

The Alienated 1910s

Events and Policies

- WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT (1857-1930, in office 1909-1913, 27th President)
- WOODROW WILSON (1856-1924, in office 1913-1921, 28th President)

Tampico Affair (1914)

- started as a minor incident between Mexican land forces loyal to General VICTORIANO HUERTA and US soldiers from U.S.S. *Dolphin* who were detained in the Tampico harbour, though this was a violation of sovereign immunity (all soldiers of all states are equal and immune to legal actions of other soldiers unless they willingly submit)
- resulted in a brief punitive expedition and a six-month US occupation of the crucial Mexican port city Veracruz

First World War (1914-1918)

- triggered by the assassination of Archduke FRANZ FERDINAND OF AUSTRIA, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne
- the conflict of Central Powers (German Empire, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria) and Allied Powers (originally France, Russian Empire, UK, later Canada, Australia, Italy, Japan, US)
- the US declared war on Germany (1917) when it violated American neutrality by attacking international shipping
- **Zimmermann Telegram** (1917): Germany offered Mexico material aid in reclaiming the territory lost to the US in the Mexican-American War and a military alliance, if the US seem likely to enter the WWI against Germany
- the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) were sent to Europe under General JOHN J. PERSHING, promoted to the highest military rank, General of the Armies, in 1917
- **Fourteen Points** (1918): President Wilson's proposal of after-war arrangements presented at the Paris Conference
- Treaty of Versailles (1919): ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers, required Germany to accept sole responsibility for causing the war, disarm, make territorial concessions, and pay reparations
- **League of Nations** (1919-1946): an inter-government organization founded to uphold Rights of Man, prevent war through collective security, and settle disputes between countries through diplomacy (replaced by United Nations)

Society

- Boy Scouts of America (1910): the largest youth organization in the US, founded to train responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance
- RMS *Titanic* (1912): the ocean liner strikes an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sinks on its maiden voyage
- Spanish flu (1918-1920): the influenza pandemic spreads to nearly every part of the world, hastened by the massive troop movement during the WWI and their unsanitary conditions, kills 50-100 mil. people worldwide

Wilsonianism

- an Idealist school of thought personified in American diplomatic history by Woodrow Wilson
- believes that a state should make its internal political philosophy the goal of its foreign policy (e.g. ending poverty at home should be coupled with tackling poverty abroad)
- emphasizes the idea of American Exceptionalism, the belief that the US occupy a special niche among developed nations in terms of its national credo, historical evolution, political and religious institutions, and unique origins

Temperance Movement

- Women's Christian Temperance Union (1880): succeeded in implementing strong legislation mandating that all students receive anti-alcohol education, made a major contribution to establishing the National Prohibition (1919)
- Flying Squadron of America (1914-1915): a temperance organization touring the country with their campaign

Culture

- the Ballroom decade, many fashionable restaurants are equipped with dance floors
- rising popularity of jazz music
- first crossword puzzle appears

Film

- **Hollywood** District in Los Angeles, California, replaces the East Coast as the centre of the film industry
- *Oliver Twist* (1912) released as the US first feature film

- CHARLIE CHAPLIN débuts his trademark moustached, baggy-pants 'little tramp' character (1914)
- the four WARNER BROTHERS open their first West Coast studio (1918)

Photography

- ALFRED STIEGLITZ: promoter and later husband of the painter Georgia O'Keeffe
- EDWARD STEICHEN: photographer, painter, and art curator, author of the photography 'The Pond-Moonlight' (1904)

Visual Arts

- **Armory Show** (1913, New York City): a massive group exhibition of innovative contemporaneous artists from Europe and the US, a seminal event in the history of the modern art
- **291 Art Gallery**: an avant-garde gallery established by the photographer ALFRED STIEGLITZ in New York City
- MARCEL DUCHAMP: a Dadaist, Surrealist, and Cubist painter, author of 'Nude Descending a Staircase' (1912)
- NORMAN ROCKWELL: a painter and illustrator, art editor for the Boy Scout magazine *Boy's Life* between 1913-1916
- GEORGIA O'KEEFFE: a modernist painter of flowers, rocks, and landscapes with sexual innuendos
- MAURICE PRENDERGAST: an impressionist painter
- HORACE PIPPIN: a realist painter of African-American life scenes
- The **Ashcan School** (or, Gritty City Art): a loose group of urban realism painters, including GEORGE LUKS ('Hester Street'), JOHN SLOAN ('The Wake of the Ferry'), or EDWARD HOPPER

Architecture

- **Beaux-Arts**: an opulent neoclassical style
- New York City public buildings: Woolworth Building (1913, architect Cass Gilbert), Grand Central Terminal (rebuilt 1913), New York Public Library (established 1895)
- FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: Midway Gardens in Chicago, Illinois (1913, demolished)

Literature

- popular culture: EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS's *Tarzan of the Apes* (1912)
- WWI subject: ERNEST HEMINGWAY's *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)
- movements: Vorticism, Imagism (EZRA POUND, H.D., MARIANNE MOORE)
- milestone publications: EDITH WHARTON's *Ethan Frome* (1911), GERTRUDE STEIN's *Tender Buttons* (1914), T. S. ELIOT's *Prufrock and Other Observations* (1917), WILLA CATHER's *My Ántonia* (1918), SHERWOOD ANDERSON's *Winesburg, Ohio* (1919)