**Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson**

Like it or not, in the current era, the United States, as the only superpower around the world has taken the responsibility to maintain global order of the world for serveral decades already. Modern people always tend to regard it as a nation that holds intervenism, or to the opponents of the United States, even imperialism. But it is not always the cases when we take a look back to its history, and we can find that this nation has a very long history of being supporter of isolationism.

As watersheds of the United States' diplomatic policy, Spanish-American War and the World War I have played an very important role in the transition and the presidents during this epoch also have very similar but very distinctive opinions about what role the United States of America should play in the world.

Both Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson are heavily influenced by Monroe Doctrine, but represent different aspects of it. During both wars mentioned above, the United States had tried to maintain its neutrality and did not want to involved in the battles with European powers. One good example is President Wilson tried his best to stay away from the battlefield and even want to negotiate with Germans after the first time boat carrying US citizens on Atlantic Ocean was sunk (Johnson). And of course, Germans continued their Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, which finally forced President Wilson to join the war.

But on the other hand, neither will they allow those Europeans to put a finger on the Western Hemisphere. When getting the backyard, they both turned into pretty tough guys. When Spain got involved in affairs of Cuba, Roosevelt took his "Rough Riders" to beat those Spanishs badly in San Juan and took Guam, Puerto Rico and Philipine from them. Morever, when there's national interest in Latin America, both Roosevelt and Wilson are resolved quickly to deploy power in the region. For example, in order to get the Panama Canal, he helped Panama to get its independence from Colombia. And Wilson, even more frequently applied his power to intervene, Mexico in 1914, Haiti in 1915, the Dominican Republic in 1916, Cuba in 1917, and Panama in 1918 (Wikipedia). Which illustrates how similar President Roosevelt and President Wilson are in foreign affairs.

However, it seems that Roosevelt and Wilson applied their power and policy because of very different reasons. Roosevelt, as an imperialist, held the idea that it is United States' natual right to govern the whole western hamisphere, but as Johnson mentioned in his book, "not exactly Godgiven but arising naturally out of the circumstances of the hemisphere and the United States’ proponderant power within it, to operate as a hemispheric policeman". And he also had his own judgement on how a certain region should be treated as well. As he said in his speech *The Strenuous Life,* " Porto Rico is not large enough to stand alone", " Cuba is entitled ultimately to settle for itself whether it shall be an independent state or an integral portion of the mightiest of republics" and "their people(Filipinos) are utterly unfit for self-government, and show no signs of becoming fit" (Roosevelt). It seems like in his mind, the United States, as a powerful and advanced civilization, should be like a instructor, even a parent to other nations that are consisted by savages. It comes out of a feeling of superiority. That feeling can surely explain why president Roosevelt is a ardent supporter of expansion of US millitary and accused those statesmen who got in his way.

On the other hand, Wilson is more like a moralist, idealist or a clergy, it seems that there are some kinds of moral obligations to him. In his address talking about the World War I, he did not just tried to maintain US's neutrality, but also strive for the peace of the Europe. He furtherly elaborate that a "peace without victory" would be necessary since "victory would mean peace forced upon the loser, a victor's terms imposed upon the vanquished". Instead of acting like a global police, Wilson is more preferrable to a collective power of the nations around the world and create an equaliy of rights based on common strength (Wilson). Based on this principle Wilson extended Monroe's Doctrine into "no nation should seek to extend its polity over any other nation or people, but that every people should be left free to determine its own polity, its own way of development, unhindered, unthreatened, unafraid, the little along with the great and powerful", which is exactly why Wilson proposed the establishment of the League of Nations. Though at last he failed to convinced the congress controlled by Republicans to permit the enrollment of the organization founded based on his own proposal, his idealist faith can be clearly seen anyway. Unlike President Roosevelt the imperialist, to me, Wilson seems more like an internationalist. Expansion is never his first concern.