

## Charles Dawes

1925

*“The effectiveness of a speech depends largely on the circumstances under which it is delivered, and the existing public state of mind -- not alone upon the competency and sincerity of the speaker.”*

Charles G. Dawes was born in Marietta, Ohio in 1865. His father was a general in the Civil War. His father served in Congress. Charles Dawes went to school at Marietta College in Ohio. He then went to Cincinnati Law School. Dawes practiced law in Lincoln, Nebraska. He moved to Evanston, Illinois, which became his home. He then began to work in business.



He bought a **public utility**. A public utility provides public service. This might be water, gas, or electricity. He sold it. He became a rich man. He then became a banker. Dawes was good with organization.

1865-1951

- Successful lawyer, business owner, politician
- Fought in World War I
- 1928, Chaired the Allied Reparations Committee
- Served as Vice-President of United States 1925-1929

Charles Dawes believed in peace. In 1925 Charles Dawes won the Nobel Peace Prize. He won this with Sir Austen Chamberlain. He was a British foreign minister. The award was given for their work after WW I. They tried to help Germany. Germany needed help with its economy.

Germany had great difficulty paying the **reparations**. Reparations are monies a country must pay after a war. The money is paid for damage caused by the country that lost the war. The reparations had been agreed under the **Treaty of Versailles**. The German government failed to keep up the payments. In

1923 French and Belgian troops re-occupied Germany. This caused **inflation** and lost jobs in Germany.

Dawes was asked by the Allied Reparations Committee to help the problem. He had a plan for starting annual payments. He wanted to change the German State Bank. Adolf Hitler did not like the Dawes Plan. Hitler wanted no reparations. Hitler did not want other countries in charge of Germany.

In 1924 Dawes was elected Vice-President of the United States. Dawes campaigned against the **Ku Klux Klan**. As Vice-President, Dawes worked to keep the peace. He tried to stop another war.

## **Suggested Class Suggested Classroom Activities**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Public utility
2. Reparations
3. Treaty of Versailles
4. Inflation
5. Economy
6. Ku Klux Klan

### **Discussion Questions**

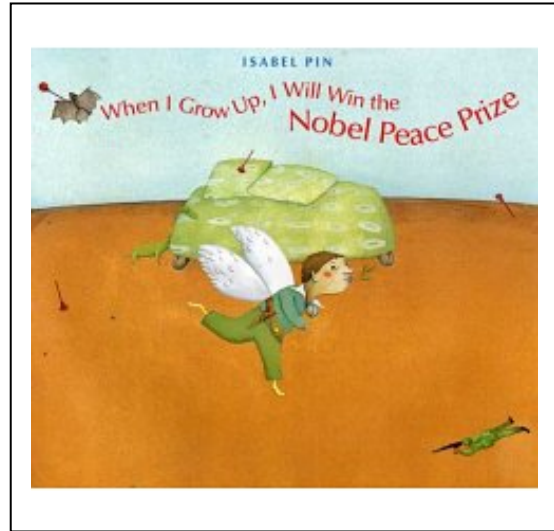
1. Why was Charles Dawes awarded the Nobel Peace Prize?
2. Why might it be considered controversial to force a country to pay reparations?
3. Dawes campaigned against the Ku Klux Klan. What does this tell us about Dawes?

### **Suggested Activities**

1. Discuss with students whether it is appropriate to have reparations. Is it enough to have been defeated in a war? Is there ever a true winner? What does it mean to win a war?
2. Charles Dawes was able to become very rich owning a public utility. Is this possible with today's economy? Why or why not?

**Read together:**

**When I Grow Up, I Will Win the Nobel Peace Prize (Hardcover)**  
By [Isabel Pin](#) (Author), [Nancy Seitz](#)



### **Bibliography**

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