

American Political Scientist Nobel Laureates

1886 - Woodrow Wilson
Earns Doctorate

1913 - Woodrow Wilson
becomes President

1919 - Wilson gives famous
14 points speech

1919 - Wilson awarded Nobel
Peace Prize

1920 - League of Nations
established

1934 - Ralph Bunche earns
doctorate from Harvard.

1943 - Bunche works with
Office of Strategic Resources

1943 - Herbert Simon earns
doctorate at Univ. of Chicago

1947 - H. Simon publishes
Administrative Behavior

1947 - Bunche works for UN
to negotiate peace w/ Israel

1950 - Bunche awarded Nobel
Peace Prize

1951 - Thomas Schelling
Earns Doctorate from Harvard

1953 - Schelling works for the
Marshal Plan

1956 - Simon publishes
Administration Behavior

1960 - Schelling publishes
Conflict behavior

1963 - Bunche is active in US
civil rights movement

1965 - Elinore Ostrom earns
doctorate

1971 - Schelling Publishes
Racial Dynamics

1973 - Elinor Ostrom
Workshop on Political Theory

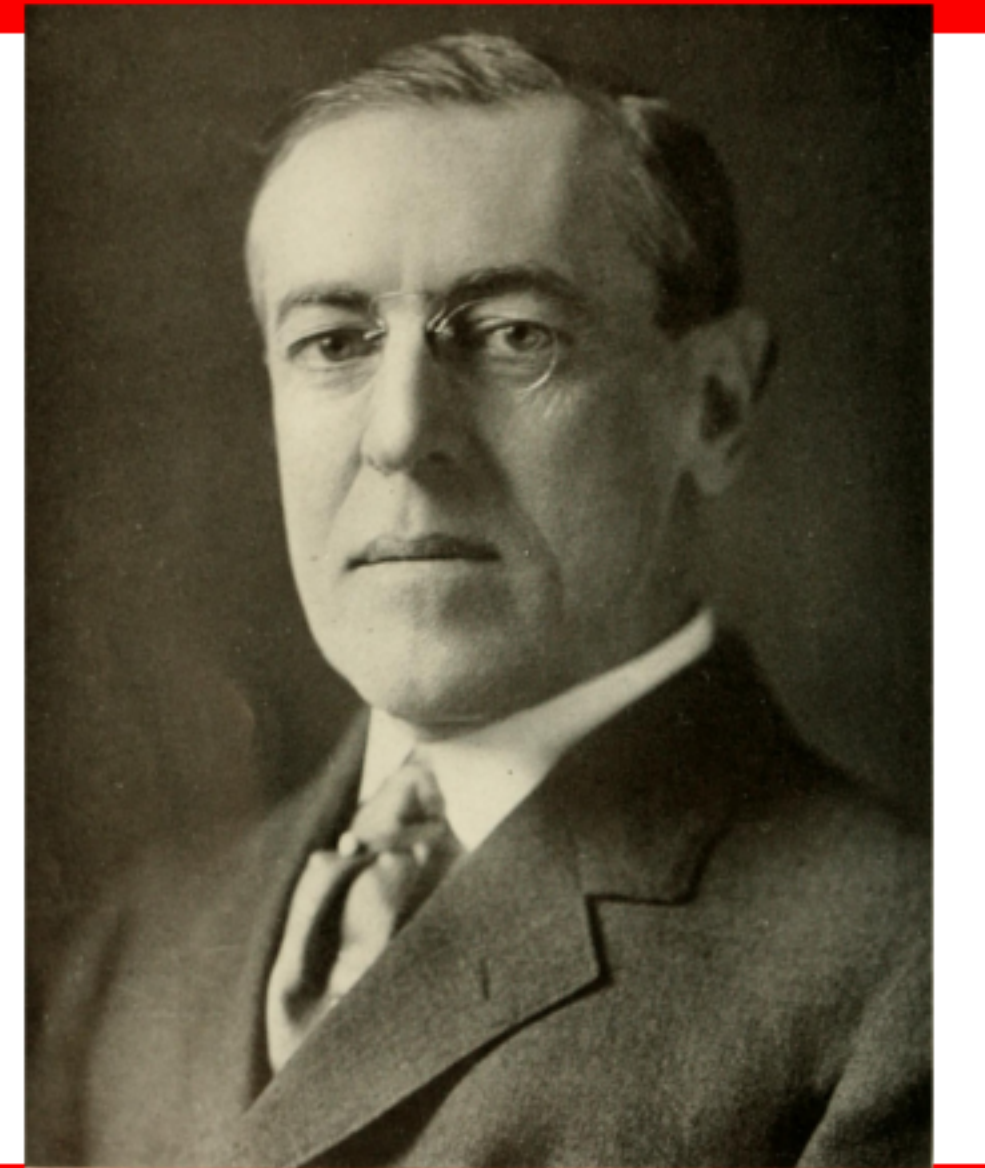
1978 Herbert Simon wins
Nobel Prize

1999 - Ostrom study in St.
Louis

2005 - Thomas Schelling
Nobel Prize

2009 - Elinor Ostrom wins
Nobel Prize

Woodrow Wilson was perhaps one of the most influential political scientists because he is, in fact, the first political scientist. Before Wilson became president, public administration was not a major part of the American political system. Wilson introduced national institutions such as the federal reserve. In 1920 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his famous 14 points speech at the end of World War 1. Wilson outlined what he thought was needed to maintain peace and prevent future major wars.



Ralph Bunche was an incredibly intelligent individual who was an advocate for peace throughout his entire life. Bunche was an advocate for civil rights in the United States and abroad as the Chief UN Mediator. Bunche's Nobel Peace Prize stems from his work in 1947 in negotiating peace between Israel and its surrounding allies. As mediator, Bunche traveled throughout the developing world aiding former colonized countries transition to post-colonial life. Afterwards, Bunche returned to the US civil rights movement with other leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr.

Herbert Simon is the first US political scientist who won a Nobel prize in economics. Simon not only contributed to the field of public administration and political science, but also in economics and even computer science. He developed the terms "bounded rationality" and "satisficing". Bounded rationality essentially means that decisions are limited by the information that the decision makers have. Satisficing is simply going through all available solutions until an acceptable one is reached. Simon's problem solving strategies were used to develop computer software and artificial intelligence.



Thomas Schelling developed what is now known as game-theory. Game-theory is the study of decision making and the interactions between the leadership of those involved. One notable idea that Schelling is known for is the idea that nuclear proliferation maintains world peace, because both groups or nations do not want to start a war and will do everything in their power to stop it. Schelling was also involved in trying to figure out a way to encourage integration in the south after civil rights passed.

Elinor Ostrom area of study is in political theory and policy analysis. Her Nobel Prize in Economics was in this field and how economics related to governance. Ostrom used her economic governance models not only in the US, but also in developing countries and poor communities in Africa. Ostrom's other focus was on how US governance affected the environment, and how societies can coexist with the environment without damaging it.

