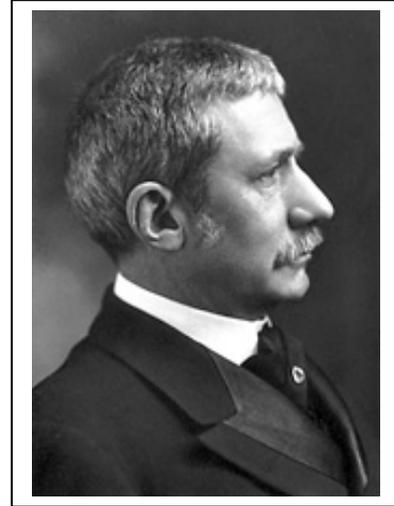


Elihu Root

1912

*“There is so much of good in human nature.
This points to another way to promote the
peace of the world.”*

Elihu Root was born in Clinton, New Jersey. He was the son of a Math professor. He attended Hamilton College. He was smart and graduated first in his class when he was only nineteen years old. Elihu’s father, the math professor, was named “Cube”. His brother was named “Square”. Elihu’s whole family was smart in math.



Root became wealthy from his law practice. His clients were banks, railroads, and **financiers**. He was recognized for his speaking, writing, and problem-solving.

In 1899, he was named Secretary of War. Root called the U.S. government his most important client. The Spanish American War was ending. McKinley wanted a lawyer to lead in peacetime. He did not want a man with a military background.

Root was Secretary of War from 1899 until 1904. During this time he reorganized the United States War Department. He created new procedures and much needed order. He was the smartest Secretary of War ever. He created a plan for returning Cuba to Cuban rule. He wrote a democratic charter for the Philippines. He eliminated taxes on imports from Puerto Rico.

In 1904, he returned to his legal practice. In 1905, President Roosevelt named him as Secretary of State. He helped the **emigration** of Japanese to the United States. He strengthened U.S. relationships with South America. He sponsored the Central American Peace Conference of 1907. This was the beginning of the Central American Court of Justice. This court helped countries settle disputes.

In 1912, Root won the Nobel Peace Prize. In his speech, he said:

*“When friends quarrel we try to **dissipate** their misunderstandings. This*

points to another way to promote the peace of the world.”

His Peace Prize came from helping countries understand each other.

He became a United States Senator in 1909. He served for six years. He was asked to run for President in 1915. He said no because he was too old. At 70, he was still much respected. President Wilson asked him to be **ambassador** to Russia.

Then he helped start the World Court. This was a place where countries could solve problems. He encouraged 55 countries to join the Court. He worked for world peace until the end of his life.

Classroom Activities

Introduction

Root was a math professor. Was qualified to hold government offices?

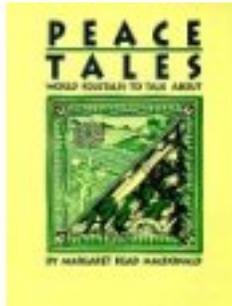
Activity

1. Pretend you are the Root family at dinner. What do you think they talked about? What were their nicknames? What is unusual about their nicknames? (remember their love of math)
2. Talk about how to solve problems. Use examples of problems from your class and from home. Think of examples between countries. Act them out in front of the class. (Great examples from Second Steps curriculum; Google Committee for Children/Second Steps)
3. Discuss how the United States can help Central America. These countries have many poor people. How can we be good neighbors? How can we help immigrants from these countries? Ask someone from a local Latino agency to come speak.

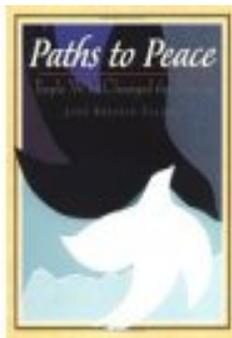
Vocabulary

1. **Financiers**
2. **Emigration**
3. **Dissipate**
4. **Dispute**
5. **Ambassador**

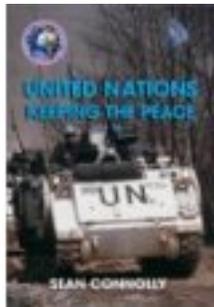
Reading Together



Peace Tales: World Folktales by Margaret Read McDonald



Paths to Peace: People Who Changed the World by Jane Zalben



United Nations: Keeping the Peace by Sean Connelly

Discussion Questions

What led Elihu Root to win the Nobel Peace Prize? (Level 1)

What did Root believe was the best way to settle problems? (Level 1)

McKinley said that Root was very smart. Was his job as Secretary of War, a good way to use his abilities? (Level 2)

Can a Secretary of War be a Person of Peace? Explain your answer. (Level 2)

Today the Secretary of War is called The Secretary of Defense. How would Root handle the position today? (Level 3)

Read about the proposed Department of Peace (handouts or Google Dept. of Peace).

What would Root think of this new idea? (Level 3)

Technology Option

Go to <http://videosearch.comcast.net/ss-query/videosearch.jsp?q=National+Cemetery&dr=1&cp=1>

Select Nightline, 05.28.07

Watch the video about Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery.

Write a letter to any of the people identified in the video, telling them how you feel about what they've done.

Resources

<http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h891.html> A US history site

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/ this is the official Nobel Laureate site

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=R000430>
Biographical site for members of Congress

<http://videosearch.comcast.net/ss-query/videosearch.jsp?q=National+Cemetery&dr=1&cp=1>