

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

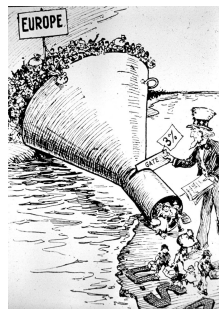
- Communist Party came to power in **Russia** in 1917. “**Bolshevik Rev.**”
- **Strikes** occur in 1919. Many shut down important industries
 - **Steel Strike of 1919**
 - **Boston Police Strike of 1919**
- **Race riots** occur in American cities due to resentment over competition for jobs & housing
- **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

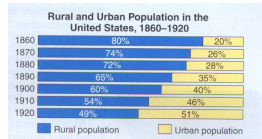
Resurgence of KKK

- **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

Households with Radios, 1920-1930

Year	Number of Households with Radio Set
1920	20,000
1922	60,000
1924	1,250,000
1926	4,500,000
1928	8,000,000
1930	13,750,000

- 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 wide 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

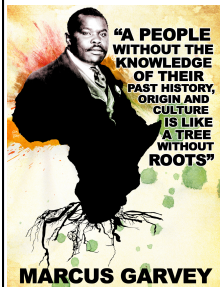
- The decade saw a battle between the **values** of the **modernizing cities** and the **traditional values** of **rural areas**
- **Fundamentalist** believed every word in the bible should be considered literally true.
- Radio preachers such as **Billy Sunday** spoke out against drinking, dancing, jazz, 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

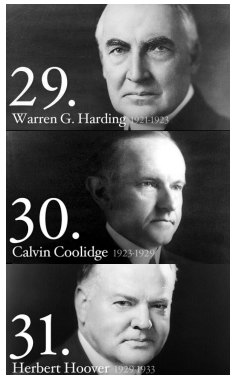
- **“Lost Generation”** writers: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Sinclair Lewis
- **Criticized** different aspects of the decade:
 - Why did we fight World War I
 - Small town values
 - Fundamentalist religious views
 - Materialism of the decade

U.S. History 1920-1928

POLITICS OF THE TWENTIES REVIEWED!

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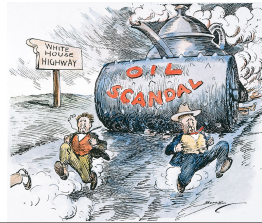
Politics of the 1920s



- 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
