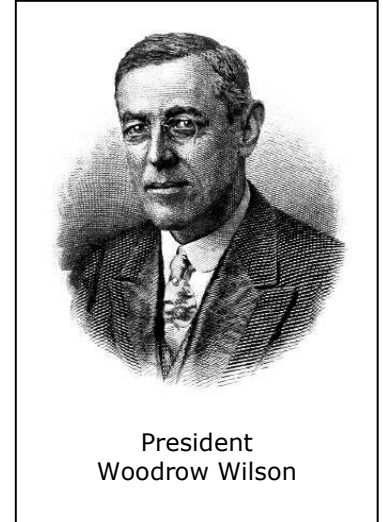


Sixty-Fourth Congress

March 4, 1915- March 3, 1917

First Administration of Thomas Woodrow Wilson

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Historical Background

As the 64th Congress convened, President Woodrow Wilson and the American public were finding their commitment to a policy of neutrality in World War I increasingly difficult to maintain. The official policy of neutrality meant that U.S. firms were free to conduct business with belligerent states on either side of the conflict. That said, Allied efforts to blockade the Axis powers, coupled with America’s historical, linguistic, and cultural ties with Great Britain meant that by and large, the U.S. was providing arms and materiel chiefly to the Allies. Further, the sinking of the passenger ship RMS Lusitania in May 1915, followed by the suspected culpability of German saboteurs in the Black Tom explosion in July 1916 pushed U.S. public opinion increasingly against the Axis Powers. In the midst of this atmosphere, Congress enacted the National Defense Act, in June 1916.

The Act effected a wholesale reform of the United States military, including the Regular Army, Organized Reserves, and the National Guard. Since 1792, the President had constitutionally enjoyed the right to “call” the National Guard into action to enforce Federal laws, suppress insurrection, and repel invasions. These troops, however, had retained State identities and the respective State governors continued to appoint and promote officers. This new law granted the President the power to “draft” or “order” the National Guard into Federal Service upon declaration of war. The Act further authorized an increase in the size of the Regular Army and established a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at colleges and universities.

In Southeast Asia, the United States’s relationship with its then colonial possession the Philippine Islands took a major step in its evolution since the territory first came under U.S. suzerainty after the Spanish-American War. The territory had been governed according to the Philippine Organic Act of

House	Senate
Majority Party: Democrat (230 seats)	Majority Party: Democrat (56 seats)
Minority Party: Republican (196 seats)	Minority Party: Republican (40 seats)
Other Parties: Progressive (6 seats), Socialist (1 seat), Prohibition (1 seat), Independent (1 seat)	Other Parties: None
Speaker of the House: James Beauchamp	Senate Majority Leader: John W. Kern

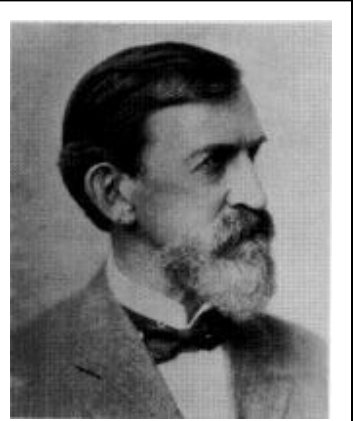
1902. The 1902 law provided for the establishment of an elected Philippine Assembly provided that certain conditions met, but reserved the authority for appointing civil governors, vice governors, and members of the governing Philippine Commission for the President. In August 2016, the Congress enacted the Jones Act, which superseded the Philippine Organic Act of 1902 and outlined a path to Philippine independence.

The Congress demonstrated its sympathy with some of the priorities of the nascent labor movement that was beginning to gain strength around the world during this period. In September 1916, two laws were enacted that attempted to address two of the leading demands of labor activists of the day. The Keating-Owen Child Labor Act attempted to address concerns about the conditions in which child laborers worked in the United States by fixing minimum age requirements for workers in various industries and prohibiting the interstate shipment of goods produced by child labor. The latter provision, however, was held to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in its decision in *Hammer v. Dagenhart*, 247 U.S. 251 (1918). Then, just four days later, Congress enacted the Adamson Act, which established a mandatory eight-hour workday and time-and-a-half overtime pay on interstate railroads.

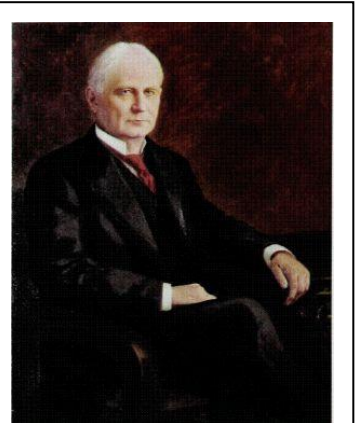
On the matter of immigration, the 64th Congress managed to achieve a long-time goal of anti-immigrant activists by enacting the Immigration Act of 1917. The most restrictive immigration law to date, the Act created whole new categories of inadmissible persons, including “alcoholics,” “epileptics,” “imbeciles,” “polygamists,” and “persons with constitutional psychopathic inferiority.” The law also defined a so-called “Asiatic Barred Zone,” comprising most of the Asian continent and the islands surrounding it—with the exception of those under U.S. suzerainty—from which immigration was prohibited. The law also established literacy tests for immigration, barring entry for illiterate persons, regardless of their country of origin, with the exception of people suffering religious persecution.

On the domestic front, the 64th Congress enacted a number of important pieces of legislation that reflected the rapidly industrializing economy and the attendant shifts in social organization that this brought about. The Smith-Hughes Act, enacted in February 1917, established a Federal Board of Vocational Education, and authorized appropriations for the development of vocational education programs. The Federal Highway Act, enacted in July 1916, established a system of highway classification and authorized an increasing scale of Federal appropriations to the States for the development of rural post roads.

Other significant legislation enacted during the 64th Congress included the National Park Service Organic Act, which established the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations within the Department of the Interior—the predecessor to today’s National Park Service. The Federal Farm Loan Bank Act established a Federal Land Bank for each of 12 districts in the country and a Federal Farm Loan Board, chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury, to administer a system for providing loans to American farmers. The Warehouse Act, enacted in August 1916, authorized licensed warehouses to issue receipts against specific agricultural commodities that



Senate Majority Leader
John W. Kern



Speaker of the House
James Beauchamp Clark

were negotiable as delivery orders or as collateral for loans. And the Shipping Act, approved in September 1916, established a five-member U.S. Shipping Board empowered to build, purchase, lease, or requisition vessels through the emergency Fleet Corporation, for the purpose of establishing a U.S. Merchant Marine.

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [*Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980*](#), Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Wilson, Woodrow. [*Address of the President of the United States Delivered at a Joint Session of the Two Houses of Congress December 5, 1916*](#). Committee of the Whole, House, Dec. 5, 1916. 64th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.1384 (Pr28.1:916). ProQuest Congressional, 7240 H.doc.1384

Wilson, Woodrow. [*Address of the President of the United States*](#). Committee of the Whole, House, Dec. 7, 1915. 64th Congress, 1st Session, H.doc.1 (Pr28.1:915). ProQuest Congressional, 7098 H.doc.1

War or Peace?

World War I

On May 7, 1915, the violence that engulfed Europe and much of the rest of the world hit the U.S. directly when a German U-Boat sank the *RMS Lusitania*, a British ocean liner, claiming the lives of 761 people, among them 128 Americans. President Woodrow Wilson decried Germany's actions but continued to resist entering the U.S. into the war. Wilson believed in American neutrality, despite the growing Congressional and British sentiment for America to declare war on Germany. Massachusetts Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, one of President Wilson's most vocal critics, stated, "We earnestly desire to see international law restored and enforced, but this is a very different thing from the acceptance of doctrine that there is nothing for which life should be sacrificed."

The challenges posed to Wilson's neutrality policy only increased as the war dragged on. In the early part of the conflict, U.S. munitions and other manufacturers were free to conduct business with combatants on both sides of the war. But as the Allied powers, led by Great Britain, sought to isolate Germany and impinge upon its ability to wage war by imposing a blockade, effectively cutting off arms and other shipments from the United States to the Central Powers-allied nation. Thus, in effect, the U.S. was forced into a situation in which they were solely supplying arms and other goods to the Allied Powers, which belied the official policy of neutrality and angered Germany and its Central Powers allies. These latter responded to what they interpreted as U.S. duplicity by engaging in a series of sabotage attacks against U.S. interests that actively supplied the Allied war effort.

One such attack was an explosion at an artificial island in New York Harbor popularly known as Black Tom that was being used as a munitions depot for

armaments and ammunition destined for one or more of the Allied Powers. In the early morning hours of July 30, 1916, a series of small fires was discovered on the pier. Attempts by guards at the facility and the Jersey City Fire Department to snuff the blazes and thereby preclude a catastrophe failed and shortly after 2:00 AM the first and most powerful of the explosions, with a force equivalent to an earthquake measuring between 5.0 and 5.5 on the Richter scale, rocked the island and surrounding areas. Smaller explosions continued during the night and the continuing presence of small arms ammunition and artillery shells flying past hindered efforts to extinguish the blaze. While initial reports indicated that as many as 33 fire fighters were killed in the explosions, there were in fact fewer than ten, and perhaps as few as four fatalities resulting from the disaster.

The fires and subsequent explosions destroyed munitions to be sent to Russia to aid in the Allied war effort. Though this fact might suggest that the explosions were the handiwork of saboteurs working on behalf of one or more of the Central Powers states, investigators initially eliminated sabotage as a potential explanation. According to a *New York Times* report that appeared in the July 31, 1916 edition, there was one factor on which “the various investigating bodies [agreed], and that is that the fire and subsequent explosions cannot be charged to the account of alien plotters against the neutrality of the United States,” though they allowed that “the destruction of so large a quantity of allied war material must prove cheering news to Berlin and Vienna.” Whether average Americans were convinced by this denial is difficult to assess, but as the initial conjectures of the investigators proved to be mistaken, evidence of foreign involvement began to be revealed. An article in the August 10 edition of the *New York Times* reported the arrest of two Norwegian sailors, Erling Iverson and Axel Larsen, on suspicions of involvement in the affair. Police searching the sailors’ residence uncovered substantial circumstantial evidence pointing, at the very least, to their sympathy with German war effort and desire to aid it, including falsified documents purporting to be written by an officer in the U.S. Navy, as well as letters that testified to the men’s Germanophilia. Though the incident would not be definitively attributed to German saboteurs until the 1930s, this event, coupled with the sinking of the *Lusitania* and other likely cases of sabotage, enflamed public sentiment in the U.S. against Germany and its allies. Moreover, though President Wilson had strongly identified himself with the policy of neutrality and had no interest in ensnaring the U.S. in the complex web of alliances and tensions that defined European foreign policy and contributed to the hostilities, he did have ambitious ideas for how the world should proceed in the war’s aftermath to prevent future conflict. Known as Wilsonian Idealism, the policy was typified in the President’s Fourteen Points. Articulated in a speech given in January 1918, his policy included the formation of a League of Nations.

After the sinking of the *Lusitania*, the United States began a period of enhancing military preparedness by increasing troop numbers and weapons. The Secretary of the Army told Congress that the enactment of the National Defense Act drastically increased troops available if deployment was needed, especially among National Guard personnel, adding an additional 457,000

troops. He also addressed hostilities, albeit small, with Mexican revolutionary Francisco “Pancho” Villa, who conducted several cross-border raids that claimed American lives. President Wilson activated the Organized Militia and National Guard units of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas to stand watch at the Mexican-United States border to stop anymore border incursions and ordered a 12,000-troop contingent to enter into Mexico to capture Villa.

Occupation of Dominican Republic

On May 5, 1916, after that country’s Secretary of War Desiderio Arias seized power from President Juan Isidro Jimenes Pereyra, President Woodrow Wilson ordered the Marines to occupy the Dominican Republic. This most recent revolution was merely the most recent in a series—some 28 in the preceding 50 years. U.S. Navy Rear Admiral William B. Caperton ordered Arias to vacate Santo Domingo, occupying the capital on May 15. The Department of the Navy assumed control of the country’s finances and restored order under a military government led by Captain Harry Shepard Knapp. Though the occupying force faced scattered resistance from guerillas operating from the countryside, the Marines held firm control of the country until July 13, 1922, according to the terms of a plan for withdrawal conceived by President Warren G. Harding.

Sources:

Lodge, Henry Cabot. [*Washington's Policies of Neutrality and National Defense*](#), Senate. Feb. 23, 1916, 64th Congress, 1st Session. S.doc.343. ProQuest Congressional, 6952 S.doc.343

[*War Department Annual Reports, 1916*](#). Department of War, Nov. 20, 1916. 64th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.1378 (W1.1:916/v.1). ProQuest Congressional, 7140 H.doc.1378

Economic Trends and Conditions

President Woodrow Wilson’s major economic focus during the 64th Congress was on the laborer, which helped him gain popularity among America’s working-class. Wilson aimed to help the American farmer when he signed the Federal Farm Loan Act. The Act built his reputation against big business and allowed for farmers to compete against corporations through loans to cooperative farm associations. He also signed the Keating-Owens Act, which helped do away with child labor by prohibiting interstate commerce in products produced by child labor.

President Wilson’s working-class reforms were highlighted in his 1917 State of the Union address to Congress. He covered the expansion of the Interstate Commerce Commission and pushed through reforms that benefitted rail workers and won him popularity among unions. He noted that he established a worker friendly eight-hour workday and overtime pay for all railway employees. He also covered the creation of enforcement mechanisms to make sure reforms were regulated and highlighted efforts to avoid strikes through the arbitration and mediation of labor disputes.

Secretary of Treasury William Gibbs McAdoo's 1916 Address to Congress addressed the success of the Federal Reserve System with total reserves coming in at \$400 million, with an additional \$230 million held by Federal Reserve agents as special security against Federal Reserve notes. The Federal Reserve System brought an increased interest in personal banking with 7,589 retail banks by adding \$11 million in deposits in 1916, with all banks having combined total cash holdings of \$845 million. McAdoo also mentioned the relative success of the Federal Farm Loan Act, which had lent \$45 million to farmers in the form of mortgages.

Sources:

[Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Finances for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1916](#). Department of Treasury, Jan. 1, 1917. 64th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.1753 (T1.1:916). ProQuest Congressional, 7128 H.doc.1753

Wilson, Woodrow. [Address of the President of the United States Delivered at a Joint Session of the Two Houses of Congress December 5, 1916](#). Committee of the Whole, House, Dec. 5, 1916. 64th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.1384 (Pr28.1:916). ProQuest Congressional, 7240 H.doc.1384

Wilson, Woodrow. [Address of the President of the United States](#). Committee of the Whole, House, Dec. 7, 1915. 64th Congress, 1st Session, H.doc.1 (Pr28.1:915). ProQuest Congressional, 7098 H.doc.1

Major Treaties

Convention Between the United States and Denmark for Cession of the Danish West Indies. Provided for the purchase of the Virgin Islands in the West Indies from Denmark for \$22 million. Concluded August 4, 1916. Approved September 7, 1916. ([39 Stat. 1706-1717](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Mutual Film Corporation v. Industrial Commission of Ohio, concluded that free speech protection of the Ohio State Constitution did not extend to motion pictures, 236 U.S. 230 (1915)

Frank v. Mangum, upheld the conviction of Leo Frank for the murder of a 13-year old girl employed at the Georgia pencil factory where he was a superintendent. Though there was no reliable evidence presented to establish his guilt, public sentiment against Frank, who was Jewish, was such that the judge presiding over his trial instructed the defendant absent himself from the courtroom before the verdict could be read. Frank argued in his state appeals that his absence during the announcement of the verdict constituted a violation of his right to due process. The conviction was upheld

and the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case after a Frank filed a *habeas corpus* motion, though they, too, upheld the conviction arguing that the issue was reviewed by the Georgia courts. 237 U.S. 309 (1915)

Truax v. Raich, concluded that an Arizona law that limited the number of non-citizen workers that can be employed in any workplace violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, 239 U.S. 33 (1915)

Hadacheck v. Sebastian, concluded that an ordinance of Los Angeles prohibiting the manufacturing of bricks within specified limits of the city was a legitimate exercise of the police power, 239 U.S. 394 (1915)

Brushaber v. Union Pacific, concluded that income tax is constitutional as an excise tax on federal corporations, but not as a direct tax, and that Federal corporations may volunteer to pay income taxes on profits, even though stock dividends paid to nonresident alien stockholders living outside the federal zone were correspondingly reduced by the amount of income tax, 240 U.S. 1 (1916)

United States v. Oppenheimer, concluded that a criminal charge that has been adjudicated upon by a court having jurisdiction to hear and determine it, is final as to the matter so adjudicated upon, and may be pleaded in bar to any subsequent prosecution for the same offense, 242 U.S. 85 (1916)

Source:

Costello, George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation](#). Senate, Jan. 1, 1996. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 103-6. ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

1915 Events

- **Jan. 28:** [Congress designates the U.S. Coast Guard as a branch of the military](#)
- **Feb. 12:** [Construction begins on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.](#)
- **Mar. 3:** [The predecessor of NASA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, is established](#)
- **Mar.:** [The fledgling National Association for the Advancement of Colored People \(NAACP\) launches a campaign to boycott D.W. Griffith's film *Birth of a Nation* in protest of what the organization deemed to be racist material in the movie](#)
- **Apr. 22-May 25:** *World War I* – The first mass use of poison gas in war by the German Army results in 7,000 Allied casualties in the Second Battle of Ypres
- **May 7:** *World War I* - [The RMS Lusitania is torpedoed by a German U-Boat, killing 1,198](#)
- **June 9:** William Jennings Bryant resigns from his post as the U.S. Secretary of State after how the U.S. handled the sinking of the RMS Lusitania

- **July 1-Nov. 18:** *World War I* – The French and British armies initiate an offensive against the Germans along the upper reaches of the River Somme, hoping to break through the German lines. The ensuing Battle of the Somme lasted some four-and-a-half months, during which three million soldiers saw action, with over one million casualties, with little ultimate change to the positions of either side
- **July 24:** [In Chicago, Illinois, the SS Eastland capsizes and kills 844 people](#)
- **Aug. 17:** Leo Frank, a Jewish American, is lynched in Marietta, Georgia for his alleged involvement in the murder of a 13-year old girl
- **Sept. 6:** *World War I* - The British Army tests the first tank prototype
- **Oct. 19:** [The U.S. recognizes the de jure government of Venustiano Carranza as President of Mexico during the Mexican Revolution](#)
- **Nov. 24:** [William J. Simmons revives the Ku Klux Klan in Stone Mountain, Georgia](#)
- **Dec. 18:** President Woodrow Wilson marries Edith B. Galt in Washington, D.C.

1916 Events

- **Jan. 24:** [U.S. Supreme Court decides that the national income tax is constitutional in their decision in the case of *Brushaber v. Union Pacific Railroad*](#)
- **Feb. 11:** [Emma Goldman is arrested for lecturing on birth control in the U.S.](#)
- **Mar. 15:** [President Wilson sends 12,000 U.S. troops over the U.S.-Mexico border to pursue Pancho Villa; the 13th Cavalry regiment enters Mexican territory](#)
- **Apr. 1:** William J. Newton and Morris Goldberg invent the light switch
- **May 5:** U.S. Marines invade the Dominican Republic, beginning an occupation that would last until July 1922
- **June 15:** [The Boy Scouts of America is incorporated](#)
- **Aug. 25:** [The National Park Service is created](#)
- **Sept. 2:** *World War I* - British pilot William Leefe-Robinson becomes the first to shoot down a German airship over Britain
- **Oct. 16:** [Margaret Sangerr opens the first birth control clinic in U.S.](#)
- **Nov. 7:** [President Wilson defeats Republican candidate Charles E. Hughes and Republican Jeannette Rankin of Montana becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives](#)
- **Dec. 22:** *World War I* - The British Sopwith Camel aircraft, designed to counter Germany's Fokker aircraft, makes its maiden flight

Sources:

["An Act To create the Coast Guard by combining therein the existing Life-Saving Service and Revenue-Cutter Service."](#) (38 Stat. 800, Chap. 20; Jan. 28, 1915). ProQuest Congressional

Committee on Education. House. [Federal Motion Picture Commission](#). Jan. 13-15, 17-19, 1916. 64th Congress, 1st Session, H145-1 (Y4.Ed8/2:M85/2) ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1916-EDH-0001

Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [Investigation of Mexican Affairs](#). Vol. 2. GPO, Feb. 11-12, Mar. 6-7, 9, 11-12, 15, 17-20, Apr. 8-10, 16-17, 20, 27 - May 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10, 17-20, 1920. 66th Congress, 2nd Session, S158-Pt.2-1 (Y4.F76/2:M57/2/v.2). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1920-FOR-0003

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. House. [Investigation of Accident to the Steamer "Eastland."](#) GPO, July 24, Aug. 5, 1915. 64th Congress, 1st Session, H161-9 (Y4.M53:Ea7). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1915-MMF-0002

Committee on the Judiciary. House. [Birth Control](#). GPO, Jan. 18-19, 1934. 73rd Congress, 2nd Session, Committee on the Judiciary Serial No. 2 (Y4.J89/1:B53) ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1934-HJH-0002

Palmer, Alexander Mitchell. [Letter from the Attorney General transmitting \[...\] a report on \[...\] persons advising anarchy, sedition, and the forcible overthrow of the government](#). Committee on the Judiciary, Senate, Nov. 15, 1919. 66th Congress, 1st Session, S.doc.153. ProQuest Congressional, 7607 S.doc.153

[The present-day Ku Klux Klan movement \[...\]](#). Committee on Un-American Activities, House. Jan. 1, 1967. 90th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.377. ProQuest Congressional, 12808-7 H.doc.377

Raker, John Edward. [National park service](#). Committee of the Whole. House. May 17, 1916. 64th Congress, 1st Session, H.rp.700. ProQuest Congressional, 6904 H.rp.700

Raymond, R. R. [Report of the Chief of Engineers U. S. Army 1915](#). Army Corps of Engineers, Department of War, June 30, 1915. 64th Congress, 1st Session, H.doc.91 (W7.1/1:915/pt.3) ProQuest Congressional, 6974 H.doc.91

Roberts, Ernest William. [National advisory committee for aeronautics](#). Committee on Naval Affairs. House. Feb. 19, 1915. 63rd Congress, 3rd Session, H.rp.1423. ProQuest Congressional, 6766 H.rp.1423

Shields, John Knight. [Boy Scouts of America](#). Committee on the Judiciary. Senate. May 31, 1916. 64th Congress, 1st Session, S.rp.506. ProQuest Congressional, 6899 S.rp.506

[Treasury decisions under internal-revenue laws of U.S., Vol. 18, Jan.-Dec. 1916](#). T22.8 Bureau of Internal Revenue Decisions. Jan. 1, 1916. Internal Revenue Decision No. 2277-2428 (T22.8/1:18) ProQuest Congressional, T22.8-20

U.S. House. 115th Congress. "[115 H.R. 382 Introduced in the House: 100 Years of Women in Congress Act](#)." (Jan. 9, 2017). ProQuest Congressional

Wilson, Woodrow. [To Robert Lansing, with enclosure: \[approves message to Mexico on presence of US troops to capture Pancho Villa\]](#). Unnumbered Executive Orders, Directives, and Proclamations, June 18, 1916. ProQuest Congressional, 1916-21-5

Wilson, Woodrow. [To William Jennings Bryan, with enclosure: \[approves protest letter to German Foreign Minister on sinking of neutral vessels\]](#). Unnumbered Executive Orders, Directives, and Proclamations. May 12, 1915. ProQuest Congressional, 1915-21-23

Major Acts

National Defense Act. Reformed the organization of peacetime land armed forces of the United States, which had heretofore been haphazardly and arbitrarily, interrelated. The three-part division of the Regular Army, the Organized Reserves (including a training corps), and the National Guard was instituted. Authorized an increase in the strength of the Regular Army to

175,000 and a federalized National Guard to 450,000 within five years. Provided for a reserve officers training corps at colleges and universities, construction of a plant for the production of nitrates and munitions, creation of a signal corps, and an appropriation of \$6.4 billion for the purchase and maintenance of airships. Approved June 3, 1916. ([39 Stat. 166, Chap. 134; PL64-85](#))

Federal Aid Highway Act. Authorized \$5 million in Federal aid to the States for the construction of rural post roads (roads over which the United States mails were transported) for fiscal 1917 and provided for an annual increase of an additional \$5 million a year for the four subsequent years, until the fifth year, when the amount available would be \$25 million. Also established a system of highway classification. Approved July 11, 1916. ([39 Stat. 355, Chap. 241; PL64-156](#))

Federal Farm Loan Bank Act. Divided the country into 12 districts in each of which there was to be a Federal Land Bank, a Loan Association made up of farmers who desired to borrow money, and created a Federal Farm Loan Board, with the Secretary of the Treasury as chairman, to administer the system. Approved July 17, 1916. ([39 Stat. 360; PL64-158](#))

Warehouse Act. Authorized licensed and bonded warehouses to issue receipts negotiable as delivery orders or as collateral for loans. The receipts were to be issued against specified agricultural commodities, including grain, cotton, tobacco, and wool. Approved Aug. 11, 1916. ([39 Stat. 446 Chap. 313; PL64-190](#))

National Park Service Organic Act. Created the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations in the Department of the Interior. (In 1934 this office becomes the National Park Service.) Approved Aug. 25, 1916. ([39 Stat. 535, Chap. 408; PL64-235](#))

Jones Act (Organic Act of the Philippine Islands). Declared that it was the purpose of the people of the United States to provide a more autonomous government for the Philippines, granted a large measure of self-government to the islands, and promised independence "as soon as a stable government can be established." Approved Aug. 29, 1916. ([39 Stat. 545, Chap. 416; PL64-235](#))

Keating-Owen Child Labor Act. Prohibited the interstate shipment of the products of child labor and fixed minimum age and hours in different industries, 14 years for factories, 16 for mines and quarries. Approved Sept. 1, 1916. ([39 Stat. 675, Chap. 432; PL64-249](#)) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in *Hammer v. Dagenhart*, 247 U.S. 251 (1918).

Adamson Act. Established a mandatory 8-hour work day and time-and-a-half for overtime on interstate railroads. Approved Sept. 5, 1916. ([39 Stat. 721, Chap. 436; PL64-252](#))

Shipping Act. Created a five-member U.S. Shipping Board empowered to build, purchase, lease, or requisition vessels through the emergency Fleet

Corporation capitalized at \$50 million dollars. Sept. 7, 1916. ([39 Stat. 728, Chap. 451; PL64-260](#))

Immigration Act of 1917. Excluded Asian laborers (unless protected by special treaties). Required that every prospective immigrant pass a literacy test preceding admission to the United States, but permitted immigration officials to exempt from the test foreigners who were fleeing from religious persecution. Approved Feb. 5, 1917. ([39 Stat. 874, Chap. 29; PL64-301](#))

Smith-Hughes Act. Created the Federal Board of Vocational Education and committed the Federal Government to provide funds for promotion of vocational education in cooperation with the States. Approved Feb. 23, 1917. ([39 Stat. 929, Chap. 114; PL64-347](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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