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| Wilson, Woodrow (1856-1924) |
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| Thomas Woodrow Wilson served two terms as the 28th President of the United States (1913-1921) and is remembered for leading the nation through World War I. Wilson graduated from Princeton University in 1879 and briefly attended the University of Virginia Law School before earning his doctorate from the Johns Hopkins University in 1886. After an early career in academia, Wilson later became president of Princeton University (1902-1910) and served one term as Governor of New Jersey (1911-1913). In the Presidential election of 1912, Wilson was elected with running mate Thomas R. Marshall on a Democratic platform that stressed individualism and states’ rights.  Wilson expanded the role of the federal government in regulating the economy during his Presidency and is remembered for three pieces of Progressive legislation: the Revenue Act of 1913 which reduced traffic on imports and reinstituted a graduated federal income tax; the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 which allowed for greater regulation of banks, credit and money supply through the establishment of the Federal Reserve banks and system; and the Federal Trade Commission Act of 1914 which prohibited unfair business practices and fraudulent advertising. In 1916 he supported legislation that prohibited child labor with the Child Labor Reform Act, and helped to enact an eight-hour workday for railroad workers. He is also remembered for nominating the first Jewish justice to the U.S. Supreme Court, Louis Brandeis. Although during his presidential campaign Wilson assured greater racial equality, once in office he reneged on those promises. Wilson’s administration reintroduced racial segregation in governmental offices—not federal policy since 1863—and allowed the dismissal of many African-Americans from their federal positions. |
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| Further reading:  (Goehlert and Childress) |