more soldiers than any other country, lost more land than Germany
 - Allies purposefully set up a buffer zone of new countries to halt the spread of **communism**
 - U.S. troops in Russia during civil war that followed revolution
 - Allegedly ensuring free movement of Trans-Siberian RR
 - Evidence suggests that U.S. was supporting **White (anti-Communist) Russians**
 - Russia (USSR in 1922) would become determined to get land back – would form a secret alliance with Germany before WWII to get land in return for support

- Austria-Hungary broken up in separate treaty
 - New countries, including Czechoslovakia, formed
 - German-speaking people in Austria-Hungary were placed in the **Sudetenland** - one of the first areas taken by Hitler before WWII
 - Austria was forbidden *anschluss* (union) with Germany
- Treaty of Versailles was arguably harsh to Germany
 - Ger. not the only one at fault
 - Ger. unarmed while everyone else remained armed
 - Wounded German pride would come back to haunt Europe
- Also arguable that T of V was fair but not enforced
 - Land taken from Germany and others was divided based on nationality or (as in case of mandates) independence
 - Key exceptions – Saar Valley, Polish Corridor & Danzig, Sudetenland
 - Disarming Germany a step toward world disarmament
 - League of Nations a positive move – though it would have no teeth
 - Established a world court to investigate aggression but could only make recommendations
- Wilson came back to the U.S. to get **Senate** approval of the Treaty of Versailles
 - Surprised at number of groups that objected to it for several reasons
 - **Main sticking point was the League of Nations**
 - **Irreconcilables** were suspicious of U.S. role in the L of N
 - **Hiram Johnson, Bob La Follette**
 - Dead set against treaty – would give up U.S. sovereignty
 - Would Congress have authority to approve U.S. actions with the L of N?
 - **Moderate opposition – Henry Cabot Lodge** (R-Senate Majority Leader)
 - Concerned that U.S. would get dragged into other wars
 - What if U.S. opposed L of N activities?
 - Desperate to win passage of the treaty, Wilson went on U.S. tour
 - Explaining to people the need for passage of the treaty
 - Trip exhausted him – **suffered a stroke** during the tour
 - Unable to champion his cause with the people – Wilson could only watch the treaty lose in the Senate
 - Due to Lodge's opposition
- U.S. signed **separate treaty** with Germany in 1921 – T of V went into effect **without the U.S.**
 - Most important – the **U.S. never joined the League of Nations**