

## Woodrow Wilson's Lasting Impression

"This year marks the centennial of Woodrow Wilson's leaving the White House. Few presidents have gone out of office under more of a cloud than he did, and none have had their reputations subsequently soar to new heights of appreciation and honor. In domestic affairs, he was **one of the three great legislative presidents of the twentieth century**, along with Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson, and his monumental achievements— including the **Federal Reserve, the income and inheritance taxes, federal aid to farmers, wage and hours legislation for workers, and prohibition of child labor**— paved the way for the programs of those later presidents. In foreign affairs, he not only **led the nation to victory in**

### Wilson's Contradictions

- There was a **disconnect** between Wilson's focus on democracy, and his policies constituting racism and imperialism.
- Wilson spoke of the idea of **'self-governance,' but intervened in the Mexican civil war** in 1914.
- The Wilson administration also **imposed martial governance** in Haiti (1915) and the Dominican Republic (1916).

### Wilson's Foreign Policy in Action

**Before President Wilson, foreign policy had focused on avoiding 'entangling alliances.'**

- After World War I, President Wilson introduced his **Fourteen Points**, which called for freedom of the seas, free trade, arms reduction, and the creation of a League of Nations.

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