

## 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Sections 1 & 2

*The US Senate passed the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment on December 18, 1917. It was ratified on January 16, 1919, after 36 states approved it. The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and the enforcement laws accompanying it, established prohibition of alcohol in the United States. Many states already had laws prohibiting alcohol before this amendment. It was eventually repealed by the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment on December 5, 1933. It is the only amendment that has ever been completely repealed.*

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Section 1. After one year from the **ratification** of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of **intoxicating liquors** within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate **legislation**.

**Source:** *United States Constitution*

### Vocabulary

to ratify: to confirm or pass something, such as an amendment

intoxicating liquors: alcohol

legislation: laws

### Guiding Questions:

1. What did the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment prohibit? What is your initial reaction to this?
2. Do you think this amendment could be passed today? Explain.
3. Why do you think some Americans in 1918 supported this amendment?

## 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Sections 1 & 2 (Modified)

*The US Senate passed the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment on December 18, 1917, and it was ratified on January 16, 1919, after 36 states approved it. The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and the enforcement laws that accompanied it, established prohibition of alcohol in the United States. Many states already laws prohibiting alcohol before this amendment. It was eventually repealed by the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment on December 5, 1933. It is the only amendment that has ever been completely repealed.*

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Section 1. After one year from the **ratification** of this amendment, the manufacture, sale, or transportation of **intoxicating liquors** within the United States, or the importation into or exportation from the United States of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes is prohibited.

Section 2. Both Congress and the States shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate **legislation**.

**Source:** *United States Constitution*

### Vocabulary

to ratify: to confirm or pass something, such as an amendment

intoxicating liquors: alcohol

legislation: laws

### Guiding Questions:

1. What did the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment prohibit? What is your initial reaction to this?
2. Do you think this amendment could be passed today? Explain.
3. Why do you think some Americans in 1918 wanted this amendment?

## Document A: Dr. MacNicholl Address (Modified)

*The following address was given by Dr. G. Alexander MacNicholl at a meeting of the American Medical Society in 1913. MacNicholl spoke frequently at Prohibition rallies and was widely cited in publications by prohibitionist groups, especially the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.*

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A wave of **degeneracy** is sweeping the land—a **degeneracy** so bad that it staggers the mind and threatens to destroy the country; numbering more victims than have been killed in all the wars and by all the serious diseases that have swept the country in the last two hundred years. . . .

What is the cause of this? A hundred different things may contribute to the undoing of the race, but back of them all stands alcohol as the chief factor. . . .

A study of two groups of families will clearly show the difference between the children of the drinker and the children of the **abstainer**. Ten families of regular drinkers show the following: Total number of children, 55. Thirty died in infancy. . . . Two were excellent, 6 fair, and 17 deficient.

Of the abstainers, 90 per cent were normal in mind and body, as against 7 per cent of drinkers' children. A comparison of these two groups of families . . . shows that alcohol actually injured or destroyed 83 per cent of the children. Ninety-seven per cent of the children of total abstainers were proficient in their studies, as against 32 per cent with drinking parents. . . .

We are face to face with the greatest crisis in our country's history. The alcohol question must be settled within the next ten years or a stronger race will write the **epitaph** of this republic.

**Source:** *Transcript of an address by Dr. Alexander MacNicholl printed in the Washington Times on December 10, 1913.*

### Vocabulary

degeneracy: physical, mental, or moral decay

abstainer: someone who doesn't drink alcohol

epitaph: statement about the dead

## Document B: Ohio Advertisement

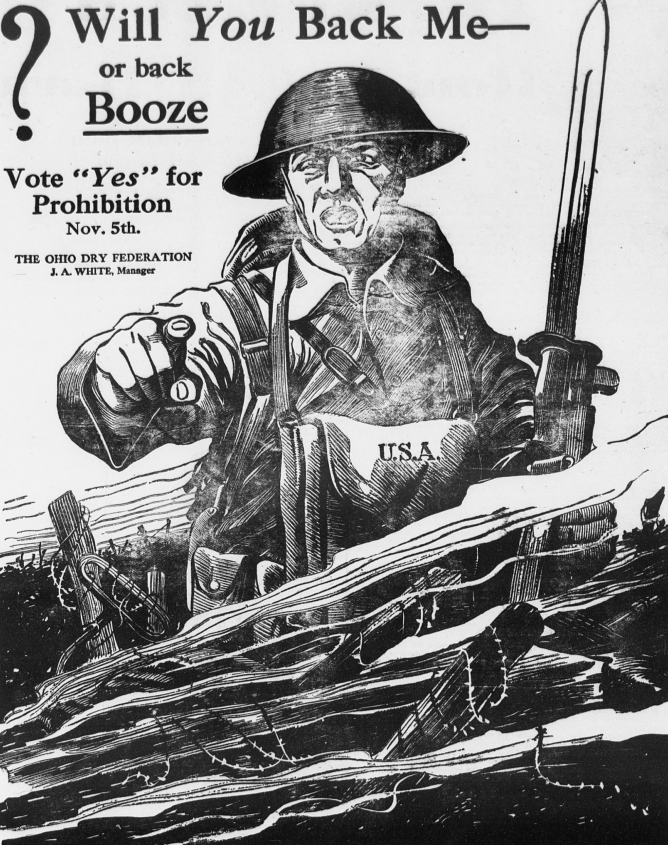
*This advertisement appeared in the Mahoning Dispatch in Canfield, Ohio, on November 1, 1918.*

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**? Will You Back Me—  
or back  
Booze**

**Vote "Yes" for  
Prohibition  
Nov. 5th.**

THE OHIO DRY FEDERATION  
J. A. WHITE, Manager



THE MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD, MARK YOU THIS, OF AMERICA IS FINALLY INCENSED BEYOND ALL RESTRAINT. THE UNPRINCIPLED SELFISHNESS OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC HAS PROCLAIMED IT A BLOOD BROTHER OF THE MILITARISM OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE AND WE CAN BE, WE WILL BE SATISFIED WITH NOTHING BUT

**UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER  
Will You Join In This Demand?**

The Hun and the Brewer are Bitter Foes of Humanity  
VOTE "OVER HERE" AS OUR BOYS SHOOT "OVER THERE"

**Vote Early in the Morning Tuesday, Nov. 5, '18**

**BE A PATRIOT! DO YOUR DUTY!**

**Vote Dry**

**Source:** Newspaper advertisement from the Mahoning County Dry Federation.

### Vocabulary

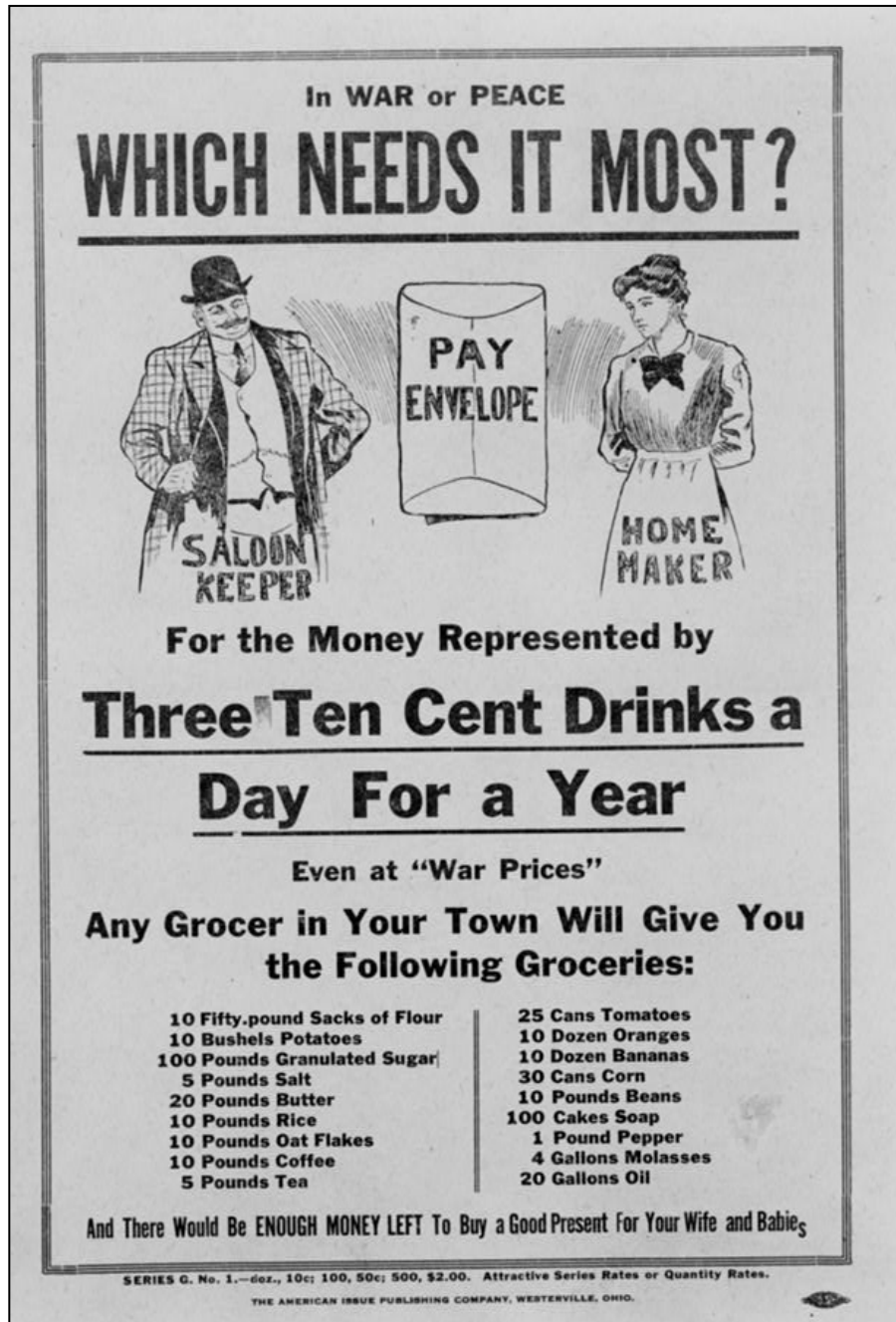
incensed: very angry

brewer: beer maker

hun: insulting name for Germans

## Document C: ASL Poster 1

*This poster was made around 1917 by American Issue Publishing, a company owned by the Anti-Saloon League (ASL). The ASL was the largest and most influential group supporting Prohibition in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.*



**Source:** Poster titled "In War or Peace Which Needs It Most" by the American Issue Publishing Company, 1917.



## Document D: ASL Poster 2

*This poster was also made by American Issue Publishing around 1917.*

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**Source:** Poster titled "The Overshadowing Curse - The Legalized Saloon" by the American Issue Publishing Company, 1917.

## Guiding Questions

### Document A

1. (Close reading) Summarize MacNicholl's argument.
2. (Sourcing) Is Dr. MacNicholl a trustworthy source? Explain.
3. (Sourcing) Dr. MacNicholl believed that alcohol caused diseases and disabilities in adult drinkers that were passed on to their children. According to Dr. MacNicholl, each generation of drinkers had more physical "defects" than the one before it. Modern scientists have rejected this theory. Does the fact that MacNicholl was wrong about this theory affect whether he is a reliable source? Explain.

### Document B

1. (Contextualization) What world event occurred when this ad was made?

How might this have affected the content of this advertisement?

2. (Contextualization) How might the fact that many brewers were Germans or of German descent have affected the argument this poster made?

### **Document C**

1. (Close Reading) What argument is this poster making?
2. (Contextualization) Based on the content of the poster and your knowledge of the time, who do you think was the intended audience? Why?

### **Document D**

1. (Close Reading) What argument is this poster making?
2. (Contextualization) Based on the content of the poster and your knowledge of the time, who do you think was the intended audience? Why?



## Writing Activity

Write a structured paragraph that answers the central historical question: *What were arguments for prohibition?*

Your paragraph should have a clear topic sentence that answers the central historical question. You should support the topic sentence with evidence from Documents A-D.

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