

February 26, 2015

Election of 1920

- Woodrow Wilson was a fluke
 - o Republican party split
 - o Both party runners were former Presidents
- Republicans know they are going to retake the white house
- Had a ton of really good qualified people running for president
- At Convention the vote was widely split
 - o No one will compromise and run as vice president
 - o Convention dead locks
 - o Leaders get together in the “Smoke filled room” and elect to nominate William G Harding
- Warren G. Harding
 - o Has no moral boundaries
 - o Wins election easily
 - o 1st thing that happens is that he and his wife go to small town to watch results of election
 - Leave HQ to go home but he wants to make a stop
 - Harding goes to mistress’ house to spend time with her and the illegitimate baby
 - o 2nd thing he rents a house in Georgia to gamble, drink, and entertain women
 - o 3rd thing is installing buttons in white House so that Secret Service could tell president to stop having sex with women in office when his wife was coming

- o Appoints corrupt politicians
- o Election financed by big companies
- o His administration was one of the most corrupt in our nation's history
- o Goes on Presidential road trip to get away from things that go bad in Washington
 - Takes the heat off of the problems in Washington
 - Every President since Harding has done a road trip
 - Harding takes a train across the nation to meet with leaders to talk about problems in the nation
 - Harding is 1st president to go to Alaska
 - Checks into Sheridan Hotel in San Francisco and stops breathing all of a sudden
 - Wife refuses to allow autopsy
 - Theories
 - o 1. Natural causes
 - o 2. Mrs. Harding killed him because she saw the scandals breaking around him and wanted to spare him from the slander it would bring
 - o 3. Mrs. Harding Killed him because she was Tired of him sleeping with other women
 - Coolidge comes to Presidency when Harding dies
- Harry Dougherty named attorney General
 - o His job to enforce laws of land
 - o He sells pardons to people

- o Leads to a lot of mysterious deaths
- Whole criminal Justice system becomes corrupt under Harding
- Charles Forbes
 - o Veterans Administration is largest agency
 - Still caring for veterans from Civil war to WW1
 - o Becomes administrator of VA
 - o Responsible for declaring surplus property
 - Declares property surplus before it is even used to sell for personal profit
 - o Goes to prison
- Teapot Dome
 - o The result of culture of corruption in Harding administration
 - o Secretary of navy Purchased oil land in Wyoming
 - o Interior department was headed by Albert Fall
 - Fall wants to lease the oil land
 - Leases land to lumber companies who pay a fee and replant trees
 - Cattle owners feed cattle on range and pay fee and later grass grows back
 - Leases the land in return for 100s of thousands of dollars in bribes
 - Harding knew what was going on and looked the other way
- Sinclair Oil
 - o Coming back in West with the Dinosaur sign
 - Dinosaur for coal and oil
 - Original gas stations were in shape of dinosaur