

AP US History

Chapter 20- The Progressives

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Key Concepts

What are this chapter's key concepts?

- **6.1.I.E** - Businesses began to turn outside of the U.S. to control foreign markets/resources
- **7.2.I.C** - WWI saw restrictions on freedom of speech w/ fears of radicalism → attacks on immigrants, unions
- **7.2.II.B** - ↑ demand for production/labor during WWI/WWII, Great Depression → ↑ urban migrations
- **7.2.II.C** - Great Migration during/after WWI saw Afr. Americans departing South for North/West to escape discrimination; still far from perfect
- **7.3.II.A** - Initial U.S. WWI neutrality reversed by Wilson to defend democratic principles of nation
- **7.3.II.B** - American Expeditionary Forces never played major combat role; arrival of U.S. → conflict began to favor Allies
- **7.3.II.C** - U.S. Senate would not ratify Treaty of Versailles or join League of Nations despite Wilson's signif. involvement in their creation

America and the World: 1901-1917

How did America interact with the foreign world before WWI?

Roosevelt focused on the distinction between civilized and uncivilized nations as well as attempting to limit disputes between other nations; however, he was never afraid to show U.S. power as a threat. In Latin America, Roosevelt established the U.S. right to intervene in unstable Latin American governments; he also ensured the construction of the Panama Canal by encouraging a Panamanian Revolution. Taft focused on strengthening American investments in outside territories. Wilson hoped to take a more moral stance on diplomacy; however, he was never afraid to establish a military government or go to war with another nation over a conflict of ideology.

How did Roosevelt argue the importance of civilized nations?

- Roosevelt felt "civilized" nations defined by race (white-dominated) as well as economic prominence (ex: Japan would be considered "civilized" for its great prosperity)
- Natural duty of civilized societies to assist/intervene in "backward" nations → inspired rapid growth of American navy

Roosevelt used racial and economic justifications for the natural superiority of certain "civilized" nations. It was the fundamental duty of such nations to assist the more "backward" ones.

How did Roosevelt protect Asian free trade?

- Russo-Japanese War stimulated by surprise Japanese attack mediated by Roosevelt at request of Japanese
 - Roosevelt formalized Japanese territorial gains as well as received Japanese agreement to cease aggression
 - Secretly agreed to preserve free trade w/ Japanese
- Roosevelt respected for work as mediator (Nobel Peace Prize); relations quickly deteriorated w/ Japan becoming dominant Pacific naval power → pushed out U.S. from trading w/ territories
 - U.S. asserted naval dominance w/ show of "Great White Fleet," demonstrating immense naval power

Roosevelt helped mediate the Russo-Japanese War, benefiting the U.S. by receiving a secret free trade agreement with the Japanese. As Japan grew more prosperous, they began to exclude the U.S. from several ports, forcing the U.S. to assert their naval dominance to Japan with a bold display of power.

How did the U.S. interact with Latin America?

- 1902: Venezuelan govt. unable to pay back debts to Euro. bankers → GB, Italy, Germany blockaded coast w/ Germany bombarding port → U.S. naval threat pushed away
- 1904: Roosevelt established **Roosevelt Corollary** to Monroe Doctrine stressing ability of U.S. to intervene in unstable governments of Western Hemisphere
 - Motivated by Dominican Republic crisis, unable to pay back debts to Europe after internal revolution → U.S. controlled customs, keeping 45% of revenue internal, 55% to Euro. creditors
 - Cuba's agreement to Platt Amendment (U.S. could intervene in foreign affairs) saw U.S. grant independence; U.S. troops quickly intervened in 1906 w/ domestic uprisings

Roosevelt passed a corollary to the Monroe Doctrine which allowed the U.S. to intervene in unstable governments of the Western Hemisphere. It justified American intervention in Dominican Republic customs as the government faced bankruptcy as well as a domestic Cuban uprising.

How did Roosevelt oversee the construction of the Panama Canal?

- Roosevelt turned to Isthmus of Panama in Colombia for canal linking Atlantic and Pacific due to short distance (despite not being at sea level → extra cost for locks), existing (but failed) construction by French company
- Sent John Hay (sec. of state) to negotiate w/ Colombian govt., pressuring into agreement to give U.S. six-mile "canal zone"
 - Colombian senate refused, demanding higher price
 - Roosevelt encouraged revolution in Panama w/ new govt. independent of Colombia; resisted Colombian attempts at putting down
 - Panamanian govt. agreed to terms w/ work soon beginning
- Panama Canal opened in 1914

Roosevelt sought to link the Atlantic and Pacific with a sea route; he turned to the Colombian Isthmus of Panama. After the Colombian senate failed to agree to U.S. terms, Roosevelt encouraged a revolution in Panama, creating a new independent nation which quickly agreed to the desired terms.

How did Taft employ his "Dollar Diplomacy" policy?

- Taft had little interest in Roosevelt's broad goal for world stability; instead sought to bring US investments to other regions
- Targeted Caribbean: after 1909 rev. in Nicaragua, sided w/ rebels, sending troops to restore peace
 - American bankers offered loans to new Nicaraguan govt. → financial power
 - U.S. troops sent in and remained to protect govt.

Taft's "Dollar Diplomacy" policy sought to promote U.S. investment interests worldwide, particularly in the Caribbean, where he supported and offered loans to Nicaraguan insurgents.

How did Wilson embody the principle of "Moral Diplomacy"?

- Wilson faced large international challenges despite little experience in foreign affairs; mostly strengthened Roosevelt-Taft policies
- Wilson established mil. govt. in Dom. Repub.; sent marines to calm rev. in Haiti, remaining until 1934
- Bought Danish West Indies after fear that Germany would take over; signed treaty w/ Nicaragua agreeing to bar all other nations from building canals there
- In Mexico (w/ large American business presence), leader Díaz had been overthrown by popular Madero; U.S. govt. encouraged Huerta to depose him, w/ Taft admin. preparing to recognize Huerta govt.
 - Huerta murdered Madero shortly before Wilson → refused to recognize as valid govt.
 - Wilson hoped refusing recognition would end regime; American businessmen agreed w/ mil. regime → using pretense of Mexican army incorrectly arresting U.S. soldiers, giving insufficient apology to seize port of Veracruz
 - Wilson's attack on Veracruz → Carranza (Constitutionalist) took control, but Wilson remained unsatisfied due to limited support of U.S. guidelines
 - Forced to recognize Carranza after orig. U.S. ally, Pancho Villa, greatly weakened → Villa felt betrayed, shooting U.S. miners in Mexico, killing several more past NM border
 - U.S. troops unsuccessfully pursued Carranza, engaging only in a few spars w/ Carranza's army → war betw. U.S. and MX seemed close until Wilson withdrew due to world war

Wilson took an active role in foreign affairs, never afraid to send the military to a potentially dangerous or economically beneficial region, including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the Danish West Indies. In Mexico, constant conflict unfolded as governments rapidly transitioned; after the U.S. abandoned an early Mexican ally and they pursued him for his retaliation, the U.S. and Mexico seemed once again close to war.

The Road to War

How did America initially approach the Great War?

War broke out in 1914 in Europe due to the long-term rivalry between Britain and Germany. Wilson initially proclaimed American neutrality, but struggled greatly due to British economic ties, angering the Germans and promoting attacks on U.S. vessels; he even won the reelection by emphasizing his policy of neutrality. However, angered by continual German aggression, he ultimately chose to prepare for the war in 1915 and entered the war on April 2nd, 1917.

How did war break out in Europe?

- By 1914, two alliances: "Triple Entente" of GB, FR, RU and "Triple Alliance" of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
 - Main rivalry betw. GB/Germany as Germany began to approach Britain in colonial and naval supremacy
- Immediate conflict: Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated in Sarajevo in June 1914 by Serbian nationalist
 - Germany supported Austria-Hungary in attacking Serbia; Serbia requested Russian assistance
 - Germany had declared war on Russia/France by August → invaded Belgium; GB quickly joined war to honor alliance w/ France, attack Germany
 - Italy initially neutral, later w/ Triple Entente; Ottoman Empire joined later → entire continent, part of Asia engaged in war

The long-term cause of the war was a rivalry between Britain and Germany due to their competing colonial interests. The war was immediately stimulated by the assassination of Franz Ferdinand; nations began to take sides and soon became embroiled in war.

How did Wilson initially proclaim neutrality in the war?

- Wilson initially declared neutrality, but supported British cause (along w/ many others) due to admiration of GB, skilled propaganda; some German/Irish Americans supported Germany
- Strong econ. ties to Britain, unable to trade w/ Germany due to British naval blockade; could afford to cut ties w/ Germany, other Central Powers but not w/ Britain and France (particularly due to ↑ wartime demands)
- Germans began to attack vessels shipping goods to GB using submarines; after sinking British passenger ship carrying 128 Americans, great anger; Wilson demanded German commitment to neutrality w/ agreement but very reluctant
- After Allies began to sink German submarines, Germany began attacking unarmed French boats → Americans injured

Although the U.S. declared neutrality, their trading ties with Britain made it increasingly difficult. Seeking to cut off supplies, Germany often attacked American shipping vessels, once even sinking a British passenger vessel and killing 128 Americans. Tensions began to rise between the two nations.

How did Wilson partake in the debate between preparedness and pacifism?

- Facing reelection, Wilson was forced to address question of war; initially sided w/ antipreparedness forces but later changed mind w/ fall 1915 seeing increase in armed forces, working hard for Congressional approval
- Congressional peace side saw ↑ strength → Wilson began to argue that his work had kept nation out of war; opponent, Charles E. Hughes, far more likely
- Wilson won election narrowly

Wilson eventually decided it was best for the nation to prepare for the potential of war, greatly expanding the size of the American navy despite Congressional opposition. In winning reelection, he stressed that his work had helped keep the nation safe and away from war.

How did the war ultimately begin as a battle for democracy?

- Wilson took idealistic approach: felt U.S. had no material benefit, rather fighting for new world order for peaceful league of nations after conclusion of war
- Several provocations essentially forced intervention
 - Germans sought to sink all Allied defense ships before U.S. could intervene
 - Foreign minister Zimmermann sent telegram to Mexico asking to join war if U.S. joined, in exchange for all "lost provinces" in Southwest
 - Overthrow of Russian monarchy for republican govt. → no shame in intervening
- Wilson gave powerful speech to Congress asking to join war; some opposition but eventually approved

Wilson joined the war for the sake of promoting democratic ideals: American entry to war was promoted by the continual German attacking of U.S. and Allied ships, the German offer to Mexico in the Zimmermann Telegram for Mexico to join the war against the U.S. in exchange for their lost territories, and the democratization of Russia.