Woodrow Wilson: Moral Diplomacy
“Moral Principle”

• Duty to work for peace through example & diplomacy
• US has MORAL responsibility to educate developing nations about Constitution & laws
• Moral Nations should obey international laws
Challenges

• 1913-14 – Wilson & Bryan (Sec. of State) push for non-aggression pacts w/ 27 nations, but doesn’t prevent WWI

• Racism – Few federal positions for AfAm, Supports CA in anti-JPN legislation
  – JPN upset, but Wilson’s diplomacy avoids war
  – Tension heightened in Asia
Latin America

- Wanted better relations → ends dollar diplomacy
- Apologized & paid indemnity to COL over Panama
- Unsuccessful b/c LAm didn’t trust his motives & he sent political loyalists to carry out his plans
- Oh, and some stuff happened in Mexico…
- **BLUM**: He never realizes how close he is to Dollar Diplomacy & how much LAms hate him (597)
Neutrality?

- “Neutral in fact” (601)
  - **BLUM**: Americans wanted to be neutral, BUT they didn’t understand their own nationalist sentiment
  - Standard for “neutral rights” nebulous & American

- UK believes we should only trade w/ Allies
  - Blockade GER so US goods can’t enter
  - 1915 – Big loans to UK/FRA invested in Allied victory

But money says otherwise...
Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

• Thoughts? (602-605)

• 5/7/1915 – *Lusitania* sunk → 128 US killed → demand for apology & indemnity → GER gives it
  – Republicans/Populists: “moral treason” to let Americans sail on these ships → Wilson defeats in Congress

• Later, *Arabic & Sussex* sunk
  – Wilson: If GER attacks → diplomatic relations would end
  – *Sussex Pledge* – No GER attacks w/ out inspection
  – **BLUM**: Just gave our decision to go to war to GER!
Americanism & Preparedness

- Pro-war philosophy championed by TR and adopted by Wilson → justified racism/jingoism (605)
- 1916 - $500M in arms sales to Allies
- National Defense Act – Army from 90K → 400K
  – $313M to build up Navy
- 1916-1917 – GER fakes out US w/ desire to negotiate → resume USW in Feb. & sinks US ships
Zimmerman Note

- Telegram from GER to Carranza asking to keep US busy in exchange for American SW after GER win
  - Intercepted by UK & shown to USA
- 3/1/1917 – Published to American public
US Entry into WWI

- 4/4/1917 – Congress votes for war w/ huge majority
- 5/18 – Selective Service Act
  - Men 21-30 register (later 18-45)
  - Can’t buy your way out like in Civil War
  - 2.8M drafted, 4.8M serve, 50K KIA

- **BLUM**: US unprepared for war; Causes (608)
  - Gen. John Pershing wants 6mos. Training in EUR before fighting to FRA in June 1917