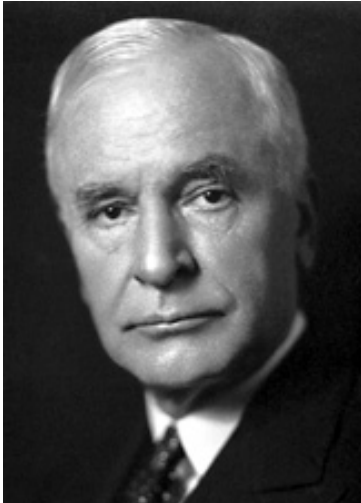


Cordell Hull

1945

“in recognition of his work in the Western Hemispheres, for his International Trade Agreements, and for his efforts in establishing the United Nations.”



If the name Cordell Hull isn't familiar to you, you're not alone. While the names of other Peace Prize winners, like Martin Luther King, Jr., Teddy Roosevelt, or even Jody Williams are highlighted in history classes, figures like Hull, are widely unsung in the United States as heroes of peace.

Cordell Hull became Secretary of State under FDR in 1933 and held that office for the longer than any other Secretary before or after him to date – nearly 12 years.

Hull has been described as quiet and extremely dedicated to his work. His life's energies were almost completely dedicated to his political career and international work, not marrying until the age of 46. He and his wife Rose Frances

Witz had no children and his hobbies were kept minimally to croquet and golf while his full efforts were devoted to his political post.

Hull was born in a log cabin in 1871 in a small town in Tennessee. He was the only one of five boys who wanted to receive an education. He received his first schooling in a one-room schoolhouse built by his father. Ultimately, he received a law degree at the age of twenty in 1891 from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee.

After practicing law for only a little over a year, Hull ran and won for the Tennessee State House. In 1903 his run as a state congressman was interrupted for a short stint as captain of the Fourth Tennessee Regiment in the Spanish-American War. Upon return to Tennessee, he was appointed as a judge, and ran and won for U.S. House of Representatives in 1907.

As a hard worker and dedicated politician, Hull climbed quickly through the ranks in Washington and was able to author important tax legislation. He served for three years in the Senate until Franklin Delano Roosevelt asked him to serve as his Secretary of State in 1933.

As Secretary of State, Hull placed great emphasis on international economic relations. He headed the American Delegation to the Monetary and Economic Conference in London in July 1933, a conference which ended in failure. Despite this failure, in November of

that year he headed the American Delegation to the Seventh Pan-American Conference, held in Montevideo, and won the trust of the Latin American diplomats, laying the foundation for the "Good Neighbor" Policy, followed up in the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace held in Buenos Aires (1936), the eighth Pan-American Conference in Lima (1938), the second consecutive Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the American Republics in Havana (1940). Given authority through the Trade Agreements Act of 1934, he negotiated reciprocal trade agreements with numerous countries, lowering tariffs and stimulating trade (Source: The Legacy of Cordell Hull, Friends of Cordell Hull Foundation).

After World War II broke out in Europe he pushed for aid to the Allies and recommended revision of the Neutrality Act, which kept the United States out of being involved in the fighting. After U.S. entry into the war, he worked to improve cooperation among the Allies, visiting Moscow in 1943, and began to formulate a peace plan that backed the establishment of a world organization to maintain peace.

1871- 1955

- Hull is known as the “Father of the United Nations”
- There is a 52 mile-long highway named after Hull in Kentucky
- He was born in a log cabin
- He died of heart disease and tuberculosis at the age of 84
- Cordell Hull Dam and Reservoir is located in Tennessee

Knowing that Woodrow Wilson’s League of Nations had failed, in part, because of political partisanship in the United States, Hull led successful conventions on the formulation of a new international organization and submitted the “Charter of the United Nations” in August, 1943.

Before the Charter could even be ratified in 1944 in San Francisco, Hull had to resign office due to failing health. Tuberculosis and heart disease were making it impossible for him to continue the pace of work to which Hull was accustomed. The Roosevelt administration received much of the attention and praise for the establishment of the United Nations, and owed much to Hull. Before

Hull’s resignation in November of 1944, Roosevelt offered Hull the chance to run as his vice president on the ticket, an opportunity which Hull declined because of his health.

So grateful was Roosevelt to Hull that he nominated his Secretary of State for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1945, the Nobel Committee awarded Cordell Hull the Prize for his work in the Western Hemispheres, for his International Trade Agreements, and for his efforts in establishing the United Nations.

Suggested Classroom Activities

Introduction/Warm-Up:

1. What do you think a Secretary of State does?
2. React to your favorite Cordell Hull quote:

“I am certain that, however great the hardships and the trials which loom ahead, our America will endure and the cause of human freedom will triumph”

“Never insult an alligator until after you have crossed the river”

3. What do you already know about the United Nations? What do you think it works to do?
4. Is it more important for nations to work for their own interest or for nations to work together?

Discussion Questions:

1. What world events made the concept of the United Nations seem necessary to Hull? (Level 1)
2. What jobs do you think led Cordell Hull to be qualified to be appointed to the post of Secretary of State? (Level 1)
3. What failed international organization was Hull careful not to repeat the mistakes of? (Level 2)
4. What makes a good international organization? What makes a bad one? Is the United Nations still able to be a good international organization today? (Level 3)
5. Why do you think that many people are not familiar with Cordell Hull’s contribution to peace and to history? (Level 3)
6. When speaking of the formation of the United Nations, Hull once predicted that, “There will no longer be need for spheres of influence, for alliances, balances of power, or any other of the special arrangements which in the unhappy past the nations strove to safeguard their security or to promote their interests.” Using recent examples from the news, do you think he was right? (Level 3)

Vocabulary:

1. appointed
2. Spanish-American War
3. tariffs
4. Good Neighbor Policy
5. Secretary of State

6. partisanship
7. ratified

Activities:

Students work in small groups to resolve the water scenario problem posed to them in Design a World Government Activity (included).

Technology Option:

Use the computer lab to draw a map of the branches and functions of the modern day United Nations.

Resources:

The Cordell Hull Institute

Foreign Policy think-tank that has many interesting articles for more advanced students.

<http://www.cordellhullinstitute.org/news/Hagel.html>

Friends of Cordell Hull

Online site of the Cordell Hull Museum in Tennessee.

<http://www.cordellhullmuseum.com/about.htm>

Design A World Government Exercise

It is the year 2050 and drinkable water and breathable air are a scarcity amongst the peoples of the world. Only a few places have enough fresh, clean water to drink and the air is at unhealthy levels in most countries due to automobiles and industries.

The UN, due to its many weaknesses, was dissolved 10 years ago and there is no one global organization or government to help sort out these issues amongst 193 nations.

War is becoming a certainty, and warfare has already broken out between groups of people in many countries trying to secure their basic needs.

You have been sent, as delegates from your home countries, to work together to design a new world government that will help to maintain peace and resolve the air and water crisis.

