***The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents:* “Call of Duty”-1899 to 1921**

Theodore Roosevelt 00:00-21:18

1. Roosevelt was a weak and sickly child, but was a strong and healthy adult. What did he do to make that change?
2. Why was Roosevelt concerned about the control wielded by big business?
3. Roosevelt’s attitude to toward presidential powers was significantly different than previous presidents. When Roosevelt looked at the constitution, for what did he look?
4. Roosevelt was the first president to really advocate policy directly with the American people. How did Roosevelt increase his popularity and keep the attention on the presidency? Name at least **three** ways.
5. Theodore Roosevelt’s daughter said, “To understand my father, you need to realize that he must be the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral.” What does this quote reveal about Roosevelt?
6. What is an Executive Order?
7. Roosevelt dreamt of building a canal to make transoceanic naval transport easier. What problem did he run into and how did he solve it?
8. Roosevelt sent the new, expanded navy around the world. It was called “The Great White Fleet.” What was the purpose of this journey?

William Howard Taft 21:18-2:24

1. How did Taft view the presidency?
2. Describe the division within the Republican Party and explain how Taft increased this rift.
3. What were the “long-lasting implications” of Roosevelt’s choice to leave the Republican Party?

Woodrow Wilson 26:24-44:10

1. Wilson wanted to improve conditions for America’s poor. How did he get Congress to go along with his plans?
2. Wilson felt America was tied up by special interest groups. He wanted to fix this and “make America a fair playing ground again.” How did Wilson attempt to resolve this problem?
3. The narrator said, “Fighting for democracy abroad gave Wilson the power to curtail freedom at home.” Explain what this means and give an example from Wilson’s presidency.
4. How did U.S. involvement in WWI represent a change from previous U.S. policy?
5. Why was Wilson unable to get the League of Nations treaty ratified?
6. Wilson said, “The president can be as big a man as he can be.” What did he mean by this?

KEY - Episode 5

*The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents:*

“Call of Duty” - 1899-1921

Theodore Roosevelt 00:00-21:18

1. Roosevelt was a weak and sickly child, but was a strong and healthy adult. What did he do to make that change?
   * He took up boxing; he went West and became a cowboy.
2. Why was Roosevelt concerned about the control wielded by big business?
   * Food consumed half of the average family’s salary.
   * Business interests controlled the government and he believed that the people should control it.
   * Businesses were preventing smaller businesses from starting/growing.
3. Roosevelt’s attitude to toward presidential powers was significantly different than previous presidents. When Roosevelt looked at the constitution, for what did he look?
   * Whether the Constitution prevented him from doing something. “Can I not do it?” If it didn’t say he couldn’t, then he could.
4. Roosevelt was the first president to really advocate policy directly with the American people. How did Roosevelt increase his popularity and keep the attention on the presidency? Name at least **three** ways.
   * He used all the new gadgets and made sure he was photographed using them.
   * He was an enormous multi-tasker, doing things like giving interviews while being shaved.
   * He was constantly speaking and made sure his thoughts were recorded.
   * He “turned his personal life into a photo op.”
5. Theodore Roosevelt’s daughter said, “To understand my father, you need to realize that he must be the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral.” What does this quote reveal about Roosevelt?
   * He always wanted to be the center of attention.
6. What is an Executive Order?
   * When the president bypasses the legislative process and issues policy directly.
7. Roosevelt dreamt of building a canal to make transoceanic naval transport easier. What problem did he run into and how did he solve it?
   * The land where he needed to build his canal was owned by Colombia and they would not allow it.
   * To solve the problem, Roosevelt fomented a revolution among the Panamanians.
8. Roosevelt sent the new, expanded navy around the world. It was called “The Great White Fleet.” What was the purpose of this journey?
   * He was setting the stage for the U.S. to become an international power player.
   * To show the “big stick.”
   * To make a statement about U.S. power.

William Howard Taft 21:18-2:24

1. How did Taft view the presidency?
   * He did not want to be president - he saw it as a prison.
2. Describe the division within the Republican Party and explain how Taft increased this rift.
   * It was a battle between the conservatives and the progressives.
   * Taft increased the rift when he sided with the conservatives on many issues. When he tried to compromise and went after the steel trust, it only angered the progressives more because Roosevelt believed it was one of the few “beneficial” trusts.
3. What were the “long-lasting implications” of Roosevelt’s choice to leave the Republican Party?
   * The progressives left with him. They never really returned to the Republican Party.

Woodrow Wilson 26:24-44:10

1. Wilson wanted to improve conditions for America’s poor. How did he get Congress to go along with his plans?
   * He “seduced” them. He invited them to come and participate in meetings at the White House. He made them think that his ideas were their own. He convinced them through the power of his oratory.
2. Wilson felt America was tied up by special interest groups. He wanted to fix this and “make America a fair playing ground again.” How did Wilson attempt to resolve this problem?
   * He convinced Congress to pass the Federal Reserve Act of 1913. He established the Federal Reserve System.
3. The narrator said, “Fighting for democracy abroad gave Wilson the power to curtail freedom at home.” Explain what this means and give an example from Wilson’s presidency.
   * It means that in times of war the American people and Congress tend to choose security over freedom, allowing the president increased power over them.
   * Wilson jailed some people, including some he had run against (Eugene Debs). He urged Congress to pass the Lever Fuel and Control Act, which allowed Wilson to dictate price and distribution of things necessary for the war.
4. How did U.S. involvement in WWI represent a change from previous U.S. policy?
   * Since Washington, the U.S. had stayed out of European affairs, and now Wilson was charging into involvement with Europe.
5. Why was Wilson unable to get the League of Nations treaty ratified?
   * The Republican-controlled Congress did not like Article X (that required defense of member nations). Wilson refused to compromise.
   * He had a stroke while speaking on the topic in Pueblo, Colorado and could not continue pushing his ideas.
   * Wilson refused to sign a modified version of the treaty.
6. Wilson said, “The president can be as big a man as he can be.” What did he mean by this?
   * The man can make the office. If you have an imaginative enough idea of the presidency, then you can transform the office and what it can do.