

Thomas Woodrow Wilson
1856 - 1924

- 28th President of the United States
- Born in Staunton, Virginia in 1856
- Studied in Davidson College, Princeton, and University of Virginia for law school in 1879
- First law practice in Atlanta in 1882
- Focused on American Constitutional structure
- Started Congressional Government
 - * Considered his best political work
- Believed the system of checks and balances was the cause of many problems
 - * The divided power made it impossible for voters to see who was accountable for wrong-doing.
- Election of 1912
 - * Ran for president on democratic ticket.
 - * Against Theodore Roosevelt (Progressive Party) and William Howard Taft (Republican Party).
 - * Won with 41.8% of votes but 435 electoral votes.
- The Federal Reserve Act 1913
 - * created to outmaneuver bankers and the enemies of banks.
- The Underwood Tariff Act 1913
 - * lowered the tariff.
- World War I
 - * Spent 1914 to 1917 keeping America out of the war in Europe
 - * Allies and Central Powers did not take him seriously
- Election of 1916
 - * Re-nominated
 - * During World War I
 - * Against Charles Hughes (Republican Party) and Theodore Roosevelt (Progressive Party).
 - * Wilson won narrowly.
- Fourteen Points
 - * Intended to resolve territorial disputes, ensure free trade and commerce, and established a peacemaking organization.
 - * Later emerged as League of Nations.
 - * Became base of Treaty of Versailles after WWI
- Race
 - * While president of Princeton University, did not allow any African American Students.
 - * Allowed cabinet officials to create segregation in most federal government offices.

- * Fired many African American Republican office holders, but hired few African American Democrats.
- Treaty
 - * Republican Henry Cabot Lodge proposed a treaty that would weaken the league.
 - * President Wilson did not agree, wanted the treaty he created; Treaty of Versailles.
 - * Traveled the nation to persuade them to agree with his treaty.
- Health
 - * On Sept. 25 1919, he collapsed from exhaustion after speaking in Pueblo, Colorado about the treaty and the league.
 - * He suffered a stroke one week later in Washington at the age of 63. He was left partially paralyzed.
 - * When Lodge's treaty was put out for voting President Wilson, unable to attend, urged the democrats to vote against it.
 - * On March 19 1920, during the 1920 election, the votes were 49 to 35 with 21 Democrats voting for Lodge's treaty.
 - * However, when ratified, the votes for the 2/3 ratification was short by 7 votes.
 - *The United States did not join the League of Nations and did not sign the treaty of Versailles.