WILSON

1944 Geraldine Fitzgerald, Sir Cedric Hardwick 154Min. NR

This is a generally accurate, carefully made and useful reenactment of key developments in the life of Woodrow Wilson, particularly good for its reenactment of the Democratic National Convention of 1912. The ethical themes on idealism and principle are easily explored. The use of this 1944 film as a propaganda vehicle aimed at Nazi Germany is also evident and useful.

Princeton University, 1909

5:00

Wilson at home meets Senator Jones. Decides to run for Governor.

13:00

Political Rally: Wilson opposes the political bosses.

19:00

Wilson campaign headquarters. Wilson wins.

21:00

Wilson opposes the bosses

27:45

Democratic National Convention, 1912

39:30

Wilson nominated on the 46th ballot.

47:00

White House tour.

52:30

Wilson signs landmark progressive legislation.

Meets with Henry Cabot Lodge.

1:00:00

Mrs. Wilson falls gravely ill and dies.

1:05:30

W.W.I begins debate over

A brief review of the isolationist history of American foreign policy, including Washington's Farewell Address and the Monroe Doctrine is important to help students understand the swing back away from internationalism after W.W. I

Segment I 0:00 - 1:25:00

The first half of the film, although heavily interwoven with events in Wilson's personal life could be useful as background for discussion of the Progressive Era.

Segment II 1:25: - END

The second half of the film is very useful to trace events leading to the Treaty of Versailles and America's subsequent return to isolationism and as support for the Seminar Questioning Sequence.

Seminar Questioning Sequence:

Why was Woodrow Wilson so intent upon creating a League of Nations? What is the constitutional role of the Senate in the establishment of treaties? What were the motives of the Republican leaders in the Senate in opposing the League? Were they driven by petty politics or inspired by great principle?

Why wouldn't Wilson accept a treaty with "reservations"? Was Wilson being stubborn or highly principled?

Did Wilson misread the mood of the nation? What indications do you get from the Congressional elections of 1918?

In what way was the election of 1920 a referendum on the league question?

Report topics can be used to support both America's return to isolationism and as a background for discussing the Progressive Era.

Progressive Movement Election of 1912 **Bull Moose Party** William Howard Taft **Theodore Roosevelt** Muckrakers McClure's Magazine **Upton Sinclair** Frank Norris John Spargo **Hiram Johnson** George Norris Gifford Pinchot William Jennings Bryan **Henry Cabot Lodge** William Borah **Federal Reserve Act Underwood Tariff Clayton Antitrust Act** Federal Trade Commission Adamson Act Lusitania 14 Points Election of 1916 Election of 1918 Election of 1920 League of Nations "Irreconcilables" **Hepburn Act** Pure Food and Drug 16th Amendment 17th Amendment

18th Amendment

isolationism and neutrality.	Why did America return to isolationism in the 1920s?	19th Amendment
1:24:45 Wilson remarries		
:26:30 1916 political campaign		
1:32:30 Wilson reelected: war dominates political scene.		
1:36:00 Wilson berates the German Ambassador		
1:39:45 Wilson asks Congress for a declaration of war against Germany.		
1:44:00 Newsreel footage of preparations for war.		
1:54:00 Wilson announces the 14 Points.		
2:00:00 Wilson arrives in Paris. Newsreel footage.		
2:03:00 Versailles negotiations.		
2:06:30 Signing the Treaty of Versailles		
2:08:00 Fight over the League of Nations.		
2:20:45 Wilson suffers a stroke		
2:25:30 Election of 1920. Voters reject the League and America returns to isolationism.		

Notes