

# The Roaring Twenties Class Notes

Mr. Zindman's Class

Please study your slides!

## **THE ROARING 20'S** – *Let the Good Times Roll*

- America followed the advice given by George Washington in 1796 and returned to isolationism following World War I
- The United States in the 1920s refused to join to the League of Nations to avoid foreign entanglements or alliances
- The Jazz Age and the “Roaring Twenties” were other names given to the 1920s due to the cultural activities which occurred during those years
- New fads and ways to have fun swept across the nation, which helped to give the era the nickname, the “Roaring Twenties.”
- Jazz, the blues, prohibition, speakeasies, and flappers were all characteristics of the “Roaring 20s”
- Flappers were young females who broke against traditions in terms of fashion and behavior.
- The automobile is the invention which led to the greatest change in lifestyles during the 1920s by providing Americans with more leisure time
- Henry Ford's assembly line only helped to make cars more affordable to the average American family.
- Women's role in society changed during the 1920s because women began to become more involved in the workforce than in previous periods
- The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave women the right to suffrage (voting), which helped to expand democracy in the United States
- During the “Great Migration” many African-Americans moved to northern cities to seek better economic opportunities and to escape discrimination, racism, and Jim Crow laws; however, discrimination still awaited in the north
- African-Americans experienced a growing rebirth of culture, pride, and heritage during a theatrical, artistic and literary movement known as the Harlem Renaissance
- The Harlem Renaissance produced outstanding works of literature (Langston Hughes) and music (Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington)
- The Scopes Monkey trial resulted from teaching the theory of evolution and tested the clash of ideas of science versus religion in public schools

- The temperance movement greatest achievement was the legalized prohibition of alcohol, which began with the passage of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Prohibition led to an increase in the growth of organized crime in America's largest cities.
- Prohibition was largely a failure because laws which are not popular with Americans and challenge morality are hard to enforce
- Charles Lindbergh was a famous aviator who became a hero after being the 1st person to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean
- The use of installment plans or credit had a huge impact on the growth of the US economy of the 1920s because it gave people money to buy products they previously could not afford. (It helped fuel economic growth)
- Buying stock "on margin" and installment purchases helped the economy to expand rapidly in the 1920s
- The overextension and usage of purchasing on credit led to a major economic downturn at the end of the 1920s
- Nativists are those who favor the interests of native born Americans (**White Anglo-Saxon Protestants**) over those of immigrants
- Communists and anarchists were blamed for many of the problems America experienced during the "Red Scare"
- During the Red Scare many Americans believed that communists would overthrow the U.S. government
- Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer deported (sent back to their home countries) those immigrants who were viewed to be potential communists
- The Sacco and Vanzetti trial illustrated how the Red Scare helped frighten Americans and resulted in a backlash against Communists, radicals, and anarchists
- The Ku Klux Klan was once again popular in the 1920s because of the fear of rapid immigration and cultural change
- The immigration acts of the 1920s, placed severe limits or quotas on immigrants coming to the US, but were designed to discriminate against people coming from Southern and Eastern Europe
- Immigration quotas placed limits on the number of foreign born individuals who were allowed to enter the US, and illustrated America's rise in Nativism as a result of the "Red Scare"