

Chapter 22**The Roaring Twenties**

(1919-1929)

What You Will Learn

After World War I, U.S. presidents shifted the country's focus to domestic issues. Mass culture was transformed. The decade was prosperous but had serious economic problems.

Chapter 22 Focus Question

As you read this chapter, keep this question in mind: How did the nation react to change in the 1920s?

Section 1**Adjusting to Peacetime****Section 1 Focus Question**

What problems at home and abroad challenged the nation after World War I? To begin answering this question,

- Learn about the administrations of Hoover and Coolidge.
- Understand what postwar isolationism meant.
- Read about the Red Scare.

Section 1 Summary

Due to a poor economy and threats of violence, people voted largely Republican in the election of 1920. This began an era of big business, isolationism, and immigration restrictions.

Return to Normalcy

President Wilson had expected to return home from the Paris Peace Conference a hero. Instead, the failure of the United States to sign the Treaty of Versailles, plus an economic recession, cost his Democratic Party the election of 1920. Labor strikes, racial violence, and threats of communism also disturbed Americans. Voters hoped new leadership would lead the decade into peace and prosperity.

President Warren Harding of Ohio promised a return to "normalcy." He supported business interests and appointed friends to government jobs. These men often used their jobs to make personal fortunes, leading to many scandals. Upon

Big mistake

Key Events

1919

- ★ 18th Amendment prohibits the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages.

1924

Teapot Dome and other government scandals become public.

1927

Lindbergh flies alone across the Atlantic.

The Harding Scandals
737

Vocabulary Builder

Decade comes from *decem*, the Latin word for "ten." How many years are in a decade?

✓ Checkpoint

List three reasons the Democrats lost favor in 1920.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

✓ Checkpoint

List two ways the United States participated in international affairs during the Coolidge administration.

1. _____
2. _____

RED = Communism

Reading Strategy

Read the underlined sentence. Find and circle the stated cause. Draw an arrow to the effect.



✓ Checkpoint

Name the two men who symbolized the Red Scare.

1. _____
2. _____

Sacco and Vanzetti
739



Harding's death in 1923, Vice President (Calvin Coolidge) became President. People saw him as an honest man. He went on to win the 1924 election by a large margin. The economy revived and the 1920s began to "roar." ✓

Foreign Policy

World War I had made the United States an international power. Yet most Americans favored isolationism. The United States did not cut itself off completely from world affairs, however. It participated in international conferences to promote disarmament, or the reduction of weapons. With France, the United States sponsored the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which condemned military aggression and outlawed war. In addition, Coolidge felt the United States could get involved in foreign conflicts when America's business interests were threatened. This happened several times in Latin America. ✓

The Red Scare

President Wilson had refused to recognize the Soviet Union's new Communist government. Communism is an anti-democratic political system in which the single-party government controls all means of production. The fear of Communists, or Red Scare, reached a peak in 1919. In addition, anarchists, or people who oppose organized government, set off a series of bombings. Many anarchists were foreign born. Thousands of anarchists and Reds were deported.

The 1920 trial of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti symbolized the public hysteria of the time. Both were charged with murder. There was little evidence of their guilt. They were convicted and executed mostly because they were foreign anarchists.

Fear of radical immigrants, along with fear of losing jobs to newcomers, led Congress to pass an emergency immigration law in 1921. The law limited European immigration and stopped all Asian immigration. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. What did Harding promise that won him the presidency?

2. What two actions did the U.S. government take to stop anarchists and Communists?

1. _____
2. _____

Key Events

1919

18th Amendment prohibits the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages.

1924

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1927

Lindbergh flies alone across the Atlantic.

18TH - America is dry

21ST - Drink up

✓ Checkpoint

Name the amendments that established and repealed Prohibition.

Reading Strategy

Reread the bracketed paragraph. Underline a signal word that shows two things are being compared. Circle a phrase signaling that two things are being contrasted.



Organized crime made
ALOT
of money during Prohibition.

Section 2 Focus Question

How did social change and social conflict mark the 1920s? To begin answering this question,

- Find out how Prohibition affected the nation.
- Learn about the changing social position of women.
- Read about inventions that created a new mass culture.
- Understand the conflicts created by rapid change.

Section 2 Summary

American society saw many social and political changes in the 1920s. Prohibition laws led to more crime. Women gained the right to vote, and social conflicts split the nation.

Prohibition

During World War I, the temperance movement gained public support. In 1919, the states ratified the Eighteenth Amendment, which prohibited the making, selling, and transporting of alcohol. The new law ushered in the age of Prohibition. Saloons closed, but illegal ones called speakeasies took their place. A smuggling industry known as bootlegging arose. Bootleggers transported alcohol from Canada and the Caribbean into the country. Organized crime made huge amounts of money from bootlegging. As a result, gang warfare and lawlessness increased. It soon became clear that Prohibition could not be enforced. The Twenty-first Amendment repealed Prohibition in 1933. ✓

Changing Lives of Women = suffrage - right to vote

The Nineteenth Amendment was ratified before the 1920 election, giving women the right to vote for president. Before long, they were joining political parties. Some were elected to office. Both Wyoming and Texas elected women governors. In spite of these new freedoms, women's lives remained restricted in other ways. Many universities and professional schools, such as medical schools, still did not admit them. In some states, they could not serve on juries. Some married women could not keep the money they earned. More women were holding jobs, however.

Meanwhile, a younger generation of women was showing another kind of independence. They wore short dresses and "bobbed" their hair. These young women, called "flappers," shocked many people but became the symbol for women of the 1920s. ✓

A New Mass Culture

Another symbol of the 1920s was the automobile. Henry Ford introduced the assembly line, which made the Model T Ford faster to produce and cheaper to buy. New roads with gas stations and restaurants increased travel and tourism.

The first commercial radio station began broadcasting in 1920. By 1926, more than 700 stations and a national radio network were bringing the same radio shows into millions of homes. Motion pictures also became popular. ✓ KDKA

Social Conflict

Rapid change created conflict between old and new social values. One such conflict was the 1925 Scopes trial. John Scopes was a high school biology teacher in Dayton, Tennessee. He went against religious leaders and state law by teaching Charles Darwin's theory of evolution to his students. Clarence Darrow, a famous Chicago lawyer, defended Scopes. Darrow lost the case, and Scopes lost his job. The trial, however, ridiculed the old way of thinking.

Racial conflict became another problem. Many African Americans moved from the South to find jobs in northern cities. This so-called Great Migration led to racial tensions and violent riots. In response, Marcus Garvey, an immigrant from Jamaica, created the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). It promoted black pride and black unity. At the same time, the Ku Klux Klan—an organization opposed to blacks, immigrants, Catholics, and Jews—gained power. It spread from the South to the Midwest and the West before its decline. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. What were three main social conflicts during the 1920s?

2. What effect did the Model T Ford have on American culture?

✓ Checkpoint

Identify the purpose of the Nineteenth Amendment.

✓ Checkpoint

List two forms of media that contributed to a mass culture in the 1920s.

Darwin's Theory

Evolution

Science vs. Religion

✓ Checkpoint

Name the organization founded by Marcus Garvey.

K K K

gains
strength

Section 3**The Jazz Age****Section 3 Focus Question**

★ What arts and culture symbolized the Jazz Age? To begin answering this question,

- Read about the new pastimes of the 1920s.
- Learn about a unique American musical sound.
- Find out about writers who chronicled the social values of the 1920s.
- Understand the Harlem Renaissance.

Section 3 Summary

During the 1920s, American culture saw new fads and heroes. America's popular dance, music, and literature expressed hopes and conflicts of a new generation.

Fads and Heroes

The 1920s was a decade of prosperity that saw many new enthusiasms. Lively dances, such as the Charleston and the Lindy Hop, were the rage. Fads such as flagpole sitting and dance marathons swept the country. The Chinese game of mah-jongg became popular.

The sports hero became a new kind of celebrity during the 1920s. Athletes such as baseball's Babe Ruth, swimmer Johnny Weissmuller, and champion golfer Bobby Jones became famous. The most popular celebrity of all was Charles Lindbergh, who made the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic. His nickname was Lucky Lindy. He came to symbolize the optimism of the decade. ✓

An American Sound

Jazz is a style of music that combined rhythms from West Africa and the Caribbean, work chants and spirituals from the rural South, and harmonies from Europe. African American musicians developed jazz in the nightclubs and dance halls of New Orleans. From there, jazz moved north during the Great Migration. Famous jazz stars were Louis Armstrong, Bessie Smith, and Duke Ellington.

Radio helped spread jazz, too. White composers and bandleaders, such as George Gershwin and Paul Whiteman, took on the style and gave it their own stamp. Jazz became one of the most important American contributions to world

Key Events

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1927

Lindbergh flies alone across the Atlantic.

NEW YORK YANKEES

✓ Checkpoint

List three fads that were popular in the 1920s.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Reading Strategy

Reread the bracketed paragraph. Use your own words to express the main idea of this paragraph.

JAZZ AGE 748

✓ Checkpoint

List two ways in which jazz spread from New Orleans to other parts of the country.

1. _____
2. _____

Vocabulary Builder

The word *renaissance* means "rebirth." Why do you think the Harlem Renaissance was given this name?

- _____
- _____
- _____

✓ Checkpoint

List three major novelists of the 1920s.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



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culture. It was so popular that the 1920s are known as the Jazz Age. Yet like many other cultural movements, it widened the gap between older and younger generations. ✓

Literature of the 1920s

American literature in the 1920s showed both the decade's energy and its excesses. The novels of F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and Sinclair Lewis were social criticisms as well as fictional stories. Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* expressed disillusionment with the emptiness of rich people's lives. Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms* captured the growing antiwar feelings. Lewis's *Babbitt* criticized the loose values and hypocrisy of middle-class culture. Fitzgerald and Hemingway, among others, actually left the United States to live abroad for extended periods.

During the 1920s, a vibrant African American culture known as the Harlem Renaissance emerged. Harlem was a large African American neighborhood of New York City. It attracted thousands of African Americans from the South. A different kind of social criticism arose among the black writers, musicians, and poets who settled in Harlem. Their moving works were a reaction to racial prejudice as well as an expression of hope. Langston Hughes expressed black pride in poetry that tried to capture the beat of jazz. James Weldon Johnson combined poetry and politics. He wrote editorials for the *New York Age*, an important black-owned newspaper. He also worked for the NAACP, an organization dedicated to the advancement of African Americans. Novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston recorded and explained many African American folk songs and folk tales. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. Who was the favorite celebrity of the 1920s and why?

2. Who were some of the major figures of the Harlem Renaissance?

Section 4**The Economy of the 1920s****Key Events****1919**

18th Amendment
prohibits the
consumption and
sale of alcoholic
beverages.

1924

Teapot Dome
and other
government
scandals
become public.

1927

Lindbergh flies
alone across the
Atlantic.

✓ Checkpoint

List three reasons for increased consumer spending in the 1920s.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Buying on margin is
dangerous

Section 4 Focus Question

- ★ What economic problems threatened the economic boom of the 1920s? To begin answering this question,
- Learn about the decade's industrial growth.
 - Find out about margin buying on the stock market.
 - Understand Americans' failure to see the signs of economic trouble.
 - Read about the election of Herbert Hoover.

Section 4 Summary

Many people regarded the 1920s as prosperous. New purchases and a booming stock market, however, existed alongside rural poverty and unemployment.

Industrial Growth

A huge increase in industrial production pulled the nation out of the postwar economic recession. As more goods came to market, prices dropped. Advertisements, chain stores, and mail-order catalogs presented labor-saving devices for the home, such as washing machines, vacuum cleaners, and toasters. These enticed consumers to spend their money. Installment buying, or buying on credit, meant that people could enjoy expensive purchases such as cars, refrigerators, and radios long before they had paid for them in full.

Government policies kept the economy going. High taxes on imported goods resulted in Americans buying from U.S. businesses. Tax cuts for the wealthy encouraged spending. These measures made the economy boom. At the same time, however, they encouraged reckless spending. ✓

A Booming Stock Market

In a strong economy, more people are able to afford to buy stocks, or shares of companies. During the 1920s, the stock market became a bull market. This meant that stock values were rising. Investors began buying on margin. They paid a percentage of the stock's cost when they bought it, and paid the rest when they sold it. As long as the market value continued to rise, this was not a risk. If the market fell, however, investors could be left owing money for stock that wasn't worth much. Some economists began to worry about

margin buying. But most people listened to positive economists such as Irwin Fisher who felt prosperity would last forever. In reality, only 5 percent of Americans were rich. Many of the rest worked hard yet barely survived. ✓

Signs of Trouble *Tough times for FARMERS*

Among those who did not share in the decade's prosperity were farmers. Before World War I, they had sold their surplus crops to foreign markets. During the pre-war years, farmers took out loans to buy land and equipment. However, many postwar nations were too poor to buy crops. With less income, farmers were unable to pay their debts.

Some factory workers fared well, but others did not. Some companies offered their employees benefits such as vacations and pensions. With the rise of the assembly line, however, unskilled workers were taking the jobs of skilled workers for less pay. Unemployment was high even during the more prosperous years. ✓

The Election of 1928

The Republicans, who held the presidency throughout the 1920s, took credit for the prosperity. Republican Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover ran for President in 1928. His Democratic opponent, Alfred E. Smith, was the first Catholic to run for President. Religion and the economy became the major issues in the election. Hoover won with the slogan "a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage." Hoover lost the largest cities, but he carried 41 states. This was a significant victory for Republicans. It showed that many poor, rural voters still placed their hopes in the Republican Party. Hoover believed he could satisfy those hopes. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. What were two factors in the economy that indicated a period of prosperity?
1. _____
2. _____
2. What two groups in American society did not share in the prosperity of the 1920s?
1. _____
2. _____

✓ Checkpoint

Explain why buying stocks on margin could be a risky practice.

Reading Strategy

Reread the bracketed paragraph.



Underline the statement that best summarizes the farmers' ultimate problem.

✓ Checkpoint

Explain why farmers were unable to repay their loans.

Vocabulary Builder

Something that is *significant* has a major or important effect. Why was Hoover's victory significant?

✓ Checkpoint

Name the two major issues in the election of 1928.

1. _____

2. _____