

I. A Brief History of American Foreign Policy

A. Isolationism

1. In his Farewell Address in 1796, President George Washington urged Americans to avoid entangling alliances and maintain neutrality.
2. Since then, the United States went in and out of periods of isolationism until their involvement in World War II.

B. Monroe Doctrine

1. In 1823, President James Monroe introduced the Monroe Doctrine. It stated that Europe was to stay out of the Americas, and the United States would stay out of European affairs.
2. This remained in effect until the US started to seek imperial gains later in the 19th century.

C. American Imperialism

1. The US began to emerge as a world power in the late 19th century. Victory in the Spanish-American War increased US involvement and colonial power in Latin America and the Philippines.
2. The US also created the Open Door Policy to get greater control in the global trade with China. Hawaii was also annexed for economic gains.

D. Roosevelt Corollary

1. In 1904, President Teddy Roosevelt added the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, stating that the US had the right to intervene in Latin American conflicts.
2. He also promoted his Big Stick Diplomacy, which held that international negotiations would be backed by the threat of US military force.

E. Wilson's Moral Diplomacy

1. Wilson's Moral Diplomacy promoted human rights in Latin America. This led to US involvement in the Mexican Revolution.
2. Wilson sent troops into Mexico in 1914 to support Carranza over Huerta. Rebels led by Pancho Villa entered New Mexico in 1916, leaving 18 Americans dead before US pulled out of Mexico.

II. World War I

A. Conflict in Europe

1. Militarism, alliances, nationalism, imperialism, and the assassination of Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand led to the outbreak of the Great War in June 1914.
2. The war was primarily between the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire and the Allied Powers of Britain, France, Russia, and Serbia.
3. New weapons and trench warfare led to a deadly stalemate that resulted in millions of casualties on both sides.

B. US Neutrality

1. Although President Woodrow Wilson promoted neutrality, most Americans sided with Britain and France.
2. Public opinion was divided into three groups: isolationists (stay out of the war), interventionists (wanted to join the Allies), and internationalists (work toward peace without joining the war)

C. The US Enters the War

1. In 1915, the Germans began using unrestricted submarine warfare to sink Allied ships. This included the Lusitania, which was an unarmed passenger ship carrying 128 Americans.
2. Congress passed the National Defense Act to expand the army and the Naval Construction Act to build more warships. However, Wilson was reelected in 1916 under the slogan, "He kept us out of war."
3. In 1917, Germany sent the Zimmerman Note to propose an alliance with Mexico against the US. The US declared war on Germany, officially entering the Great War.

D. The Home Front

1. The Selective Service Act authorized a military draft.
2. The War Industries Board regulated industries.
3. The Food Administration regulated food and agriculture.
4. The Committee on Public Information used advertisements to show the public that the war was justified.

E. Allies Win the War

1. The US helped reinvigorate Allied efforts. Allies began using convoys to deter German U-Boats.
2. By November 11, 1918, Germany surrendered.
3. WWI was over, leaving 5 million Allied and 8 million Central Power troops were dead.

III. Wilson's Plan for Peace

A. Fourteen Points

1. Wilson's Fourteen Points promoted "peace without victory." The main principles included openness, independence, freedom, and self-determination.
2. The League of Nations would maintain political independence and international peace.

B. Paris Peace Conference

1. Wilson represented the US at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. His failure to invite any Republicans was a bad political move since Republicans had just gained control of Congress.
2. British Prime Minister David Lloyd George and French Premier Georges Clemenceau wanted total victory. Clemenceau wanted to punish Germany by forcing them to pay reparations and taking back the Alsace-Lorraine and the Rhineland.

B. Paris Peace Conference

3. The League of Nations, an international organization where countries could gather and peacefully resolve their quarrels, was added to the Treaty of Versailles.
4. Self-determination was often violated by the new map created at the conference, and the League of Nations had no real ability to prevent international crises.

C. The US Rejects the Treaty

1. Wilson faced opposition back at home.
2. Irreconcilables (isolationists) in the Senate opposed the treaty with a League of Nations.
3. Reservationists wanted changes to the treaty.
4. Ultimately, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles. Without full American support, the League of Nations wasn't able to maintain peace.

D. Return to Normalcy

1. Republican Warren G. Harding became president in 1920.
2. He called for a “return to normalcy,” which was the simpler times before Wilson’s presidency.
3. The US became a creditor nation after the war.
4. Additionally, the economic center of the world shifted from London to New York.