

EXCEEDING Excerpts

Copy Right Gary Douglas Stern

Preface

It was the beginning of a new century. Kings stilled ruled around the world. Most of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, was colonial, and four or five countries ran all that from their home European capitals. No one had ever known a 'World War'. All warring might of countries and all travel across the Atlantic and Pacific to America, had to do with ships. Nothing flew. Many had telephones, electricity, and thrice-daily news (newspaper morning, afternoon, and evening editions), but no one dreamed of hearing current events, electrically broadcasted in their living rooms. Movie houses were scarce.

For Americans, it was the beginning of a time, 1900 to 1933, when their capitalism would begin to show its weight in the world. And it was a time, when they would learn (for the first but not last time, in a coming hundred or so of years) that their roles as citizens of a democracy carried some responsibility to pay attention to financial detail, in their Republic.

Prologue

It was a summer day in the hills of South Dakota, where we had come to view Mount Rushmore. Our father asked a question to see if he could get a response from the kids. Is there anything unusual here? Looking up the bright sun, bouncing off the gigantic heads carved six stories high in the mountain rock, I wondered if there was something about one of the faces that was not depicted correctly. (I had done some study work on Abe Lincoln, and knew how his own times commented on what a geezer he was, photographers always kindly touching up the photo plates, and of course his own touching up with the beard).

But it wasn't that sort of thing. The parents' generation had asked themselves about Theodore Roosevelt's presence there. Why put this fellow, of all the Presidents, up with George Washington, Thomas Jefferson.

**

...Teddy comes off as one of those people who are pivotal in the history of their society, because they get some sort of leverage --- buckteeth grinning at police duty, horse charges, or whatever --- to somehow move perceptions and awarenesses one way, or the other. I eventually decided, for my opinion, that it was just, that Teddy should stay on in the Mount Rushmore rock face... with the others... looking out over the Dakota hills, forever...

1.Poetry into the Wind

The New York bosses, with whom he had fought for years in New York politics, had suggested putting him there, into the Vice Presidency, thinking that they were seeing the threat he had been making on behalf of reform, put to rest. Upon his nomination at the Convention, Boss Platt of New York, stumbling in a minute of truth, said, "I am glad we had our way...the people I mean...had their way."

**

...Theodore Roosevelt was 42 years old. Raised in New York City, he and his brother had watched the funeral procession of the President Lincoln on Broadway, from their street side apartment window, a photo of the day catching them leaning out the second floor windows. His father had not signed up to fight the Civil War, because his mother objected. She was of a Georgia family, their home mansion eventually sacked by Union troops. (The house was restored, became a museum, and was one day used by Margaret Mitchell, as the model for 'Tara' in her 1930's 'Gone with the Wind' novel.)

**

...Roosevelt Senior, successful in trading and property investment, was also always active in social concerns. He badgered wealthy friends to support efforts for homeless children, worked to get crippled Civil War vets jobs, took his children to visit Newsboys Lodging Home for family-less news seller youths, and to Miss Slattery's Night School for Italian Children. The Roosevelt household spoke French at evening dinner. Culture and concern: it was a family custom, and it would shape the Roosevelt children...

**

...Off to London with the family, Teddy visited the Natural History Liverpool Museum, and compared the taxidermy mountings with those in New York's

museum. And he kept up his taxidermy, being questioned seriously by one British shopkeeper, why a young man needed so much arsenic. Back home in a new 57th Street house in New York City, he turned the attic into his museum. Off to Harvard, Teddy also kept up the serious hobby, with lizards, snakes, lobster and a tortoise in his room, there as well. Acquaintances sometimes noted a formaldehyde smell about him. At Harvard, he taught Sunday School, until a preacherman told him he had to switch from his family's Reformed Dutch Church to the Episcopalian Church. Teddy quit, and joined a mission teaching group...

**

...Teddy, not informed of his father's cancer, raced home from Harvard too late. His Dad was only 46. Teddy was soon himself diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat, and told by his doctor to take only sedentary jobs. "I am going to do all the things you tell me not to do!", the young man replied. That summer Teddy rowed a boat from Oyster Bay, Long Island, to Rye Beach and back, in a day...

**

...Finding some evidence that a New York Justice was obviously favoring businessman Jay Gould's interest in the Manhattan Elevated Railway, Teddy rose in the Albany Legislature, to call Gould a swindler. Jay Gould, perhaps the best known swindler of the times, had never been publically *called* a swindler. People were shocked. The Gould-influenced press complained. Teddy called the Speaker for a *recorded* vote, as it was the custom to all shout Yeah's and Nay's simultaneously, on a vote, so no one knew the real count.

He got a 54 to 40 vote, to investigate the matter, but that was not 2/3rds. It took him more than a month, to get to 104 to 6. Teddy had won, but Gould people would pick the committee and the Judge to investigate, so nothing would happen. Jay Gould did send an attractive lady to fall down in front of Teddy, and asked him to help her home. He called a cab, asking the address to be noted, and had detectives look at matter, discovering thugs had been waiting at the address. The Judge in this matter, who was accused, was acquitted, Teddy shouting in his Legislature, that the minority report was the honest finding, and the Judge should be impeached...

**

...Teddy publically commented, "Big business of the kind that is allied with politics thoroughly appreciated the usefulness of such a Judge". He had lost.

But the public seems to have noticed him, in this exercise of futility. The exercise also attracted the attention of the Governor of New York, Grover Cleveland, a Democrat. Cleveland approached Roosevelt for an alliance on civil service reform. Roosevelt got a bill out of committee stage, it passed, and the result gave the Governor a boost in the coming national election. Governor Cleveland became President Cleveland. Teddy had in a small way helped a Democrat take over the White House. Teddy was just not destined to be popular in his Republican Party...

**

...In the recession of 1882, unemployment reached 30% in some New York areas. Labor disputes arose. Teddy was anti-union. But some people had noticed him, and had an idea. American Federation of Labor chief Sam Gompers in 1884, took him through the cigar manufacturer tenements in New York City, and his perception of his role in Republican politics in relation to union membership began to change. "There were several children, three men and two women in a room. The tobacco was stowed about everywhere, alongside foul bedding, and in a corner were scraps of food. The men, women, and children in this room worked day and night, and they slept and ate there."

**

...Teddy returned to Albany, no less determined to push on with his ideas of reform: "If you are cast on a desert island with only a screwdriver, a hatchet, and a chisel, to make a boat, you make the best boat you can...It would be better if you had a saw, but you haven't". But he would shortly give up politics, and give up New York, for South Dakota. There he wrote a trilogy of books, about the American Midwest, while he personally worked with his hands on the cattle ranch he bought, disarmed a gunman in a barroom brawl, killed a grizzly bear, and tracked down a boat thief, and brought him to the sheriff. He was evidently better accepted in that environment than in the New York Legislature, in spite of the fact that his hunting knife, shoes, and belt buckles came from Tiffany's, and he read Russian literature in French in his spare time...

**

...His clerks mused on how he could keep his eyeglasses on, while he jumped about. President Harrison in his time had commented, that "the only trouble I ever had with managing him, was that he wanted to put on end to all evil in the world between sunrise and sundown".²⁰ It was an interesting observation mostly because other Republican leaders evidently did *not* observe this trait. That oversight was to become important, in eleven years' time...

**

...When the press hailed his buck pearl teeth smile, one reporter donned a broad brimmed hat, and thick glasses to look like Teddy, and went around chattering his own teeth, to frighten policemen. Another entrepreneur made a whistle shaped like teeth and sold them to people, who would in turn toot them at police officers. Teddy had been guided and inspired to do this by a preacherman, Reverend Parkhurst, who had also incognito visited gambling, brothel, and opium establishments, a naked lady circus, and had noted that there were policemen *standing by*, everywhere. Teddy eventually saw his top cop and police inspector fired. They had claimed that their fortunes had come from stock and building lot tips, not illegal establishments...

**

...But President McKinley was not interested in a naval buildup. As the last of the Civil War generals to serve in the White House, he was cautious about all military involvement by the U.S. Teddy, with a sense that things were going a different direction for his country, immediately reviewed the ship situation with the navy, and started asking for submarine experimentation, and more battleships. (Even Captain Mahan in his interest in seeing the U.S. become a naval power, did not think submarines were going to be important.)

Addressing the Naval College, Teddy asked “What if Japan makes demands on the Hawaiian Islands?” Hawaii was not at the time, a protectorate of the U.S., and Teddy was one War too far in advance, but his thoughts for the coming twentieth century were uncannily insightful...

**

...Then, the battleship Maine, on visit to Havana harbor, in Cuba blew up, and pacifist President McKinley called his nation to war. Teddy resigned his Assistant Naval Secretary job, to form a regiment, which became the Rough Riders, an outfit of New York society people, policemen who had served with him, cowboys from the Dakotas, all with blue polka dot handkerchief neck ware, and Colt revolvers. Still a bit handicapped with his eyes, for which he probably would never have passed an examination, and for which he took 12 pairs of spare glasses with him, Teddy was ever mindful that his father had *not* fought in the Civil War...

**

...In a combat, where one in three of his regiment would die, Teddy stayed in the front. When food supplies were slow in keeping up, he went personally to the rear, and found 1100 pounds of beans in a commissary, only to be told that they were for officers only, not a whole Regiment. He told the clerk that his officers could eat all 1100 pounds, and ordered his soldiers to make off with the beans, back to the front. The upset clerk insisted that the order would be deducted from Colonel Roosevelt's pay.

Teddy campaigned with vigor, with a Rough Rider Bugler addressing crowds beside him --- Teddy speaking of being called to action by the bugle's sounds at Santiago Harbor --- and in the process, this Vice President candidate became the face of whole the Party to many. (McKinley did not campaign, and actually, no bugler sounded anything in their actual combat in Cuba, as that would give away positions. But the Rough Riders did march on... into the coming century, Teddy originally getting them together each year. The last meeting had one Rough Rider left to attend, and two ill at home: 1969.)

**

...Teddy, as VP, actually wrote McKinley that McKinley's duty was to live for the country from the coming March 1901. What *'live for the country'* meant to Teddy, is still not clear, but McKinley did *not* live for the country, and quickly died in the assassination in September of 1901. Teddy moved into the White House, and his Party gasped. At 42, he is still the youngest President in history. (John Kennedy would become President at 43 years of age, later in the century.) Mark Hanna, who had run national campaigns for the Republican Party for a quarter century by this time, standing by the McKinley funeral train, only commented, "Now look, that damned cowboy is President of the U.S."

**

...One of the invitees, in this case to dinner, was Booker T Washington, Negro leader of vocation training hopes and plans for his people. Southern racists in Congress made it known to Teddy, that this sort of thing would be an issue in the South, if he ever really tried to be elected to the office of President, next time around. But Teddy's response was to ban one South Carolina noisy racist, Congressman Pitchfork Ben Tillman, from visiting the White House, in his personal retaliation to the absurdity...

**

...His first address to Congress featured the subject of trusts running the country, and his dislike of what we would call today 'Corporatism' ruling the

country. “There can be no effective control of corporations while their political activity remains...I believe the officers, especially the directors of corporations should be held *personally responsible*, when the corporation breaks the law. I do *not* ask for over centralization; I do that we work in a spirit of broad and far-reaching nationalism”, Teddy publicly opined.

Just after 1900, merger increased to the point where 72 companies controlled half the industry, half the business, of the nation. Of 318 trusts in existence in the first decade of the 1900’s, 234 of them had been organized since the mid 1890’s. Price fixing had been attacked in the late 1800’s. So merger was the path. J.P. Morgan, who arranged much of this, had his people on the boards of 25% of company wealth of the time. With communication at the trust level, between supposed competitors, prices could be fixed without illegal meetings between companies...

**

...The Northern Securities fight with Teddy started this way. E H Harriman of the Union Pacific railroad needed his own route into the hub of Chicago. James Hill of the Northern Pacific railroad needed the same. That access was owned by the Burlington & Quincy railroad. In 1901, when one railroad group started buying up Burlington stock, the other did, as well, and the stock went from \$100/ share to \$1000/share in days, some shorting it all the way up. When the shorts had to cover, and dump other stocks, to raise the funds, a Panic started on Wall Street. J.P. Morgan became angry, called both railroad top execs to his office, and told them their solution: create a trust of all three railroads. It solved the problem and the 1901 incident is seldom called the Panic of 1901, because it was arrested.

In light of the Presidential statements above, this was in defiance. J.P. had stopped a Panic, and naturally thought he had the right to run the economics of the nation (as he had been doing in the previous Republican administrations.) Teddy figured he had to take action against this new trust on his watch. The trust was called Northern Securities, probably as an effort to avoid people saying this had anything to do with *railroad monopolies*. Teddy ordered the Justice Department to investigate under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. Before, administrations had not successfully broken Trusts with the Act. Instead, they had turned it against unions, who were *said to be* ‘trusts’. The Northern Securities Trust was broken. The Supreme Court this time did not overturn...

**

...That 1907 Panic had been *blamed by Wall Street* on President Teddy’s attitude toward trusts, although they all knew it was speculation (from Europe in this case) that caused the Panic. American Tobacco and U S Steel had been

investigated under Teddy's pursuit of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act authority; American Tobacco was broken up, and became American Tobacco, R.J. Reynolds, Liggett & Myers, and Lorillard companies...

**

...Teddy kept a dialogue with Joe Cannon, just like the Morgan representatives, all through his Presidency. The practical point on this, was that Cannon as Speaker controlled the appointment of heads of Congressional Committees, because he was head of the Rules Committee. For three decades of the past, including the Teddy years in the White House, control of much legislation came through the Speaker's control of the Committee chiefs. In view of this practice, Teddy invited him often to the White House, and Joe Cannon *was pleased* to come, and have the President personally negotiate.

Teddy did try to get around the Standing Committees killing reform measures, by appointing special Commissions to study this or that. But his Republican Congress fought back by refusing expenditure to have the Commissions' findings *printed*, then passed a bill to *prohibit such* fact-finding Commissions, in the first place....

**

...This President also decided to actively involve the White House in a major coal strike. Coal miners worked a 10 hour/ six day week, for \$560 a month gross, before the companies made deductions for the company store, company lighting oil, company doctor, etc. The miners asked for an 8 hour day and a 10-20% pay increase. J.P. Morgan interests were close to the railroads, and the railroads owned the mine companies. One J.P. exec commented on the workers' situation, "They don't suffer much; why, they can't even speak English." George Baer of the Morgan interests cautioned President Teddy, "The rights and interests of the working man will be protected and cared for not by the labor agitators, but by the Christian owners, who God in his infinite wisdom, has given control of the property interests of this country."

**

...The miners got a 9 hour day and 10% raise. It was the first time in history that a President had hands-on negotiated a labor dispute. There are two political terms that ring through this thirty year period. One is '*Return to Normalcy*' which we come to later. The other was '*Square Deal*', which was Teddy's catch phrase for what he wanted to see happen. The '*Square Deal*' was to be an exercise in fairness to the average working American: "We demand that big business *give* the American people a Square Deal, in return, we insist that when

anyone engaged in business honestly endeavors to do right, he shall *himself* be given a ‘Square Deal’

**

...Billionaire activism against him on behalf of trusts was one thing. School boards would be another, with which the man who insisted that, “the Presidency must be a bully pulpit”, would have less success bullying. Teddy had part of the funds from the indemnity from China after the Boxer Rebellion, put into a fund for Chinese to study in America. Then, he had to watch the San Francisco school system segregate Chinese, Japanese, Korean students. Teddy not so carefully called the school boards ‘idiots’, and their policies “wickedly absurd” --- the bully pulpit Presidency did not have to be so careful with corporate chiefs --- and the school boards totally ignored the President...

**

...Teddy also went out to become the first President to appoint a Jew to the Cabinet, Oscar Strauss, as Secretary of Commerce. At a banquet subsequently, he commented that in fact, he was not thinking about race, *at all*, in making the appointment, and asked Jacob Schaff of the New York Jewish community, to confirm that. Schaff, hard of hearing, piped up, “Zat’s right, Mr President, you come to me said, who ist der best Jew I can appoint Secretary of Commerce.”

**

...One of the first consumer protection actions for American history came in the passing of the Pure Food & Drugs Act. This change was largely due to a novel written by Upton Sinclair, ‘The Jungle’, in 1906. Sinclair had stayed with worker families in the industry, and wrote of food company policies for staff to sweep scraps of leftover meat from the floors every few days, to be *shoveled back* into the process with fresh meats coming in. Investigations subsequent to the interest his book engendered, found things like ‘potted chicken’ labels for meat which was in fact, a hundred percent waste beef.

The Department of Agriculture was persuaded by the Food industry to cover up that investigation. But the press became active. Ladies Home Journal found big Pharma companies using opium, cocaine, morphine and hallucinogens in their medicines. And some members of Congress split from the majority. Senator Mason of Illinois pointed to “very dangerous and absolutely insoluble substances being used to adulterate flour.” The American Medical Association threatened Congress if the bill were to be passed, but in 1906 the Pure Food & Drugs Act was passed. Novelist Upton Sinclair, whose book showing

sympathy toward the workers in the Food factories, had started the awareness, aptly said, “I was aiming for the public’s heart, but by accident, I hit them in the stomach.”

**

...When the Japanese Russian war came in 1904, most Americans cheered the Japanese. Teddy suspicious of both countries for America’s destiny in the new century, was happy to see them balance each other. He offered to host a settlement conference to end the war that Russia had actually lost, when they lost their fleet to the Japanese battle group. Both delegations came to the Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay house, then met in private on the U.S.S. Mayflower Presidential Yacht, anchored in the Bay.

Teddy thought that the Japanese win in taking over the Russian concessions in Manchuria, would take their sights off Hawaii, now a U.S. protectorate, and a subject of some discussion among Teddy’s naval circle, who thought that Hawaii under control of Japan could brew some problems for the U.S. Of course, the result was the beginning of the Japanese domination of China’s Manchuria. A battle fleet had been transferred to the Pacific, and put in the Philippines, during the McKinley administration, in response to this sort of thought, for the coming twentieth century...

**

...Panama Province, separated by a forest from the rest of Columbia, had been fighting their central government, Columbia, and mentioning independence through the last decade of the 1800’s. In the U.S., a discussion to negotiate a canal either in Nicaragua or in Columbia (Panama), had been going on at the same time. The French wanted the U.S. to choose Panama, and pay \$40 million for their failed canal construction, in place there. The Nicaraguans competed, but when the Martinique Volcano blew up, the pro-Columbia/Panama lobbyists bought up Nicaraguan stamps which their government had been printed, showing their own local volcano active (someone in the government thought this would make an interesting stamp for collectors), and distributed them to the U.S. Congress.

Columbia thus won the opportunity for the Canal (out of volcano phobia), and their government had already offered the U.S. that \$10 million, and \$250,000 a year be the Concession price. The U.S. proceeded with the deal, but the eighty year old dictator of Columbia, decided to change the sticker price to \$40 million. Panama agents in Washington indicated their revolution against Columbia was back on, and Teddy supported them, Panama separating from

Columbia, as a state. Teddy sent gunboats to support the revolution, and the Canal would be built 1904 – 1914, Teddy visiting it under construction, and thus becoming the first U.S. President to leave the country, while in office...

**

...Teddy would leave office --- supporting Taft as his successor in the Republican Party --- a controversial figure, and one of the few Presidents that had been hated by his own Party from early days, *and yet* managed his own way into the White House, mostly because his causes made sense to so many voters. His life style was one of information. One staff member browsed 350 newspapers each week to see what the nation was saying. The President, who had read poetry into the wind, from the top of Oyster Bay's Sagamore Hill as a child, read with wife Edith each day, trying to get through several books a week, shouting out loud when he read something he did nor did not like, or ripping out pages of magazines as he proceeded...

**

...When Teddy saw reporters standing outside on the North Portico on a cold winter day, talking with his staff, he created the White House Press Room. And of course, the West Wing to the White House was built on his watch. His son Kermit sent him poetry of Edward Arlington Robinson, who was working night shift as a time keeper on the New York subway system. Teddy got Robinson a government job, to allow better hours for writing for one American artist. The Roosevelt administration also got the National Gallery of Art started...

**

...Going to Mississippi on a bear hunt, it was discovered there were no bears, except, finally, one tired black bear, who was roped in, for the President to shoot. Teddy said No, and a Jewish immigrant with a toy shop in New York's Brooklyn, read story in a newspaper, and created something we still have of this one Presidential citizen: the Teddy Bear.

Teddy and Edith would ride through the outskirts of Washington, both excellent horse people, the Secret Service Agents sometimes struggling to keep up. Edith is thought to have enhanced the institution of the 'First Lady', the first White House wife to have her own press secretary, putting *her* cameo beside the President's, on White House invitations.

2. Innovate a New Century

Teddy was the first President to fly an aircraft and dive in a submarine, an indication that tech changes were a part of the new century. His interest in battleship tech for the new century was part of that. Two brothers with a personal vision on tech, Wilbur and Orville Wright, in Dayton Ohio, had built up a bicycle manufacturing business, coming up with innovative small improvements in their workshop. The era of fixed wing experiments came, and they noticed that the control of the new birds, not the fact that heavier than air machines could fly, was the tech factor. They tinkered up a three-axis control mechanism that is the basis of flight control yet today, and patented *that*, not the aircraft they built...

**

...Their successful flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina , for 852 feet over 59 seconds at 15 foot altitude, did not attract much attention, in December of 1903. Many people in Europe were also flying and crashing this sort of contraption, but the brothers' dedication to tinkering which including building their own wind tunnel, led them to create a reliable airplane over the coming years. This was to some degree with the help of a French military contract, when the U.S. military showed no interest. Finally the U.S. military came back, but the Wright Brothers plane in the test crashed, and killed the pilot.

Nevertheless the Brothers soon developed an aircraft that flew 40 miles an hour, and could stay up for 60 minutes. Others quickly competed, including a lady and her son (photo section on website), the mother as the test pilot of a gasoline dirigible, which she had sewed together. Germany over the next decade would spend \$28 million on aircraft improvements, as opposed to \$400,000 in expenditure by the U.S., leading up to World War One. ..

**

...The automobile became a household necessity over these thirty years of time, and the first major mass manufacturer, Henry Ford, was happy to make himself part of that. Henry had observed a belt being used in Chicago meat chopping and processing, and decided that that was the way to make cars. He was right. He started by putting a rope on a car chassis, and having it pulled by workers, but the requirements of some areas requiring only short people and some only tall people, led to developing a proper moving assembly line. Henry quickly saw a 12 hour assembly of a car, drop to 1 hour and 28 minutes. Of course, he standardized all parts. Somewhere in this time, as roads were funded in states, right hand, not left hand, drive was standardized.

Henry used the assembly line innovation well, dropping the price of his product. The Model T, the Tin Lizzie, came out in 1908, and cost \$750. This automobile could run on kerosene or candle wax, if you could not find gasoline, and its power could be pepped up by throwing camphor balls in the tank. Fords would progressively drop in price to \$350, by the 1920's. At those prices, the auto could become a consumer product for the middle class...

**

...Not everyone agreed. Automobile Magazine, itself, said, "When these racing motor cars reach a speed of 80 miles per hour, they must drive themselves, for no human brain is capable of dealing with all the emergencies, that may arise." And the Review of Reviews magazine said, "Granted the horse is not cleanly and his hoofs make a noise, but what about the automobile...the horse is an intelligent animal, the automobile a brainless machine...if the driver is suddenly stricken, the auto may run amok." Future President Calvin Coolidge as a lawyer would be active in those sort of matters in the early century. Every car owner was advised to keep 35 tools with them in their machine: many different sized files and wrenches, hose clips, vulcanizing cement, etc...

**

...Gasoline for the auto was a gasoline waste product from refining lighting oil (kerosene). You purchased it for your auto in cans at general goods stores. In 1907, St. Louis saw the first filling stations, to pump gasoline into autos. In 1903, a draftsman Harley, in Milwaukee, and a pattern maker, Davidson, had gotten to together to pursue their own motorization, not for a four wheel carriage, like everyone else in the industry, but rather for a two wheeled bicycle-like contraption. Their Harley-Davidson machine was special among motorcycles...

**

...In publishing, the Pulitzer newsgroup in New York started a plan to offer a prize in book writing every year: the Pulitzer Prize. Jack London, well known novelist of the era never earned a Pulitzer Prize, but he did earn something else. Accredited with writing a thousand words a day for 17 years, for his novels, he is said to be the first American to become a millionaire writing fiction books. Norman Rockwell got a cover painting accepted for Mother's Day 1916, by Saturday Evening Post magazine. Everyone liked it. Rockwell would do Saturday Evening Post covers for the next 47 years...

**

...Manufactured food that had started with the Chicago meat industry in the 1870's, moved on to many categories of food. Adolphus Green looked at the local grocery cracker barrels, where people scooped their crackers into a bag, and decided the country needed sealed packages. His National Biscuit Company sold 10 million boxes a month, right at the beginning of this period, as housewives agreed his system was more sanitary. Henry Heinz looked at the argument going on about the Pure Food & Drugs bill, and decided households would appreciate health standards. He started giving open tours of his packing plants for 57 Varieties. (The Heinz 57 were 57 different types of pickles, *only*, originally). He brightly painted his delivery wagons and freight cars for marketing...

**

...William Wrigley began his business, with marketing thoughts *before* product thoughts. He had soap business which he promoted with baking powder as a give-a-way premium, but found people more interested in his baking powder, so he made that the main product. But then, he still felt he needed a give-a-way premium, so he used chewing gum for this. But then, he found people more interested in his chewing gum premium, than in the baking powder. So he made Wrigley's Chewing Gum his main product, and gave cookbooks, razors and other things as the premium. The chewing gum stuck. As Heinz painted delivery trucks, Wrigley decided to paint road side barns and buildings with his chewing gum ads...

**

...Arthur Scott heard of a Philadelphia school teacher cutting pieces of paper for students to clean their hands, as more sanitary than the common towel, and came up with the idea for his future Scott Paper Company of paper towels and toilet paper. Colgate toothpaste and Gillette razors also jumped in on the new awareness's about sanitary living in the new century...

**

...One catalogue item was the Sears Motor Car: "While we do not guarantee the Sears Car, to any definite length of time...as that depends entirely upon the driver..." They would ship in 10 days. You assembled the Sears Car yourself. Sixty pages of the Sears catalogue were devoted to musical instruments, as America entered a century of encouraging musical talent.

Sears' credit policy was: "Our only terms are cash." In the shortly arriving World War One of the coming decade, commanders were surprised when soldiers in war theatre hospitals, were asked what reading material they wanted shipped to France, to hear that the most requested book was the Sears Catalogue.

Sears could ship you just about everything, including your name-engraved gravestone. The company would have Cuckoo Clocks from Austria, run by contraband ships, secretly against the British naval blockade in that coming World War, to get them to their customers. The century of consumer enthusiasm was under way, even without credit...

**

...Henry Ford's ingenuity enabled faster production time, which he turned into lower consumer prices. He built half the cars in the U.S. in the first part of this period. Henry also turned the efficiency into giving his workers an eight hour day, and a higher wage --- raising their \$2.80/ day to \$5.00/ day --- than was found in industry. The Wall Street Journal criticized this as "*misapplication of Biblical* and spiritual principles in a field where they do not belong".

But Ford did believe in application of principles, and after giving the raises, opened a Sociality Department to spy on his employees to observe if they drank too much, fought with their wives. He also had people observe the assembly line for workers who wasted time with *unnecessary movements*, and sent them for retraining. Aldous Huxley used this as a basis for some of his big brother profile when he wrote 'Brave New World'...

**

...This was Holmes' famous dissent in *Lochner v. New York*. In fact the Fourteenth Amendment enacted after the Civil War to give African Americans rights, had been used for half a century to defeat legislatures trying to enact laws to regulate industry. The *Lochner* decision *against* legislatures (New York Legislature in that case) trying to create some justice for the working citizens, was thought of as the *Dred Scott decision* of the era. In other words, it made so many people angry at the Supreme Court, that pressure on manufacturers at the state level started to get the 8 hour day, established as practice...

**

...American women were reading magazines designed for them, like Ladies Home Journal: “To keep healthy hours, to think sound thoughts, breathe pure air, to dress with loveliness...those are the preparation for Love’s coming...Next month I want to tell you I think we can as girls prepare our minds and spirits the more fully and worthily for the coming of Love.” Sear’s Catalogue featured more women’s products. ‘Dr. Warden’s Female Pills’ did not exactly explain what they did. La Dores’ Bust Food obviously did. The Pure Food and Drug Act changed some things here.

Alice Roosevelt, President Teddy’s daughter by his deceased wife Alice, single-handedly represented one new trend among some women. She smoked in public, drove her own sports car, danced until dawn, beat Congressional politicians at poker, her father making one official comment on matter, “I can be President of the United States... *or* I can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both.” Empress Cixi of China invited Alice to spend the night in the Imperial Palace in Beijing, and the Sultan of Sulu in the Philippines invited Alice to be his wife. (Of the problems Malaysians would face with Sulu, over the years, heirs to Teddy Roosevelt’s daughter as Sultanness, would at least, not be on the list.)

**

...For the average working woman, the invention of the shirt-waist blouse made a long day of 10 to 12 hours in a factory more comfortable, as movement was easier. Women who dressed for fashion, on the other hand, did not have that benefit of technology to bring comfort, for the corset was still in fashion demand, doing its job to pull the waist in and push breasts up, but with the result of forcing the waist forward and pushing the torso backward. With the final touch, the tilted hat, the whole image comes off as definitely strange and uncomfortable to the eye, a hundred over years later. But that was fashion. Of course you need a quill in that hat, and that brought a social concern issue which was campaigned on in different ways, which we will come to shortly...

**

...Football was becoming more popular, but in the absence of protective gear, 15 college players were killed and 150 seriously injured in the 1905 season. President Teddy called college representatives to the White House, to discuss rules that would eliminate ‘power play wedges’, and other practices that injured. As a part of the process, the first down was increased to ten yards from

five, and rules were established for the forward pass. Harvard builds itself the first football stadium...

**

...Someone came up with the idea to have auto's race ahead of the marathon runners with doctors. A nice health touch, except that the auto's kicked up tremendous dust clouds in front of the racers on unpaved roads. One U.S. racer nearly collapsed of the dust, until two of the cars fortuitously ran over an embankment and crashed.

Two African runners in this Olympics were chased off by dogs, but one outran them and came back to finish ninth. The Cuban runner in the lead stopped to eat some green peaches from an orchard, and then dropped from effect, late in race. (His speed would have otherwise made him the winner.) The winner, an American, was quickly reported to have ridden in one of the doctor's cars for part of the race, so was disqualified. The eventual winner, himself had asked a doctor car for water at the 20-mile mark, but the doctors insisted on a concoction of strychnine and brandy instead. He did win, but was delirious. It had been the Third International Olympics, and the first Olympics ever hosted by America...

**

...Taft had an argument with General Arthur MacArthur, whose family on tour with him there included son Douglas MacArthur who would of course, also become an army general. General MacArthur Senior was practicing waterboarding. For those who feel this is a discussion the American public would first have in the twenty-first century, it is interesting to note Finley Peter Dunne's Mr Dooley's comments of the times, "Me desire is to idjucate thim slowly... He is not be won or our sturdy boys in black an' blue who asts him to cheer for Abraham Lincoln. He rayfuses. He is thin placed upon th' grass. One gallon makes him give three cheers for the Constitoocheon...Occasionally we ran across a stubborn an rebellyous man who wud strain at th' idea of human rights, an swallow the Pacific Ocean."

**

...William Howard Taft brought to the White House certain requirements. His wife, Helen, quickly established a rule of silence of servants. (No one on staff had noticed or thought about this, in the noisy 6-child Teddy Roosevelt years.) Taft was 335 pounds in weight, so a special bathtub had to be ordered, and a Ford with a special wide door, for the Presidential limousine. The kitchen was

always ready with one little meal he commonly liked: “lobster stew, salmon cutlets with peas, roast tenderloin with vegetable salad, roast turkey and ham, frozen pudding, cake, fruit, coffee.”

The last item was important. Taft would call for food when he was tired, but then always said that eating made him tired. White House staff were accustomed to his falling asleep in meetings, usually about thirty minutes after lunch. One comedian on visiting the White House, said “He was the largest audience I ever put to sleep.”

Conscious of the criticism this earned for him, he had once, in his Philippine years as Governor, sent a telegram to Secretary of War Elihu Root, that he had ridden a horse for 25 miles, to a 5000 foot elevation in the mountains, only to receive back a telegram, “How is the horse?”. He did not start the tradition of fat man jokes, but he did his part to proffer material. During the election campaigning, one horse had collapsed under him, and states began sending telegrams offering bigger horses...

**

...And so, Joe Cannon took a tougher position with the Progressive Republicans who had much to do with Republican reforms in the Teddy years, reforms which had come through some states to the Congressional level, with successful Progressive Republican programs, states like Wisconsin with Bob LaFollette. The Progressive Republicans were now referred to as ‘*Insurgents*’ by conservative Republicans, and Joe Cannon’s remedy was well known, “America is a hell of success. The Insurgents should be hanged.” Nice and terse. Cannon’s rapport with the Teddy Roosevelt and Bob LaFollette reforms was over...

**

...Norris *then read* from the Constitution, *the clause* that says that the House, *not* the Speaker shall appoint members to the Rules Committee (which in turn decided what legislature would come to the floor of the House for discussion). Joe Cannon filibustered against the motion for three days, but the votes were there to vote against him. Joe Cannon’s many years of the absolute sort of power, that appointing members to the Rules Committee, had given him, ended. The ‘*Insurgents*’, the Progressive Republicans had earlier brought about direct election of Senators, and the practice of referendums and recalls, in their time of influence...

**

...Norris *then read* from the Constitution, *the clause* that says that the House, *not* the Speaker shall appoint members to the Rules Committee (which in turn decided what legislature would come to the floor of the House for discussion). Joe Cannon filibustered against the motion for three days, but the votes were there to vote against him. Joe Cannon's many years of the absolute sort of power, that appointing members to the Rules Committee, had given him, ended. The 'Insurgents', the Progressive Republicans had earlier brought about direct election of Senators, and the practice of referendums and recalls, in their time of influence...

**

...In the election of 1913, Teddy would take over 4 million votes, a record for a Third Party beating one of the major two. (It never happened again.) Taft would take only 3 million votes. So, Woodrow Wilson, Democrat, could become the 28th President of the United State, over the total of those Republican votes, with only 6 million votes. Wilson invited Taft to the Inauguration lunch, naturally expecting him to decline to come to the victory event of the opposition, but he did not really know 'Meal-time Taft'.

Taft's aides had equally arranged a 330 pm train, to avoid his participation in the Democratic Party lunch, but Taft said, "Surely there is time for me to have a sandwich". His aides finally drug him away, half way through the event that was celebrating his defeat. He had promised to lose weight in his Presidency. He gained.

3. War to End War

Woodrow Wilson took his roots in a small town in Virginia, from which his whole generation of family migrated. When he became President, Wilson did return to seek out one elderly aunt with whom he had not kept in touch. She asked him how he had been doing over the years, and he responded, that, "Well, I have become President". "President of what?", Auntie replied.

Son of a Presbyterian Minister, who had withdrawn his church from the national church to support the South in the Civil War, friends at the University of Virginia, would call Woodrow a secessionist sympathizer. At a time when most thought typewriters cumbersome and un-useful, Wilson bought one and used it constantly, thus becoming a pre-twentieth century techie. His cousin

Hattie refused his proposal in marriage, and he married Ellen Axson. Getting a faculty job at Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia, he ended up invited to speak at a meeting in Baltimore discussing political machines. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt invited him...

**

...Joining the faculty of Princeton University in New Jersey, Wilson became the university's President in 1902, where he supported Teddy's effort to preserve college football by introducing rules to make it less murderous. Wilson's writings always spoke of the need for *more centralization* in government, something that would spill into his interest in Leagues of Nations, later in life. He tried such an organization to limit cliques at Princeton, and failed in this greater scheme in a way, that may well reflect his later failure to organize Americans into a worldwide scheme of a different sort. He also wrote that the President should lead, something most Congresses in power shuddered to think about, and something that of course, Teddy Roosevelt championed...

**

...Active with opinions about politics from his position at Princeton University, the Democratic Party bosses in New Jersey, came to think that Wilson could be the person to beat the Republican Progressives, at least at the state level. Shocked to see some many books in his library at his office, the political bosses had asked if he read all those books. "Not every day", the professor assured. The party bosses somehow got the idea that a college professor would be a good puppet, but then this professor in the campaign they had supported, attacked the boss system that had sponsored him, and became Governor of New Jersey in 1911. Wilson went on to establish direct primaries to lessen the bosses' power, as the Republican Progressives had likewise done at their state levels, earlier...

**

...William Jennings Bryan liked that, and campaigned to get New Jersey Governor Wilson nominated for President within the Democratic Party, where Bryan had been the Presidential candidate three times, always losing to the Republicans. The 1912 Convention nominated Governor Wilson to be just that, with Bryan promised the Secretary of State appointment. (In 1912, the Democratic Party still had the ritual of sending a delegation to travel to inform the Presidential nominee that the Party had chosen him, although telegraph and then phone communication had been in place for half a century.) Inauguration day, March 4, 1913, the Republican White House of the long William

McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and William Howard Taft years, became home to a Democratic Party President with an old Populist Party Secretary of State...

**

...Women in the dress industry using a powder to brush over cloth designs, were not informed, when their employers switched to a cheaper chemical with lead, until their bodies started to swell. 8 million women worked in factories, at the turn into the second decade of the 1900's. 8000 of them belonged to unions. A Massachusetts school board posted rules for women teachers: "Do not get married...Do not leave town without permission of the school board...Do not loiter downtown in ice cream parlors...Do not dress in bright colors."

**

...Some activism that came from all this, went to union enlisting, and also resulted in some state laws in Republican Progressive states. Some other activism went straight to asking for the vote. Rose Schneiderman of the German Workers Union: "Women in the laundries...stand for thirteen or fourteen hours a day in the terrible steam and heat with their hands in hot starch. Surely these women won't lose more of their beauty and charm, by putting a ballot in a ballot box once a year."

Many marched. One news article described a New York march. "All along Fifth Avenue from Washington Square, where the parade formed to 57th Street, where it disbanded, were gathered thousands of men and women of New York. They blocked every cross street on the line of march. Many were inclined to laugh and jeer, but none did. The sight of impressive columns of women striding five abreast up the middle of the street stifled all thought of ridicule." One participant wrote, "I decided not to walk in New York's first suffrage parade, because my Mother wouldn't let me. The next year, my husband asked me not to. This fall I decided that it was up to me, to suffer for democracy."

**

...An American Boys Handy Book, which covered maintaining a bicycle, stuffing birds, raising frogs --- pages 110 to 113 featured how to devastate in snowball warfare --- became popular in the early century. In 1909, a Chicago publisher, W.D. Boyce lost in the midst of London, asked a boy --- who then became known as the 'Unknown Scout' --- to help him find his destination. The boy did, and on refusing a tip, explained that he was a member of the Boy Scouts of Britain, and was *required to help*.

Boyce tracked down the founder of the organization, General Baden-Powell, and then took back to America, a plan to start an organization there. In the U.S. he met with Ernest Seton, who had a 'Woodcraft Indians' boys organization. In 1910 the Boy Scouts of America began, an organization that would have in its ranks future Presidents, Governors, business leaders, and eventually ... in the distant future, 11 of the 12 moon-landing Astronauts. Smartly, the organization from the beginning, started to revere Native American heritage..

**

...Automobiles moved on toward their future position in American life. The Cadillac Motor Company agreed to incorporate electric starters in their cars. Before this, you started the car by climbing in the passenger's side, setting the starter, then took the crank to the front of the engine. When the car started, you climbed in the driver's side to set the throttle. The inventor, who decided to apply electricity to the situation, had a friend who had died from being hit by an ornery crank shaft, which flipped backward, when he was trying to help a women motorist start her car. General Motors branches out from cars to pick up an invention that keeps food cool in the kitchen: the Frigidaire.

But long distance travel remained a train ride, in these times, as the Sante Fe Deluxe began running from Chicago to San Francisco over 63 hours, in 1911. It had stenographers and maids, and cost \$25 a trip. Nevertheless, four women did succeed in being the first girls to figure out, how exactly to travel by an automobile (a 1909 Maxwell-Briscoe auto) from New York to San Francisco...

**

...'Pluggers' from Tin Pan Alley would go to department stores and theatres, at admission break time, and perform the songs to 'plug' the sheet music sales. 'Meet Me in St. Louis' was originally for the 1904 Olympics. 'In the Good Old Summertime', was turned down by Tin Pan Alley publishers, as being 'too seasonal', but then went on to sell 12 million sheet music copies, anyway. Tin Pan Alley sold two billion copies of sheet songs, for the tunes they did decide to pick, in 1910!

**

...New York City in 1900, had 40 theatres for plays, and 6 vaudeville theatres. The first movie houses only appeared in 1910. Broadway shows thrived, but writers, owners, performers were all controlled by a trust which took 15% of gross. Florenz Ziegfeld and wife, made their Ziegfeld Follies vaudeville acts so popular, that they could do a nationwide tour. Vaudeville shows featured

family performers like six year old Buster Keaton and his Mom and Dad, the ‘Cherry Sisters: America’s Worst Act’, who sang behind a net, to protect them from projectiles from the audience, and Eva Tangury, who made \$3500 a week, pretending to be possessed on stage, while she took her clothes off. Picture taking was prohibited in vaudeville shows for the new Brownie Camera’s, which Eastman Kodak brought out in 1900, for \$1 a piece...

**

...President Wilson made Mother’s Day official. Football added a fourth down, the forward pass, and standardized the size of its field. The first World Series took place in Boston, where the Boston Americans beat the Pittsburgh Nationals, in 1903. Wilson would throw the first ball to open the baseball season, a tradition started by his predecessor Taft. And the Japanese government sent a gift of cherry blossom trees for the Washington D.C. Tidal Basin, by the Jefferson Monument. The first crop died, but the replacements lived on...through World War Two... until today...

**

...President Woodrow Wilson’s first act as President of the country, was to order the segregation of government offices and rest rooms at the Post Office, Treasury, Bureau of Printing. The man who would someday claim, in an unexpected course of events, that his country would make the world safe for democracy, was an activist racist... and so hardly carried the credentials for such envisioned leadership in a better globe. He was eventually forced to drop the new Federal segregation project, but he did succeed in taking jobs away from career African American civil servants, in an interview with the Evening Post, making it clear that he would not have blacks in charge of whites.

African American leader William Monroe Trotter brought a delegation to the White House to protest the segregation effort and the harm done to career black civil servants. “Under the Treasury Department...there is segregation not only in the dressing rooms, but in working positions...herded at separate tables, in eating, and in toilets...In the Post Office...forbidding even of entrance into an adjoining room occupied by white clerks...,” Trotter protested. Wilson got angry with them, for protesting “But we are American citizens”, showed them the door, and met no more representatives on the subject... ever...

**

...A white teacher in Berwyn Pennsylvania knew Dubois, and wrote to him of a bright black girl who saw no point in studying, because she was sure she would have no chance at education. Dubois wrote her, "Every time a colored person neglects an opportunity, it makes it more difficult for others of the race to get such an opportunity. Do you want to cut off the chances of the boys and girls of tomorrow?" Dubois and others began the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples. One plank of its mission complained about Christian churches insistence to segregate blacks. One plank thanked many whites, from Abolition times onward, for their work against discrimination. The 'Duty Plank' emphasized the responsibilities of blacks as citizens...

**

...When only the Sherman Anti-Trust law was prohibiting trust practices of price fixing, etc., the Court could find ways to protect the trusts. When Justice White wrote that 'rule of reason' must be applied alongside the laws, in an effort to overrule the laws, Justice Holmes snidely commented, "How would any Justice write against 'rule of reason'". When lawyer Felix Frankfurter defended a ten-hour day workers law for the state of Oregon, Justice McReynolds actually shouted, "Ten hours. Why not four". Felix went up to the Justices and said to McReynolds, "Your Honor, if by chance...your physician should find that you're eating too much meat, it isn't necessary for him to urge you to be a vegetarian". Justice Holmes said to the young lawyer Frankfurter, "Good for you." The other Justices were irritated at Holmes. The young lawyer Felix Frankfurter, of course, is recognizable as a future Supreme Court Justice, who would in a future time, himself, sit up there on the Bench, where he had once thrown an anecdote at a startled senior Justice...

**

...Wilson also visited the Finance Committee in the discussion of the Federal Reserve. The National Bank, or 'Central Bank', or 'Second Bank of the United States', as it was variously known, was ended by President Jackson, when he refused to renew its charter in 1836. Then during the Civil War, Lincoln's administration created a system of national banks, but not a Central Bank. The Panics of 1873, 1893, and 1907 gave rise to a discussion of restoring the Central Bank, *without calling it that*, of course. A Congressional study on the subject was subsequently rejected by Congress. A secret meeting by banking chiefs on Jekyll Island off Georgia, created a plan, that, for whatever reasons, Congress eventually accepted in 1913. America now again had a Central Bank, although the promoters carefully called it 'a Federal Reserve System'!?

**

...Opposition in Mexico, eventually overthrew Huerta, but then one insurgent, Pancho Villa, in 1914, stopped a train in Mexico, and murdered all 17 Americans on it, and crossed the border into New Mexico State, and killed civilians and burned a town. Wilson mobilized 30,000 men under General Pershing, who in turn, crossed the Mexican border, but in passing 300 miles deep into Mexico, never captured Pancho.

The Wilson years seemed to be repeating the Taft and Roosevelt years in unsatisfying diplomatic and military encounters in their continental hemisphere. Something much more momentous was brewing, but America in 1914, had no inkling about what was going to happen to the world they knew, and the century they had entered. Teddy Roosevelt and Captain Mahan had said some prescient things about all that, but most folks, only started re-reading their late 1800's concerns, after World War Two...

**

...The whole thing took a different turn, and got out of control, because Germany since 1905 had a contingency plan, the 'Schlieffen Plan, to attack France, that called for the German army to swing north through Belgium, and come down to Paris from the North. Germany now initiated that plan. The British people were not aware of any involvement in any of this, but *in fact* their government had signed a secret agreement to defend France, in case of German attack. (The fact that there had been a Schlieffen Plan since 1905, indicates that there were people in the military establishment on all sides, who imagined Germany could, in fact, attack France.)

So Britain, all of a sudden declared war on Germany, and all of a sudden all the major powers from Russia to Britain, were involved in a war with each other, because of an assassination in Sarajevo. It seems impossible that they would all start a war that would be locked in trenches and last four years, and see 65 million men in arms, but the German Kaiser's announcement to his troops gives a clue of the problem of misunderstanding. "You will be home before the leaves have fallen from the trees", he told them in August of 1914. Old friends in the diplomatic corps of the capital cities of Europe said 'Goodbye' to each other, and went home. The military industrial machine with the Kaiser's leadership, took over German policy (for the first time, of two, for the century)...

**

...Both armies then decided to *temporarily* build trenches, and the French quickly deployed their own machine gun tech to their side. The armies would now sit there killing each other (10 million died on that line) for four years to come. The Battle of the Marne line eventually extended its trenches on both sides, for 400 miles from Belgium to Italy. Machine gun tech held for the war, and machine gun tech prevented anyone from advancing. Planes were basically only used for scouting, and tanks only experimented with, by the end of hostilities.

The first Battle of the Marne created 500,000 casualties in days, mostly to machine gun fire. Charges across the lines were regular. Over four years, *not one* really succeeded. Those dead between the trench lines were left there, until winter snow covered their bodies. Britain's King's Yorkshire Men made one 800 man charge against the German line with 80 men surviving. The Germans tried that themselves on one day in 1915, and ended up with 600,000 casualties. In 1916, the Germans had 3000 trucks running twenty-four hours a day to supply the summer offensive, on the trench line...

**

...Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, organized relief for Belgian citizens, for Wilson's war-neutral administration, gathering support from U.S. charities. Hoover would be doing this for two years of American neutrality, then throughout America's war years. Wilson campaigned in 1916, against entering the war, and enjoyed the praise "He kept us out of the War" in his Second Inauguration year of 1917. Movie theatres in the U.S. carried messages with news, "*Do not express* approval or disapproval, when war scenes appear on the screen." But 1917 was the year of the Lusitania...

**

...The Germans had recently announced that they were commencing total warfare against all shipping. They had produced 100 U-Boot submarines, by this time, and decided to use them. The Lusitania sinking brought home, just exactly what that meant. Wilson explained, "Even hospital ships carrying relief to the solely bereaved and stricken people of Belgian, distinguished by unmistakable marks of identity have been sunk...I as for a while unable to believe that such things would be done by any government." Then, the British cryptologist service handed the U.S. some communication from German to Mexico, stating Germany would assist Mexico in *taking back* New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, from the U.S. This Zimmerman Telegram put the U.S. government in a position where non-intervention could no longer be popular.

Wilson addressed Congress, “The right is more dear than peace, and we shall fight for things which we have always carried dear to our hearts, for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government, for the *rights of small nations*....” And Congress, with this high-mindedness, went to war. Wilson, the racist, of course was tripping himself up, with the last bit, about concern for small nations. He probably could not see the contradiction. History would. Wilson’s “The world must be made safe for democracy” statement, was more honest...

**

...Williams Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State, unlike with the Spanish American War, this time remembered that he was a pacifist, and quit his job. Teddy Roosevelt asked for a Roosevelt Division. Wilson, probably remembering McKinley’s qualms about the other political party (and William Jennings Bryan) producing an obvious war hero, who would then run against him, said No. (The French President Clemenceau definitely wanted a Roosevelt Division. Teddy’s sons would volunteer. Two were injured; one died: the Roosevelt family would lose son Kermit. He became an airplane scout, and was shot down behind German lines.)

An American parade of soldiers was quickly arranged in Paris, July 4, 1917, but American mobilization would take the year to materialize. Colonel Stanton of the U.S. forces, would reach the tomb of Lafayette, and say, “Lafayette, we are here!”

**

...American soldiers finally faced the Germans in the trenches in the fall of 1917. The Germans overran them and thought they had won, but in fact, the American boys reorganized and pushed them right back. One French commander advised his Marine counterpart to build trenches behind their positions for such periodic retreats, and heard his Marine, one Captain Williams, respond that the Marines did not build trenches, and furthermore, “Retreat Hell. We just got here.” German command thought it a good idea to concentrate on the new troops, but the Americans held (with 55% losses), and German Chief of Staff, Walther Reinhardt wired admiration (and caution) back to Berlin. There would eventually be 1 million Americans on the trench lines...

**

...The letters of soldiers spoke from the lines. “Dear Wife, moving towards the Argonne Forest...The fellow on my right got hit. Jerry (*name for all Germans*) was sending shells over in a jiffy. I laid there until dark looking every minute

for Fritzie (*another name for all Germans*) to sneak up on me, but he didn't. We had about 250 men when we started over the top on the 26th of September, and when we came out, there was all about 80", your Husband, Private Jesse Maxey. The Sun Newspaper gave one story, "there's a Hun lying in the trench. I went over to the Hun, "Wilst du ich aus nicht?" (*Will you get me out of here?*) "One look at the poor devil and I dressed his wounds, and helped him on his first lap to his hospital. And thus died the last spark of frightfulness that was in me...I was not made of the same stuff as the Hun was."

**

...The Americans bothered their allies, with their constant singing: "Oh How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning", KKK Katy, Beautiful Lady' and one for the French, 'Mademoiselle from Armantieres'. French President Clemenceau offered the American commanders to set up brothels for the American forces (like he had for the French). Secretary of War Newton Baker quickly responded, "For God's sake, don't show this to the President. He will stop the war!" In confirmation of the American position on this matter, the Chamberlain Kahn Act in the U.S. in 1918 allowed any woman walking by an American base in the U.S., to be imprisoned...

**

...Back home, sauerkraut became 'Liberty cabbage', hamburgers 'Liberty Sandwiches', and U.S. citizens were asked to make sacrifices in diet so food could be sent to the boys. The result was 'dog fish', 'vegetable lamb', sugarless candy, whale meat, horse steak. King George in England, was at the same time, giving up beer. Edith, the new First Lady, who Wilson married a year after wife Ellen died, planted a White House vegetable garden, and Wilson brought in sheep to graze. And of course the corporate bosses, harassed on price fixing by thirty years of Progressive Republican reforms, now found no one watching...

**

...The war would cost the U.S. \$112 billion, roughly equal to the whole Federal budget since George Washington. The Espionage Act of 1917 prohibited criticism of the war: "*Report the man* who spreads pessimistic stories, or seeks confidential military information, cries for peace, or belittles our effort to win the war." Libraries who had been banning books like Huckleberry Finn, for leading youth to impulsiveness, now in an environment where youth would be

sent to face machine gun nests, changed to banning books by Thorstein Veblen, who taught suspicion of government.

Beethoven, Mozart, Bach were likewise banned from symphony repertoires. Courts in 1917 convicted citizens who publically complained about the war, and the Sedition Act of 1918 disallowed *any* dissent against the war. (This was one year after the movie theatre notices not to show any *approval or disapproval* for either side, when seeing newsreels). Wilson started a Commission on Public Safety, where 'Four-minute men' would give short speeches on patriotism. J. Edgar Hoover in the FBI started his index card system on people...something that would have some effects, right through most of the century. 5000 Americans were arrested...

**

...The Conference for this post-War --- the Great War they would call it...until World War Two --- was to be held in France, at Versailles Palace. Wilson insisted to go himself, thinking anyone he sent would be outranked by the heads of state of France and Britain. Wilson went with a new-world-order bent, speaking in high tones, of 'the destruction of every arbitrary power everywhere; the settlement of every question ...upon the basis of consent...the consent of *all* nations to be governed.' He arrived in France, in a captured German ocean liner, renamed the 'George Washington'.

But the British and French had a different point of view. Britain had lost 1 million men in those four years of trench warfare. Lloyd George, British PM, noted, "Not one shack had been destroyed in America". French Prime Minister Clemenceau said, "Mr Wilson bores me with his 14 Points. Why God Almighty has only 10." One thing that was on those two leaders' minds was that the allies owed the U.S. \$5 billion. And the House of Morgan men who arranged all those loans *came with* Wilson, and were with him the whole time at Versailles...

**

...Were Britain and France, with the Morgan boys standing around, expected *not* to demand heavy reparations from Germany, when they owed the U.S. \$5 billion, the leaders asked themselves??!! America was referred to as Uncle Shylock, by some on the British delegation. (America had itself seen 116,000 deaths and 200,000 casualties in Europe's little war.) The Allies claimed \$320 billion from Germany. Germany would eventually pay \$5 billion in reparations. John Foster Dulles (to come up again in U.S. diplomatic history) drafted a 'war guilt' clause to pertain to Germany. American wit Will Rogers,

suggested something: “I have a scheme for stopping war. It’s this – No nation is allowed to enter a war, *till* they have paid for the last one.”

**

...Wilson was focused on a world government idea: the League of Nations. Evidently reverting to the early years of his professorial mind, he blindly believed this was the way to go...to prevent something like a Great War Number Two, from *ever occurring*. The League was discussed. The Japanese -- strangely enough from what they were going to do, a decade in the future in China --- insisted on an equality-of-races clause. If they had any depth study on Wilson, they would have saved their breath on that one. The clause that was added was weak. Wilson looked at it, and made it weaker...

**

...Henry Cabot Lodge, Roosevelt’s old friend, still in the Senate, objected to Article X. The example Lodge used in his attack stacks equally *as strange* as Lord Cecil’s example of Bohemia: “If China should rise up to attack Japan in an effort to undo the great wrong of the cessation of Shandong, to that power we should be bound under the terms of Article 10, to *sustain Japan* against China.” In this example, the U.S. would fight *for* Japan *against* China. The discussions about Article X were producing a list of strangely uncanny if-history examples, that actually related to the future. The real irony was that Japan was occupying China --- during the Versailles Conference, and also after the League of Nations came into being --- and nothing was done by the League about that...

**

...The Chinese had thought that Wilson, based on reading his original 14 Points about self-determination for emerging nations, would help them get the Japan occupying force out. Wellington Koo came as Ambassador from China, to Versailles, in order to plead for just that. But the Japanese kept Shandong. China did not sign the League agreement. (In 1922, the U.S. mediated an agreement for the Japanese to leave, but then they were soon to invade Manchuria.)

**

...Ho Chi Minh rented a tuxedo and a bowler hat, to show up at the Versailles Conference for Vietnam, sure that Mr. Wilson’s 14 Points inclusion of self-determination for small nations, would be the end of French colonial power in Vietnam.

But Wilson pushed for no such self-determination, Vietnam or elsewhere. He thought the signing of the League of Nations was the only goal. His allies were colonial powers! Colonialism was profitable for them, and with the Morgan boys around, and debts to be paid, colonialism looked like a solution, to the eye that was never serious about helping small nations. Mao Zedong, teacher in China, at the time, watched news of the Versailles Conference about emerging nations, and called it a sham, even before the Chinese would hear the news about the Japanese staying on in Shandong. Even the American Irish pointed out that Ireland had seen colonial occupation for centuries. What about the 14 Points? Why was not Ireland now independent? Even British financial delegate, John Maynard Keynes attacked Wilson for abandoning the 14 Points...

**

...But the Senate and most Americans saw what was wrong. The U.S. was supposed to surrender sovereignty in the subject of defense and war, to a world government body, dominated by Euro countries for whom America had just finished cleaning up one international mess. Senator Borah of Idaho said immediately, "Your treaty does not mean peace...if we are to judge the future by the past, *it means war*. Is there any guarantee of peace, other than the guarantee, which comes of the control of the war-making power by the people?"

**

...But the Senate and most Americans saw what was wrong. The U.S. was supposed to surrender sovereignty in the subject of defense and war, to a world government body, dominated by Euro countries for whom America had just finished cleaning up one international mess. Senator Borah of Idaho said immediately, "Your treaty does not mean peace...if we are to judge the future by the past, *it means war*. Is there any guarantee of peace, other than the guarantee, which comes of the control of the war-making power by the people?"

4. Roared

In 1919, there were race riots by whites against blacks in Northern cities, the New York office of J.P. Morgan was bombed, and there was a general

Bolshevik scare, as Lenin made it known that Russia would foster Communism anywhere in the world. The anti-war laws against criticism would be enforced against many, who had various opinions. Behind the scare, was the fact that employment dropped immediately when the war stopped, but the war time inflation of as much as 62% had stayed on. Government sustained on an 8% income tax (10% corporate). And finally, it came to be known, that the Chicago White Sox had thrown the 1919 World Series to the Cincinnati Red's for gamblers' profits to eight key players. The post-war year was not one of a victory good feel...

**

...Harding stated that he 'would, when elected sign *whatever* bills the Senate sent, and he would *not send* bills for the Senate to pass." What a relief for all Party bosses that had to put up with Teddy and the reform Progressive Republicans, then with Wilson, for a quarter century. A member of the Republican Party recommended that Harding follow the old way of not campaigning: "Keep Warren at home...If he goes out on a tour, somebody's sure to ask him questions, and Warren's just the sort of damn fool to try to answer them."

**

...In the election, the Republicans beat the Democrat's Ohio Governor Cox and Vice President candidate, Franklin Delano Roosevelt 404 electoral votes to 127. In the Inauguration car, newspapers described the ailing Wilson, riding alongside the new President. No one could have guessed correctly *who* would die sooner...

**

...This became 'Return to Normalcy', which for some, meant return to times before the Great War. This is always impossible, but it rang well with many. For Harding, it meant little Presidential leadership, and that would lead to a legacy, about which he had no thought at the time, when he coined the phrase for his period in the White House. Even Wilson's Vice President, Thomas Marshall, had said of the pressing issues of his time, "What this country needs is a good five cent cigar!" It is practically the only thing for which this man is remembered, but in fact, he may have been a prophet, who accurately touched the chord of his Republic's real direction... for the coming 1920's decade....

**

...Harding and Wilson opened the monument at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There is a soldier in there. He was an unidentified American, one of four, brought back from a chapel in France, where he died. The village was of course, by one of the rivers where the trench lines lay, the Marne River, in France. 90,000 citizens walked by that day, at Arlington Cemetery, in homage...

**

...Harding addressed the Conference, “Our hundred million (*population of the U.S. was 106 million in 1920*) frankly want less of armament and none of war...we accredit the world with the same good intent.” News correspondent William Jennings Bryan, always a candidate, never a President, once a Secretary of State, now a reporter again, rose to his feet and started the applause. Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes rose after the President, to speak, and said the U.S. was planning to scrap thirty 8000-ton warships. The crowd responded, and thought the speech was over.

But Hughes was only pausing. He then turned to the British delegation and announced he also proposed the British totally stop production of the Hood Class warships. The First Lord of the British Admiralty was said by a reporter to look at Hughes, “like a bulldog sleeping on a sunny door step, who had been poked in the stomach, by a door to door salesman.” Then Hughes did the same with Japan. It was later said, “Hughes sunk more ships in 35 minutes, than all the admirals of the world in a cycle of centuries.”

**

...After World War Two, it became known that *no one* who signed the treaty, had kept to the warship limits...except the U.S., which almost ran out of ships after Pearl Harbor, something Japan was in fact counting on, by that far distant date of time. The final treaty was kept in secret. It was between the four major powers after World War One: Britain, France, U.S., Japan. After World War Two, there would also come to be criticism of this secret treaty for another one of its terms, for this 1922 Washington Disarmament Conference Treaty promised no fortifications in the Pacific, West of Guam for the Americans, and north of Malaya, for the British, and giving Japan an open hand, in the West Pacific...

**

...The war had taken the U.S. budget from \$1 billion/year to \$18.5 billion, and in 1920 was still \$ 6 billion. The President was for the *first time* in history,

asked to submit an annual budget. The National Debt had gone from \$1.8 billion to \$25 billion. Everything was now examined. Charles Dawes had been procurement arranger in the Treasury for General Pershing during the war. The House of Morgan had supported him, especially because he was not a familiar Morgan associate face, which occasionally helped with the U.S. government. Now, Congress called Dawes up to question war time *pricing of mules*. Dawes responded, “Hell and Maria, we weren’t trying to keep a set of books. We were trying to win a war.” This time around, the government had an answer. Harding made Dawes Director of Budget, and the first budget submitted was for \$ 3.5 billion...

**

...Harding became famous early for saying that he did *not understand* this or that, as in the argument about giving the Philippines their freedom, an argument that he found ‘confusing’. Internationally, he would support a relief program to Lenin’s Russia, after a famine, Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, setting up 18,000 relief stations, in one of the first peacetime U.S. interventions in famine. Lenin’s Russia, after the emergency, would say that this was all an espionage effort by the U.S.

But then Lenin would invite American capital to build plants in Russia in the 1920’s, as would Stalin after him, so the two nations had a relationship that was somewhat better, than it would be later in the century. Hoover’s Commerce Department also delivered assistance to Japan after a major earthquake of 1923. (But Congress’s passing of an ‘exclusion act’ against Japanese immigrants, caused some anger in Japan, that military radicals would be able to use for their special purposes, in their 1920’s and 1930’s plans for Japan.)

**

...European debt to the U.S. immediately started to become a problem, when Germany lessened payments (many of which were in kind, like timber, and manufactured goods) to the Allies, who in turn, had to pay the U.S. their own war debts. Britain and France asked for relief on the money they owned the U.S., because Germany was not paying the \$33 billion owed to them in reparations.

The Allies thought the Germans were testing the situation. France demanded payment from Germany, then sent troops into the Ruhr Valley of Germany to take factories. The U.S. got a Charles Dawes plan accepted to restructure the terms of repayments of all debts. Germany was given more time, and a \$200 million loan from the U.S. to help its economy...

**

...France said to the U.S. that they had already *spent* more blood than anyone else in the matter of the past war, and deserved a special deal on their debt to the U.S. They proposed trading their Far East colonies --- that would have included Vietnam --- to the U.S. in exchange for part of their debt. The U.S. said No to that. (It is an interesting '*if-history*' thought, as to what would have happened if the U.S. had administered Vietnam from 1920's in a manner similar to the Philippines, that it was administering, with a plan to democratic independence, rather than a continued colonial plan of the French type of administration.) Harding's comment on all of this was, "I don't understand any of this European stuff."

**

...Republicans began lessening African American jobs in the civil service. Harding assured Southern Republicans this would be the policy, although his personal statements indicate he did not agree with this. Harding, himself, was pressed to prove that in fact, he was not descended from a slave. This had been brought up in his Senator and Presidential elections. Personally, he was not concerned: "How do I know if one of my ancestors may have jumped the fence." But in politics, he would listen to his Southern white men...

**

...The other part of the scandals, the personal ones, only arose in detail in the late 1920's, when the women began talking. Harding liked to drink and play poker with his old Ohio friends in the White House (in these years of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution.) People like Secretary of Commerce Hoover objected. Daugherty and Fall were usually at the table, along with Jess Smith, to whom we will come, shortly.

The poker game, which eventually moved to the Green House on K Street, included women. One of those women, a chorus girl, died, when hit in the head by a thrown booze bottle in one the Green House parties that became excessive, and that moment, whenever it was, seemed to define the end of Harding's life, political and physical. His lovers would tell their stories, later. The brother of the girl who died at the Green House party, would evidently blackmail Harding for a while, but then find himself jailed by the justice system. There were evidently passionate notes written to some gals, back in Harding's Senate days... written on blue Senate writing paper. The revelations would keep coming up, into the 1960's. Harding's wealthy buddy, Edward McLean, owner

of the Washington Post, would buy and burn, at the McLean estate, an entire print run of an early biography of Harding, which listed mistresses...

**

...The other problem with the Green House of Harding's friends, was that bootleggers would not only be delivering booze, but paying for protection, at that very location. One George Remus would later say that he paid \$350,000 a year for government licenses to sell '*medical*' alcohol. It is estimated \$7 million was paid in the Green House 1921 to 1923. The \$1000 bills handed out in the Green House, evidently came from an operation in a New York hotel, where bootleggers would come into a room adjacent to the friends of the government room, where a peep-hole could monitor them placing \$1000 bills in a gold fish bowl, without the bootleggers seeing exactly with whom they were dealing...

**

...It was news of the Teapot Dome deal with oilman Henry Sinclair, that started everything. Harding told Daugherty to get Jess Smith out of Washington, then left for his Alaska, West Coast trip. Jess Smith was found dead, with a gun beside him, many assuming someone tried to make it *look like* he suicide'd. Some five people who were close the 'fish bowl in a hotel room' system, died quickly in accidents. President Harding never returned from the West Coast trip. He died in San Francisco of a heart attack. Woodrow Wilson in his ailing health, would have to endure one more official event as a former President, one more official progression down Pennsylvania Avenue, once more with, this time behind, Warren Harding... in his casket. All the Harding personal matters were never closely investigated until after World War Two...

**

...There will always be some suspicion of Mrs. Harding poisoning him on that trip, a lady who had by that time, shown herself to be one of the most forceful of First Ladies, who also probably knew of the Nan Britten child. Warren had sold his Ohio newspaper for \$500,000 earlier in the year. And then some say that Harding killed himself over the combination of Nan's child, and the breaking news of the scandals coming from his poker table friends. In any case, Florence blocked an autopsy of her departed spouse.

Florence returned to Washington on the train of the dead President, where kids along the way, placed coins on the track to be squashed, as mementoes of the event. When Warren's memorial was put up in his home town, of Marion,

Ohio, *no politician* in the 1920's would go to *dedicate it*. It is an unusual outcome for a U.S. President. Herbert Hoover would finally do the job in Marion in the 1930's...

**

...Hoover, silent with the rest of them, for a decade, would eventually say, "Harding had a dim realization that he had been betrayed by a few of the men whom he had trusted... This was the tragedy of the life of Warren Harding." In 1964, yet another mistress would come forth with her particular story with Warren that had gone on for 15 years. Carrie Phillips, like Nan Britton, also of Harding's Marion, Ohio, admitted she had blackmailed Harding as a Senator, to vote *against* President's Wilson's proposal to join the Allies, to fight World War One, against Germany, back in 1917!?

**

...In 1921, in Washington D.C. a beauty contest asked the girls to sport bathing suits, but with stockings, and, yes, hats. But then one girl decided to roll down her stocking below the knee, and that evidently started something. Then Atlantic City started a Miss America Pageant in 1921(the girls represented cities, not states, at this point), and the bathing contest featured a one-piece bathing suit (no one would understand a bikini for a quarter of a century in the future), and girls across the country saw the news pictures. Simultaneously, people began to notice French fashion (the soldiers coming home also had some comments about French girls and dress), and hem lines came upwards.

But Collier's Weekly' quickly spoke up against "French styles ruining American morality". Some legislatures were quick to act on the defense of proper hemlines for America. Utah passed a law to arrest women who wore skirts that were more than 3 inches above the ankles. Ohio passed a bill on dresses than came down more than 2 inches from the neckline. America really slammed it to the French in this area of international properness...

**

...In 1921, in Washington D.C. a beauty contest asked the girls to sport bathing suits, but with stockings, and, yes, hats. But then one girl decided to roll down her stocking below the knee, and that evidently started something. Then Atlantic City started a Miss America Pageant in 1921(the girls represented cities, not states, at this point), and the bathing contest featured a one-piece bathing suit (no one would understand a bikini for a quarter of a century in the future), and girls across the country saw the news pictures. Simultaneously,

people began to notice French fashion (the soldiers coming home also had some comments about French girls and dress), and hem lines came upwards.

But Collier's Weekly' quickly spoke up against "French styles ruining American morality". Some legislatures were quick to act on the defense of proper hemlines for America. Utah passed a law to arrest women who wore skirts that were more than 3 inches above the ankles. Ohio passed a bill on dresses that came down more than 2 inches from the neckline. America really slammed it to the French in this area of international properness...

**

...The fact that five times as many women had their own jobs by the end of the twenties as in the decade before, also changed much. The New York Young Women's Christian Association organized typing courses for women to enhance their job potential; although others protested typing was *too strenuous* for women. (In fact this had some truth to it, with many early typewriter designs, which actually required some muscle to utilize.) Typewriters commanded a price as high tech gear. The 'Harris Visible Typewriter' sold for \$45. (In those times, no one would think to make the joke.) A girl could earn \$10 to \$20 a week typing, but some companies had a policy to discourage hiring attractive women, as they distracted. J.P. Morgan & Co. never hired women...

**

...If Florence Harding demonstrated nothing new in terms of the family with the philandering husband (probably because she, seven years older than her husband, had decided long ago, before he was President, on discovering some of his love letters, to ignore the problem), Florence definitely set a new profile for the First Lady in the White House. Mrs. Wilson had been the first First Lady, to put her cameo alongside her husband's in White House invitations. Florence Harding had her own press conferences.

While her husband, Warren, was creating his profile, with 'I don't know what to do about that', and 'I don't understand this very well', Florence was articulating opinion. While Veterans Department chief Charles Forbes was fleecing the department, while denying benefits to veterans, Veterans were turning to Florence, who visited their hospitals, and took individual cases directly to President Warren for approvals. When a Swede immigrant, in taking the citizenship exam, was asked the question, 'Who becomes President, if Warren Harding dies?', answered: "*Mrs Harding*", the examiner let him pass. There is not a Warren Harding cache of letters in a Warren Harding memorial library,

because Florence burned everything, before she died. Florence and Warren: an unusual couple in a high place...

**

...The correct answer to *who* becomes President, when Warren dies in a San Francisco hotel, in August, 1923, in fact is Calvin Coolidge, Vice President of the United States, staying with his parents for a weekend in Vermont, where, it turned out, the local phone switchboard shut down at 600 pm. So there was no way to tell Calvin he was now President. Someone had to find the house. They did, and Calvin's father, a local Justice of the Peace, swore in the 30th President of the United States. Commentator Will Rogers had observed, "The man with the best job in the country is the Vice-President. All he has to do is get up every morning and ask, 'How is the President'". In reality, they did not let Coolidge sleep 'til morning...

**

...Coolidge at a young age, got an expert up to his area, to show farmers how to manufacture, preserve, and ship cheese, from extra milk that could not be preserved, and was not demanded in the immediate market. At Amherst College, he showed some activism, when he demanded that the owner of his boarding house, who seemed to have so many dogs, to account for every dog, before he ate his meals. It was thought and rumored, that the owner collected dogs to keep his meat bill down for the boarding dinners, which he needed to give to his student tenants...

**

...Becoming a Massachusetts lawyer, Coolidge took the case of a Northampton resident, who filed suit against another resident who had the audacity to drive his automobile on the town streets. The Defendant ended up paying a \$50 fine. Coolidge married Grace Goodhue there, and the couple bought their household items from a hotel that was closing down, guests noticing for years, the frugal couple's home had tablecloths, towels, utensils, with 'Norwood Hotel' stenciled on them.

Coolidge won a seat in the Massachusetts legislature, and true to his relation with the new age of the automobile, introduced a bill banning autos from traveling faster than 20 miles per hour in the state. The bill failed. While President Teddy and the Progressive part of the Republican Party were trying to break trusts, Coolidge was trying to send a friendship message to them, as a part of getting railway lines extended to rural areas of New England...

**

...The Republican machine, back in efficient operation, since Teddy had died and could not be the 1920 candidate for President, had picked Coolidge to run with Harding, and the Coolidge's had moved into the Willard Hotel, in Washington, where Mrs. Coolidge was upset that the Vice President of the U.S. did not have the authority to keep a cat. She befriended and fed some mice, who showed up in their suite, during their residence there, as family pets. Comic observer of the time, Will Rogers, later when the Coolidge's were in the White House, noted the family's frugality and their love of animals, "The only time I got a square meal at the White House, was when I was on all fours."

**

...The Republican machine, back in efficient operation, since Teddy had died and could not be the 1920 candidate for President, had picked Coolidge to run with Harding, and the Coolidge's had moved into the Willard Hotel, in Washington, where Mrs. Coolidge was upset that the Vice President of the U.S. did not have the authority to keep a cat. She befriended and fed some mice, who showed up in their suite, during their residence there, as family pets. Comic observer of the time, Will Rogers, later when the Coolidge's were in the White House, noted the family's frugality and their love of animals, "The only time I got a square meal at the White House, was when I was on all fours."

**

...When Senator Cabot Lodge heard of the Harding death, he said, "My God, this means Coolidge is President." One reason for everyone's uncertainty, was Coolidge's demeanor that led to the label, 'Silent Cal'. He just did not talk much, from the time he set foot in Washington. As a matter of fact, he would explain, "The things I never say, never get me in trouble... Nine tenths of a President's callers in the White House want something they ought naught to have. If you keep dead still, they will run out in three to four minutes." (Maybe some other U.S. Presidents should have taken a closer look at his thinking, on this one.)

One commentator brought the revelation that the President, "can be silent in five languages." One lady who knew she was to be seated by Silent Cal at a function, turned to him, and said, "I have a bet with my friends that I can make you say more than 3 words." Calvin remained silent. Then he turned back to her, and said, "You lose" (which would be 2 words.) Journalist wit, Dorothy

Parker, on hearing in 1933, during the Roosevelt years, of Coolidge's death, made one last Silent Cal jibe, "Oh, how can they tell?"...

**

...When Japan had an earthquake that killed 250,000 people, Coolidge quickly asked for disaster funds. On the international scene, America was keeping to the theme it had set before and during World War One. But of course, the League of Nations matter was left as it was. America had not been tricked into 'world-government-ing' (at least not this time around.) Terse President Coolidge, in a response to a Senator about America's relation to the League, telegraphed: "Topic closed."

**

...The domestic scene had changed dramatically. The Republican Progressives more or less gave up on reform. Coolidge retained the Harding administration banker, Andrew Mellon at Treasury. A pattern of not watching business anymore, was established. In anti-trust cases now, the defense lawyers of the trusts were allowed to enter consent decrees before the trial, so that everyone could meet in private *with no* public hearing or reporting. Corporatism could again grow in the 1920's. Coolidge believed, "The man who builds a factory, builds a temple, and the man who works there, worships there...". He did not agree with Teddy's mission of the past. It was 1923. Those type of assumptions would rule through his term, to 1929...

**

...So, supporters of a 'dry' America were also angry, because the flow of liquor seemed to *increase*. In fact it did. Although one third of all penitentiary inmates in this decade were in there, because of involvement with the supply of alcohol, there was never real funding voted at any level, to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment. 'Prohibition' was never even enforced with a budget by the Justice Department, only by the Treasury Department. New York Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia said that, "it would take 250,000 policemen to properly enforce Prohibition, and 200,000 more policemen, to police the policeman". The Prohibition Bureau in Washington saw 10,000 employees turn over in 3000 jobs in six years. Someone commented that working in the Bureau was "the best training for bootleggers."

**

...In any case, Americans were getting a first taste of something that would become an issue just under a century later. The Federal Government was *now* involved in everyone's lives. A Mississippi resident sued the Federal Government. He had acquired a paralysis from drinking Jamaica sugar mixed with wood alcohol, because he could not buy proper liquor. He demanded compensation for the Government's enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment.

The nation's capital, Washington, had 300 saloons before Prohibition, and 700 Speakeasies *after* the Eighteenth Amendment became law. 4000 bootleggers serviced the capital city. Arrests for drunkenness went up 300%. The anti-law nature of things made Speakeasies more fashionable for the young, than saloons had ever been....

**

...A few law enforcement people took it as an art, to do their job. Izzy Einstein, in New York enforcement, disguised himself as a judge, a cattleman, a trombone player, etc., with partner Moe Smith, to enter Speakeasies and make arrests. He spoke 7 languages in his work, and with cosmetics sometimes showed up as an African American, or a lady. Raiding 3000 Speakeasies in his career, Izzy had a 95% conviction rate, then retired, and wrote a book in which he thanked all his '*participants*': "Dedicated to 4,932 persons I arrested, hoping they bear me no grudge."

**

...Capone loved press interviews, as he had nothing to worry about in Chicago, saying he would not supply, "if people did not want beer, and wouldn't drink it...I never saw anyone point at a man, and make him go in (a Speakeasy)". Robert St. John went undercover in one of Capone's brothels, wrote to expose it, and continued to write articles for the Chicago Tribune about Capone. Capone offered him an interview, "Sure I run a racket. So's everyone." When Capone bought up shares in the Tribune, St. John left Chicago. It is estimated that Capone made \$60 million a year from alcohol, mostly beer, and \$25 million from gambling in 10,000 Speakeasies he controlled in Chicago. Judges would take instructions on cases, from him... over the phone...

**

...Much would be related to Prohibition in the 1920's. One item was music. The Speakeasies made better money than the old legal saloons at their drink sales prices. Artists could get a lot of jobs. The system needed music. During a

1926 performance, jazz pianist Fats Waller was kidnapped off a stage where he was performing, thrown in a car, and taken to a Speakeasy in Cicero, where the boys were giving Al Capone a birthday party for his 26th year. Three days later, he was released, given a good chunk of money, thanked, and set home. Most hoods were racist to their Irish, Italian, Jewish roots. Capone was not. He hired anyone, and African Americans all got performing jobs in Chicago's underground.

Fats Waller had a friend, Louis Armstrong, who learned to play a cornet in a home for wayward boys to which he had been sentenced, for firing a gun on New Year's Eve in New Orleans. Realizing people liked his sounds, he sold coal from a cart, to save \$5 to buy a used B flat Cornet, and started working nights at bars in New Orleans, while he kept his coal cart for day time income. New Orleans had 200 brothels and 800 saloons. Jazz was originally played by 'funeral bands' (common in New Orleans) returning from a funeral...

**

...By 1916, a 'radio' could be assembled that would allow you to talk to other owners on the device, at a distance of a hundred miles or so. In that year, a group of these amateur operators relayed a message from Iowa to New York in a little over two hours. Telegraphs could do that faster, but you needed wire for telegraphs. Then in 1920, Westinghouse Corp organized a transmitter and a license in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, which would broadcast to these people who built radios.

Westinghouse hired an orchestra for music programs, but discovered the sound came out tinny, indoors. So they set up a tent, outdoors, and that worked better, but a storm blew the tent away. So they moved the tent, indoors. That is when they realized that putting cloth on the walls indoors, would create the acoustics they needed. For the next few years people would gather outdoors in towns to hear prize fights, music, sermons, and politicians, over the radio, as radio listening came to be defined, that is, listening in crowds to loud speakers..

**

...Early stations quickly learned they could get the advantage to be heard in certain areas, if they just changed the frequency they were assigned. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, for President Coolidge, had set up the frequency system, and told the radio stations that they could not just *change* their frequency when they wanted to (or you would have two stations interfering with each other.) One lady, Aimee Semple McPherson, who had become famous for her Christian evangelizing out of Los Angeles, decided to change her

frequency. Secretary Hoover said No. Aimee telegraphed, “PLEASE ORDER YOU MINIONS OF SATAN TO LEAVE MY STATION ALONE. YOU CANNOT EXPECT THE ALMIGHTY TO ABIDE BY YOUR WAVE LENGTH NONSENSE.” Then she ran off with one of Hoover’s investigating staff...

**

...By 1915, fifty-two independents ended up in a community, ten miles north of Los Angeles, on roads through fruit groves and agricultural land, that had been given a name by its developer, to attract retirees: Hollywood. It had been a Methodist community, banning alcohol and also arcades, where 1 to 5 minute short films in the late 1800’s normally featured. This community needed to join into Los Angeles in 1913, and join its broader minded civic laws, in order to secure water. Cecil B DeMille, future famous director, telegraphed his investor Sam Goldwyn (future ‘G’ of the successful ‘MGM’) for permission to rent a barn in this town for \$75 a month in 1914. The city of Los Angeles had seen a petition of 10,000 citizens to ban movie making as immoral, but the business went ahead...

**

...By 1915, fifty-two independents ended up in a community, ten miles north of Los Angeles, on roads through fruit groves and agricultural land, that had been given a name by its developer, to attract retirees: Hollywood. It had been a Methodist community, banning alcohol and also arcades, where 1 to 5 minute short films in the late 1800’s normally featured. This community needed to join into Los Angeles in 1913, and join its broader minded civic laws, in order to secure water. Cecil B DeMille, future famous director, telegraphed his investor Sam Goldwyn (future ‘G’ of the successful ‘MGM’) for permission to rent a barn in this town for \$75 a month in 1914. The city of Los Angeles had seen a petition of 10,000 citizens to ban movie making as immoral, but the business went ahead...

**

...This sound was first for newsreels, not movies, but the ‘silent screen’ (where an organist, and in New York, eventually sometimes, an orchestra, inside the theatre had played throughout) quickly featured ‘talkie’ movies. Very early ‘silent’ films, like ‘The Great Train Robbery’ were all action that everyone could understand, and were not produced with the idea that you would necessarily have to follow the English captions that came up on the screen, or even be able to read. One investor, who was maybe drawn to Hollywood

investment by interest in actress Gloria Swanson, Joseph Kennedy, father of a famous trio of political sons of a different era, was one figure in the investment of the transition to 'talkie' setups. The movie producers began for the first time to think about actor and actress delivery of speech. Audiences had talked among themselves through 'silent' movies. Now, others told them to 'Hush'. It was a whole different experience...

**

...Lillian Gish became a star, when her producers made her float down a Connecticut river on an actual floating piece of ice, with her arms in the river. They did 100 takes to get this just right. Lillian advised aspiring actresses to eat little, sleep outdoors, and take cold showers. In fact, this *did not* become the profile of movie stars, in general. 1924 starlet Ruby Miller showed them what a starlet was expected to be, and commented, "I am first, last, and at all times an artist, and if my love scenes are destined to thrill millions, why worry about wrecking a few thousand lives." Every woman's male favorite was a former janitor, Rudolpho Alfonso Raffealo Perve Filbert Guglielmi de Valentina, who, someone along the line in his movie acting career, advised to use the handle 'Rudolf Valentino' in his movie credits...

**

...Success often exceeds the parameters of the good society, and as the bootleggers began murdering its opponents, party excess caught up with Hollywood, which unlike the bootleggers, were supposed to be inside society and society's expectations. Hollywood tried to produce some movies that differed from the popular sexy and violent theme output. "Why Change Your Wife" featured a frumpy housewife who comes up with a makeover to win back her husband's eyes. The frumpy housewife was played by the attractive Gloria Swanson, so that script could work out plausibly enough. (Gloria's personal comment on wives fighting to get back husband's, was, "The more I see of men, the more I like dogs", but no one watching her uplifting performance knew that.)

**

...But something else happened. Like with the event a year later at Harding's Ohio Gang Green House, a girl's death would bring some changes. The warning about this society's whole direction of the decade, that those deaths may have knelled, was *not* noticed. But it was decided that Hollywood needed a head cop and a code. Republican National Chairman (who most likely had earlier chaperoned the Harding administration 'Teapot Dome' oil bribes into the

Republican Party coffers) was chosen to be the position ‘Supervisor of Morals’ for this exercise. He was paid \$100,000 a year.

The resultant ‘Hays Code’ would prohibit kiss scenes from extending over 7 feet of film, prohibit ‘comic’ treatment of preachers, prohibit nudity and scripts sympathetic to adultery... or safecracking. An actor or actress, if they happened to end up in bed in a script, needed to be fully clothed, and to have one foot on the floor. Since most of the problem had come from off-set lifestyle, all actors and actresses now found clauses on ‘moral activities’, included in their contracts. (The star of Rin Tin Tin was excluded from this particular contract clause.)

**

...The movie had been inspired by a book written early in the century. A former Methodist preacherman, in Atlanta, Georgia, William Simmons, figured he could use the racist enthusiasm he saw Griffith’s movie engender, to rebuild an organization that had drifted apart after the Reconstruction period, following the War Between the States in the South. That organization was the Ku Klux Klan (ku klos is Greek for Circle), which fought *against* the rights given to African Americans under the 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments to the Constitution. Simmons correctly guessed that with African Americans moving into the work force in Northern cities, and the phobias against non-conformists that grew in the times of World War One, he could put together an organization based on hate against Jews, Catholics, African Americans. He was right on the money.

And a money scheme it was. Simmons sold membership (\$6, later \$10), costumes (the white hood costumes under which the cowards of KKK activity would hide), and life insurance?!, in a pyramid scheme where you could make money from bringing in new members. (You had to devise your own burning crosses to use to terrorize innocent families.) Simmons might have been one of the earliest household goods pyramid scheme pioneers, but his product was an abuse of enthusiasm for organizations (which had been a part of American culture from the beginning). His take on enthusiasm for community organizations was the type that would sell in Germany, some ten years in the future. Starting about 1915, Simmons had several thousand followers in Georgia in five years...

**

...In 1928, the Klan marched, with white robes and their pointed head caps, down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C. The Governor of Oklahoma instituted martial law to stop the violence they brought against African

Americans, but the Klan had enough pull in politics, to have the Governor impeached.

Bessie Tyler's clansman had a confrontation with singer Bessie Smith (the one with the Pullman Car moving home with inbuilt still). The Klan tried to knock down the tent where she was performing in North Carolina. She came out to give an oration of curses on the hapless hooded Klansman, and they fled for their lives. It was a sad culmination of the 'joining-nature' of Americans, that de Tocqueville had complimented in his writings about the America he visited a hundred years earlier. One citizen wrote that he had joined the Klan for a while before becoming disgusted, but then, he had already tried "the Masons, the Knights of Pythia, the Odd Fellows, the Red Men, the United American Mechanics, the Royal Arcanum, the Woodmen, the Elks, and the Owls."

**

...Teddy Roosevelt had invited Booker T. Washington, to the White House, only to get threats from Southern Republicans. President Harding had gone to an Alabama audience in the South, to say, "We cannot go on as we have gone on for more than half a century, with one great section of our population...set off from real contributions to solving national issues, because of division on race lines." But then Harding joined the Ku Klux Klan! Evangelist Billy Sunday in his fundamentalist Christianity announced, "the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man is the worst rot that ever was dug out of hell, and every minister who preaches it is a liar."

W.E.B. Dubois began a career in these times, that saw him help start the National Association for Advancement of Colored Peoples --- he talked them into using 'Colored' not 'Black' to include more citizens --- and also active criticism of the treatment of African American soldiers who Wilson's army did allow into World War One service. Unfortunately, Du Bois in his discontent with progress with his country on equality, turned to enthusiasm for Socialism, which naturally split opinions about his life's work. (Nevertheless, Du Bois' determined activity extended right through to the year, before the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)...

**

...Anthony Comstock helped found the New York Society for Suppression of Vice. He ended up appointed special agent for the Post Office to search out suspected obscene material. This led to a Congressional Comstock Law authorizing seizure of unfit material. Comstock would claim that his forty year career would be responsible for seizing 16 tons of vampire literature, and

convictions to fill 60 train cars of 60 people per car, he claimed. Those people included booksellers, who dared to put famous authors Tolstoy, Balzac, and Emile Zola on their shelves...

**

...Commercial use of the Wright Brothers invention started immediately. Airmail under government contract was one of the first. Mail could be delivered New York to San Francisco in 33 hours. Pilots bought up World War One 'Jennies' to do this. It was dangerous. 31 of the first 40 U.S. Mail pilots died. Stunt flying for fairs and events also immediately became common, but were not that profitable, one performer commenting, 'The most dangerous thing about stunt flying, is starving to death'. By 1928, railroads had started a coast to coast air service! You flew by day, and rode a train by night: 48 hours and you were there, which was amazing for the times...

**

...Ford Motor Air Service gave a pamphlet to passengers, "The atmosphere supports the plane just as firmly as the ocean supports a ship...to satisfy yourself, put your hand out the window, and feel the tremendous pressure." Casey Jones started up a new photo negative quick-delivery for the newspapers. Roscoe Turner, another quick-service innovator with the tech, creating an airline that would get people to Reno, Nevada for quickie divorces. (People called the airline, the 'Alimony Special'.) Then Roscoe started air advertising for an oil company, with a cub lion on board as the company mascot. The Humane Society complained of the danger, so he had a parachute designed for the lion. And Ben Howard began an air freight service (for bootleg alcohol coming in from Canada.)

**

...Twenty-eight hours later, having no food or drink along, he reached Paris, flew around the Eifel Tower, and continued to his destination at Le Bourget Field. There were 150,000 people there. Lindbergh in his stay, called on the families of another crew of two, who were trying to make the journey the other direction in the same days, but those two were never to be heard of again.

Lindbergh returned to the U.S. (by ship) to parades and a hero's profile. In Chicago, the official city welcoming delegation included Al Capone. Dirigibles had long crossed the Atlantic, but Lindbergh's flight seemed so different to most.

Another airman for the future, Billy Mitchell in 1921 had proved to his bosses in the army that aircraft could sink battleships (captured German equipment from World War One), but then ended up court marshaled for shouting at the stupidity of the same generals. Of course, Billy would be vindicated in a coming military time. Lindbergh, who would marry the daughter of a J.P Morgan associate, said in his time, “the universe is a cosmos, not a chaos...man is rightfully a part of that cosmos”. And so an airmail single-engine flyer of the early twentieth century with some proven vision to show on his own... looked forward to NASA...

**

...It worked. Wives started commenting on whether the car they were considering purchasing was cute or not. By the late 1920's G.M. had a significant part of Ford's market. The Ford Model T had to be replaced with a Model A: 40 horsepower, 4 cylinders, twice the power of the Model T. And new cars were all 'closed', that is they had steel roofs. And the race continued. Chrysler joined that competition, and was also successful, although the Ford was still the robust rural auto. A young politician tried the Chrysler product, rurally, with a 'Dodge' auto, when running for a County Judge position, but found he had to use cement bags on the floor to hold it steady on the country roads. The country roads were in Missouri, and the politician was Harry Truman...

**

...One reason car sales continued, was that Americans were budgeting for cars, and by the end of the 1920's, four in five families would have one. 700,000 miles of roads had been hard surfaced. The first motel opened in 1926 along the highway at St. Luis Obispo, California. US 30 route had found its way from New York as far as Salt Lake City, Utah. It would be 1932, before Route 66 made its way all the way from New York to San Francisco (St Louis, Flagstaff, San Bernardino). You looked for markings on fences and trees, to tell you that you were still on a particular route. In 1925, the Federal Government started to standardize signs. In an era before motels, a family on summertime holiday would often plan that women slept at night in the car, and men on boards propped up on the running board on the car exterior...

**

...The auto industry had become the largest in the U.S. A few had some questions. Commentator for the times, Will Rogers poignantly gave us the following to think about: “Mr. Ford, It will take a hundred years to tell whether

you have helped us *or* hurt us, but you certainly didn't leave us the way you found us." Some who think we should have left the rail lines in place, for the public transit that other countries have, still want to question Henry about that...

**

...The White Castle exteriors had a unique castle design, and were shiny white, as was much of the interior. It worked with the public, and some other businessmen decided to start up 'White Tower' restaurants which did the same to bring a burger to the nation's citizens. And they used the same store design, in a situation that would come up again and again in the second half of the century, when franchising of food chain became popular. The problem with apparent 'copying' in the second half of the 1900's century had some precedence in law as a guideline, simply because White Castle and White Tower, began suing each other immediately in the 1920's, sorting out a few of the issues, that would come up in a future fast food industry...

**

...After Clarence Saunders in Memphis Tennessee came up with the idea to give people baskets to roam shelves, instead of asking a clerk behind a counter to get something, much of the public was doing their buying with baskets in larger stores. 'Piggly Wiggly Stores' pioneered in store layouts that guided shoppers in directions to maximize sales. 'A & P' Stores had 15,000 outlets by the end of the 1920's. Convenience was the goal of those store consumers.

And that convenience came into lives, in ways we would not think about, a hundred years later. Author Earnest Elmo Calkins wrote in 1928, "When I was a boy... mother used to buy a bar of Castile Soap, a half a yard long, and four inches thick, and saw it up, into cakes one inch thick. The cake was as hard as Stonehenge, and corners sharper than a Serpent's tooth. It took weeks of use to wear it down." Consumers were now moving on, beyond Earnest's remembrances of bath time in youth.

5.Ticker into the Wind

"Well, they are going to elect superman, Hoover, and he's going to have some trouble. He's going to spend money, but not enough. The, the Democrats will come, and they'll spend money like water." This was President Calvin

Coolidge speaking. He would not run for a third term, although it was legal before the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution. The statement represents the absolute confidence that the Republican Party could continue to run their (prosperous) country, without fear of losing the election. The statement also represents a President whose attitude, insisted that the Presidency was a passive office, and furthermore government should not interfere with the economy.

Finally, the statement represents *distain* for a Presidential activist. It was Coolidge's firm belief, that: "Business should be unhampered and free. The country already has too many laws, and we would be better if we did not have any more." 'Superman', of course, was Herbert Hoover, who as Secretary of Commerce (inherited from Harding) had irritated Coolidge with new ideas for two terms. The fact that Hoover was to 'change costumes' is part of the story, the tragic mystery, of this era...

**

...President Coolidge's statement also shows some remarkable prescience for what was going to happen. Coolidge evidently sold most of his stock portfolio and bought food stocks, at the end of his 1923 to 1929 term. People afterwards remembered comments of his, and thought that in fact he did not want a third term, because he *precisely sensed* that something was terribly wrong. The opening statement in this Chapter, from Coolidge, here, indicates just that sort of thing. They had always characterized Coolidge as stupid. His retirement would see him back at Amherst as College President...

**

...Herbert Hoover was born in Branch, Iowa, to a Quaker blacksmith family. His family, had weathered an attack on their Quaker community by radical evangelicals, but his parents had rejected the hoopla approach, to hold to their belief in a life of Christian practice. As a part of that, his mother had hosted an early 'depot' on the Underground Railway, to get slaves through Iowa toward Canada, before the Civil War. Orphaned of both parents by age nine, Herbert thought David Copperfield the most important reading of his youth, as he was left to fend without parents, between relatives.

**

...His father had invented a 'cattle stile' which allowed cows, into a pig area, where water was located, but then, prevented pigs from passing out to cow areas. Herbert was eventually sent off to other relatives in Oregon (with two dimes for the journey), and that got him to the West Coast, where the facile-

minded son of a farm pig-gate inventor, in maturity, got himself into Stamford College, tuition free, in their opening offer. Herbert became a geology engineer. Having no expense money, he set up a laundry and did part time jobs, while studying. His wife to be, Lou, was there at Stamford, the only woman studying geology...

**

...Graduating, Herbert failed to get a survey position in the mining industry with his degree, and ended up pushing ore carts at a Nevada mine. Finally landing a job with a British company, he was sent to Perth, Australia, where he surveyed various sites, traveling by camel, finally recommending purchase of the Sons of Gwalia mine, which turned out to be a long term producer of gold. He was soon looking after many mines in the west Australia area for his company, and was promoted and sent to China. They arrived in Tianjin Port, in time for the 1899 Boxer Rebellion, and fled with other foreigners to the Russian stronghold settlement, where Herbert coordinated water distribution daily on a bicycle, while wife, Lou, carried the 38 revolver, that her Quaker husband, thought improper for himself to use, in defense of the two of them.

Hoover became a partner in his company, and took over the China operations, which, with a new Belgian partner, eventually became the largest foreign mining operation in China. In 1902, Herbert Hoover was back in Australia, to start a zinc mining and processing business. Building their family home in Palo Alto, California, Hoover, continued in Australia, having his group invest into a Broken Hill Mine. That company, with some twists and turns over the coming century, would eventually emerge as the giant mining Rio Tinto Corporation...

**

...Then, in London, in 1914, at the outbreak of World War One, Hoover began a spontaneous event to get passage for 120,000 Americans stranded in Europe. This was noticed, and he then gladly accepted the head of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, to help Belgians in Germany-occupied Belgium. The argument for that, was that the Belgians would not be working for the Germans, to obtain food. The argument against it (held by Winston Churchill), was that the Agency was relieving the occupying Germans, of the need to supply Belgium with food.

Hoover's work made him famous in the U.S. He called on the Quaker charity organizations, then all charity to help, with his food distribution in Belgium. Over the war years, Hoover ended up feeding over 10 million Belgians a day (there is a town location in the city Leuven, named after him today). Herbert

crossed the North Sea two dozen times to negotiate directly with the Germans, to allow the food shipments to continue, before the U.S. gave up its neutrality, and entered the war...

**

...When the British told Herbert, that they had no more ships to offer his efforts, in 1915, Herb said, "I have managed to get all that." The U.S. government eventually asked him to handle relief operations at the end of the war. Hoover traded two captured Austrian locomotives at one point, for 2 million eggs from Galicia, Poland, which his food program needed. When stuck with extra food that he intended to sell to the British Empire at the end of the war, when the British said they would purchase from Australia (cheaper), Hoover pointed out, he still controlled most freighters at that point. When the Supreme Allied Council debated whether it was safe to start running ships on the Austrian Danube River, they asked Herbert, who assured them he had been running ships on the river for two weeks, already...

**

...The Italians then in dispute with Yugoslavia, blocked food, when Yugoslavia blocked those shipments into their Serbia. Hoover then stopped food to Yugoslavia, until their own blockade of Serbia ended, thus encapsulating in a few week event, some things that would come to the world's attention again at the end of the 1900's century. Herbert worked to get the Allies to help Russian soldiers who were stranded in Germany, trying to get back home, and invited the Quaker 'American Friends Service' charity, again, to bring food to Germany, when the Allies hesitated, exhorting, "The United States is not at war with German children".

Some historians today say that Hoover's independent moves to get food to Eastern Europe, at the end of World War One, thwarted Lenin's plans there. Probably seeing this issue more clearly than others, because of the food distribution in which he was daily involved, Hoover called the original Russian Revolution that brought Lenin to power, a 'food riot'...

**

...Herbert had told reporters on arriving back in the U.S. that he did not really look forward to seeing Europe again, "I believe we in America are developing a *new* economic thought, a new basis of community action...cooperation." It was a hopeful thought that would in fact be the motive of many American decisions in the rest of the century, but, right or wrong, it was a thought that a coming 'if-

history’, in fact, would *never* connect with the name ‘Hoover’. ‘Hoover’ would be remembered, instead, with a myriad of weird hyphenate labels of his period, labels that would eventually come to darkly color his times, for his Republic, and for him...

**

...In his Secretary of Commerce position under Harding and Coolidge’s administrations, Herbert tried to get a farm cooperative marketing plan organized. He then spent six years, getting the states involved with the Colorado River to agree on a dam project for water control and power (Hoover Dam). When President Coolidge decided on no Federal relief, when the Mississippi River broke its levees, Hoover organized private donations for the several states affected. He said something that would perhaps reflect his generation’s views, including President Coolidge’s views on government relief, at the time: “I guess I could have called on the Army to help. But why would I do that, when I only had to call on Main Street.” Back in his mode of things in the Belgium Relief, Herbert organized 600 ships and 60 airplanes for Mississippi relief...

**

...Amidst the scares that led to deportations around World War One times, there were some real terrorist events, which created national concern. These were bombings, of which the notable ones were in New York City. In April, 1919, the servant of the Chairman of the Immigration Committee of the Senate had her hands blown off by a package addressed to her boss. The package was labeled ‘Gimbels Brothers – Samples’ for the famous Department Store, and the evening newspapers quickly printed the story. An employee of the Post Office, read the news, and recalled a stack of 16 packages with insufficient postage, all labeled Gimbels, and went back to his office. They were all booby-trap trigger bombs, and were addressed to the Attorney General, Chief Justices, John D. Rockefeller, etc...

**

...This event was diffused, but in June of 1919, anarchists successfully bombed the home of Wilson’s Attorney General, in Washington. The Attorney General was not home, but his neighbors had walked past the planted bomb, minutes earlier, before it went off. The neighbors were the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and his wife, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Anarchists took credit for these 1919 bombs and the 1920 bombing of the J.P. Morgan offices at 23 Wall Street. That bomb on a horse cart, killed twenty-eight people, mostly workers in the offices. Anarchists did not claim responsibility, but history eventually

came to the conclusion that one Italian anarchist, who then left the country, and who was in fact known by Sacco and Vanzetti, was the instigator...

**

...One thing that was commented on, after the J.P. Morgan tragedy, was that, although the glass bubble on the Stock Ticker Tape Machine was shattered, the Ticker Tape *kept right on* bringing the latest stock prices... without a pause. Amid the mayhem that continued throughout the day, people could not help commenting that the Stock Ticker Tape would not pause. People thought it symbolic of something, but they could not be sure, what it was...

**

...On entering the White House, people thought that a Progressive Republican was finally back, another Teddy Roosevelt. In fact the first thing Herbert had to do, was to have staff take off the charcoal, which Coolidge had had smeared on a John Quincy Adams portrait. (The portrait had created a reflection that evidently shown in Coolidge's eyes?.) Maybe the old Federalist activist was trying to get the attention of the 1920's Republican inheritors of the Federalist conservative philosophy. But they would *not* notice. Coolidge called Hoover 'Superman', in *total disdain* of Hoover's desire to become involved with issues. John Quincy's grandson, Charles Francis Adams was appointed Secretary of the Navy...

**

...It was said at the time, that easy money was *necessary* to keep the British Pound from devaluating, an international interest of importance to the international involvement of Wall Street. The 'easy money' justification by the Wall Street – Washington axis, is something the layman is familiar with today. Back then, it is probable that Secretary of Treasury Andrew Mellon would be telling his President Hoover, stories of the Panics of 1893 and 1907 (and the mini one of 1901), where J.P. Morgan's connections had settled the matter quickly. There was a feeling that New York could always correct these matters, if Washington listened.

That had in fact worked for a quarter century, since J.P. himself took a private train to President Grover Cleveland's office in 1893 and told him what to do. In 1929, one of the economic professors who opined on the stock market, summed it up, "The common folks believe in their industrial leaders. We no longer look on the captains of industry as magnified crooks. Have we not heard their voices over the radio?"

**

...Hearing about unregistered stock market brokers, 'bucket shops', outside even the business custom norms of Wall Street, Hoover called New York Governor Franklin Roosevelt, but Roosevelt evidently did nothing. Then National Citibank chief, Charles Mitchell, heard about Hoover's bothersome calls, and *deliberately* announced his bank was offering \$25 million in *additional money* for stock broker loans, in active defiance of a President trying to influence the New York finance community.

In 1929, broker loans on stocks would reach \$6.6 billion, up from just \$3 billion in 1927. Again, all this seems something everyone can understand today, and the names and the places (and the banks) are quite similar, but in 1929, the public and press did not have any understanding, and since there were no laws encouraging any transparency at all, they had no window through which to see the situation properly. It was the 'Roaring Twenties', and people saved their analysis study for learning the dance steps of 'The Charleston', the 'Lindy Hop' (named for the Lindbergh successful flight hop over the Atlantic), and the 'Bunny Hug'...

**

...Roger Babson, New York financier, would found a college, and eventually in the Great Depression, fund a stone cutting town, by the name of Dog Town, in Massachusetts, to carve his sayings into boulders around the town (sayings like 'Stay out of Debt'). Babson would make a speech in *September* of 1929, saying the stock market would witness a terrible break, *just like* the Florida real estate bubble. Babson *used 'charts'* to analyze the stock market, something considered arcane and improper in the 1920's. He was condemned, but not before his comments made a market stir for a few days...

**

...In 1926, a hurricane hit Miami, killing 400, and leaving 50,000 homeless. The hurricane had not been predicted, and it had no name, both for the same reason: the National Weather Service had no way to predict, and at this time in history, was not giving names to the beasts...

**

...The system had worked well, probably because people like the Morgan interests, whatever their attitudes toward child labor and twelve hour workdays,

at least considered themselves, in the times of the 1880's to up 1920, to be some sort of stewards of the economy. And so everyone, including the Federal Government, gave them authority. The image of J.P. rushing to various White House incumbents, to successfully solve a hiccup in the system which he monitored in New York, best exemplifies everyone's mindset. But then J.P., himself, was now long gone (since 1913).

Whether it was the daily dishonesty that Prohibition forced on everyone, or new movie scripts, or the result of prosperity, somehow, the idea of stewardship of financial leaders was mostly left behind, in the last century. A new breed had been bred. Some of the details of the Florida speculation approaches to the public may exemplify. Business leadership was acting differently. Also, Combination was increasing. The trusts, only partially curtailed by the Progressive Republican politicians from Teddy's times, were a part of that...

**

....Insull knew how to get loans, and keep his books at least looking correct. When the bank failures began in 1930, his \$500 million business had only \$25 million in realizable equity. He and his 600,000 shareholders were wiped out. Insull fled to Paris. People like Justice Brandeis on the Supreme Court, who had turned down judicial bribes, in his earlier career, had opined, that the direction, "was making business so big that local independent banking concerns cannot alone supply the necessary funds, *has created dependence* upon the associated New York bankers". But few were listening to this plea against *Corporatism*. The nature of some trusts --- which you may give a later-year handle of 'too big to fail' --- was not on anyone's mind.

The Dow Jones Average was between 60 and 90 in 1920. It reached 380 in 1929. Somehow, this triggered little concern in the New York financial markets. (The Dow would hit 50, in 1933.) The price/earnings ratio average would go from 14 to 33 in the 1920's. But production in general had dropped in 1928. It is not clear what information people had, or thought important to heed, in those times. Notable stock market players, like Joseph Kennedy, sold out in 1929, but with the run-up and the P/E escalation, it really seems that a large part of the investing professionals should have seen some caution signaled to them. It is all not clear, many years later, although much still studied...

**

...President Hoover quickly phoned financial experts, and invited several to the White House, but was advised that influence over the New York Stock Exchange should be with the New York Governor (Franklin Roosevelt), not

President Hoover. (More Roosevelt/Hoover ironies). In any case, opinions were very split. Senator Carter Glass, who would (in a future Presidential administration), sponsor the Glass-Steagall law to regulate banks and trading, criticized Charles Mitchell, head of National Citibank and a Federal Reserve member, who had defied Hoover's call to limit funds for speculation. Senator Glass had to say of Mitchell, at the time, "He avows his superior obligation to a frantic stock market, *over and against* his obligation to the New York Federal Reserve Bank."

Then, on the other side, Arthur Brisbane, editor of the Hearst paper, the New York Mirror, wrote, "If buying and selling stocks is wrong, the government should close the Stock exchange. If not, the Federal Reserve should mind its own business."

**

...But the real innovation of the twenties was new levels of non-transparency, allowed by the absence of any regulation. United Founders Corp organized 13 companies that had \$686 million in resources by 1929, but in fact \$320 million was intercompany holdings, since each company owned stock in the others. (It cannot be said for sure, but the trusts may have been the 'Collateral Mortgage Obligation'(2008 problem) type of *valueless derivative* culprit, that was just one collection of false values too many, for the overvalued stock exchange, that 1929 time around.)

Ivan Kreuger, who had made a fortune loaning money to European governments in return for a match making monopoly, when given a CNBC type interview about his success secrets, said he had three secrets of success: "Silence, the second is silence, while the third is more silence." When things collapsed, and it was discovered his 400 companies had little in the way of real assets, he committed a silent suicide in Paris...

**

...By 1929, 5% of the American public had one third of the income. But credit to *all*, had increased from \$45 billion in 1920 to \$73 billion in 1929. And Secretary of Treasury, Andrew Mellon, in office since Harding, always worked to keep interest rates and credit free, as he believed the economy could grow without dips or Panics. The slowdown in housing, autos (where sales would only return to 1929 levels, in 1953), and slowdown in general retail, in 1928, only encouraged Secretary Mellon in his theory that he could keep things moving, *perpetually by allowing* easy credit, (which sounds again like something seen with a future government financial chief, Alan Greenspan)...

**

...In 1929, a new trust was being formed *every day*. The stock market trusts had chosen a practice to show their holdings *only* once a year. If the public could get no view of what went on in these trusts, they could, nevertheless, get finance to *join in*. John Raskob, financial advisor to General Motors and Dupont, created a plan for every \$200 to secure a \$500 investment, by loaning small investors \$300 to be paid in installments. Raskob did an interview about this, titled 'Everyone Ought to Be Rich' --- two months before the Crash --- for Ladies' Home Journal. Ocean liners, by 1929, had stock trading rooms.

A month before the famous October of 1929, in September, an old trading company, Lehman Corp (formerly, and in the future, known as Lehman Brothers), went public at \$104 a share, and immediately jumped to \$ 136 a share. (It would survive... this time around.)

**

...But then, Monday, October 28, the Ticker ran behind once again, as the market dropped another 11%, and people began to calculate the margin calls would be coming. It was called '*Black Monday*', but now people felt that since the Thursday before had not stopped the Panic, that it may *not* be over.

Tuesday, October 29, (which of course had to become '*Black Tuesday*') is the date the chronicles put down, for the end of the stock market boom, the end of the whole 1920's parade. There just were *No* buyers. The Ticker tape was hours behind. A messenger boy, noticing that no one knew the price of anything, and that there were no buyers, bid \$1 for shares of a blue chip that sold for \$48 a share the day before. He got it. A member of the Exchange described traders screaming and clawing at each other's collars. Since the trusts were 50% preferred and bonds, when they dropped 50%, the common stock was worthless, so proper company stocks had to be sold to meet margin calls on the trusts. That was the real problem now. The Ticker had fallen too much. It didn't matter what the Ticker Tape was saying, because prices had fallen below the point of return...

**

..16 million shares were sold in one day, October 29th, wiping out \$10 billion. People ran out of the stock exchange to Trinity Church next door. The President of one of the recently formed trusts, took a pistol from the security cage, and went home, and shot himself. There were not that many people

jumping from windows, but those suicides that did happen, were dramatic and carried the news reporting. Two investors with a joint stock account jumped together. Leverage had done everyone in. One woman complained, “How could I lose \$100,000. I never had \$100,000.”

Some bank officers in Flint, Michigan, had embezzled \$3.5 million in funds from their bank in the summer of 1929, because they thought the stock market was going to crash. They immediately went short on the market, in the summer, but the market soared, so they had to buy long to cover... in October. The rest of that particular investment story should be obvious...

**

...16 million shares were sold in one day, October 29th, wiping out \$10 billion. People ran out of the stock exchange to Trinity Church next door. The President of one of the recently formed trusts, took a pistol from the security cage, and went home, and shot himself. There were not that many people jumping from windows, but those suicides that did happen, were dramatic and carried the news reporting. Two investors with a joint stock account jumped together. Leverage had done everyone in. One woman complained, “How could I lose \$100,000. I never had \$100,000.”

Some bank officers in Flint, Michigan, had embezzled \$3.5 million in funds from their bank in the summer of 1929, because they thought the stock market was going to crash. They immediately went short on the market, in the summer, but the market soared, so they had to buy long to cover... in October. The rest of that particular investment story should be obvious...

**

...Then, in 1930, when 40 state Governors were asked if they could handle all relief at the state level, 39 said *Yes*. The faith in self-reliance and non-involvement of the Federal Government still held...for the time being. When a Congressman in 1930 introduced a bill for unemployment compensation, the American Federation of Labor as well as the National Association of Manufacturers both objected. The Federal Reserve decided not to support bond prices, one item of activism which could have provided some cash to institutions.

Hoover’s Presidential Commission on Unemployment was formed, but only had *seven* field staff for the *whole country*. The Commission recommended \$750 million be raised. Hoover asked for \$150 million. Congress cut it to \$117 million. The fund was based on drought situations. In West Virginia the coal

industry mostly shut down, but the miners were not eligible for this support because there was no drought there. Hoover went to his Quaker American Friends Association charity and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the West Virginia plight. Progressive Republican Bob La Follette, Jr., son of the old Progressive Republican, Bob La Follette, proposed a \$375 million fund for states to help the jobless, but Hoover attacked the plan...

**

...Senator Norris, the old Progressive Republican, another of the last Progressives, still marching on, when seeing no food relief for the unemployed, but a bill passed for farm animal feed, borrowed a phrase from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed be those who starve, while the asses and mules are fed, for they shall be buried at public expense."

The public would take that bad mood cynicism of their Congressmen to a new level. Train freight cars on which people were now hitching illegal free rides to find jobs in other locations, became called '*Hoover Pullmans*'. Armadillos and possums eaten in place of normal meat that was no longer affordable, were '*Hoover hogs*'. An outturned empty pocket was a '*Hoover flag*'. '*Hoover wagons*' were autos and trucks now pulled by horses, because people could not afford fuel. '*Hoover blankets*' were newspapers used by the homeless at night. And of course, '*Hoovervilles*' were springing up in all cities, made up of shanties thrown together by people who lost their home mortgages...

**

...Someone even re-did the Twenty-third Psalm: "Hoover is our shepherd. We are in want. He maketh us to lie down on park benches. He leadeth us beside the still factories. He disturbeth our soul...Our expenses runneth over. Surely poverty and unemployment will follow us, and we will dwell in mortgaged homes forever." Some hitchhikers in the coming election of 1932 between Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt used a sign, 'Give me a ride, or I will vote for Hoover'...

**

...The decade had been said to 'roar': the Roaring Twenties'. But when you think of it exciting times *dazzle*, good times *sizzle*, and prosperous times *scintillate* or *bubble*. Why would any times 'Roar'? The title would not have a positive connotation, if you took it out of its cliché context that people have heard so many times. If the twenties roared, they probably did because of just the thing you would think of, if something 'roared': *loudness*.

Talkie movies, talking boxes blaring away in the living rooms and meeting places, streets that used to hear an occasional ‘ne-ey’, and regular, ‘clop, clop, clop’, seeing a total proliferation of auto machines, which all made more noise than their descendants make on the road today. It was a transition. We never went back. The world got noisy. (A hundred years downstream, it would get bothersome-ly visual, with something artificial moving *for the eyes*, constantly, in all environments at home, and in the street. The 1920’s were mostly a shock *only to the ears*.)

**

...Crossword puzzles entered entertainment in this generation, after 1913, and became a fad that everyone was doing, after publishers Simon and Schuster in 1924 published a crossword book, with a pencil attached. Crosswords became a craze like people playing on handheld devices a hundred years later, citizens would be seen everywhere, doing crosswords. The Baltimore and Ohio commuter trains put dictionaries in their coaches, and observed sixty per cent of riders doing crosswords.

The social game before contract bridge got going, was Mahjong. A Standard Oil exec returning from Shanghai, brought a Mahjong game with him, and enthusiasm grew so fast, that by 1923 China manufacturers ran out of calf bone, and had to import bones from the Chicago slaughterhouses, in possibly the only example for the next century (unfortunately) where American consumerism actually created an export. But with American factories representing 42% of the whole world’s manufacturing, no one would have thought that thought... at the time. Munsey’s Magazine made the statement, right at the beginning of this time, “It seems almost incredible that we should be sending cutlery to Sheffield, pig iron to Birmingham, silk to France, watch cases to Switzerland, locomotives to Britain.” Incredible at the beginning of the 1900’s, and unfortunately more incredible a hundred over years later. So: incredible...and precious...

**

...It was an incredible competition of endurance for the average citizen to be part of a dance marathon. One other endurance event that was a spectator matter, that featured itself in this Roaring decade, was ‘flagpole sitting’. This entertainment was started by one prize fighter Kelley, who lost so many fights, the audience would wait to shout “Shipwrecked again”. ‘Shipwreck Kelly’ decided to take his energy to sitting on flagpoles, for theatres, auto sales, various promotions. He would have his legs strapped so he could take short sleeps of 5 minutes every hour, and would stay all night and day, for days, with

liquids hoisted up to him. It started something. In 1929, Baltimore had 20 flag pole sitters, and Shipwreck Kelly, in that year, had work for 145 days, across the country. His wife --- who he met when someone hoisted her up, on the job -- did divorce him though, “because he did not come home at night.”

**

...The Hope Diamond became a star of some news notoriety of this particular era, when a wealthy American bought it, and the papers dug up legends attached to this rock. Given by Lord Francis Hope, to a famous stage actress, who he married, then divorced, an actress who would then die poor, the stone was then purchased by a London gem merchant who bankrupted. The merchant sold it to an agent for Turkish royalty, before the end of Turkish royalty after World War One, at which time, the diamond was sold to French gem merchant Cartier. The stone had a reputed history in France, with the royalty and also their Revolution, of bringing misfortune to owners, the facts of which are all disputed.

Anyway, Cartier sold it to Edward Beale, the Washington Post heir, for his wife Evelyn; they were divorced, and Edward's final home was an insane asylum. Evelyn liked to take the stone to parties, hide it, and have children compete to find it. She also took it out at home, to allow her good friends from the White House, to, both, wear it. That was Florence and Warren Harding...

**

...What is of special note here, is this a 1920 story, not 1929. Post office *international reply coupons*, were so ridiculous as a --- well, as a ‘Ponzi scheme’ --- investment vehicle, that it is hard to believe that, with the active big government (chasing bootleggers), and with the banker system involvement (those five banks in Boston including Hanover Trust, went out of business over it), that no one smelled anything. Of course, the Roaring Twenties would then immediately follow, with the Ticker Tape and New York's stock exchanges great run up, that equally saw no one asking any questions. The *Ponzi scheme* caper seemed to herald the era...

**

...President Teddy Roosevelt had asked Congress for \$2.5 million to rebuild San Francisco. Dowager Empress Cixi of China sent 100,000 taels to the U.S. government as relief money. The Empress had commented that “America was known to the world as the one foreign nation that is really a friend and whose people, though barbarians, are really kind.” Trade rather than colonization, had

won some points with her, and some other nations, although the Philippines and Guam were obviously colonies...

**

...And military intervention had been practiced for trade purposes in the America's.

In a military intervention in Nicaragua, in 1910, the U.S. general commented, "It is terrible that we should be losing so many men fighting...all because Brown Bros. has some money down here." This was General Smedley Butler, a marine, who had been assigned to the allies response in the Boxer rebellion, and he would have the rest of his career assigned to him in the Nicaragua type of war: "I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests, I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for National City Bank (Citibank) boys to collect revenues in. I helped in raping a few Central American republics for the benefit of the Wall Street boys...I feel I could have given Al Capone a few hints."

The statement may seem overdone, but obviously the general is trying to get some thought directed toward a subject the press would not cover, and for which there was never election time discussion. Of course, it is a subject that did come into discussion, finally, about a hundred years after this Marine General's career...

**

...The statement may seem overdone, but obviously the general is trying to get some thought directed toward a subject the press would not cover, and for which there was never election time discussion. Of course, it is a subject that did come into discussion, finally, about a hundred years after this Marine General's career...

**

...The judge adjourned the trial to the lawn outside the court building, as he was afraid the old structure, would not hold the crowd who showed up. During the trial, William Jennings Bryan, as prosecutor, allowed defense lawyer Clarence Darrow to put him on the witness stand, where Bryan complained that the Darwin theory was terrible, because it claimed humans descended from, "Not even American monkeys, but *Old world* monkeys!" The two lawyers moved on to discuss Adam and Eve, and related subjects.

A reporter from a Paris paper sent back to Paris, “In any case if the Darwinian hypothesis should irritate anyone, it should be the monkey. The monkey is an innocent animal – a vegetarian by birth. He never placed God on a cross, knows nothing of the art of war, does not practice lynch law....It must be concluded that the American Association that is prosecuting the teacher of evolution, can be no other than the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.”

**

...The Defense averred that the Bible should be used for religion, not science. They lost, teacher Scopes was fined \$100, and was dismissed by the school board. His action was deemed immoral, and he was never allowed to teach American children. In fact, the trial started a series of state laws that would eventually insist that science be taught from science references. John Scopes was given a scholarship to the University of Chicago, became an oil geologist, and was baptized a Roman Catholic. William Jennings Bryan, never for a moment out of the limelight of American history, since he gave his (Populist Party) Cross of Gold speech to the Democratic National Convention, in 1896, died a week after the trial. He had never asked for rest or retirement, in his relation to his Republic...

**

...Wilson’s goal was high sounding. He knew and liked that. After all, Wilson had remarked that “God ordained that I should be President”. ‘*Self-determination*’ is what China picked up on, and sent Wellington Koo to follow up on, at the Versailles Peace Conference at the end of the War. It was what got Ho Chi Minh to rent a tux and bowler hat, to find his way to Versailles. But Wilson was a racist, without a thought for the plight of the disadvantaged African American citizens of his own Republic. He certainly would do nothing for Asians. And he didn’t. He did try to rope Americans into a world government scheme. Again, he didn’t, thankfully, in this case...

**

And Teddy would probably have less of an ear to the Morgan interests about allowing colonialism to feed the French and British, so they could pay off the U.S. war debt. Teddy had told us, “My fellow citizens, each one of you carries on your shoulder, not only the burden of doing well for the sake of your own country, but the burden of doing well and seeing that this nation does well for mankind...”. Two Presidents who wanted their country to lead in the new century: and two philosophies. You can have as many if-histories as you want,

but your Republic only gets one in the end, and the philosophies of the leaders you elect, have much to do with that...

**

...The two would be amazed at the tech of the century, and immediately grasp the problem with the hydrogen nuke tech part of all of that. They would be horrified at the monstrosity of the Second World War, and of the Great Depression, as well. You would have to prepare for Teddy calling unwanted attention to your group, with non-stop yelling, when you showed him the United Nations forming, and be pleased to observe Wilson drop a jaw at seeing the position of leadership in business and government to which black Americans would rise. (You probably should not take the poor old racist as far as to see an African American President. You may give Woodrow a stroke two years before he was supposed to have one.)

**

...But one thing would not surprise either Presidents. And that would be their Republic's response and commitment --- in blood as well as in funding --- from the time of the next World War, to the defense against Stalin and Communism, right through to 1989. And both your viewers would approve the continual efforts to promote democracy in Asia, Africa, Middle East, even though the procedures were often wrong, and the exercises sometimes failed, and the good intentions in the end, cost too much. But those good intentions remained the ethos of their citizens for their future, whatever the cost was going to be, and Teddy and Woodrow would, together, be happy that you showed them that.