

- WWI
 - June 28, 1914
 - Archduke Ferdinand assassinated by Gavrilo Princip
 - It = trigger
 - Europe divided
 - US = regional power
 - Traditionally = neutral
 - Wilson: US remain “impartial”
 - NOTE: Impact of immigration
 - Both sides want US aid
 - Launch propaganda war – Allies = advantage
 - War impacts US economy
 - Fears of depression
 - US transformed from debtor to creditor
 - Pre-war: Brits = largest holder of US securities
 - To finance war, Allies borrow
 - NOTE: Sec of State William Jennings Bryan
 - Wilson’s attitude shifts
 - Sec of State William Gibbs McAdoo
 - US economically tied to Allies
 - Regards interference with trade violation of neutrality
 - Wilson – “Rights of Neutrals” key
 - Tensions grow with both sides
 - Brits = 3 headaches
 - Brits don’t budge
 - Wilson outraged yet sympathetic
 - Germans = U-boats
 - Germans willing to alter
 - Wilson manipulates
 - » NOTE: Sec of State Bryan
 - RMS Lusitania
 - Wilson protests
 - Sussex Pledge – May 4, 1916
 - Wilson ignores

- Decision to fight
 - Wilson initially tries to moderate
 - Sends Col. Edward House twice
 - Neither side interested
 - Wilson caves to *jingoists*
 - Calls for enlargement of military
 - NOTE: blocks GOP using issue in Election of 1916
 - GOP nominated Justice Charles Evans Hughes
 - Dems nominated Wilson
 - TR campaigned for Hughes
 - Hughes stumbles - straddles issue of war & peace
 - Wilson uses Sussex Pledge & domestic reforms
 - Election close – CA decides
 - Wilson continues mediation attempts
 - Outlines plan – “Peace without Victory”
 - Calls for League of Nations
 - Americans = enthusiastic
 - Allies = withdrawal of US sympathy
 - Germans = opportunity
 - Wilson ends diplomatic relations with German
 - Still wishes to avoid war
 - 4 Incidents fuel fire
 - 1) Kingsland Explosion
 - 2) Zimmerman Telegram to Von Eckardt
 - 3) Russian Revolution
 - 4) Unrestricted U-boat warfare
 - April 2nd, 1917 – Wilson seeks declaration of war
 - US entry = perfect for Allies
 - Losing on all fronts
 - Rapid mobilization
 - Selective Service Act of 1917
 - War financing - ½ thru taxes; ½ thru Liberty Loans
 - Council of National Defense
 - For labor - Samuel Gompers given seat

- Civil Liberties curtailed
 - Anti-war sentiment
 - Committee on Public Information
 - George Creel – prominent muckraker
 - Espionage Act of 1917
 - Sedition Act of 1918
- US Army in action
 - June 26, 1917 - Arrive in France
 - Gen. John “Blackjack” Pershing
 - Troops inadequately trained
 - Allies see troops as “replacements”
 - Pershing fights policy
 - US troops remain separate
 - 1st Test = German thrust May 1918
 - 1st Offensive – Battle of Saint Mihiel
 - Pershing reinvents battle strategy
 - Summer – Nov= US engage in fiercest battles in US history
 - Ex. Battle of Argonne Forest
 - US helps Allies end war
 - November 11th at 11:00am – Armistice
 - Peace still unsettled
- Peace of Paris
 - Wilson arrives in Europe
 - Vision = peace without victor
 - Wilson’s 14 Points
 - » First 5 points = remove causes of war
 - » Next 8 points = territorial readjustments
 - » 14th Point = League of Nations
 - Challenge = secret Allies agreements
 - Wilson refused to consider
 - Allies = IOUs now due
 - Complication – Bolsheviks seize Russia
 - Vladimir Lenin & Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

- Allies use “peace talks” to gain rewards
 - Result = division among Big 4
 - Wilson seeks 14 Points
 - David Lloyd George
 - Georges Clemenceau
 - Vittorio Orlando
 - Allies use Wilson’s 14th Point to ignore first 13
 - Plus, aware of Wilson’s political problems
 - Sen Henry Cabot Lodge (R-MA)
 - GOP flips Congress in 1918 mid-terms
 - Wilson’s blinded by desire for League
 - Five treaties make up Peace of Paris
 - Most significant = Treaty of Versailles (1919)
 - » Germany militarily, economically, & territorially crushed
 - » Worst = Article 231
 - League of Nations
 - Focus = maintaining peace
 - Three bodies
 - » The Assembly
 - » The Council
 - » Court of International Justice
 - Member pledge
 - Like UN, League = impotent
 - Wilson vs. Senate
 - Treaty ratification = 2/3s vote
 - To achieve, had to:
 - » 1) persuade GOP
 - » 2) Keep support of people
 - Confronted by
 - » Sen Henry Cabot Lodge
 - » “Irreconcilables”
 - Made case to the People
 - » Suffers series of strokes
 - Key point of opposition – League diminish Congress’s war powers

- Lodge proposes ratification with “reservations”
- Wilson rejects
- League membership dies by 7 votes
- NOTE: League created without US
 - Cannot control post-war period
 - German humiliation leads to hope of resurrection
 - Result = WWII