U.S. History
1919-1929
ROARING TWENTIES
REVIEWED!

• Watch the video “American Pageant Chapter 31” & annotate the slides.
• Read pages 412-459 “The Americans” and add additional notes.

Fear following World War I

• Communist Party came to power in Russia in 1917. "Bolshevik Rev."
• Strikes occur in 1919. Many shut down important industries
  - Steel Strike of 1919
  - Boston Police Strike of 1919
• Race riots occur in American cities due to resentment over competition for jobs & housing
• Bombings occur in 8 American cities
• Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer led a series of raids against suspected radicals

RED SCARE: 1919-1920

RISE OF NATIVISM

• Palmer Raids led to mass arrest of socialist, anarchist, union organizers, or other suspected radicals
• Continued hatred toward “new immigrants”
• Quota Act of 1921: Limited immigration # to 3% of those living in U.S. as of 1910
• National Quota Act of 1924: Set quota at 2% of the Immigrants in the U.S. in 1890
  - Intended to limit the "new immigrants" from southern/eastern Europe
  - Severely restricted Asian Immigrant: No Japanese Immigration at all
• Unrestricted Immigration from Western Hemisphere
**Sacco and Vanzetti Case**
- Sacco and Vanzetti
  - Italian immigrants who were charged with robbery and murder in 1921
  - Found guilty and sentenced to death
  - Trial demonstrated the tensions of the era
  - Italian Immigrants
  - Anarchist
  - World War I draft dodgers
  - Both men executed in 1927

**Resurgence of KKK**
- KKK broadens its influence in the 1920s
  - Expands into the Midwest
  - Hatred toward immigrants, Catholics, radicals, etc.
- Pro KKK film "Birth of a Nation" (1915) was popular in theaters
- Branded itself as a patriotic organization
  - Support amongst white Protestants in small cities and towns
- Exerted tremendous political influence

**Mass Consumption Economy**
- 1920 is the first time a majority of Americans live in urban areas
- Economic prosperity: ROAR!
  - Tremendous growth in the stock market
    - Buying "on margin"
    - Investment based upon speculation
- Mass consumption economy: large number of new affordable consumer goods available
  - Electricity in homes led to increased demand for consumer appliances
- Fueling the consumerism was buying goods on credit (installment plan: "possess today and pay tomorrow")
- Advertising industry: manipulate consumer demand
Transportation Changes

- Frederick Taylor’s principles of scientific management increased productivity
- Cars become affordable for the average American (Model T)
  - Henry Ford’s assembly line
- Growth of other industries (steel, rubber, gasoline, highway construction, etc.)
- Charles Lindbergh becomes the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic
- Radio makes him an instant celebrity

Mass Media: Radio and Movies

- Nov. 1920 first radio broadcast out of Pittsburgh announces election of Harding
- Radio tied the nation together by providing shared experiences
- Rise of the movie industry (especially in Hollywood)
  - “The Jazz Singer” (1927) becomes the first “talkie”
- Celebrity culture of the 1920s
  - Nationally known figures as a result of the widespread reach of radio and movies

Gender in the 1920s

- During the decade existing social customs were challenged
- Jazz music, dancing, drinking bootleg liquor, and other challenges to traditional values
  - Labor saving devices changed role of homemakers for some women
- Flappers became the symbol of this more independent lifestyle
- Margaret Sanger took things a step further with her advocacy of birth control
**Fundamentalism & the Scopes Monkey Trial**

- The decade saw a battle between the values of the modernizing cities and the traditional values of rural areas.
- Fundamentalist believed every word in the bible should be considered literally true.
- Radio preachers such as Billy Sunday spoke out against drinking, dancing, jazz, gambling, etc.
- ACLU sought to challenge law in Tenn. that outlawed teaching of evolution
  - John Scopes arrested for teaching evolution in 1925
- Entire world follows the trial by listening on the radio
  - Prosecutor: Religious fundamentalist William Jennings Bryan
  - Defense: Clarence Darrow
- Scopes convicted (gets off on a technicality)- but trial demonstrated tensions between modern and traditional religious values of the 1920s.

**PROHIBITION**

- 18th amendment ratified in 1919: prohibited the manufacture & sale of alcoholic beverages
- Volstead Act was the federal law enforcing the amendment
- Fierce opposition, especially in large cities
- Bootleg liquor was served at speakeasies
- Understaffed law enforcement and widespread corruption
- Rise of organized crime
  - Al Capone in Chicago

**BLACK AMERICA IN THE 1920s: Did the decade roar?**

- Great Migration had brought numerous African Americans into northern cities
  - Spread of jazz music out of New Orleans
- Harlem in NYC was the cultural center of black America
- Harlem Renaissance led by writers Claude McKay, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and jazz artists Louis Armstrong
  - Idea of “New Negro”- racial pride
- Marcus Garvey founded the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)
  - Called for African Americans to go “back to Africa” (separatism)
  - Promoted black pride, black owned businesses
LOST GENERATION
• “Lost Generation” writers: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Sinclair Lewis
• Criticized different aspects of the decade:
  – Why did we fight World War I
  – Small town values
  – Fundamentalist religious views
  – Materialism of the decade

U.S. History
1920-1928
POLITICS OF THE TWENTIES
REVIEWED!
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Politics of the 1920s
• Progressive Era reforms of the previous period are pretty much abandoned in the 1920s.
• Business and government are intimately linked
• Presidents of the decade are all conservative Republicans
  – Election of Warren G. Harding: “return to normalcy”
  – Calvin Coolidge
  – Herbert Hoover
**HANDLING BUSINESS**

- Republican Presidents favor high tariffs throughout the decade.
  - Pro business policies of the Republican administrations
- Response to the high U.S. tariffs was Europe raised their own tariffs
  - Slows down global trade
- This close relationship with business lead to some scandals and corruption
  - Teapot Dome Scandal: Sec. of Interior Albert Fall accepted bribes in exchange for leasing government land to oil companies
- Warren G. Harding dies Aug. 1923

**CALVIN COOLIDGE & HERBERT HOOVER**

- Calvin Coolidge continued the pro business policies
- Famous quote “The business of America is business.”
- Easily wins the election of 1924
- Coolidge will not run again in 1928

**The Decade that didn’t ROAR: FARMERS AND UNIONS**

- Union membership declined throughout the 1920s
  - Companies favored an “open shop” jobs open to nonunion workers
  - Red Scare, Palmer Raids had turned public opinion against labor
- Farmers experienced a decade of economic difficulty in the 1920s
  - Following World War I less demand for crops from domestic and international markets
  - Advancements in technology led to large increase in production
  - Too much supply led to lower prices