AMERICA AFTER WWI

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“RETURN TO NORMALCY”
Harding’s successful campaign slogan. The idea made sense to many Americans.

CALVIN COOLIDGE
Republican who won the presidency in 1924. Was Harding’s vice-president. Continued Harding’s goals by trying to increase America’s prosperity by strengthening business.
I. CHANGING WAYS OF LIFE

The New Urban Scene

A. The 20s are also known as the Jazz Age.

B. During the 1920s, urbanization continued to accelerate

- 1920 census: 51.2% of Americans in communities of 2,500 or more
- 1922–1929, nearly 2 million people leave farms, towns each year

C. For the first time, more Americans lived in urban than in rural areas

- Largest cities are New York, Chicago, Philadelphia
- 65 other cities with 100,000 people or more
- New York City was home to over 5 million people in 1920
- Chicago had nearly 3 million
D. In 1920s, people caught between rural, urban cultures

1. **Rural life** - considered to be safe, close ties, hard work, strict morals of small towns

2. **Urban life** - anonymous crowds, strangers, moneymaking, pleasure seeking of cities
The Prohibition Experiment

E. One example of the clash between city & farm was the passage of the 18th Amendment in 1920

F. 18th Amendment launches Prohibition era
   1. supported by religious groups, rural South, West

G. Prohibition — production, sale, transportation of alcohol illegal
   ❏ Government does not budget enough money to enforce the law

Prohibition lasted from 1920 to 1933 when it was repealed by the 21st Amendment
Reformers had long believed alcohol led to crime, child & wife abuse, and accidents.

The church affiliated Anti-Saloon League and the Women’s Christian Temperance Union helped push the 18th Amendment through.

I. VOLSTEAD ACT (1920) - rights to enforce prohibition
HELP ME to keep Him PURE

PLEASE VOTE "AGAINST THE SALE OF LIQUORS"

Poster supporting prohibition
VOLSTEAD ACT (1920)

Law that gave the federal government rights to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment.

Led to 540,000 arrests during the 1920s.
Many Americans did not believe drinking was a sin.
Most immigrant groups were not willing to give up drinking.
To obtain liquor illegally, drinkers went underground to hidden saloons known as speakeasies.

J. Speakeasies (hidden saloons, nightclubs) become fashionable.
K. People also bought liquor from bootleggers who smuggled it in surrounding countries.

People distill liquor, buy prescription alcohol, sacramental wine.
SPEAKEASIES
ORGANIZED CRIME

L. Prohibition contributed to the growth of organized crime in every major city

M. Chicago became notorious as the home of Al Capone – a famous bootlegger

1. Capone controls Chicago liquor business by killing off his competition

Al Capone was finally convicted on tax evasion charges in 1931
GOVERNMENT FAILS TO CONTROL LIQUOR

- Prohibition’s fate was sealed by the government, which failed to budget enough money to enforce the law.
- The task of enforcing Prohibition fell to 1,500 poorly paid federal agents --- clearly an impossible task.

Federal agents pour wine down a sewer
PROHIBITION

The banning of alcohol created new problems.

http://www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties/videos#america-goes-dry-with-prohibition
DESTROYING LIQUOR
SUPPORT FADES, PROHIBITION REPEALED

N. By the mid-1920s, only **19%** of Americans supported Prohibition

- Many felt Prohibition caused more problems than it solved

O. The **21st** Amendment finally repealed Prohibition in 1933
II. SCIENCE AND RELIGION CLASH

A. Another battleground during the 1920s was between fundamentalist religious groups and secular thinkers over the truths of science.

- The Protestant movement grounded in the literal interpretation of the Bible is known as fundamentalism.

B. Fundamentalism

- 1. movement based on literal interpretation of Bible

1. Rejected Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution

- Fundamentalsists skeptical of some scientific discoveries, theories

C. Evolution vs. Creationism

D. Believe all important knowledge can be found in Bible

E. Fundamentalist preachers lead religious revivals in South, West

1. Billy Sunday holds emotional meetings
2. Aimee Semple McPherson uses showmanship while preaching on radio
SCOPES TRIAL

F. 1925, Tennessee passes law making it a crime to teach evolution

G. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) backs John T. Scopes challenge of law

Scopes was a biology teacher who dared to teach his students that man derived from lower species
SCOPES TRIAL

H. The ACLU hired Clarence Darrow, most famous trial lawyer of day, defends Scopes

I. Fundamentalist William Jennings Bryan is special prosecutor
- the three-time Democratic presidential nominee
[10] "Papa!" (Thomas in the Detroit News)
Despite the guilty verdict, Darrow got the upperhand during his questioning of Bryan.
Trial opened on July 10, 1925 and became a national sensation

J. Scopes trial — debates evolution, role of science, religion in school

- national sensation; thousands attend
- In an unusual move, Darrow called Bryan to the stand as an expert on the Bible – key question: Should the Bible be interpreted literally?

K. Bryan admits Bible open to interpretation

L. Scopes was found guilty and fined $100
SECTION 2: THE TWENTIES

WOMAN

I. NEW MORALITY

A. After the tumult of World War I, Americans were looking for a little fun in the 1920s

B. Women were becoming independent and achieving greater freedoms (right to vote, more employment, freedom of the auto)

C. Women’s fashion took on a more modern look.

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Chicago 1926
D. During the 1920s, a new ideal emerged for some women: the Flapper—emancipated young woman, adopts new fashions, attitudes
E. Many young women want equal status with men, become assertive
F. Middle-class men, women begin to see marriage as equal partnership- housework, child-rearing still woman’s job
• A Flapper was an emancipated young woman who embraced the new fashions and urban attitudes
FLAPPER

Image of the new woman of the 1920s. Short hair, short skirts, make-up, dramatic, smoked, drank.
DIFFERENCES

1890s

1920s
DIFFERENCES

1890s

1920s
The Double Standard

G. Elders **disapprove** new behavior and its promotion by periodicals, ads

H. **Casual dating** begins to replace formal courtship

I. Women subject to **double standard** - must observe stricter standards of behavior
II. NEW ROLES FOR WOMEN

A. The fast-changing world of the 1920s produced new roles for women
   - After war, employers replace female workers with men
B. Female college graduates become teachers, nurses, librarians
C. Many women become clerical workers as demand rises
   - Some become sales clerks, factory workers
D. Few become managers; always paid less than men
THE CHANGING FAMILY

E. **Birthrate drops** partly due to more birth-control information-became widely available

F. **Birth control clinics** opened and the American Birth Control League was founded in 1921

Margaret Sanger and other founders of the American Birth Control League - 1921
G. Manufactured products, public services give homemakers freedom
H. Housewives can focus more on families, pastimes, not housework
I. As the 1920s unfolded, many features of the modern family emerged
J. Marriages increasingly based on romantic love, companionship
K. Casual dating begins to replace formal courtship
L. Children spend most of day at school, organized activities
1. Adolescents resist parental control
M. Working-class, college-educated women juggle family, work
SECTION 3: EDUCATION AND POPULAR CULTURE

I. Education
A. During the 1920s, developments in education had a powerful impact on the nation
B. Enrollment in high schools quadrupled between 1914 and 1926
C. High school population increases dramatically in 1920s due to:
   1. prosperity
   2. higher standards for industry jobs
D. Pre-1920s, high school for college-bound students
E. In 1920s, high schools also offer vocational training
F. Public schools prepare immigrant children who speak no English
G. School taxes increase as school costs rise sharply
EXPANDING NEWS COVERAGE

H. As literacy increased, newspaper circulation rose and mass-circulation

I. Mass media shapes mass culture; takes advantage of greater literacy

J. By 1914, hundreds of local newspapers replaced by national chains

K. 1920s, mass-market magazines thrive; Reader’s Digest, Time founded

• By the end of the 1920s, ten American magazines -- including Reader’s Digest and Time -- boasted circulations of over 2 million
L. MASS MEDIA

Magazines, radio spread the new ideas of the time.
RADIO COMES OF AGE

M. Radio is most powerful communications medium of 1920s

- Networks provide shared national experience
  1. can hear news as it happens
  2. could hear the voice of the president or listen to the World Series live
- News was delivered faster and to a larger audience
RADIO INDUSTRY

N. First radio station opened in 1920.

1. National Broadcasting Company (NBC), Columbia Broadcasting
2. System (CBS) were the two earliest national companies.
II. AMERICAN HEROES OF THE 20s

- In 1929, Americans spent $4.5 billion on entertainment (includes sports)

A. People crowded into **baseball games** to see their heroes

B. **Babe Ruth** was a larger than life American hero who played for Yankees

- He hit 60 homers in 1927
New-Found Leisure Time

C. In 1920s, many people have extra money, **leisure time** to enjoy it. Sign of economic prosperity

D. Crowds attend sports events; athletes glorified by **mass media**
LINDBERGH’S FLIGHT

E. Small-town Minnesotan symbolizes honesty, bravery in age of excess

F. America’s most beloved hero of the time was a small-town pilot named Charles A. Lindbergh

1. Makes first solo nonstop trans-Atlantic or flight across Atlantic in 1927
2. He took off from NYC in Spirit of St. Louis arrived in Paris 33 hours later
   • Demonstrated the possibilities of airline travel.
   • Lindbergh paves the way for other pilots
By 1930 millions of Americans went to the movies each week

G. Silent movies already a national pastime

H. sound movies, or talkies, offered a means of escape through romance and comedy (1927)

I. First sound movies: Jazz Singer (1927)

J. First animated with sound: Steamboat Willie (1928)
Charlie Chaplin
III. MUSIC AND ART

- Playwrights, composers break away from European traditions
  A. George Gershwin uses jazz to create American music
  B. Painters portray American realities, dreams
  C. Georgia O’Keeffe paints intensely colored canvases of New York

Radiator Building, Night, New York, 1927
Georgia O'Keeffe

Hopper’s famous “Nighthawks”
D. EMERGENCE OF MODERN ART

1. Artists of the period challenged traditional idea.
2. New styles of art arose.
IV. WRITERS OF THE 1920S

A. The 1920s was one of the greatest literary eras in American history

B. **Sinclair Lewis**, the first American to win the Nobel Prize in literature, wrote the novel, *Babbitt*
   1. criticizes *conformity, materialism*
WRITERS OF THE 1920s

D. Writer **F. Scott Fitzgerald** coined the phrase “Jazz Age” to describe the 1920s.

- reveals negative side of era’s gaiety, freedom

1. wrote *This Side of Paradise* and *The Great Gatsby*

- *The Great Gatsby* reflected the emptiness of New York elite society
The Great Gatsby
E. Edith Wharton's *Age of Innocence* dramatized the clash between traditional and modern values.

- Celebrates youth, independence in her poems.
F. Expatriate Ernest Hemingway introduces simple, tough, American style

- became one of the best-known authors of the era
- wounded in World War I,
- novels, The Sun Also Rises and A Farewell to Arms, he criticized the glorification of war
- Old Man and the Sea
THE LOST GENERATION

G. Writers soured by American culture, war settle in Europe
- called *Lost Generation*
Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and John Dos Passos
H. Group dissatisfied with American life
1. Quest for **material possessions**
2. Popular culture **artless** and **uninspired**
3. In Paris they formed a group that one writer called, “*The Lost Generation*”

John Dos Passos self – portrait.
He was a good amateur painter.
SECTION 4: THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

I. The Move North
A. 1910–1920, Great Migration of thousands of African Americans
   1. move from South to Northern cities
B. By 1920, over 5 million of the nation’s 12 million African Americans (over 40%) lived in cities
C. Racial tensions escalate in North; about 25 urban race riots in 1919
D. African-Americans continue to migrate in large numbers in 1920s

Migration of the Negro by Jacob Lawrence
AFRICAN AMERICAN GOALS

E. Founded in 1909, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- protests racial violence

F. NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson fights for civil rights legislation

G. NAACP antilynching campaign leads to drop in number of lynchings
- W.E.B Dubois, a founding member, led a march of 10,000 black men in NY to protest violence
H. Marcus Garvey (immigrant from Jamaica) founds Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) 1914

1. believes African Americans should build separate society

I. Garvey promotes black pride, black businesses, return to Africa

J. He left a powerful legacy of black pride, economic independence and Pan-Africanism

Garvey represented a more radical approach
II. HARLEM, NEW YORK

A. Harlem world’s largest African American urban area; people from U.S., Caribbean

B. Harlem suffered from overcrowding, unemployment and poverty

C. In the 1920s it was home to a literary and artistic revival known as the Harlem Renaissance

D. Harlem Renaissance — African-American literary, artistic movement

1. express pride in African-American experience
Jazz, blues both reflected African-American influence.
E. The Harlem Renaissance was primarily a literary movement.
G. Claude McKay’s poems expressed the pain of life in the ghetto.
   - poems urge African Americans to resist prejudice, discrimination.
H. Missouri-born Langston Hughes was the movement’s best known poet.

- poems describe difficult lives of working class
- 1. many written in *jazz, blues* tempo
Zola Neale Hurston wrote novels, short stories and poems

- wrote about the lives of unschooled, poor Southern African Americans

1. focused on the culture of the people— their folkways and values
III. AFRICAN-AMERICAN PERFORMERS

A. Influence, popularity of Harlem Renaissance go beyond African American audience

B. Musical comedy *Shuffle Along* launches movement
   1. is popular with white audiences
      ➢ African-American performers win large followings

C. **Paul Robeson**, son of a slave, became a major dramatic actor in London, New York
   ➢ His performance in Othello was widely praised
Louis Armstrong

D. Jazz born in early 20th century New Orleans, spreads across U.S.
E. Trumpeter Louis Armstrong most influential musician in jazz history

- makes personal expression key part of jazz
- Cab Calloway, Armstrong popularize scat (improvised jazz singing)
Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington — jazz pianist, orchestra leader

1. one of America’s greatest composers
2. led his ten-piece orchestra at the famous Cotton Club

Ellington won renown as one of America’s greatest composers
G. Bessie Smith — blues singer, perhaps best vocalist of decade

- She achieved enormous popularity and by 1927 she became the highest-paid African American artist in the world
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94. During what decade did the Jazz Age occur? 1920s

95. What two presidents were in office during the Jazz Age? Calvin Coolidge and Warren G. Harding

96. What is the belief that America should stay out of world affairs? Isolationism

97. What hate group reached its height in the 1920’s? KKK

98. What did Harding call his desire for America to remain peaceful and simple Normalcy
99. What did the Emergency Quota Act limit? 
Immigration

100. Name the greatest scandal of Harding’s Presidency.
Teapot Dome Scandal

101. What is the lack of governmental regulations on businesses is called?
laissez faire or conservatism

102. What was the banning of alcohol manufacture and sale called?
Prohibition

103. What did the 18th Amendment do?
Banned alcohol
104. What did the 21st Amendment do? 
Repealed the ban on alcohol

105. What group became powerful by selling bootlegged liquor? 
Organized crime, gangs

106. What trial pitted fundamentalists and modernists against each other over evolution? 
Scopes Trial

107. What was the black literary and artistic movement in the 1920’s called? 
Harlem Renaissance
108. What was the hip and fashionable woman of the 1920’s called?

Flapper

109. What new type of music emerged in the 1920’s?

Jazz

110. What was the new form of home entertainment of the 1920’s?

Radio