Woodrow Wilson served as our 28th President from 1913 to 1921, a time of great challenges and changes regarding civil and human rights.

President Wilson received the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in establishing the League of Nations at the end of World War I. The establishment of the League of Nations laid the foundation for the modern vision of global human rights. However, The League of Nations generated controversy. After a great national debate, ultimately the United States decided not to join the League. Only after World War II was the United States persuaded to join the United Nations, the successor to the League of Nations.

The Wilson era saw many other events that affected civil and human rights, including the growth of the American labor movement, the institutionalization of racial segregation, the “Great Migration” of agricultural workers from the South to Northern cities, the restriction of civil rights during WWI, and the assimilation of a large and varied immigrant population.

In his time, President Wilson framed many of the questions about civil and human rights that our nation continues to address today.