

## AFD Ep 320 Links and Notes - 1920 Look-Back

- March 1920 - US rejects Treaty of Versailles [Kelley]
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty\\_of\\_Versailles#American\\_aims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Versailles#American_aims)
  - The Treaty of Versailles had been negotiated as an end to WWI. Famously Wilson brought a number of American intellectuals to the negotiations, but did not bring any Republicans (Wilson was a Democrat) who had won a majority in Congress in 1918. The result was a treaty that closely reflected many of Wilson's own ideas, but would not be ratified by the American Congress. The most illustrious example of this failure is the League of Nations.
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League\\_of\\_Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations)
  - The Covenant of the League of Nations was signed on June 28th, 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles. It went into effect on January 10, 1920. (Woodrow Wilson had won the Nobel Peace Prize for the idea in 1919.)
  - The general idea of the League of Nations was that nations could prevent war by establishing a collective security, disarming, and having an international body for dispute resolution and arbitration. The covenant, in part, read:
    - THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,
    - In order to promote international co-operation and to achieve international peace and security
      - by the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war,
      - by the prescription of open, just and honourable relations between nations,
      - by the firm establishment of the understandings of international law as the actual rule of conduct among Governments, and
      - by the maintenance of justice and a scrupulous respect for all treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another,
    - Agree to this Covenant of the League of Nations.
  - The most famous (or infamous) opposition to the league of nations was Republican Henry Cabot Lodge of MA. He had both philosophical disagreements with the law and a deep personal distaste for President Wilson which drove him to be an outspoken critic. He famously touted his "fourteen reservations" in opposition to Wilson's "Fourteen Points".
    - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Cabot\\_Lodge#CITEREFBrands2008](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Cabot_Lodge#CITEREFBrands2008)
  - Lodge's greatest concerns as with Article X of the Covenant of the League of Nations, "The Members of the League undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all Members of the League. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression the Council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled."
    - Lodge took this to mean that the United States would have to go to war on behalf of other nations in the League. He thought this was inappropriate for many reasons, one of them benign that Congress had to approve each military intervention and the Senate couldn't make an open-ended commitment like this.
    - Lodge wrote, "The United States is the world's best hope, but if you fetter her in the interests and quarrels of other nations, if you tangle her in the intrigues of Europe, you will destroy her power for good, and endanger

her very existence. Leave her to march freely through the centuries to come, as in the years that have gone. Strong, generous, and confident, she has nobly served mankind. Beware how you trifle with your marvelous inheritance; this great land of ordered liberty. For if we stumble and fall, freedom and civilization everywhere will go down in ruin.”

- While it is true that Lodge’s arguments cemented a group of “reservationists” who did not want to pass the treaty without reservations, they still did aim to pass the treaty. Another group in the Senate was the “irreconcilables” who were not interested in passing the treaty on any terms. The “reservationists” and those in favor of the bill would have to find common ground in order to pass the bill... and they could not.
  - From NYT  
( [- On Nov. 19, 1919, the Senate voted on the treaty, first on a version with the 14 Lodge reservations. President Wilson ordered his supporters to vote against that version and, with the irreconcilables also voting against it, it fell short of a two-thirds majority by a 55-39 vote. A second vote on a version without the reservations ended in a similar 53-38 vote, this time with the Cabot Republicans and the irreconcilables forming the opposition.
  - The vote of March 19, 1920, held on a version with reservations, was the final vote on the treaty. The \[March 20 New York Times\]\(#\) reported, “After the session ended senators of both parties united in declaring that in their opinion the treaty was now dead to stay dead.”](https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/19/march-19-1920-senate-rejects-treaty-of-versailles-for-second-and-final-time/#:~:text=On%20March%2019%2C%201920%2C%20the,War%20I%20Allies%20and%20Germany.):</a><ul style=)
- It’s also worth noting that this debate effectively cost Wilson his health - in Fall of 1919, he went on a 22 day train journey to convince the American people of the merits of his plan but was exhausted the entire time and even collapsed from exhaustion in Colorado. When he returned to Washington, he had a near fatal stroke. He would recover and continue to campaign for the Treaty, but to no avail.
  - <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/wilson-embarks-on-tour-to-promote-league-of-nations>
- When Harding became President, Congress would formally pass a resolution (Knox-Porter) in 1921 to end WWI, but not sign on to the Treaty of Versailles.
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knox%E2%80%93Porter\\_Resolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knox%E2%80%93Porter_Resolution)
- The League was formed without the US and was the first worldwide intergovernmental organization whose purpose was to maintain peace. Twenty-six years later (after WWII, which it did not successfully avert), it would be replaced by the United Nations.
- Stewart M. Patrick, a Director at the Council of Foreign Affairs, when asked about parallels between the League of Nations and today, notes:
  - “In many ways, debates going on now are a total throwback to debates over the U.S. role in the world [following World War I]. In some ways, Trump, in my view, has a pre-1941 mindset. He would be quite

comfortable going back to that era in which the U.S. didn't have to exercise these global responsibilities. Contexts are always different, though there's that saying, history never repeats itself but it often rhymes."

- <https://time.com/5507628/league-of-nations-history-legacy/>
- Notable US Constitutional provisions related to this:
  - Article II Sec 2: "He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur"
  - Article VI: "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land"
- June 1920 - The haters at the US Postal Service ban mailing children through the Parcel Post (introduced after 1913 for heavier items) [Rachel]  
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/brief-history-children-sent-through-mail-180959372/>
  - Idaho connection: 4 year old Charlotte May Pierstorff was mailed by her parents to her grandparents in Idaho in 1914  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte\\_May\\_Pierstorff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte_May_Pierstorff) Mailed from Grangeville to Lewiston for only 53 cents! Was never in a box, but rode in the train's mail compartment, labeled "baby chick", with stamps pinned to her coat. Hand-delivered by a mail carrier.
- August 1920, possibly - First commercial US radio station in Detroit (Westinghouse released commercial radios for home use in September) [Bill]
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Radiotelegraph\\_Convention\\_\(1906\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Radiotelegraph_Convention_(1906))
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio\\_Act\\_of\\_1912](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Act_of_1912)
    - *The Wireless Ship Act of 1910 mandated that most passenger ships exiting U.S. ports had to carry radio equipment under the supervision of qualified operators, however individual stations remained unlicensed and unregulated. This led to numerous interference issues*
    - *The U.S. policy of unrestricted stations differed from most of the rest of the world. The 1906 International Radiotelegraph Convention, held in Berlin, called for countries to license their stations, and although United States representatives had signed this agreement, initially the U.S. Senate did not ratify the treaty. However, the U.S. was told it not be invited to the next International Radiotelegraph Convention scheduled to be held in London in June 1912 unless it completed ratification, so on April 3, 1912 the U.S. Senate formally accepted the 1906 Convention, and began work on legislation to implement its provisions.*
    - *The broadcasting of news and entertainment to the general public, which began to be significantly developed in early 1920s, was not foreseen by this legislation.[5] The first regulations specifically addressing broadcasting were adopted on December 1, 1921, when two wavelengths were set aside for stations making broadcasts intended for a general audience: 360 meters (833 kHz) for "entertainment", and 485 meters (619 kHz) for "market and weather reports".[6] The number of broadcasting*

*stations grew tremendously in 1922, numbering over 500 in the United States by the end of the year.*

- There was a 2nd conference in 1912 right after the Titanic sank but then things sort of went on hold during World War 1. In the United States, many “experimental” (non-licensed, non-commercial) stations throughout the 1910s went off the air as the war heated up and safety/security concerns along the coast became more pressing. After the war, experiments resumed, culminating in commercial broadcasts starting at some point in 1920, although there were still not very many people who owned radio receivers to hear broadcasts.
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio\\_broadcasting#History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_broadcasting#History)
  - *While many early experimenters attempted to create systems similar to radiotelephone devices by which only two parties were meant to communicate, there were others who intended to transmit to larger audiences. Charles Herrold started broadcasting in California in 1909 and was carrying audio by the next year. (Herrold's station eventually became KCBS).*
  - *In 1916, Frank Conrad, an electrical engineer employed at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, began broadcasting from his Wilksburg, Pennsylvania garage with the call letters 8XK. Later, the station was moved to the top of the Westinghouse factory building in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Westinghouse relaunched the station as KDKA on November 2, 1920, as the first commercially licensed radio station in America.[12] The commercial broadcasting designation came from the type of broadcast license; advertisements did not air until years later. The first licensed broadcast in the United States came from KDKA itself: the results of the Harding/Cox Presidential Election. The Montreal station that became CFCF began broadcast programming on May 20, 1920, and the Detroit station that became WWJ began program broadcasts beginning on August 20, 1920, although neither held a license at the time.*
    - *On 31 August 1920 the first known radio news program was broadcast by station 8MK, the unlicensed predecessor of WWJ (AM) in Detroit, Michigan.*  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_radio#Broadcasting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_radio#Broadcasting)
    - *It is commonly attributed to KDKA in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which in October 1920 received its license and went on the air as the first US licensed commercial broadcasting station on November 2, 1920 with the presidential election results as its inaugural show, but was not broadcasting daily until 1921. (Their engineer Frank Conrad had been broadcasting from on the two call sign signals of 8XK and 8YK since 1916.) Technically, KDKA was the first of several already-extant stations to receive a 'limited commercial' license.*  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_radio#Broadcasting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_radio#Broadcasting)
    - *On August 20, 1920 8MK, began broadcasting daily and was later claimed by famed inventor Lee De Forest as the first commercial station. 8MK was licensed to a teenager, Michael DeLisle Lyons, and financed by E. W. Scripps. In 1921 8MK changed to WBL and then to WWJ in 1922, in Detroit. It has carried a regular schedule*

*of programming to the present and also broadcast the 1920 presidential election returns just as KDKA did.[90] Inventor Lee DeForest claims to have been present during 8MK's earliest broadcasts, since the station was using a transmitter sold by his company.*

*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_radio#Broadcasting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_radio#Broadcasting)*

*- <https://twitter.com/radioboise/status/1292128451260948481?s=20>*

- Also in 1919, the US government launched a station (WWV in DC, later in Colorado) to set official frequency standards and timekeeping (today there's a metronome ticking once per second and periodically a voice saying the time, but at the very start they would sometimes broadcast concerts to test equipment and reception range) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WWV\\_\(radio\\_station\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WWV_(radio_station))
- [https://saylordotorg.github.io/text\\_understanding-media-and-culture-an-introduction-to-mass-communication/s10-01-evolution-of-radio-broadcastin.html](https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_understanding-media-and-culture-an-introduction-to-mass-communication/s10-01-evolution-of-radio-broadcastin.html) [alt link: <https://open.lib.umn.edu/mediaandculture/chapter/7-2-evolution-of-radio-broadcasting/>]
- *After the World War I radio ban lifted with the close of the conflict in 1919, a number of small stations began operating using technologies that had developed during the war. Many of these stations developed regular programming that included religious sermons, sports, and news. White, "Broadcasting After World War I (1919–1921)," United States Early Radio History, <http://earlyradiohistory.us/sec016.htm>. As early as 1922, Schenectady, New York's WGY broadcast over 40 original dramas, showing radio's potential as a medium for drama. The WGY players created their own scripts and performed them live on air. This same groundbreaking group also made the first known attempt at television drama in 1928. Elizabeth McLeod, "The WGY Players and the Birth of Radio Drama," 1998, <http://www.midcoast.com/~lizmcl/wgy.html>.*
- *Not long after radio's broadcast debut, large businesses saw its potential profitability and formed networks. In 1926, RCA started the National Broadcasting Network (NBC). Groups of stations that carried syndicated network programs along with a variety of local shows soon formed its Red and Blue networks. Two years after the creation of NBC, the United Independent Broadcasters became the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and began competing with the existing Red and Blue networks.*
- *The Radio Act of 1927 allowed major networks such as CBS and NBC to gain a 70 percent share of U.S. broadcasting by the early 1930s, earning them \$72 million in profits by 1934.*
- *Radio's ability to emotionally draw its audiences in close to events made for news that evoked stronger responses and, thus, greater interest than print news could. For example, the infant son of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh was kidnapped and murdered in 1932. Radio networks set up mobile stations that covered events as they unfolded, broadcasting nonstop for several days and keeping listeners updated on every detail while tying them emotionally to the outcome. As recording technology advanced, reporters gained the ability to record events in the field and bring them back to the studio to broadcast over the airwaves. One early example of this was Herb Morrison's recording of the Hindenburg*

disaster. In 1937, the Hindenburg blimp exploded into flames while attempting to land, killing 37 of its passengers. Morrison was already on the scene to record the descent, capturing the fateful crash. The entire event was later broadcast, including the sound of the exploding blimp, providing listeners with an unprecedented emotional connection to a national disaster. Morrison's exclamation "Oh, the humanity!" became a common phrase of despair after the event.

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio\\_Act\\_of\\_1927](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Act_of_1927)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal\\_Radio\\_Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Radio_Commission)
  - Section 9 of the 1927 Act included a general declaration about the need to equitably distribute station assignments, stating: "In considering applications for licenses and renewals of licenses, when and in so far as there is a demand for the same, the licensing authority shall make such a distribution of licenses, bands of frequency of wave lengths, periods of time for operation, and of power among the different States and communities as to give fair, efficient, and equitable radio service to each of the same."<sup>[9]</sup> The 1928 reauthorization strengthened this mandate, by including a provision, known as the "Davis Amendment" after its sponsor Representative Ewin L. Davis (D-Tennessee), that required "a fair and equitable allocation of licenses, wave lengths, time for operation, and station power to each of the States, the District of Columbia, the Territories and possessions of the United States within each zone, according to population".<sup>[30]</sup> This resulted in an additional degree of complexity, for in addition to stations being judged on their individual merits, the commission had to monitor whether in heavily populated areas a decision would cause a zone or state to exceed its calculated quota.
  - The FCC was created with the 1934 reforms to the federal laws governing the radio industry and there was an unsuccessful attempt to keep a quarter of radio stations as non-profit & educational/academic broadcasters, supported by advertising -- and the compromise resulted in Public Affairs blocks of programming on commercial stations:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communications\\_Act\\_of\\_1934](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communications_Act_of_1934)
    - Another significant regulation with long-lasting influence was the Fairness Doctrine. In 1949, the FCC established the Fairness Doctrine as a rule stating that if broadcasters editorialized in favor of a position on a particular issue, they had to give equal time to all other reasonable positions on that issue. This tenet came from the long-held notion that the airwaves were a public resource and that they should thus serve the public in some way. Although the regulation remained in effect until 1987, the impact of its core concepts are still debated.  
[https://saylordotorg.github.io/text\\_understanding-media-and-culture-an-introduction-to-mass-communication/s10-01-evolution-of-radio-broadcastin.html](https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_understanding-media-and-culture-an-introduction-to-mass-communication/s10-01-evolution-of-radio-broadcastin.html)
- August 1920 - 19th amendment (women's suffrage) is ratified by enough states  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteenth\\_Amendment\\_to\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution)  
The **Nineteenth Amendment (Amendment XIX)** to the [United States Constitution](#) prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the

[right to vote](#) to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. Initially introduced to [Congress](#) in 1878, several attempts to pass a women's suffrage amendment failed until passing the [House of Representatives](#) on May 21, 1919, followed by the [Senate](#) on June 4, 1919. It was then submitted to the states for ratification. On August 18, 1920, [Tennessee](#) was the last of the necessary 36 ratifying states to secure adoption. The Nineteenth Amendment's adoption was [certified](#) on August 26, 1920: the culmination of a decades-long movement for [women's suffrage](#) at both state and national levels.

In 1920, 36 percent of eligible women turned out to vote (compared with 68 percent of men). The low turnout among women was partly due to other barriers to voting, such as literacy tests, long residency requirements, and poll taxes. Inexperience with voting and persistent beliefs that voting was inappropriate for women may also have kept turnout low. The participation gap was lowest between men and women in swing states at the time, in states that had closer races such as Missouri and Kentucky, and where barriers to voting were lower.<sup>[103][104]</sup> By 1960, women were turning out to vote in presidential elections in greater numbers than men and a trend of higher female voting engagement has continued into 2018.

- Women's suffrage was a giant leap for democracy. We haven't stuck the landing yet. (WaPo):

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/lifestyle/100-years-of-womens-suffrage-whats-changed/>

- Women in the Suffrage movement left Black and Indigenous women out in their efforts to get Southerners to join their cause.
- When women gained the right to vote, Congress's priorities changed, social programs got more traction. Around the country, when suffrage laws were enacted, local public health spending increased, with money funding door-to-door campaigns to educate the public on preventing infectious diseases like diphtheria and typhoid fever. [Child mortality declined](#) somewhere between 8 and 15 percent, the equivalent of 20,000 deaths a year. [According to another study](#), women's suffrage increased education budgets, which caused children to stay in school longer — particularly children who attended underfunded schools. Spending increased for social programs and charities.

In fact, spending increased in general. Government got bigger.

Lawmakers could not hide in their cloakrooms. They would have to care about things that didn't affect them personally, or risk being voted out and replaced with someone who would. Sheppard-Towner Act passed in 1921, which provided funding for programs helping mothers and infants, by 279 to 39.

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- Women's Suffrage in the Mountain West [Rachel]
  - Wyoming and Utah Territories had women's suffrage prior to statehood, 1869 and 1870 respectively. However, Utah women (and men who practiced polygamy) lost the right to vote with the Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1887.
  - When Wyoming became a state in 1890, it was the first state to have women's suffrage. Utah regained women's suffrage when it became a

state in '96. Idaho also granted women's suffrage in '96; referendum passed by 2-to-1 margin due to coalition of support from all 3 major parties.

- Women's temperance movement was a big organizing force for suffrage, but there was pushback from the "liquor interests".
- In the West, a broad coalition of interests were pro-suffrage: Populist party, Knights of Labor, Women's clubs, Black Women's clubs. Labor movement had women in leadership and were influential in farming and mining communities.
- Mormons were also pro-suffrage. Women were leaders in the church and were allowed to vote in church assemblies, but were by no means radical.
- In the 1890s a wave of women were elected to office, most often to city councils and school boards. Colorado, Idaho, and Utah elected women to state legislatures. Jeannette Rankin elected to U.S. Congress for Montana in 1916.
- Not all western women, however, received the vote with ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Many Native American women were not considered US citizens and thus were not able to vote. Nor did state suffrage laws enfranchise indigenous women, unless they had renounced their connection to their tribe. In 1924 Zitkala-Sa, a Lakota writer and activist, lobbied Congress to secure suffrage for indigenous Americans. Partly as a result of her efforts, Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act, which defined Native Americans as US citizens. Even after passage of this law, however, many western states continued to disenfranchise indigenous people. Zitkala-Sa went on to co-found the National Council of American Indians, which focused on civil rights for native peoples.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/woman-suffrage-in-the-west.htm>