Wilson's behavior affected by health

PRINCETON, N.J. - President Woodrow Wilson's behavior was affected by decreased blood flow to the brain during his oft-criticized and ultimately futile campaign to have the United States join the League of Nations, a historian says.

Records that were never made public show that Wilson was disabled by illness during the critical period in U.S. history after World War I, said Princeton University history Professor Arthur Link, editor of a series of volumes of Wilson's papers.

"It is one of the great tragedies of the 20th century," Link said in a recent interview. "The man who was most responsible for building support for the idea of a League of Nations was struck down just as his leadership was most needed. And he was struck down by events over which he had no control."

The 64th volume in the series, to be published in February, will reveal for the first time detailed medical records kept by Dr. Cary T. Grayson, Wilson's personal physician. Grayson's sons allowed Link to review the 70-year-old papers in May.

Link said the records, with analysis by medical experts, explain Wilson's poor performance in the months leading up to his devastating stroke in October 1919.

Wilson, a Democrat, was president from 1913 to 1921. He died in 1924.

He won the 1919 Nobel Peace Prize for his peacemaking efforts involving the League of Nations after World War I. However, he failed to win U.S. support for the League, which fell apart before World War II.

Wilson failed to get the Senate to ratify U.S. membership in the league because of what Link said was an uncharacteristic unwillingness to compromise. The Senate wanted guarantees that the United States would not be subordinate to the votes of other nations in case of war.

"In his normal, healthy state, Wilson would have found compromise with the large group of moderate Republicans," said Link.

Instead, Wilson was robbed of "his ability at leadership, of his normal shrewdness and deftness, of his marvelous management skills," said Link. "He would lose his train of thought, and get confused. He would contradict himself, and eventually, blow his cool."

Against medical advice, Wilson, then 63, took his message directly to the people with a speaking tour of Western states in September 1919. The decision to go over the Senate's head angered the very lawmakers Wilson needed to court.

"The decision . . . was not only irrational but in the circumstances was bound to be futile," Link writes in the forthcoming book.

Dr. James F. Toole, director of the Stroke Center of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Dr. Bert E. Park, a Springfield, Mo., neurosurgeon, analyzed the medical records for Link's book.

Toole wrote that the records indicate Wilson suffered from a disease of the carotid arteries in the neck, which hindered blood flow to the brain, and hypertension, which worsened his condition.

Park wrote that Wilson likely continued to suffer episodes of internal bleeding following a 1906 stroke.

Link said the records should lay to rest the theories that Wilson's problems were psychological.

"His failure in leadership instead derived from the ravages of disease," Link said. "History has judged Wilson as if he were a well man during this period."

Brian Shellito/Daily Nebraskan

Wilson

Walesa leads early Polish election returns

WARSAW, Poland - Lech Walesa, who united Poles in their struggle against communism, led in Poland's first popular presidential election Sunday but appeared headed for a runoff, according to state TV exit polls.

The Solidarity chief had 41 percent of the vote, a 2-to-1 lead over Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and political unknown Stanislaw Tyminski, according to the polls. The polls indicated Mazowiecki and Tyminski each had 20.5 percent of the vote, far ahead of the remaining three candidates.

It was a stunning setback for Mazowiecki, a former Walesa ally who instituted unpopular economic austerity measures after taking Poland's first postwar non-Communist government.

Pollsters questioned every 20th voter at 404 polling places around the country, or up to 15,000 people. The results were issued on nationwide TV minutes after the polls closed at 8 p.m. (2 p.m. EST).

The poll indicated that farmers, who represent 40 percent of Polish society, deserted Mazowiecki en masse.

Only 4 percent of the farm vote went to the prime minister, according to the poll. Farmers have been angry at the abolition of guaranteed prices for their produce under the government's shock economic reform plan.

If no one wins 50 percent in the vote, a runoff must be held between the two top vote-getters Dec. 9.

At Mazowiecki national headquarters in Warsaw, a spokeswoman said Walesa seemed far ahead in several areas around the country but that supporters were not discouraged.

Walesa himself expressed optimism after voting in Gdansk with his wife, Danuta, and their second son, 18-year-old Slawek.

"I voted for the candidate who is supposed to win," he said, smiling.

Cold War's end also means U.S. aid to anti-communism efforts will decline

WASHINGTON - Much like the Cold War itself, the U.S. effort to roll back communism under the Reagan Doctrine appears headed for oblivion.

In the wake of the new East-West agreement on vastly reducing conventional arms in Europe, what passes for superpower tension these days results from the continuing U.S.-Soviet competition in remote Third World conflicts.

During the 1960s and 1970s, virtually the only guerrilla fighters were those operating in anti-communist countries, often rightist military dictatorships.

That all changed under Reagan, and American conservatives cheered when Reagan embraced "freedom fighters" opposing leftist rule around the world.

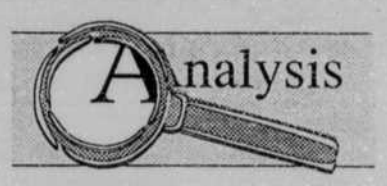
Now, after a run of four years, much of the Reagan Doctrine's vitality is gone.

In vote after vote, Congress has, in effect, told the Bush administration that it doesn't see much sense in maintaining full funding of anti-communist rebel groups when the Soviet bloc has ceased to exist.

The administration doesn't dispute the point, but said continued aid to the rebel groups gives the leftist governments they oppose incentive to negotiate peace.

When Reagan took office, the only resistance movement receiving U.S. help was the Afghan mujahedeen. By 1986, United States was assisting the Nicaraguan Contras, Cambodia's non-communist rebels and the insurgency fighting Angola's leftist government.

Even that aid is in peril. In a move



that went almost unnoticed in the rush to adjournment, Congress passed an intelligence bill that dealt the doctrine another blow.

The bill would halt, among other restrictions, $60 million in U.S. aid to Angola's UNITA rebels if the leftist government agrees to hold free elections and the Soviet Union halts its own weapons shipments to the Angolan armed forces.

It also suspends a $13 million covert aid program to anti-communist rebels in Cambodia that will be replaced by a humanitarian aid program. And it cuts aid to the Afghan resistance to $250 million, $50 million less than the administration request. The program would be cut off altogether if the Soviets agree to stop sending military aid to the Afghan government.

Rep. Dante Fascell, D-Fla., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he's not surprised Congress now balks at administration requests for aid to rightist rebel groups.

"The Soviets have cut back on funding of their 'clients' around the world and we are responding accordingly," he said. "The Soviets are out of Afghanistan, the Contras won in Nicaragua, and peace talks are in progress in Angola."

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., feels Congress is too eager to shelve the Reagan Doctrine.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev may have won the Nobel Peace Prize, Hyde said, "but he is still pouring in $650 million into Angola, and Soviet advisers are still very active there."

Hyde said he regrets the mood that "exaggerates the resolution of the Cold War."

Peter Rodman, of the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute, agreed.

The former National Security Council aide said U.S. assistance helped initiate peace negotiations in each of the countries where the United States was supporting a rebel group.

"Our strategy ought to be to complete the process," Rodman said. "Don't leave them (the rebel groups) in the lurch. The next phase is a political accommodation. It makes no sense to penalize our side."

Dollar now Iraqis' currency of choice

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The dollar, the hated and admired symbol of American power, is the currency of choice on the streets of Baghdad, where U.N. sanctions have rattled the already shaky Iraqi economy.

In ever-increasing numbers, Iraqis approach foreigners, risking lengthy prison sentences to buy dollars at black-market rates that have almost doubled in three months.

And some merchants play the dangerous game of asking customers to give them something other than the new 25-dinar notes bearing the likeness of President Saddam Hussein.

Western diplomats suggested that reflects a fear the dinar could lose its value if Saddam is toppled after a U.S.-led attack or in a coup.

At official rates, one Iraqi dinar is worth $3 in Iraq. But on the streets of Baghdad, one dollar can buy five Iraqi dinars, and in some outlying areas the going rate is reportedly six or seven dinars.

One Western diplomat said some major figures in the Iraqi business world are turning vast amounts of their assets into cash — and turning that cash into dollars.

Before Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent U.N. embargo, the country earned more than 95 percent of its foreign exchange from oil exports.

Shortages of spare parts, imported raw materials and foreign technical expertise have left much of Iraq's industry running at only a maintenance level, Western diplomats said.

Prices on everything from cigarettes to tires are soaring in the marketplace. Cigarettes that just three months ago cost one-third of a dinar, now cost 3.50 dinars. Tires now cost 300 dinars apiece, or $900 at the official rate.

Food is still in abundant supply in Iraq, much of it smuggled in from Iran or looted from Kuwait.

Despite official Iraqi complaints about shortages of medicines, doctors in Baghdad say there's no problem with supplies. Western diplomats suggest Iraqi attempts to acquire more medicine in exchange for hostages is an attempt to bolster stockpiles for war.