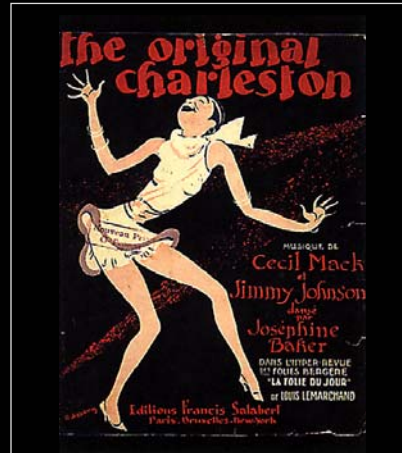


America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

Topics of Discussion

- I. Aftermath of World War I
- II. A New Era
- III. Immigration
- IV. Farming in an Urban Age
- V. The Great Migration from the South
- VI. The City's New Sophisticates
- VII. The Automobile Revolution
- VIII. Workers in the City
- IX. The Labor Movement
- X. American Women



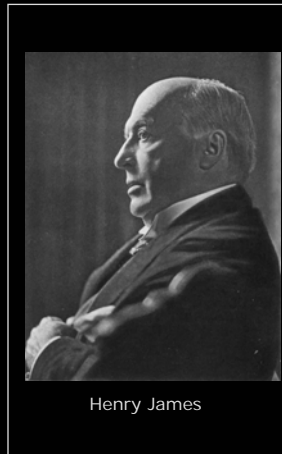
America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

I. Aftermath of World War I

A. Disillusionment with Progressive Causes

"The plunge of civilization into this abyss of blood and darkness . . . so gives away the whole long age during which we have supposed the world to be . . . gradually bettering, that to have to take it all now for what the treacherous years were all the while really making for and meaning is too tragic for words."

For many Americans, the war signaled the end to what Randolph Bourne called the "complacent 19th-century philosophy of progress," which held that the world was "moving in a solid phalanx onward and upward forever."



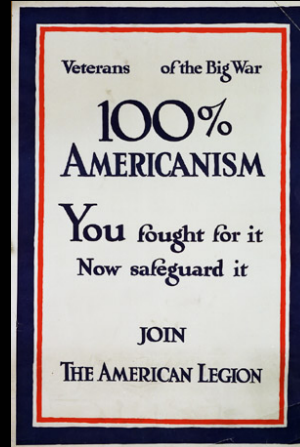
Henry James

America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

I. Aftermath of World War I

B. Rise of 100 Percent Americanism

1. War was declared on April 1917
2. Mobilization took until May 1918
3. War was over November 1918
4. Now, many turned mobilization inward.
5. Demanded 100% Americanism at home
6. Try to maintain "traditional" values -- white, male, Protestant, capitalist ideals



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

I. Aftermath of World War I

C. Disillusionment + 100 Percent Americanism = Social Strife



Politics - Gender



Culture - Society



Religion - Meaning



Race - Power

America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

I. Aftermath of World War I

D. Prohibition

1. The 18th Amendment (1919)
2. Volstead Act
3. Progressive Reform
4. Attempt to enforce middle class values
5. Led to unintended consequences



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

I. Aftermath of World War I

E. Social Strife: The Red Summer (1919)



Harlem
Hellfighters
Return
Home

Burning of Will
Brown's body,
Omaha, Sept.
28, 1919.



Revival of
the KKK

"The Washington riot gave me a thrill that comes once in a life time ... at last our men had stood up like men. ... I stood up alone in my room ... and exclaimed aloud, 'Oh I thank God, thank God.' The pent up horror, grief and humiliation of a life time -- half a century -- was being stripped from me."

A Southern Black Woman, In THE CRISIS

America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

I. Aftermath of World War I

F. Social Strife: The Red Scare (1919)



Chicago Steel-Workers
Announce Strike
Literary Digest, 10/4/19.



A. Mitchell Palmer ^



Coming Out of
the Smoke.
*New York
World*
10/11/19.



"These attacks will only
increase the activities
of our crime-detecting
forces," declared
Attorney-General
Palmer, whose
Washington home was
damaged by a bomb-
explosion on June 2.

America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

I. Aftermath of World War I

G. Women Secure the Vote

1. Seneca Falls (1848)
2. Anti-slavery campaign
3. 13th Amendment
4. 15th Amendment
5. Progressive movement
6. WWI
7. 19th Amendment (1920)



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

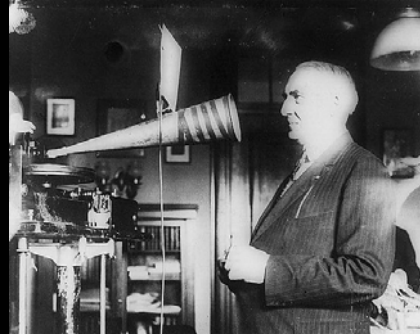
II. A New Era

A. Social and economic forces "have hurried us dizzily away from the days of the frontier into a whirl of modernisms which almost passes belief."

Recent Social Trends, 1930.

B. "[W]e today are probably living in one of the eras of greatest rapidity of change in the history of human institutions."

Robert and Helen Lynd, *Middletown*, Muncie, Indiana, 1925.



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

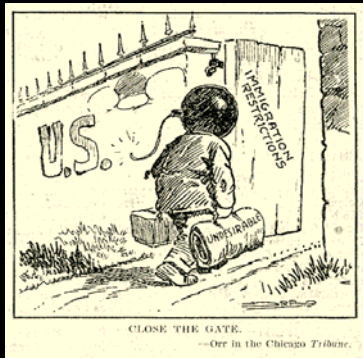
III. Immigration

- A. Population 63 million (1890) to 123 million (1930)
- B. 1/3 increase from immigration
- C. Immigrants from southern and eastern Europe
- D. 1 in 10 foreign born; 1 in 5 parent born abroad
- E. Immigrants settled in cities
- F. 1/3 of Chicago's 2.7 million residents foreign born
- G. New Yorkers spoke 37 different languages
- H. Immigrants banded together in ethnic enclaves
- I. Found work in low-skill jobs in industry



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

III. Immigration



Close the Gate, *Chicago Tribune*, 7/5/19.

J. Emergency Quota Act 1921

K. Immigration Act 1924

Quotas for foreigners
Base year 1910 then 1890
Percent 3 per year then 2 per year

Immigration
Inspectors, 1924



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

IV. Farming in an Urban Age

- A. 1920: majority of Americans -- city dwellers
- B. However, more than 1 in 5 workers still farmed.
- C. 44 percent of the population still rural in 1930.
- D. 50 million workers moved to rhythms of nature
- E. 45 million - no indoor plumbing or electricity 1930.
- F. Technological change = more problems
- H. 1930: 1 million farmers used gasoline tractors.



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

IV. Farming in an Urban Age

- I. 9 million work animals destroyed
- J. Released 30 million acres of pastureland
- K. American farmers had huge surpluses.
- L. Prices plummeted.
- M. Debts for mechanization led to foreclosures
- N. President Coolidge vetoed McNary-Haugen Bill
- O. Herbert Hoover supported the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1929



Farm foreclosure sale, ca. 1933. National Archives.

America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

V. The Great Migration from the South

- A. South was the nation's most rural region
- B. Little different than 1870s-1880s
- C. Scarce capital and abundant labor
- D. Race: Disfranchisement and Segregation
- E. Infant mortality rates and life expectancy
- F. Great War: 1/2 million blacks leave
- G. By 1930, another million leave.
- H. Jobs, Voting, Opportunity
- I. Harlem Renaissance, Marcus Garvey



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

VI. The City's New Sophisticates

- A. H. L. Mencken
- B. Clarence Darrow
- C. F. Scott Fitzgerald
- D. New national magazines



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

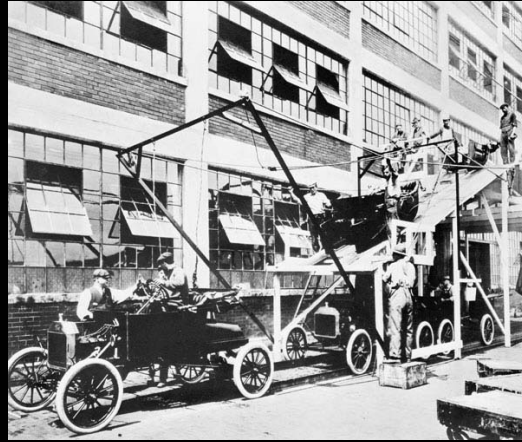
VII. The Automobile Revolution

- A. 1900 and 1930: manufacturing output climbed four times
- B. Efficient organization and electrically driven machinery
- C. Car: Plaything of rich to common automobile
- D. By 1929: twenty-six million cars in US
- E. By 1925: Model T Ford every ten seconds
- F. Henry Ford and "Fordism."
- G. Mass production made mass consumption a necessity.
- H. "Installment buying" – G.M. Acceptance Corporation
- I. Growth of advertising -- Bruce Barton



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

VII. The Automobile Revolution



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

VIII. Workers in the City

- A. Americans improved their standard of living
- B. Real wages for industrial workers up 25%.
- C. Consumer goods
- D. Industrial workers put in 48 hours a week.
- E. No weekend, paid vacation, retirement
- F. Mechanization and de-skilling
- G. Insecurity of employment
- H. Business class – working class
- I. No unemployment insurance.



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

IX. The Labor Movement

- A. Trade union membership steadily declined
- B. Skilled v. Unskilled
- C. Ethnic and Racial Rivalries
- D. "Yellow-dog" contracts
- E. Labor injunction
- F. *Hitchman Coal & Coke Co. v. Mitchell* (1917)
- G. "Welfare capitalism"



America in the Jazz Age, 1919-1929

X. American Women

- A. Ten million women worked for wages by 1929
- B. Typical woman worker, single, under 25
- C. Married women in workplace
- D. "Flapper"
- E. 19th Amendment (1920)
- F. Attempt to get Equal Rights Amendment
- G. Birth control, Margaret Sanger, American Birth Control League, 1921
- H. Splintering of Women's Movement

