

Red Scare

- May 1920, Red scare caused arrest of two Italian immigrants after factory robbery
 - Were anarchists, but was very little evidence they were responsible
- Movement to save Sacco and Vanzetti was popular in Europe/intellectuals in US
 - Commission to investigate said they were guilty, killed by electric chair
 - Showed how Red Scare had undermined American society

Roaring Twenties (1920s)

- Roaring twenties was time of “revolt” against moral rules, especially in young people
 - Mass goods spread throughout nation, culture spreads through radio, cinema
 - However, there was still much conflict between racial and ethnic groups
- Automobile was backbone of economic growth, production triples during 1920s
 - Stimulated expansion of fuel, rubber, oil, road construction, etc.
- American corporations extended throughout world, dollar became currency of intl. trade
 - Ford tried to form village in Brazil Amazon forest, rubber trees failed

Consumer Boom and New Society

- # of consumer goods boomed, advertised as “necessities” to make life better
 - Frequently purchased on credit, made more expensive goods available to all
- Vacuum cleaners, washing machines, refrigerators all aimed to reduce work in home
 - Advertising was used more than ever before, used to “trap” the customer
- Film became very popular, filmmakers founded “Hollywood” because of open space
 - Music became widespread through phonograph and radio, celebrities arose
- Gains of increased production unequally distributed, management wages rose faster
 - Majority of families had no savings, 40% remained in poverty, did not participate
- Manufacturing workers declined, unable to face low-wage competition in South
- Hollywood spread images of “American life” to war-crippled European nations
- Rockefeller started “public relations” departments in company, many followed suit
 - Tried to get people to trust business, buy stocks in the company
- More people interested in stock market, by 1928, 1.5M Americans owned stock
- Farmers had gained the most \$ during war, when Europe needed food to feed soldiers
 - During 1920s, lower need for farming goods made farmers gain less money
- Number of farmers declined during 1920s, lost farms and forced to move to cities

Decline of Labor

- Corporations implemented new styles of management to keep employees happy
 - Established pensions, workplace safety, sports program, etc.
- Meant to keep corporations operating without meddling from Unions and Government
- Strikebreakers were still used to keep Unions at bay, prevent striking

Equal Rights Amendment & Women's Freedom

- Suffrage in 1920 split up women's parties, each had own conception of freedom
- Division between those saying freedom was motherhood vs. individual independence.
- Formed debate for Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
 - Proposed to eliminate all legal distinctions based on gender
 - Those supporting women's liberties supported it, it was next step after vote
 - Supporters of motherhood said it would take away from time for children.

- In the end, the program was abandoned, motherhoods suffered, child labor still existed
- Rise of “flappers”, who were more rebellious, did outrageous actions to attract attention
- Advertising campaigns capitalized on this, tried to sell goods that promoted these action
- New appliances claimed to free women from the labor of household work

Death of Progressivism

- In 1920s, Progressivism disappeared as political movement and thought
- New IQ tests, scientific research said that people were unfit to rule themselves
- During 1920s, Walter Lippmann wrote *Public Opinion* and *The Phantom Public*
 - Repudiated idea of progressivism, said people unable to understand
- In 1929, sociologists Robert & Helen Lynd published *Middletown*
 - Focused on how new world of goods had pushed attention away from politics
- Number of voters around nation drastically dropped below 50%

Corruption in Government and the Republican Party

- Pro-business thoughts of 1920s were supported / encouraged by Republican party
- Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge put forward measures to benefit businesses
- Chief Justice, William Taft, kept conservative policies in court
 - Prevented law that barred goods produced by child labor in interstate commerce.
- Supported the previous idea of *laissez-faire*, without too much gov. Intervention
- Warren G. Harding in office in 1921, promised return to “normalcy” after progressiveness
 - Was extremely corrupt individual, engaged in rule-breaking and illicit affairs
- Harding was surrounded with cronies who thought only of personal gain
 - Attorney General Harry Daugherty accepted payments to not prosecute.
- Calvin Coolidge was successor, had less scandals under his name, kept same policies
 - Vetoed McNary-Haugen Bill, which was meant to raise farm prices
- In 1924, Coolidge won against badly organized and internally divided Democratic party
 - 1/3 of votes went to new Progressive Party, led by Robert La Follette

Economic Diplomacy

- Foreign affairs showed close ties between business and government
 - Mainly focused on increased exports and investment opportunities abroad
- Period of “isolationism”, remained outside League of Nations, no more Wilsonian ideas
 - Fordney-McCumber Tariff, 1922 raised taxes on imported goods to highest levels
 - Repudiation of Wilsonian idea of free trade
- Foreign policy was conducted primarily through businesses and organizations
 - US was wealthy country after WWI, Europeans owed debts to Americans
 - Investors gain access to raw materials, business established oversea plants
- IN 1928, Red Line Agreement splits up middle east oil resources for Europeans and US
- American troops continued to be dispatched in cases of economic threats

Rise of Civil Liberties

- Progressives thought pro-business policies/prohibition illustrated sins of public power
- 1920s saw rise of civil liberties, legal protection for freedom of speech against gov.
- Wartime repression against American Freedom continued
 - Lynchings of those defending freedom of speech, arrest of union / IWW leaders
- Postal service removed books which were thought to be obscene (extreme censorship)

- Even movie producers hid actors' lives (illicit crimes, etc.) because promoted immorality.
 - Film industry adopted Hays Code, set of guidelines that excluded gross behavior
- European immigrants thought of US as repressive and lacking liberty
- Arrest of anti war dissenters under Espionage / Sedition Acts caused creation of ACLU
 - American Civil Liberties Union
- ACLU would take part in cases that challenged freedom of speech + other civil liberties
- Supreme court was forced to reconsider its rulings about whether Sedition Act was legal
- Before this, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes had ruled that free speech could be limited
- A minority of the court began to defend the right to free speech more
 - Holmes and Brandeis dissent in cases: Adams, Left-Wing Manifesto
- By the end of 1920s, Supreme Court began to make censorship illegal
- Freedom of speech began to be regarded as birthright, even for strong anti-gov ideas

The Fundamentalists Strike Back

- Many found modern culture and rebelliousness alarming
- Protestants were threatened by decline of traditional values and Catholic immigration
- Fundamentalists launched campaign to rid Protestants from modernism
 - Best known was Billy Sunday, talented baseball player that became preacher
- Was national phenomenon, even occurred in suburban districts such as NYC
- Strongly supported prohibition, had very traditional values
- Prohibition was widely debated, unsure if it was legal to impose sanction on everyone
 - Divided Democratic party into two sections (one opposing the other supporting)
 - Prohibition eventually led to large profits for illegal smugglers

Scopes Trial

- 1925 trial in Tennessee, showed division between traditional and modern values
- John Scopes, teacher in public school, arrested for teaching theory of evolution
 - Defenders stated that he had the right to self-expression, individual thought
 - Labor Lawyer Clarence Darrow defended Scopes
- Darrow brought in William Jennings Bryan, apparently "expert witness" of bible
 - Was not able to respond to questions, mocked by Darrow
- Scopes was found guilty, soon after, anti-evolution laws disappeared

Second Klu Klux Klan

- Protestants still believed in value of native-born Americans, "Americanism" continued
- In 1922, Oregon becomes first to require public schooling
 - Was meant to prevent teaching of European ideas to children
- Klu Klux Klan was group, expressed idea of limited freedom and ethnic/religious grounds
 - More than 3 million members, almost all white, native-born protestants
 - Had deep roots in North and West, not just in South like before
- Klan insisted that not only blacks but also immigrants were threat

Limiting Naturalization (Race and Law)

- Klan influence faded after 1925, ideas of anti semitism continued, however
- 1922, Congress removed women loss of citizenship who married immigrant (Cable Act)
- 2 years later, all Indians born in US declared to be citizens
- Before WWI, almost all Europeans that wanted to be naturalized could do so

- Fear of immigrant radicalism made laws for naturalization stricter
- In 1921, temporary measure restricts immigration from Europe to 357,000 per year
 - 3 years later, it is permanently limited 150,000 per year (national quotas)
- 1924 law barred all Asians from entering country (except Filipinos)
 - For first time, people could be considered as “illegal aliens”
 - Border Patrol charged with deporting illegal persons
- By early 1920s, both North and South considered blacks as second-class citizens
- Tied in to immigration policy, American population had to be kept “pure”
 - Quotas per country were derived from old census data to keep nation “American”
 - Non-whites (such as Africans), had tiny quotas, did not correspond to population
- Some citizens challenged idea that all Europeans had to adopt American ways
- Horace Kallen, german-jewish, coined the phrase “cultural pluralism”
 - A society that accepts ethnic diversity instead of repressing it
- Some Anthropologists said that there was no evidence of non-white inferiority
- Had little impact on public, only supported by immigrants themselves
 - Continued to have independent communities, language, etc.
- Americanization was everywhere, theaters, schools, movies, etc.

Supreme Court and Ethnic Tolerance

- Immigrants saw American liberty as right to be diverse
- Catholic Church encouraged English and American ideas, still had separate schools
- In 1924, Catholic Holy Name Society marched to Washington DC to challenge Klu Klux
- Had some success, Supreme Court struck down Oregon law requiring public school
- Definition of Liberty was broadened to encompass those who spoke different languages
- Later, Court decided that 14th Amendment allowed right to practice religion, belief etc

African Americans and the Harlem Renaissance

- Black Americans continued march from South to North, black population of NY doubled
 - NY region of Harlem gained reputation as “black capital”
- Groups of whites ventured into Harlem in search of adventure (called “slumming”)
- However, White men still controlled region, blacks had low wages
- Black Poets and Novelists became popular in Harlem, sponsored by white businessmen
 - Theaters in Broadway began to accept blacks to do theater
- “New Negro” struck down black stereotypes, replaced them with black values
- Blacks looked to previous traditions in Africa and South for writings and art
- New writing had elements of protest, Africans no longer wanted to submit to whites

Great Depression

Election of 1928

- Hoover was born in Iowa, 1874, son of blacksmith and schoolteacher
 - Was rich and famous because of oversea food relief during WWI
- Wrote *American Individualism* to condemn government regulation on economics
- Won Republican nomination after Coolidge did not desire to run second term
 - Ran against Catholic Democrat Alfred E. Smith
- Republicans and Democrats differed very little (only on prohibition)
 - Republicans carried several Southern States simply because Smith was Catholic

Pre-Depression

- On October 29th, 1929, black Tuesday occurred, stock market crashed.
 - Panic selling caused \$10 Billion of money to be lost
- Was not the only sign of Depression, California and Florida had real-estate speculations
 - Banks failed, depressions for farmers, and unequal income occurred long before.
- 26,000 businesses failed in 1930, surviving businesses cut back employment, buying
 - Global financial standard (backed by gold) could not deal with the situation
- The few that kept their jobs worked for shorter hours and less pay

Americans and the Depression

- American life was transformed by depression, thousands looked unsuccessfully for jobs
- Depression reversed movement from farms to cities, people tried to grow food themselves
- Idea of big business and banks crashed down, banks had been selling worthless bonds
- Many citizens protest in uncoordinated manners, since labor unions had been destroyed
- In 1932, 20,000 unemployed WWI veterans marched to Washington to demand payment
 - Driven away by federal soldiers led by Douglas MacArthur
- Communist Party tried to give political focus out of despair, formed councils to protest

Hoover's Response

- Many believed Hoover's response was uncaring and inadequate
 - Advisers such as Andrew Mellon suggested the depression was normal cycle
- Federal Government had never faced crisis as severe
 - did not realize importance of consumer spending during the 1920s
- Most people in federal government believed governmental aid was not good
 - Said it was undemocratic and would encourage reliance upon government
- Hoover was strongly opposed to federal intervention
 - Believed it was up to businesses to spur employment and investments
 - Believed that local charities should take care of the needy
 - Was overly optimistic, believed "tide had turned" every month

Hoover Wakes Up (Too Little, Too Late)

- Hoover's administration remedies, like Smoot-Hawley Tariff made situation worse
 - Raised taxes on imported goods, reduced trade even more
- By 1932, Hoover realized that voluntary action by businesses had failed
 - Created Reconstruction Finance Corporation
 - Loaned money to failing banks, businesses
 - Federal Home Loan Bank System
 - Offered aid to homeowners threatened with foreclosure
- Had opposed creating employment through public-work projects like bridges/roads
 - Now offered \$2 billion for such initiatives and local relief efforts
- Still opposed offering direct relief to the unemployed, did not want reliance on gov.

Freedom in Modern World (Foner's weekly update on meaning of freedom)

- New School of Social Research showed how new "freedom" was different/negative
 - New freedom definition allowed economic enterprise, interference in private life.
- Definition of freedom would change again after (TBA in chapter 21 notes!!)
 - Creation of modern liberalism