

# The Presidency of Woodrow Wilson

A Handout for the CCC Class, September, 2011  
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## *Selected References*

1. John Milton Cooper, Jr., *Woodrow Wilson: A Biography*, Random House, 2009. \*\*\*\*\*
2. Louis L. Gould, *The Modern American Presidency*, University Press of Kansas, 2003. \*\*\*
3. Charles L. Mee, Jr., *The End of Order: Versailles 1919*, Dutton, New York, 1980. \*\*
4. Edmund Morris, *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*, Coward, McCann, & Geoghegan, New York, 1979. \*\*\*\*\*
5. Edmund Morris, *Theodore Rex*, Random House, New York, 2001. \*\*\*\*\*
6. Edmund Morris, *Colonel Roosevelt*, Random House, New York, 2010. \*\*\*\*\*
7. Barbara W. Tuchman, *The Guns of August*, Macmillan, New York, 1962. \*\*\*\*
8. For audios of campaign speeches by Woodrow Wilson, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and do a search for "Woodrow Wilson speech. " There are 2- to 4-minute excerpts from six 1912 speeches on domestic issues, including the regulation of trusts, monopolies, the minimum wage, special interests, and the Payne-Aldrich tariff.

## *Quiz*

1. What was Woodrow Wilson's middle name?
2. Who was the last U.S. President to have fought in the Civil War?
3. Who was the last U.S. President born before or during the Civil War?
4. Who was the last U.S. President born in Virginia?
5. Which U.S. Presidents were graduates of Princeton?
6. Which presidential election featured candidates who were graduates of Harvard, Princeton, and Yale?
7. In which presidential election did a third party candidate come in second in the popular vote?
8. Which U.S. Presidents spoke fluent Mandarin Chinese?
9. Which U.S. Presidents took the oath of office from a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who was from Louisiana?
10. Who was the first President to ride to and from his inauguration in an automobile?
11. Who was the first President to hold regular press conferences?
12. Which U.S. Presidents spoke German fluently?
  - a. John Quincy Adams
  - b. Theodore Roosevelt
  - c. Woodrow Wilson

- d. Franklin D. Roosevelt
13. Who was Secretary of State under President Wilson?
- a. Edward M. House
  - b. William Jennings Bryan
  - c. Robert Lansing
  - d. Bainbridge Colby
14. Whom did Woodrow Wilson appoint to the Supreme Court?
- a. James McReynolds
  - b. Louis Brandeis
  - c. John Hessin Clarke
15. Which of these U.S. Vice-Presidents became President by succession when the sitting President died?
- a. John Adams
  - b. Thomas Jefferson
  - c. Martin Van Buren
  - d. John Tyler
  - e. Millard Fillmore
  - f. Andrew Johnson
  - g. Chester A. Arthur
  - h. Theodore Roosevelt
16. In which presidential election did the candidates include a past president, an incumbent president, and a future president?
17. In which U.S. presidential election did women first vote?
18. In 1912, who won all but one of the Republican primaries? Who was the Republican nominee that year?
19. The day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration in 1912, there was a big parade in Washington, D.C. What was it for?
20. Who were the first three presidents to present State of the Union messages to Congress in person?
21. Which constitutional amendments took effect during Woodrow Wilson's presidency?
- a. The Sixteenth, establishing the federal income tax.
  - b. The Seventeenth, ordering the direct popular election of Senators.
  - c. The Eighteenth – Prohibition.
  - d. The Nineteenth, giving women the vote.
22. Charles Evans Hughes ran against Woodrow Wilson in 1916. He was a Supreme Court Justice, and had twice been governor of New York. In the 1906 governor's race, whom did he defeat?
23. On January 16, 1917, German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann sent a cable to President Venustiano Carranza of Mexico which began, "It is our purpose on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February to commence the unrestricted U-boat warfare." Why did he send it to Mexico? Why did the British, who had intercepted it, delay making it public?
24. What President does this statement describe? In an off-year election, he opposed Senators of his own party in state nominating primaries, and did so successfully.

25. During Wilson's administration, Eugene V. Debs was imprisoned for speaking against U.S. entry into World War I. What president pardoned him?
26. What U.S. President spent the most time out of the country while in office?
27. Who was the first U.S. President to meet the Pope while in office?
28. Why did Woodrow Wilson not want to be buried in Arlington?
29. Which U.S. Presidents are buried in Washington, D.C.?
30. Which U.S. Presidents are buried in churches?

## *Chronology*

- December 28, 1856: WW was born in Staunton, Virginia.
- Fall, 1872: WW enrolled in Davidson College in North Carolina for one year.
- Fall, 1875: WW entered Princeton University.
- Fall, 1879: WW entered the University of Virginia Law School.
- May, 1882: WW began the practice of law in Atlanta.
- April 8, 1883: WW met Ellen Louise Axson.
- June, 1883: WW bought his first typewriter, a Caligraph.
- Fall, 1883: WW entered graduate school at Johns Hopkins.
- 1884: WW wrote a book, *Congressional Government*, which has never gone out of print.
- June 24, 1885: WW married Ellen Louise Axson (born May 15, 1860).
- Fall 1885: WW joined the faculty of Bryn Mawr.
- May 1886: WW received his doctorate from Johns Hopkins.
- June 1888: WW became a full professor at Wesleyan (Middletown, Connecticut), where he organized a debating society and coached football and baseball.
- Fall 1890: WW joined the faculty at Princeton (then the "College of New Jersey").
- 1892: The University of Illinois offered WW its presidency.
- 1893: WW reads Edmund Burke again, and calls him the primary influence on his political philosophy.
- May, 1896: WW suffered severe pain and numbness in his right hand, possibly due to a small stroke.
- 1896: WW met TR for the first time.
- 1896: WW gave the keynote address at the observance of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Princeton University.
- November, 1896: William McKinley defeated William Jennings Bryan for the U.S. Presidency.
- 1898: The University of Virginia offered WW its presidency.
- October 25, 1902: WW was inaugurated as President of Princeton University. Robert Todd Lincoln, Grover Cleveland, J. P. Morgan, and Booker T. Washington were present. Theodore Roosevelt was injured at the time and unable to attend.
- May 28, 1906: WW awoke blind in his left eye, due to a hemorrhage, due to atherosclerosis. Though advised to give up all active work, he spent the summer in England and then returned to the presidency of Princeton.

- Winter of 1907 and 1908: While vacationing in Bermuda, he met Mary Allen Peck Hulbert, forming a lifelong friendship.
- January 17, 1911: WW was inaugurated as Governor of New Jersey.
- November, 1912: WW was elected President. He got 6.3 million votes, TR 4.1 million, WHT 3.5 million, and EVD 900,000.
- April 9, 1914: The US intervened in the Mexican civil war.
- May 17, 1914: William Gibbs McAddo, Secretary of the Treasury, became WW's son-in-law by marrying Nell (Eleanor Randolph Wilson).
- August 6, 1914: Ellen Axson Wilson died of Bright's disease.
- March, 1915: WW met Edith Bolling Galt, a widow.
- May 7, 1915: Germany sank the Lusitania.
- December 18, 1915: WW married Edith Bolling Galt (born October 15, 1872).
- January 2, 1916: Germany sank the British liner Persia. August 1916: The Jones Act was adopted. It provided the Philippines "a more autonomous government."
- November, 1916: WW was elected to a second term. WW got 9.1 million votes, Charles Evans Hughes 8.5 million. The Democrats retained control of Congress.
- December 1916, January 1917: WW's peace note.
- February 1, 1917: Germany unleashed submarine warfare, taking off all restraints on the sinking of ships in the Atlantic theater.
- February 28, 1917: The Zimmermann telegram became public.
- April 6, 1917: Congress declared war.
- April 28, 1917: Congress passed the military draft.
- December 26, 1917: WW seized the railroads.
- January 8, 1918: In an address to Congress, WW presented his Fourteen Points.
- November 5, 1918: The Republicans took control of both houses of Congress.
- November 11, 1918: Armistice! World War I ended.
- The House on January 10 and the Senate on June 4, 1919, passed the women's suffrage amendment.
- December 3, 1918 to February 15, 1919: WW's first trip to Europe.
- February 25, 1919 to July 8, 1919: WW's second trip to Europe.
- August 25, 1919: The Wilsons give their last party in the White House.
- September 3, 1919: WW began his great speaking tour in support of the League.
- October 2, 1919: WW suffered a stroke.
- October 14, 1919: WWW contracted severe prostatitis.
- February 12, 1920: Robert Lansing resigned as Secretary of State.
- July 6, 1920: Governor James Cox of Ohio was nominated for President on the 44<sup>th</sup> ballot at the Democratic convention in San Francisco.
- November 2, 1920: Warren G. Harding was elected President. He got 16 million votes, James Cox 9 million, EVD 900,000.
- October, 1921: President Harding submitted to the Senate the Treaty of Versailles, without the League of Nations, where it was approved.
- August 2, 1923: President Harding died.
- February 3, 1924: WW died.
- December 28, 1961: Edith Bolling Galt Wilson died of congestive heart failure.

## *Answers*

1. His full name was Thomas Woodrow Wilson.
2. William McKinley
3. Woodrow Wilson
4. Woodrow Wilson
5. James Madison and Woodrow Wilson
6. 1912: Roosevelt from Harvard, Taft from Yale, and Wilson from Princeton.
7. 1912: Theodore Roosevelt, of the Progressive (or "Bull Moose") Party, came in second.
8. Only one: Herbert Hoover.
9. Edward Douglass White swore in Woodrow Wilson twice and Warren G. Harding once.
10. Warren G. Harding.
11. Woodrow Wilson.
12. Only one, FDR, who was fluent in French and German, although all four were competent to some degree in several languages, including German.
13. Bryan, Lansing, and Colby.
14. All of them.
15. Tyler, Fillmore, Johnson, Arthur, and Roosevelt.
16. 1912. Past President Roosevelt, President Taft, future President Wilson.
17. The election of Warren G. Harding in 1920 was the first in which the Nineteenth Amendment was in effect, but women had voted for President in 27 states prior to 1920. They have done so in Wyoming since 1870.
18. In 1912, TR won all but one of the Republican primaries, but Taft was the Republican nominee that year.
19. Women's suffrage.
20. George Washington, John Adams, and Woodrow Wilson.
21. All of them (respectively in 1913, 1913, 1919, and 1920).
22. William Randolph Hearst.
23. He sent it to Mexico, promising them Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona if they would join Germany against the U.S. The British had to delay making the telegram public lest the Germans find out their code had been broken.
24. Woodrow Wilson. Senator James Vardaman (Mississippi) and Thomas Hardwick (Georgia) were defeated in their Democratic primaries.
25. Warren G. Harding.
26. Woodrow Wilson.
27. Woodrow Wilson.
28. The Arlington property had been taken from Robert E. Lee, unjustly in Wilson's opinion.
29. Only one: Woodrow Wilson.
30. Only one: Woodrow Wilson, in the National Cathedral.