

HY2237 week 9 Readings:

ap. 24
re New
Deal
0-1929

- turning the economy around in the 1920s (post WWI recession → recovery)
- advent of electricity in 1922
 - goods produced more inexpensively → increased consumer demand, stimulated economy
 - new installment & credit plans for purchasing large items also drove consumption.
 - government pro-business policies which stimulated growth
 - partly from businesses' lobbying techniques
 - Congress cutting taxes on corporations and the wealthy, passed Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act (1922), raise taxes on imports
 - FTC and Interstate Commerce Commission tended to cooperate with corporations than to regulate them, Supreme Court decisions which sheltered businesses from govt. regulation, hindered organised labour.
- State of progressive reform
 - faded on national level, but reform spirit continued inspiring local & state initiatives, & those by women & ethnic groups
 - many states adopted/expanded workers' compensation laws & public welfare programs
 - Native American groups worked for better education & return of tribal lands, white reformers held out hopes of getting Indians to adopt white middle-class standards.
 - women's voluntary organisations were the main tools for lobbying despite being able to vote from 1920.
 - emergence of consumer society.
 - increase of income in 1920 & methods of mass production keeping price of goods stable and affordable
 - affordability of cars led to greater ownership (and calls for improved roads)
 - emergence of advertising to manipulate purchases, erased ethnic differences creating homogeneous consumer society, growth of radio, mass marketing and standardised programs → blurred differences, heightened immigrants' assimilation
 - growth of cities in 1920s with more living in urban than rural areas.
 - caused by the young who left farms seeking varied life of cities; migration of blacks from southern farms to better paying factory jobs in the south (but faced discrimination in housing); underpaid & exploited Mexican farm laborers in the west, Puerto Rican domestic servants/factory workers. Both Mexicans and Puerto Ricans maintained customs, developed local businesses / social clubs to help adapt
 - impact of technological advances on social life
 - improved productivity and mechanisation → shorter work weeks, expanding freedom and time for leisure activities
 - industrialism privileged youth and agility over experience, forcing older people to retire
 - new appliances making housework less arduous and time-consuming, shifting women's roles from producer → consumer
 - advances in nutrition increased life expectancy, health
 - birth control allowed separation of sexuality from reproduction, decreasing family size
 - women moving back to workforce to expand families' purchasing power as products & services more available.

CHAPTER
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- holding the line on social change to restore traditional American values
- KKK reconstituted in 1915 to re-establish white white supremacy in the face of increasing immigration, black migration, and protection of white women's virtues against "corrupting influences"
- joined by nativist groups who pressured congress to establish immigration quotas
- fundamentalist Christian groups which sought to replace emphasis on science with renewed centrality of God's role in creation → Tennessee legislation banning teaching of theory of evolution → Scopes trial in 1925 (challenge of the law)
- religious reiteration condemning new social practices of dating, dancing, fashion, hint of sex in movies.
- importance of movie and sports history
- gravitation towards leisure activities which celebrated individual achievement, arising from loss of individual distinctiveness from mass consumption
- sports provided drama, unpredictability, and the chance to celebrate players' talents
- movies letting viewers live through lives of characters & inspiring hope for adventure
- national heroes (e.g. Charles Lindbergh) who made the possibility of greatness seem real and attainable.
- rise of important cultural movements from discontent with conformity.
- disillusioned artists and writers disillusioned with materialism during age of consumption and innovation
- some left for Europe (Ernest Hemingway), while others revitalized and transformed feelings into novels, creative works which explored problems of modern society
- middle class, educated blacks who rejected white culture, celebrated their heritage in literary works → ^{Harlem} Renaissance
- also produced Jazz Age, a distinct American musical form.
- early signs of the end of prosperity in 1920s
- prosperity never reached farmers, agriculture lagged behind
- mining, textiles, and other industries were not profitable the whole decade, stagnation in automobile industry after 1926
- fall in DD → factories cut down production and workers → less disposable income for consumption → further cuts in production
- DD for housing + after mid-1928, businesses debt-ridden
→ perfect conditions for economic storm after stock market crash in 1929.

NY222 week 9 readings

Chap. 25
The Great Depression
the New Deal
1933-1941

- reluctance of Hoover to implement relief programs during Depression
 - believed in limited government, and afraid govt. relief would promote entitlement & weaken self-reliance of poor
 - made funds available to feed livestock not humans. later allotted federal job programs, but public opinion damaged, public works projects such as Grand Coulee Dam created jobs, but insufficient to have an impact
 - establishment of Federal Farm Board in 1929 in a bid to support farm prices, land support to crops, but poorly funded
 - implemented Reconstruction Finance Corporation at end of presidency (1932) offering relief to businesses but not for the unemployed.
 - the federal government's new role during the period "the First Hundred Days" (the New Deal)
 - Roosevelt sought to revive economy during special session of Congress after his election, expanding federal power
 - national economic planning via National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) and Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)
 - NIRA encouraged industries to adopt wage & price standards which could erode competition, ↑ spending, ↑ DD workers
 - AAA established crop controls and farm subsidies.
 - relief programs such as Civilian Conservation Corps (hiring young men to build infrastructure); Public Works Administration (building public facilities - Grand Coulee Dam, Triborough Bridge etc.)
 - 15 laws passed to help US recover, reducing unemployment (13 to 9 million, '33 to '36)
 - hallmarks of the second New Deal
 - increasing direct economic support for hard-hit & vulnerable Americans in response to political pressure
 - Emergency Relief Appropriation Act allocated \$4 billion in deficit spending to provide public works drop via Works Progress Administration (WPA), building and renovating infrastructure, initiatives to educate illiterate Americans, employed artists/writers/actors.
 - Resettlement Administration relocated poor families & organized homestead communities
 - Rural Electrification Administration brought electricity to rural areas.
 - Social Security Act which created federal pension system, unemployment benefits, welfare for needy families
 - providing support for labour
 - labour unrest & dissatisfaction with declining wages & harsh working conditions increased in 1930s, but struck hard low public support due to escalation of violence
 - Roosevelt bolstered labour's rights with 1935 National Labour Relations (Wagner) Act, guaranteeing workers' right to collective bargaining and organise unions; made illegal for businesses to fire union workers, banned management from sponsoring company unions; required firms to bargain with union reps about wages, hours, working conditions
 - creation of National Labour Relations Board (NLRB) to mediate disputes → leading to violence and strikes.

Chap. 25
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- emergence of a youth culture inspired by the Depression

- government policies focused on channeling jobs to male heads of household, preventing young boys from finding jobs → they stayed in school for longer, doubling high school graduation rates by the end of the decade, and developed shared youth culture (music, clothing, behaviour)

- undermining of Roosevelt's New Deal agenda and legacy

- asked Congress to give him authority to appoint 6 new justices (NIRA & AAA ruled unconstitutional by Supreme Court) due to his Roosevelt's concern that they would rule against future initiatives, and that they were old and overworked → refused by Congress
 - FDR eventually able to name 7 new associate justices with pension program which encouraged older judges to retire, but political credibility already damaged.
- tried further domestic reform in 1939 (during the war) for conservatives' support for rearmament.

Chap. 26
<The US in
a Troubled
World>
1920 - 1941

- Influence of peace movement on U.S. foreign policy in the interwar years

- several peace organizations (some formed by female activists) emerged after WWI to ensure world order & prevent war
 - some embraced alliances with LoN & World Court; others to arbitration, disarmament, arms reduction, neutrality, making wars illegal
- peace activism helped lead President Harding to convene Washington Naval Conference (Nov 1921 - Feb 1922), where multiple foreign delegations agreed to limit naval armaments and set a 10-year moratorium on ship-building; Nine-Power Treaty reaffirming Open-Door policy in China & recognized Chinese sovereignty; Locarno Pact (1925) which sought to reduce tensions between Germany & France; Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928), where 62 nations agreed to condemn war as a solution to international disputes

- Great Depression pushing the world to the brink of war

- US emerged from WWI as a creditor nation and European nations (especially Germany) who were debtors
 - economic tensions as US was accused of stinginess and profiting from Europe's hardships
- crash of stock market in 1929 & Great Depression resulted in defaults by Europeans on a large portion of their debt
 - created international economic crisis and inspired economic nationalism in countries pushed to the edge financially
- Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes predicted maligned economies inspired militarism and extremism (eg. Germany)

HY2237 week 9 readings:

chap. 26
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- Roosevelt's Good Neighbour policy in Latin America.

- prior to Roosevelt, US leaders were quick to resort to military intervention, but changed with Good Neighbour policy
- new policy centred on building friendship ties through Pan-Americanism; supporting strong local leaders; training national guards; penetrating the region economically & culturally; providing financial supervision and loans; relying on political subversion
- withdrew troops from Haiti & Nicaragua; restored some sovereignty to Panama, increasing nation's income from the canal
- convinced Latin Americans that a new, more cooperative era had begun, administration backed dictators who seemed supportive of US economic interests

- support of isolationism at the outbreak of WW2.

- Americans had long embraced isolationism due to history of political independence that did not necessitate alliances
- fortified by experience of WWI, which damaged reforms at home, disrupted US economy, & expanded federal power
- Americans feared tax increases, loss of freedom at home, shift of federal spending at home toward military spending
- Americans also distrusted role of business in pushing the nation towards war
- perception of threats on interests by Japanese expansionism
 - Japan's move to lessen/eliminate Western influence & dominate Asian territories producing raw materials led to concerns over US' geopolitical and economic interests in the region.
 - feared Japanese control of China & SEA
 - Japanese viewed US as a check on their ambitions, causing both to remain locked in a stalemate
- Roosevelt's gradual move towards war
 - initially wary of intervening in growing crisis, but proved difficult when European nations started to fall to Nazis
 - horrified by treatment of Jews & Japan's expansionism, but Hitler's takeover of Czechoslovakia a turning point
 - quietly prepared for war while hoping Britain would not fall even if US did not intervene.
 - ordered sale of surplus military equipment to Britain & France in May 1940, even urging Congress to let them borrow the necessary arms (British could not pay for weapons)
 - signed the Selective Training and Service Act, first peacetime military draft.