

Lecture Notes for Week 8

1898 – 1919: The Spanish American War, WW I, Spanish Flu

1898	Spanish-American War	USS Maine, sent to protect American citizen during Cuban revolt against Spain, get blown up in Havana harbor. 4-month war begins. Notable Moment: Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders successful charge up San Juan Hill in Santiago, Cuba. Result: U.S. gets most of Spanish Empire: Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines. [Teddy Roosevelt was extremely lucky to survive his charge up San Juan Hill, as many of his men were killed.]
1898	Rise of sensational journalism	aka "Yellow journalism" intend to sway public opinion about Spanish-American War. Start of William Randolph Hearst's newspaper empire. [Predecessor of today's familiar practice of biased media reporting.]
1903	First airplane flight	Wright brothers in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
1901	William McKinley assassinated	VP Theodore Roosevelt becomes youngest president ever (42) [McKinley is 3rd president assassinated.]
1908	Model T automobile	Introduced by Henry Ford [Pioneered mass production using an assembly line.]
1912	Arizona admitted to union	Plugs last hole in the map of the U.S. Brings number of states to 48.
1913	16 th Amendment ratified	National income tax [Top rate soars to 94% by 1944]
1914-1918	World War I	Cause: Serbian terrorist assassinates Arch Duke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Serbia is allied with Russia. Russia is allied with France. Austria-Hungary is allied with Germany. Germany starts hostilities by going through Belgium to attack France. Belgium is allied with Britain. Result: 15 - 35 million dead (depending on how you count war-induced spread of disease).
1915	Germany sinks Lusitania	British ocean liner. 159 Americans killed. A reason for US to enter WW1
1917	Zimmermann Telegram	Secret telegram from Germany to Mexico decoded by British. Germany to Mexico: "Attack the US and we'll help you get back TX, AZ, and NM." Spurred US entry into WW1.
1917	U.S. enters WW I	On side of the "Allies" (Britain, France, Russia, Serbia, Belgium) [Most important lesson of WWI: It was totally unpredictable. If you had in 1913 predicted that within a year a war would start that would kill 35 million people, you would have been thought insane.]
1918	"Spanish Flu" Pandemic	Kills <i>at least</i> 50 million people, 675 thousand in the U.S. [Flu killed more Americans than Civil War.]
1919	Treaty of Versailles	Officially ends WW1. Named for Palace of Versailles outside Paris. [Treaty's harsh treatment of Germany sowed the seeds of WW II.]

Presidents

William McKinley	1897 – 1901	
Theodore Roosevelt	1901 – 1909	
William Howard Taft	1909 – 1913	
Woodrow Wilson	1913 – 1921	[Incapacitated after 1919]