

# Leo S. Rowe

Diplomat (1871 – 1946)



Rowe was born in Iowa and later taught political science and international law at the University of Pennsylvania for 20 years. During that time he became interested in Latin America and served on numerous committees and delegations. He was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury (1917–19) under WOODROW WILSON. In 1920, he became director-general of the Pan American Union, the forerunner of the Organization of American States, serving for 25 years until his death in 1946. He promoted the “good-neighbor” policy toward Latin America and devoted his life to furthering understanding and integration among the region’s countries, particularly through higher education.

He founded the Leo S. Rowe Fund, an educational loan program of the Organization of American States to help citizens from Latin America and the Caribbean finance their studies or research in accredited universities across the United States. The fund is still active today awarding interest-free loans for up to \$15,000 dollars.

Rowe was a member of the Century for 42 years.