

METEVA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL Department of Social Studies

American History



Unit 6

1920s + 30s

THE RESTLESS DECADE

Adapted from an article written by Bruce Catton

The decade of the 1920s was at the same time the gaudiest, the saddest, and the most misinterpreted era in modern American history. It was gaudy because it was full of restless vitality. All of the old rules seemed to be gone. People were materialistic and interested in doing fantastic rather than practical things. It was sad because it was an empty place between two eras. Old familiar certainties and hopes were drifting off like mist and new ones were not yet formulated. It was misunderstood because so many became fascinated by the things that floated about on the froth that they could not see anything else. Beyond the froth were severe problems which led to the Great Depression of the 1930s, but people did not want to see these problems.

Everybody detested Prohibition and supported bootleggers. They made atrocious gin in their bathtubs and worse beer in the basement, and, inspired by these projects, danced the Charleston. Everybody bought stocks on margin or Florida lots on binder clauses and confidently expected to become rich before old age set in. Everybody put his moral standards in mothballs, so that neither the scandals in Washington nor the murders by Chicago gangsters seemed very disturbing. Everyone, in short, was off on a prolonged spree, and the characteristic figure of the era was the Flapper--the girl who bobbed her hair and wore short skirts, with nothing in particular beneath them. She put in time piling in and out of open cars driven by college students in coonskin coats.

All of this makes an entertaining picture, but it at best is only a partial picture of the 1920s. The first thing to remember is that not everyone did fantastic things. Most people were serious and hardworking. They did their best to earn a living, bring up their children, and live decently. Most never saw the inside of a speakeasy or never really tried to make gin or beer at home. Anyone over the age of twenty-six who danced the Charleston regretted it immediately--it was an exercise in all-out acrobatics rather than a dance and only the young could manage it. Acceptance of the Prohibition Law was so widespread that repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment was not voted on or even seriously considered until after the decade had ended. Certainly the vast majority bought no stocks, bonds, or Florida real estate. Most were deeply disturbed about scandals such as the Teapot Dome and about criminals like Al Capone. The people were also disturbed about the poor leadership given to the American people during those years. Scandals such as Teapot Dome helped destroy confidence in public leadership.

Even though the people of this era are often misrepresented, the decade did have its own peculiar character because it was a time of unending change. It was time between wars. The 1914-18 war, which had been ever so much more cataclysmic than anybody had imagined any war could be, left smoldering wreckage all over the

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landscape. Europe, which had always seemed to be the very center of stability, had collapsed. Of the great empires which had maintained order and set standards, some had vanished without a trace and survivors were mortally injured. Although the next war was not yet clearly visible, there was ominous heat lightning all along the horizon. There had been no real break in the weather. People felt a strong sense of disillusionment. The nation's highest ideals had been appealed to during the war. The war seemed the holiest of causes. Yet, now that the war was won, it was hard to see that anything worth winning had been gained. People had an uneasy feeling that they had been had.

Yet, a great deal was going on, and it was immensely stimulating. The world was in the act of shifting gears--starting to move with bewildering speed and, if the destination was wholly unclear, the speed itself was exhilarating. Automobiles, mass production, and scientific advancements were changing life.

The age of the automobile was arriving. In 1920 the average American did not own an automobile and did not suppose that he ever would. By 1930 the automobile was a necessity of daily life. The incalculable change it was going to inflict on America--change for city, town, and countryside--was already visible.

At the same time, mass production was coming into full effect and mankind was beginning to be able to solve any problem as long as the problem was purely material. This, of course, was most unsettling because it brought with it the uneasy awareness that the real problem was going to be man himself and not his ability to reshape his environment.

People thought the economy was much better than it really was. Stock prices went up and up. Florida real estate prices did likewise. The happy theory that everybody in the United States had plenty of money overlooked the fact that farmers and wage earners were being caught in a terrible financial squeeze in which their bitterest protests went unheeded. No one expected the economy to collapse by the end of the decade.

The most famous people in America were a strange assortment--movie stars, gangsters, channel swimmers, professional athletes, imaginative amateur murderers, and eccentrics of high and low degree. Before 1920, moving picture actors and actresses were outsiders; now they were at the top of the ladder living in the limelight as no one ever did before or since. Before 1920, prize fighting had been disreputable, outlawed in most states, tolerated in a few; now the heavyweight champion was a hero, an ideal for American youth--a man whose performances could command a box-office sale of a million dollars or more.

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As Westbrook Pegler said, this was the “era of wonderful nonsense”. Publicity was the thing. It had no standards of value except pure sensation. An American girl swam the English Channel nonstop. The mayor of Chicago ran for re-election with the promise that he would hit the King of England on the nose if chance allowed. A countrywoman who tended pigs was carried into court on a stretcher to testify in an earth-shaking murder trial. For a few days everybody (well, a lot of people, if not quite everybody), was talking about the “pig woman”—all of these things were of equal weight. They made the headline for a few days and then life went on as before.

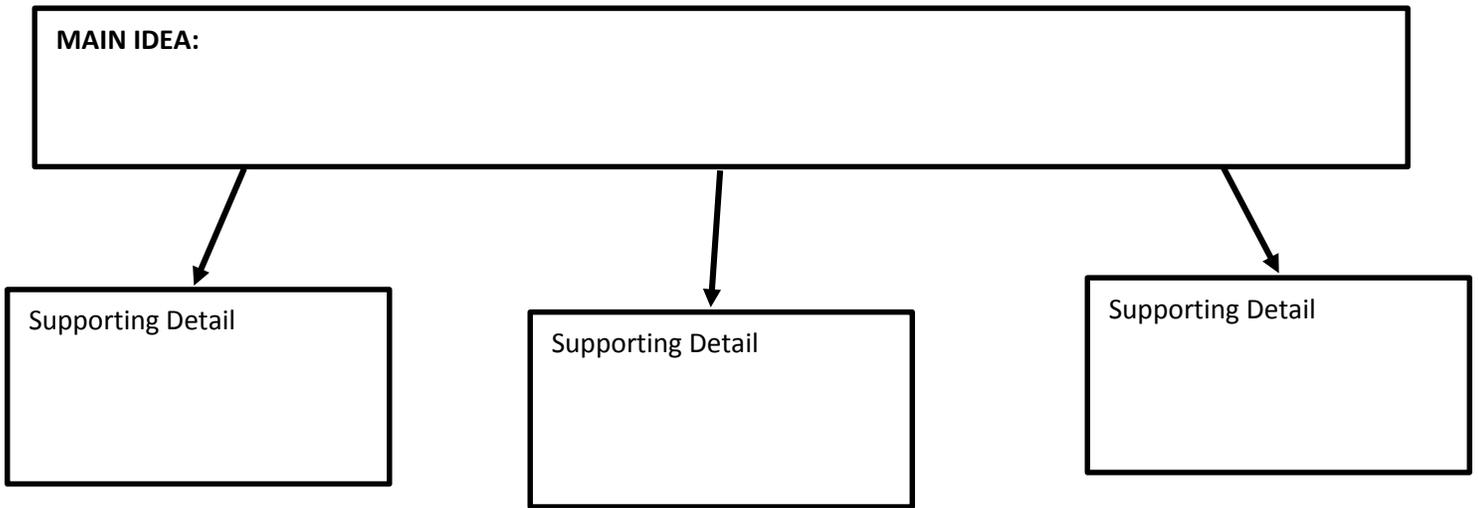
If all of this was exciting, it was not really satisfying, and people knew it. They were hungry for something they were not getting—an appeal to idealism, the belief that the greatest values cannot be expressed or set forth in headlines. The amazing response to Charles A. Lindbergh’s flight proves this point. Lindbergh flew from New York to Paris in 1927. He was young, boyish, unspoiled, the kind of youth people had stopped believing in. He was a young man nobody had heard of before. He came to New York, waited for a good weather report, and then took off unaided by any of the elaborate devices that would make such a flight routine nowadays. When he landed in Paris, it seemed as if mankind had somehow triumphed over something that greatly needed to be beaten. After he had vanished over the ocean, people waited in an agony of suspense. When it was announced that he had indeed landed in Paris, unharmed and on schedule, there was rejoicing in the streets.

It was odd and revealing. After years in which it seemed as if everybody who got any kind of fame was on the make, here was a young man who apparently had done something for nothing. Lindbergh became the hero of the decade. We have not felt quite that way about anybody since. He lifted up the heart, and all of a sudden it was possible to believe in something once more. The response to what he did was a perfect symbol of what everybody had been lacking.

It was a time for long thoughts, but long thoughts were not often being thought; and, when they were, it was hard to find an audience for them. The world was passing across one of the significant watersheds in human history. The crest of the pass seemed to be situated right in the United States, but it was hard to think about anything except that, for the moment, the path led upward. The people of the 1920s really behaved about the way the people of all other decades have behaved. Morally, they behaved as did people of previous decades. They did a great deal of hard work, some of it extraordinarily well, when you stop to think about it. They carried their own individual loads of worry and aspiration and frustration along with them; and, if they did some foolish things, they precisely resembled, in the doing of them, both their ancestors and their descendants.

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Yet, the essential point about the Twenties, the thing that makes us think of the decade as a separate era, was its curious transitional character, which was not like anything ever seen before--or since. The Twenties were years that no one who lived through them can ever forget and they were also a time nobody in his senses would care to repeat; but, you do have to say one thing for them--when the Great Depression came one decade after the Twenties had ended, the generation the Twenties had raised proved to be strong enough to stand the shock.



America and the Great Depression

*"We in America are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before...
The poorhouse is vanishing among us." - Herbert Hoover*

...And then the bottom dropped out.

Early Indicators

Industries in Trouble

Railroads, Textiles, Coal
Mining, Construction and Farming

Warning Signs

- 、 Saturation
- 、 Inflation



The Financial Collapse

Stock Market Problems

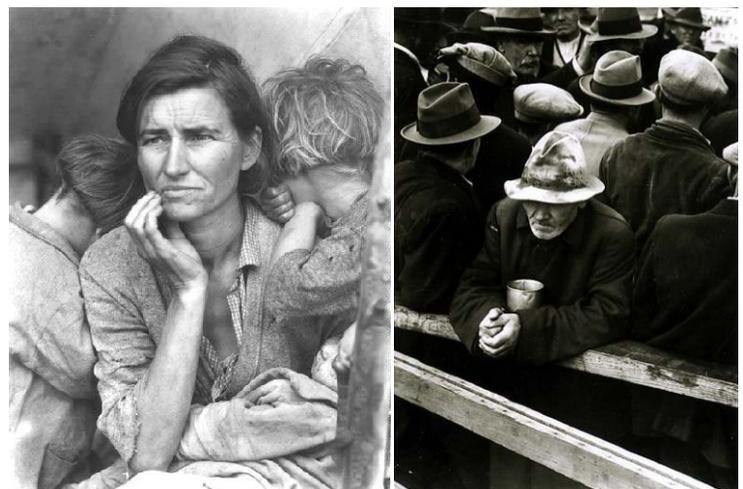
- 、 Speculation
- 、 Buying on Margin

Black Tuesday

- 、 Bank Runs
- 、 85,000 Bankrupt Businesses

Hardships and Suffering

- 、 Dust Bowl
- 、 "Hoovervilles"
- 、 Racial Violence Escalates
- 、 400,000 Farm Foreclosures
- 、 Poor Diets
- 、 School Closings



Sox accused of throwing World Series

July 5, 1921:

After Judge Hugo Friend denies a motion to quash the indictments against the major league baseball players accused of throwing the 1919 World Series, a trial begins with jury selection. The [Chicago](#) White Sox players, including stars Shoeless Joe Jackson, Buck Weaver, and Eddie Cicotte, subsequently became known as the "Black Sox" after the scandal was revealed.

The White Sox, who were heavily favored at the start of the World Series, had been seriously underpaid and mistreated by owner Charles Comiskey. The conspiracy to fix the games was most likely initiated by first baseman Chick Gindil and small-time gambler Josep Sullivan. Later, [New York](#) gambler Arnold Rothstein reluctantly endorsed it. The schemers used the team's discontent to their advantage: Through intermediaries, Rothstein offered relatively small sums of money for the players to lose some of the games intentionally. The scandal came to light when the gamblers did not pay the players as promised, thinking that they had no recourse. But when the players openly complained, the story became public and authorities were forced to prosecute them.

The trial against the players was actually just for show. After a tacit agreement whereby the players assented not to denigrate major league baseball or Comiskey in return for an acquittal, the signed confessions from some of the players mysteriously disappeared from police custody.

The jury acquitted all of the accused players and then celebrated with them at a nearby restaurant. But the height of the hypocrisy surrounding the entire matter came when Shoeless Joe was forced to sue Comiskey for unpaid salary. During this trial, Comiskey's lawyers suddenly produced the confessions that had disappeared during the criminal trial, with no explanation as to how they had been obtained.

Arnold Rothstein never even faced trial, and Comiskey hoped to go back to business as usual. However, all did not end well for everyone. Other baseball owners, hoping to remove any hint that the games were illegitimate, hired Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis to be the new commissioner of baseball. Landis was a hard-liner (and also a racist—he prevented blacks from playing in the major leagues during his reign into the 1940s) who then permanently barred the implicated Black Sox players from baseball.

Landis' decision has come under considerable criticism for its unfairness to a few of the players. Buck Weaver, by all accounts, had refused to take any money offered by the gamblers. He was purportedly banned from baseball for refusing to turn his teammates in. And although Shoeless Joe Jackson probably accepted some money, his statistics show that he never truly participated in throwing the games—he had the best batting average of either team in the series.

Arnold Rothstein (January 17, 1882 – November 6, 1928), was a Jewish-American [racketeer](#), businessman and gambler who became a kingpin of the Jewish mob in New York. Rothstein was widely reputed to have organized corruption in professional athletics, including conspiring to fix the 1919 World Series.

New Women: 1920-1929

Before World War I, American culture maintained a myth that described the place of women. Their place was in the home, protected by their fathers and then by their husbands. Their work was to take care of their husbands and children. Many women had to work outside the home to support their families, but they had no place in the dominant cultural myth. They were exceptions to the rule, perhaps to be pitied, but definitely not admired.

So strong was this myth that it ruled the lives of men and women. Women who taught school, for example, might lose their jobs if they married. Teaching was a perfectly respectable profession for single women. Once they were married, however, the school board said they should stay at home and take care of their families.



Opponents of women's suffrage relied on the myth to support their arguments. They said that women were represented politically by their fathers and husbands. One suffragist told a legislator that she was a widow, so she was, by his logic, unrepresented. No matter, he responded gallantly, he would represent her!

The Woman's Suffrage Movement



The woman suffrage movement, or the drive to grant all adult women the right to vote, culminated in the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. Those who supported women's right to vote were known either as "suffragettes" or "suffragists," the latter being considered more inclusive.

In colonial America, most positions of power outside the family were available only to property-owning men. While the American Revolution led to a broader idea of citizen participation, female taxpayers still voted in only some areas, and early women reformers did not focus on expanding the right to vote to all women citizens. Indeed, at the first women's rights convention, held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, Elizabeth Cady Stanton shocked her colleagues when she asked the assembly to vote on a resolution demanding suffrage for women.

After the [Civil War](#), during which many efforts by women had been underappreciated, Stanton, Susan

B. Anthony, and other feminists began to view woman suffrage as their foremost goal. Many were disappointed by the proposed Fifteenth Amendment, which would grant African-American men the vote. In particular, Anthony and Stanton felt that the amendment merely expanded male suffrage, and they urged their male allies to withdraw their support unless the amendment was modified to include women. Stanton also prepared a petition requesting an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting states "from disenfranchising any of their citizens on the ground of sex." However, male abolitionists seemed surprised, even indignant, that women objected to the Fifteenth Amendment, and most of them refused to sign the petition.



Splitting over the issue of the Fifteenth Amendment, suffragists formed two organizations in 1869. The National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) was led by Stanton and Anthony and was opposed to the Fifteenth Amendment. The American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA), supportive of the Fifteenth Amendment, was headed by Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, Henry Ward Beecher, and others. Critics viewed the female-run NWSA as more radical than the AWSA. Anthony affirmed that view when she tried to vote in 1872 and was arrested, found guilty, and fined. Other suffragists also brought the issue of woman suffrage into the courts, but the U.S. Supreme Court closed the matter when it ruled in 1875 that U.S. citizenship did not automatically confer the right to vote.

In 1877, the NWSA resolved to collect signatures for another petition supporting a woman suffrage amendment. After Anthony collected 10,000 signatures from 26 states, she presented them to the Senate, which responded with laughter. Three years later, however, the movement gained a bit more respectability when the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) endorsed woman suffrage. At the same time, suffragists attracted new enemies in the liquor industry, which viewed the WCTU as a threat.

Hoping that their combined forces would more quickly advance the idea of a constitutional amendment, the NWSA and the AWSA united in 1890 as the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Led by Anthony, Stanton, and Stone, the organization worked on building support within the states and disassociating itself from radical causes. In recreating their image, some white suffragists even used racist rhetoric to curry favor in the South. Nevertheless, African-American women like [Ida Wells-Barnett](#) and [Mary Church Terrell](#), inspired by former slave and women's rights advocate [Sojourner Truth](#), maintained their support for woman suffrage.

For the next two decades, the NAWSA sought to increase its membership and further shed its radical image. Presidents like [Carrie Chapman Catt](#) reached out to educated, socially prominent women, and younger suffragists held many outdoor meetings and parades. Such tactics, however, did not convince any new states to approve woman suffrage.

Prior to [World War I](#), activist [Alice Paul](#) brought her experiences with militant suffragists in England home to the United States. Her leadership, along with the increased support for woman suffrage fostered by the progressive movement, inspired many suffragists to focus exclusively on the federal government's failure to approve a woman suffrage amendment. During the war, many even protested the presidency of [Woodrow Wilson](#) in front of the White House. Meanwhile, Catt and the NAWSA continued to pressure the states to enfranchise their women. In contrast to Paul, the NAWSA supported Wilson and his war effort, which ultimately helped to convince the president to support the national amendment.



Finally, in 1919, [Congress](#) approved an amendment that would guarantee women the right to vote—the language of which had been written by Anthony 40 years earlier—and submitted it to the states. By the summer of 1920, 35 of the 36 states needed for ratification had ratified the amendment. Hoping to influence [Tennessee's](#) legislature, suffragists and antisuffragists gathered in that state, which finally approved ratification by one vote.

The Nineteenth Amendment was added to the Constitution on August 26, 1920. The last challenge to women's right to vote was defeated when the Supreme Court upheld the amendment in [Leser v. Garnett \(1922\)](#).

Social Reform

Many suffragists were also deeply involved in other social issues. In the mid-19th century, women were among the leaders of the abolition movement. Women led the movement for Prohibition and the temperance movement, working through the Woman's Christian Temperance Union to target the "demon rum." Women also played prominent roles in founding settlement houses, in social work, in immigrant aid societies, and in other movements for social reform.

Individual Freedom

After the war, with the battles for suffrage and prohibition won, many women seized opportunities for greater personal freedom. Margaret Sanger, for example, worked hard to make birth control advice available to women. Knowledge is power, and women who learned facts about reproduction and sexuality could take more control of their lives.

Many young women joyfully welcomed the new music and new fashions of the Jazz Age. They cut their hair, shortened their skirts, and danced, drank, and smoked along with their brothers and boyfriends. They also held jobs and had their own political opinions. While many men (and women) were shocked by this "new woman," she was here to stay.

The Flapper

Flappers were young women in the United States in the 1920s who adopted a cosmopolitan, sexually liberated lifestyle. Flappers were extremely thin and wore makeup, short hair, and a style of knee-length dress with a dropped waist. The era of flappers was possibly a reaction to the deprivations of [World War I](#), the growth of the female labor force, and the resulting economic independence.



While the suffrage and temperance movements dated back to the 19th century, the 1920s were the decade of the self-proclaimed "new woman." Unlike her older sisters, she wore short hair and short dresses, applied lots of makeup, smoked cigarettes, planned to work for a living, and selected her own partner, whether in or out of marriage.

The Roaring Twenties brought new freedom for both sexes, especially for young men and women. Parents looked on with horror as children grew beyond their control. "They're all desperadoes, these kids, all of them with any life in their veins; the girls as well as the boys; maybe more than the boys," wrote Warner Fabian in *Flaming Youth*.

Feminism and Flappers

According to one observer, feminism triumphed in the 1920s. "Women have highly resolved that they are just as good as men, and intend to be treated so," wrote Bruce Blivens. "They don't mean to have any more unwanted children. They don't intend to be debarred from any profession or occupation which they choose to enter. They clearly mean (even though not all of them yet realize it) that in the great game of sexual selection they shall no longer be forced to play the role, simulated or real, of helpless quarry."

From the perspective of the 21st century, Blivens' announcement of the victory of feminism seems premature. Many of the battles for control of their own bodies, equal employment rights, and social equality would be repeated over and over during the ensuing decades. Though laws mandate equality in many areas of life, the [Equal Rights Amendment](#) was never approved.

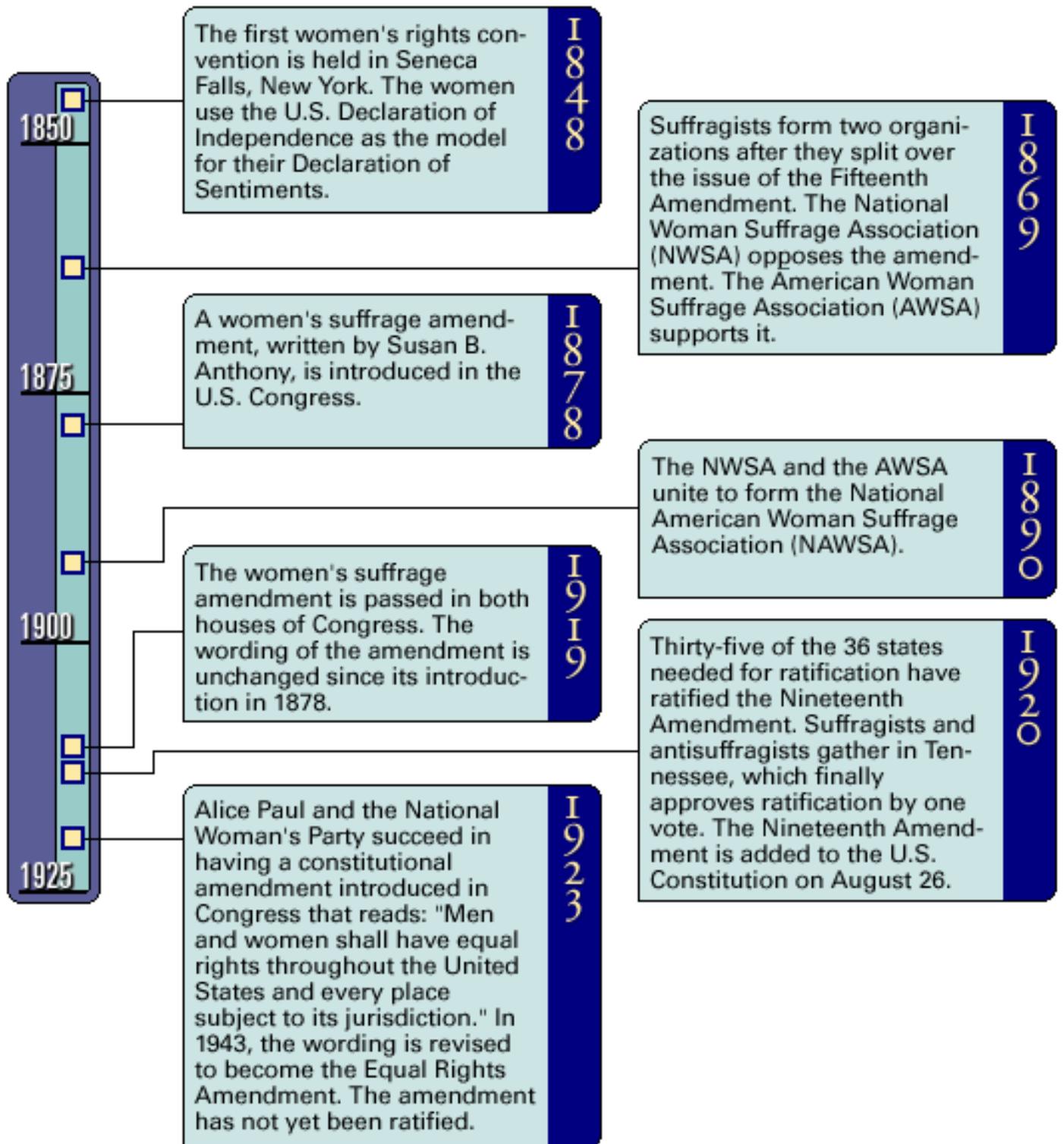
Fashion and Culture

The new woman enjoyed greater freedom for a variety of reasons. She worked and decided how to spend her own money. Her clothing was designed for greater freedom, leaving behind the restrictive corsets and multiple layers of earlier generations. (During the 1920s, many dance establishments included "corset check rooms," where young women who had to leave home wearing a corset could get rid of it during the evening.) The automobile gave her greater mobility, and the telephone let her stay in touch with her friends.

While flappers made up only a small percentage of the population in the 1920s, their influence contributed to greater freedom for all of their sisters.

A LONG STRUGGLE

The struggle to gain the right to vote was a long and hard one for American women. It began during the social movements of the mid-19th century and finally ended with ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. Many of the women who began the struggle were not alive to see its successful completion, but their influence was felt nonetheless.



Category 1: Women's Suffrage

Focus: How did Women get the right to vote?

Cause:

- 1.)
- 2.)
- 3.)

Effect:

KEY PEOPLE:

Category 2: Social Reforms + Individual Freedoms

Focus: How did Women enact change for social issues?

Cause:

- 1.)
- 2.)
- 3.)

Effect:

KEY PEOPLE:

**New
Women**

Focus: Who were the Flappers, and how did they change the role of Women?

Cause:

- 1.)
- 2.)
- 3.)

Effect:

KEY PEOPLE:

Write a WELL Developed paragraph that describes women's new roles in American Society in the 1920s – provide two pieces of evidence.

Category 4: Flapper + Flapper Life-style

OVERALL SUMMARY

The 18th Amendment (Modified)

Source: United States Constitution

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

Section 1. After one year from the **ratification** of this **article** the manufacture, sale, transportation, importation or exportation of **intoxicating liquors** in the United States and all its territory is hereby prohibited.

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

Section 3. This article shall have no power unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission to the States by the Congress.

Vocabulary

To ratify—to confirm or pass something, such as an amendment

Intoxicating liquors—alcohol

Article—a section or item in a written document. Until enough states ratified this amendment, it was known as an article.

Guiding Questions:

1. What is your first reaction to the 18th amendment?
2. Do you think this amendment could be passed today? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think some Americans in 1918 might have wanted this amendment?

Document A: Prohibition and Health (Modified)

Alcohol poisons and kills; Abstinence and Prohibition save lives and safeguard health.

Dr. S.S. Goldwater, formerly Health Commissioner of New York City, stated the decision of science, the final opinion of our nation after a hundred years of education upon the subject of alcohol.

“It is believed that less consumption of alcohol by the community would mean less tuberculosis, less poverty, less dependency, less pressure on our hospitals, asylums and jails.”

“Alcohol hurts the tone of the muscles and lessens the product of laborers; it worsens the skill and endurance of artists; it hurts memory, increases industrial accidents, causes diseases of the heart, liver, stomach and kidney, increases the death rate from pneumonia and lessens the body’s natural immunity to disease.”

Justice Harlan speaking for the United States Supreme Court, said:

“We cannot shut out of view the fact that public health and public safety may be harmed by the general use of alcohol.”

Vocabulary

Abstinence: Stopping yourself from doing something (e.g., drinking)

Consumption: eating or drinking

Source: Statement read at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the National Temperance Council, Washington D.C., September 20, 1920. The National Temperance Council was created in 1913 to work for Prohibition.

Document B: “Hooch Murder” Bill (Modified)

‘Hooch Murder’ Bill Drafted by Anderson

Anti-Saloon Head Aims to Reach Those Whose Drinks Cause Death.

William H. Anderson, State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, announced in a statement yesterday that the organization would sponsor a measure at the upcoming State Legislature. The measure would be known as the “Hooch Murder” bill. It says a person can be tried for murder, and punished accordingly, if they are suspected of selling alcohol that resulted in the death of the person drinking it. Commenting on the measure, Mr. Anderson said:

“This bill is intended for whoever it may hit, but it is especially directed at the immoral foreigner, usually an alien, who had largely stopped killing with a knife from hate or with a gun for hire, and has gone into the preparation and thoughtless selling of poison for profit.”

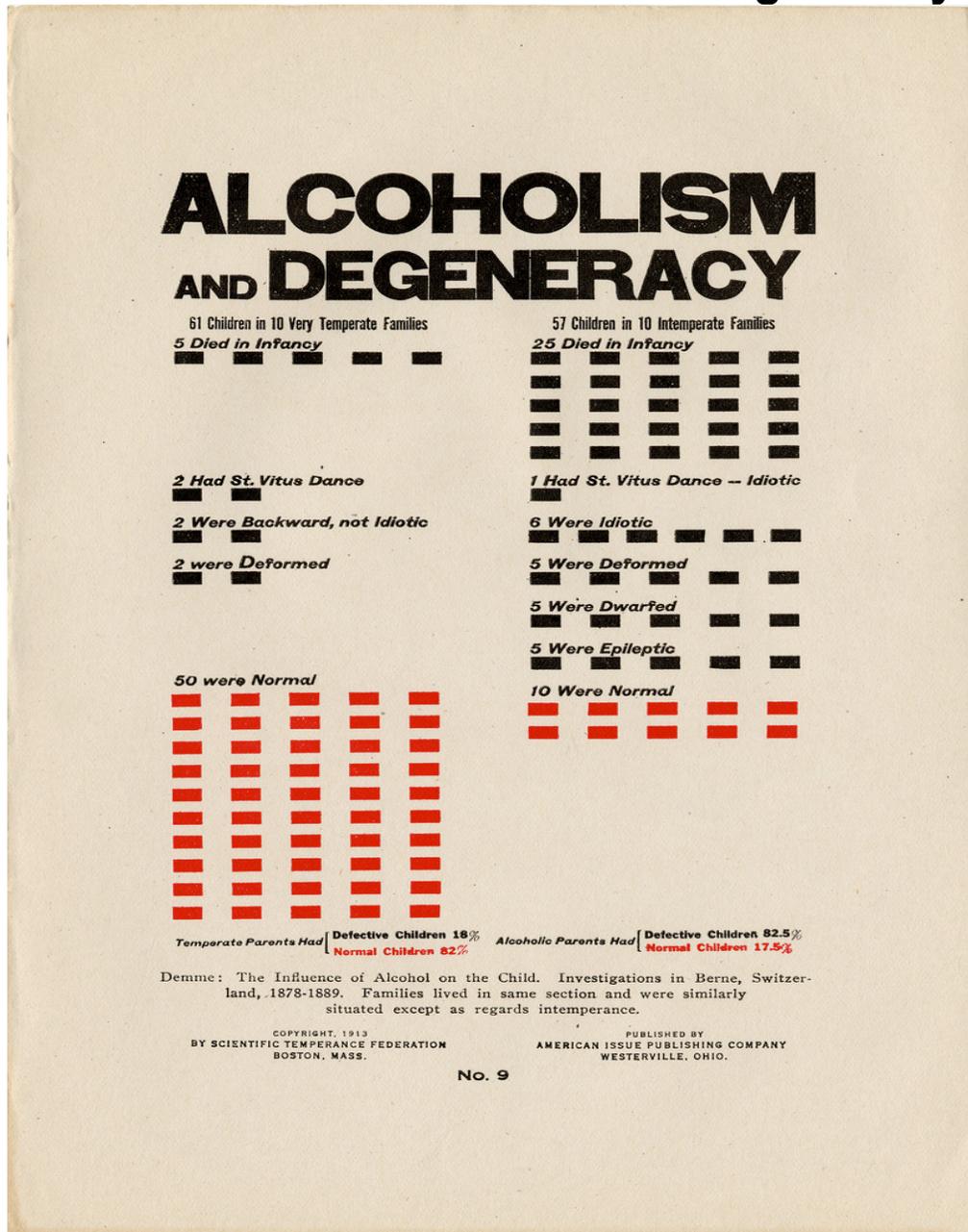
Vocabulary

Hooch: slang term for alcohol, commonly used in the 1920s to refer to illegal whiskey

Alien: a foreigner who is not a citizen

Source: “Hooch Murder Bill Drafted by Anderson,” *The New York Times*, November 14, 1922.

Document C: "Alcoholism and Degeneracy"



Vocabulary

Temperate: refraining from drinking alcohol

Intemperate: drinking alcohol

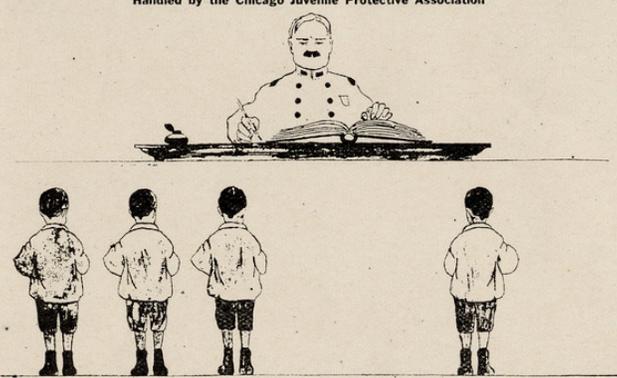
Degeneracy: being in decline; having qualities that are not normal or desirable

Source: Boston, MA and Westerville, Ohio: Scientific Temperance and American Issue Publishing Company, 1913.

Document D: "Children in Misery"

**CHILDREN IN MISERY
PARENTS' DRINK TO BLAME**
IN AT LEAST
THREE CASES OUT OF EVERY FOUR

Handled by the Chicago Juvenile Protective Association



75% DUE TO ALCOHOL

The Child's Birthrights are To be Well Born
To be Well Cared for
To be Well Trained

DRINK SPOILS ALL THREE

Statistics compiled by Gertrude H. Brittan, Supt. Chicago Juvenile Protective Assn.,
from 1,739 cases of Adult Delinquency, Jan. 1-June 30, 1910.

COPYRIGHT 1913
BY SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE FEDERATION
BOSTON, MASS

PUBLISHED BY
AMERICAN ISSUE PUBLISHING COMPANY
WESTERVILLE OHIO

NO. 15

Source: Boston, MA and Westerville, Ohio: Scientific Temperance Federation and American Issue Publishing Company, 1913.

Guiding Questions

Name _____

Document A

1. (Sourcing) When was this document written? Was this before or after the passage of the 18th Amendment?

Why might the National Temperance Council have met in 1920 (*after* the passage of the 18th Amendment)? What do you predict they will say?

2. (Close reading) What does the National Temperance Council claim is caused by alcohol?
3. (Context) Do you find these claims convincing? Do you think people at the time found these claims convincing? Explain.

Document B

1. (Sourcing) When was this document written? Was this before or after the passage of the 18th Amendment?
2. (Close reading) What is the “Hooch Murder Bill”?
3. (Context) Based on this document, who is the Anti-Saloon League blaming for the sale of alcohol during Prohibition? Why do you think they singled this group?

Document C and D

1. (Sourcing) When were these posters made? Was that before or after the passage of the 18th Amendment?

Who published these posters? What was their perspective?

2. (Close reading) According to these posters, what are two reasons why Prohibition is a good idea?

3. (Close words) Look at the words used in Document C. These were considered “scientific” categories. What does that tell you about science at this time?

4. (Context) Using these posters, explain some of the beliefs about children that were common in the early 20th century. Do you think these beliefs are silly or reasonable? Explain.

People who supported Prohibition thought it would solve a lot of society’s problems. Use the documents to explain what problems they saw in society and why they thought Prohibition would solve these problems.

Great Migration

World War I produced profound social, cultural, and political changes in the United States. At times, those changes were wrenching, and at other times, they held out the promise of a better life for those who had traditionally been on the lower rungs of American society. African Americans were among those most dramatically affected by wartime changes; they also played a pivotal role in recasting the U.S. socioeconomic, cultural, and political landscape. Merely five decades after the United States had outlawed slavery, African Americans fled the South in huge numbers in a movement that became known as the Great Migration. Resettling in Northern cities, where they sought better lives, employment, some degree of social equality, and an escape from daily violence, the migrants (numbering approximately 500,000) found more opportunities and transplanted some of the most vibrant aspects of their culture. However, they also faced brutal violence reminiscent of what they had left behind in the former Confederate States of America.

The mass migration transformed both the South and the North. Most notably, black migrants settled in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, and the Harlem section of New York City. Those cities became the first U.S. urban centers with large African American populations. What attracted them to the North? The answer lies not only in the opportunities they believed existed there but also in the fact that the South was a brutal place for those former slaves and descendants of slaves. In the years following emancipation, Southern whites, who were desperate to retain social and political dominance over African Americans, enacted black codes that very closely replicated slave codes—a series of laws that severely circumscribed the personal and social behavior of slaves.

The new black codes, known as Jim Crow laws, enforced a strict racial division in every aspect of Southern life. That system of segregation extended to all areas of society, including education, transportation, and the legal arena. Although Jim Crow laws were a blatant violation of civil rights guaranteed to black Americans in the post-Civil War era, they received the sanction of the U.S. Supreme Court in its ignominious *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) decision that codified the separate-but-equal doctrine.

Economic suffering compounded the humiliation and depredations African Americans suffered under Jim Crow laws. Former slaves endured crushing poverty and continued subservience to whites under sharecropping—a form of pseudoslavery in which white landlords retained economic control over blacks. A boll weevil infestation that obliterated cotton crops across the South beginning in 1915 further exacerbated the state of economic dependence.

In addition to those economic and political challenges, African Americans faced entrenched and violent racism in the South. For example, the Ku Klux Klan and more mainstream white citizens regularly lynched blacks as a means of maintaining social control through terror. In short, the American South was an especially dangerous and unfriendly place for African Americans by the time World War I opened up new opportunities in the North. Labor agents traveled to the South to entice African Americans northward, while Southern employers and landholders often intimidated and brutalized those who tried to leave the South. The mass exodus of black laborers left the already economically troubled South in an even worse condition.

In addition to the lure of jobs, African Americans were persuaded to move northward by the encouraging letters of friends, family, and others who had themselves made the trip and found the North to be a more hospitable place. Black churches in the North extended assistance to potential migrants as well. Perhaps most importantly, *The Chicago Defender*, a newspaper edited by African American Robert Abbott, railed against Southern injustices and encouraged blacks living in the South to migrate to Chicago and other Northern cities, where conditions were far better for African Americans. The power of the *Defender* was such that many Southern localities banned its distribution, fearing that it would tempt former slaves to leave the South.

On arrival in the North, African Americans found that there were jobs to be had. Those newfound job opportunities were due to the recruitment of native-born white men into the military during World War I and recent immigration laws that

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severely restricted the influx of European immigrants who would normally fill the positions. In the absence of native-born whites and European immigrants, the jobs were filled by black migrants, although the newcomers received substantially lower pay than their white counterparts and were often excluded from promotions or higher-paying positions. Nevertheless, wartime industrial production increased exponentially, creating many new positions that African Americans eagerly filled.

The effects of the Great Migration on the North were nothing less than transformative. African Americans brought with them their culture, which left an indelible mark on the Northern, urban way of life. Foremost among those cultural contributions was the introduction of soul food to Northern cuisine and the hugely influential infusion of blues to northern music. The cultural transplants were part of a larger cultural transformation that sowed the seeds of what came to be known as the Harlem Renaissance and contributed to the emergence of the "New Negro" in the parlance of the time.

Within this blossoming renaissance, African American literature flourished, most notably in the works of Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Arna Bontemps. The Harlem Renaissance witnessed the emergence of jazz from the blues; jazz was to become one of the most influential forms of music in the United States and throughout the world. Billie Holiday and Jelly Roll Morton were just some of the luminaries of that musical renaissance. Aaron Douglas, Lois Mailou Jones, and many other artists celebrated black culture in the visual arts. The Harlem Renaissance was nothing short of a cultural revolution, and it had a profound and lasting impact on the larger American culture.

Even while making some economic strides and enjoying a cultural flowering, African Americans often found the urban North to be as inhospitable and hostile as the South had been. In the North, as in the South, racism permeated every aspect of public life. There was a tremendous irony in that the United States was waging a war to make the world "safe for democracy" while systematically denying blacks their democratic rights as U.S. citizens. The relatively new National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) took the lead in mounting legal challenges to systematic discrimination. Additionally, the National Urban League was created in 1911 to advance the interests and protect the rights of new African American migrants. Such leaders as Ida Wells-Barnett fought to bring an end to physical assaults on blacks, most particularly in the form of lynching, while W. E. B. Du Bois and others worked in the courts to systematically challenge legal discrimination.

The challenges those activists faced were daunting. Frightened, and believing themselves to be at risk of losing their economic and social position, Northern whites lashed out at the new arrivals. Matters worsened in 1919 when American soldiers returned from the war only to find a social and cultural landscape vastly changed by the Great Migration. A series of race riots erupted in several cities, igniting racial hatred, targeting the new migrants, and causing immense damage economically, physically, and personally. The most violent of those riots were the East St. Louis Race Riot of 1917 and the Chicago Race Riot of 1919. White gangs, often with the tacit or overt acquiescence of local police, roamed the cities, viciously attacking African American citizens and often pulling them off of streetcars as they attempted to flee the violence. In all, more than 20 race riots broke out in American cities in 1919; the economic, social, and human toll was staggering.

The Great Migration transformed both the North and the South in the years surrounding World War I. A second wave that began in 1940 would generate similar demographic changes and, unfortunately, would lead to a repeat of the kind of racial violence that characterized the mass movement of blacks to the North in the early part of the 20th century. The tremendous demographic changes wrought by the Great Migration and the cultural and political transformations it engendered also laid the foundation for the later civil rights movement. Faced with such extreme and pervasive discrimination in the North, African Americans demanded and fought for equal rights although, to be sure, such resistance had existed from the time the first African slaves were brought to colonial America in the early 17th century. There had always been some economically successful African Americans in the United States, but the Great Migration, with all of its shortcomings, offered hope of economic success to scores of former slaves and their descendants. However, the Great Migration underscored the entrenched and brutal prejudice that characterizes the underside of American history and that continues to define, to a great degree, race relations in the United States.

Harlem Renaissance



A doorman stands outside the famous Cotton Club in Harlem. The Cotton Club was a cultural center in Harlem, as both whites and African Americans came to see acts such as Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway during the 1920s and 1930s. [Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images]

European immigrants fled poverty and persecution, arriving in the United States by the millions. African-American immigrants fled poverty and persecution, moving from the South to the North by the hundreds of thousands. Black and white, the immigrants crowded into Northern U.S. cities during the first decades of the 20th century. There, they found new kinds of poverty, persecution, and opportunity.

Between 1910 and 1929, nearly a million African Americans moved from the South to the North. They left behind sharecropping, permanent debt, the Southern Ku Klux Klan (there were groups in the North), and [lynchings](#). As World War I began, factories desperately needed workers. Black migrants filled the jobs, as well as the tenements in quickly segregated Northern cities.

Hope in Harlem

The new African-American immigrants found work in factories across the North. They settled in [Chicago](#) and [Detroit](#) and Pittsburgh and Minneapolis. Some 200,000 filled the part of [New York](#) called [Harlem](#). As African Americans moved in, whites moved out. Soon, all of Harlem was black and brown. New African-American immigrants from [Mississippi](#) and [Alabama](#) mingled with immigrants from the West Indies. Spanish Harlem became a new home for Puerto Ricans who left the island.



Bold and Beautiful

Though Harlem suffered from poverty, it also bloomed with talent. Writers, actors, poets, playwrights, musicians, and artists all came together in the flowering of the Harlem Renaissance. They called themselves the "New Negro Movement." They

celebrated black culture and achievement. Their art and writing focused on the lives of black people. They held up black culture and accomplishment as worthy of admiration.

In Harlem, patrons went to black clubs and cabarets to enjoy jazz, the most popular music of the day. They listened to Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong, and Duke Ellington. They read African-American writers published in the new journals *The Crisis*, *Opportunity*, and *The Messenger*. They admired the paintings of black artists, including Aaron Douglas and A. J. Motley.

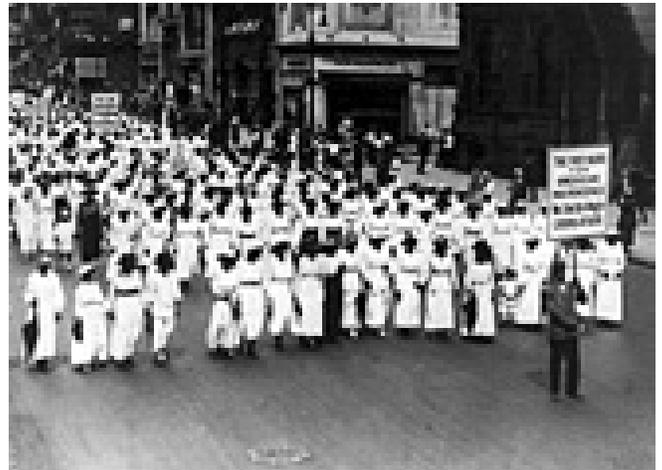
The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Urban League expressed black political demands for equality. W. E. B. Du Bois described the "two-ness" of being black and American. Marcus Garvey preached black pride and urged African Americans to return to Africa.

Black is Fashionable

Many white New Yorkers flocked to Harlem. They wanted to hear the newly fashionable black music and poetry. The "New Negro" intellectual became popular in white society. But segregation of the races continued, even in the North. In the popular nightclub the Cotton Club, for example, black performers entertained all-white audiences. The entertainers could not even sit on the dance floor.

Racism Remains

Just after World War I began, whites in East St. Louis, Illinois became angry that African Americans had jobs in a factory with government contracts. The whites attacked, killing at least 40 African Americans, beating men, women, and children, and driving about 6,000 African Americans from their homes. The white race riot was answered with dignified, silent protest marches in Harlem.



The white riot, continued lynchings in the South, and residential segregation that made Harlem the center of black life in New York all were evidence of the continuing racism of American society. Even under the shadow of racism, African-American genius blazed brilliantly in the Harlem Renaissance.

The Great Migration

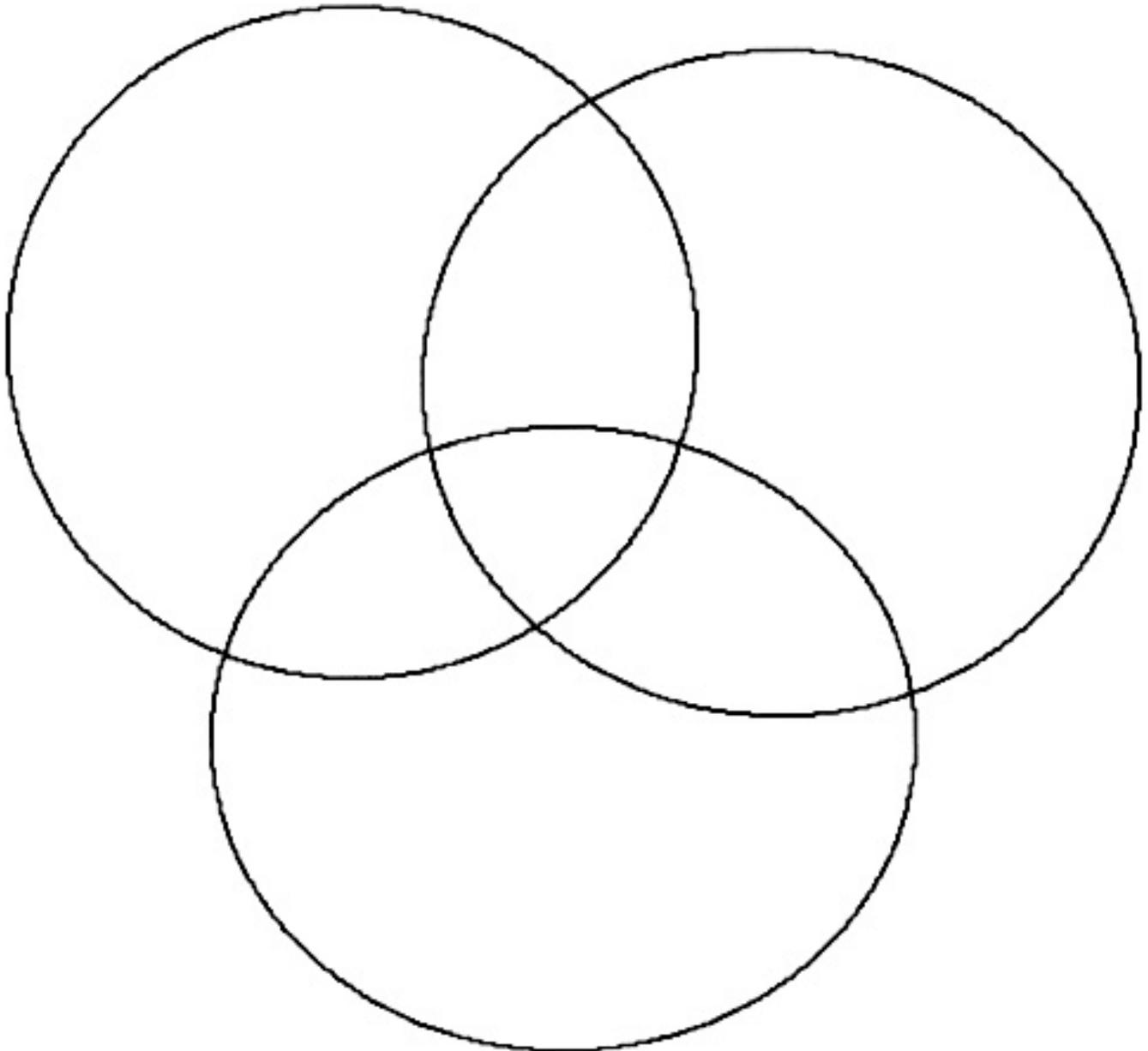


During the Great Migration, African Americans moved from the South to many of the cities of the North. Among the cities whose African-American populations grew during the Great Migration were Chicago, New York, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Detroit.

Venn Diagram – Compare & Contrast Music of Harlem Renaissance

Name of your song

Name of your song



CRITICAL ANALYSIS – Art

Directions: Complete the graphic organizer explaining how this piece of art from the Harlem Renaissance contributed to the “Cultural Rebirth” of African Americans in the 1920s.

Title this painting

List a detail from the painting and explain its relationship to the Harlem Renaissance.



“Orchestra” from *Negro Drawings* by Miguel Covarubias (1927)

List a detail from the painting and explain its relationship to the Harlem Renaissance

How does this piece of art reflect the African American cultural “rebirth” during the American Twenties?

Free Write – Analyzing Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance

Directions: Read the two poems and then free-write your opinions, ideas, and/or any questions you might have about how it reflects the cultural “rebirth” of African Americans during the 1920s.

Caged Bird BY MAYA ANGELOU

A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

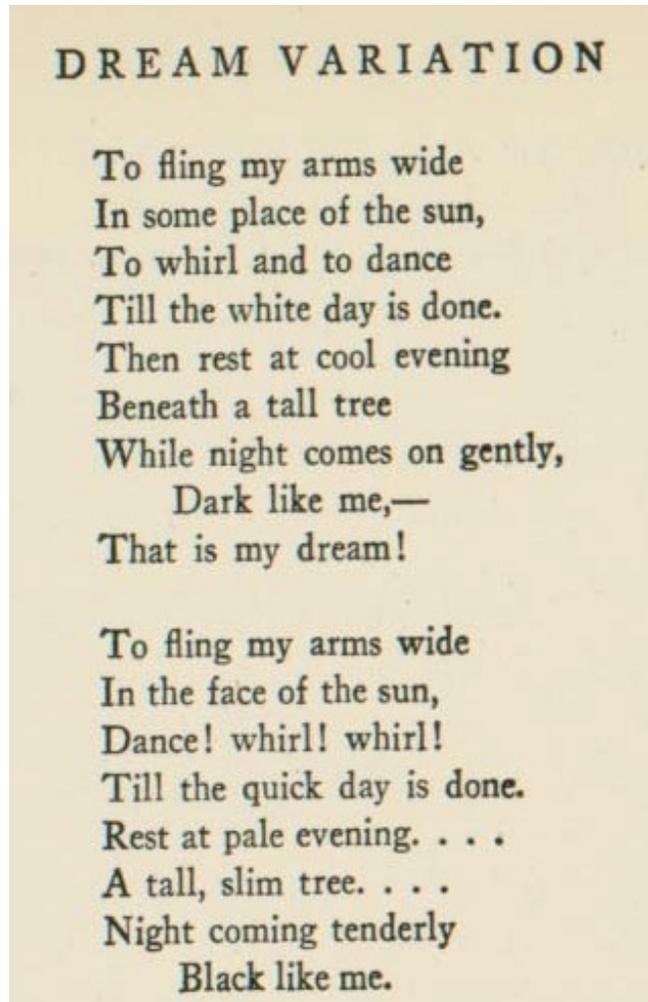
The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn
and he names the sky his own

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

Dream Variation By Langston Hughes



Causes of the Great Depression

What caused the Great Depression, the worst economic depression in US history? It was not just one factor, but instead a combination of domestic and worldwide conditions that led to the Great Depression. As such, there is no agreed upon list of all its causes. Here instead is a list of the top reasons that historians and economists have cited as causing the Great Depression. The effects of the Great Depression were huge across the world. Not only did it lead to the [New Deal](#) in America but more significantly, it was a direct cause of the rise of extremism in Germany leading to [World War II](#).

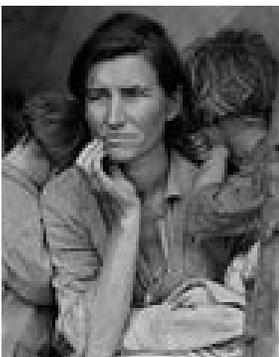
1. Stock Market Crash of 1929: Many believe erroneously that the stock market crash that occurred on [Black Tuesday](#), October 29, 1929 is one and the same with the Great Depression. In fact, it was one of the major causes that led to the Great Depression. Two months after the original crash in October, stockholders had lost more than \$40 billion dollars. Even though the stock market began to regain some of its losses, by the end of 1930, it just was not enough and America truly entered what is called the Great Depression.

2. Bank Failures: Throughout the 1930s over 9,000 banks failed. Bank deposits were uninsured and thus as banks failed people simply lost their savings. Surviving banks, unsure of the economic situation and concerned for their own survival, stopped being as willing to create new loans. This exacerbated the situation leading to less and less expenditures.

3. Reduction in Purchasing Across the Board: With the stock market crash and the fears of further economic woes, individuals from all classes stopped purchasing items. This then led to a reduction in the number of items produced and thus a reduction in the workforce. As people lost their jobs, they were unable to keep up with paying for items they had bought through installment plans and their items were repossessed. More and more inventory began to accumulate. The unemployment rate rose above 25% which meant, of course, even less spending to help alleviate the economic situation.

4. American Economic Policy with Europe: As businesses began failing, the government created the [Smoot-Hawley Tariff](#) in 1930 to help protect American companies. This charged a high tax for imports thereby leading to less trade between America and foreign countries along with some economic retaliation.

5. Drought Conditions



While not a direct cause of the Great Depression, the [drought](#) that occurred in the Mississippi Valley in 1930 was of such proportions that many could not even pay their taxes or other debts and had to sell their farms for no profit to themselves. The area was nicknamed "[The Dust Bowl](#)." This was the topic of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

The Stock Market Crash: Black Tuesday, 10/29/29

The **stock market** crash in New York City on **Black Tuesday**, October 29, 1929, devastated the U.S. economy and wiped out the fortunes and life savings of many investors. The event marked the end of the securities boom of the 1920s and the beginning of the **Great Depression**.

The United States had been riding high on the economic growth of the 1920s. The economy remained strong after **World War I**, and a new financial arrangement called credit brought luxurious modern conveniences to average U.S. families. In 1928, President Herbert Hoover was elected in the height of prosperity.

A few wealthy, powerful investors dominated the stock market, and stock manipulation through insiders' information was not uncommon. Successful stock speculators led rich and glamorous lives, and more and more ordinary people were trading securities. Brokerages allowed customers to speculate on mostly borrowed money: customers would pay cash for just a small fraction of the value of a security and borrow the balance from the brokerage. If the stock price fell, the broker would make a "margin call" on the investor, which would require the investor either to pay more cash or sell other securities to cover further losses.

On September 3, 1929, stock prices reached a 10-year high. After that, stock prices began a slow and steady decline, marked by tumbles followed by small rallies. That pattern continued through October, and fear, pessimism, apprehension, confusion, and uncertainty began to take grip among both big and small investors. Many investors scrambled to cover their losses as the market continued its decline and more and more margin calls went out. On October 18, stock prices fell precipitately, alarming many investors, although overall confidence in the market remained.



A crowd gathers on the street in front of the New York Stock Exchange after a sharp drop in stock prices on October 24, 1929, now known as "Black Thursday." By the following Tuesday, the market had completely collapsed. The events of late October 1929 marked the beginning of the economic crisis known as the Great Depression.



On the morning of October 24, nervous investors began selling their stocks off quickly; the number of sales triggered a further fall in stock prices that sent the stock market heading for a crash. The day quickly became known as **Black Thursday** and marked the first day of real panic regarding the soundness of the market. A record 12,894,650 shares of stock were traded as many investors tried to unload their stock, regardless of the price, in an attempt to cut their losses. The stock market was saved from collapse, however, when many major banks and investment companies bought large blocks of stock and successfully stemmed the panic.

When the market opened on Monday, October 28, prices again began to plummet, but the rich, powerful bankers did not extend their support this time. The panic continued through Black Tuesday, the day the great bull market completely collapsed. From the moment of the October 29 opening bell, stock prices dropped in a furious selling frenzy that ended with a record 16 million shares traded. That record stood for 40 years.

Many investors lost their life savings, and many businesses and banks failed due to their losses. Very few people saw the crash coming. One economist, Roger W. Babson, was the first to predict the crash: he drew on evidence that consumers' credit burdens were increasing, steel production was dropping, auto sales were falling, and some stocks were showing signs of price inflation. Other economists, like Irving Fisher, dismissed the market's downward trend as a shaking-out of speculators that would ultimately bring stability.

Ultimately, the crash triggered the reform of laws regulating the securities market and led to the establishment of the U.S. **Securities and Exchange Commission**, which acted to enforce new reporting and listing requirements and other laws that aimed to end manipulative practices in securities trading.

The street scene on Wall Street in front of Federal Hall on October 24, 1929 ("Black Thursday"), the day the New York stock market crashed. On that Thursday stock prices, which had begun to decline in September, fell rapidly, unleashing the first panic. By the following Tuesday, the market completely collapsed, leading the nation into the economic crisis of the Great Depression.



Hardship and Suffering during the Depression

Chapter 22 – Section 2 pg. 678

Directions: Complete the Graphic Organizer below using your text book. Please provide 4-5 bullet points of information to thoroughly answer the question.

CITY	MEN	CHILDREN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe life in the City post Stock Market Crash How did completion for jobs impact race relations during the Great Depression? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did men take to the streets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What hardships did children face?
FARMS	WOMEN	PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did farm families leave their land during the Depression? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did women struggle to survive? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From what long-lasting psychological effects did Depression survivors suffer?

THE GREAT DEPRESSION – POLITICAL CARTOON

Historical Context: By 1932 – three years after the crash of the stock market – almost half of the banks in the United States had failed, unemployment was nearing 30%, and stocks had fallen to about 20% of the pre-crash value.

A WISE ECONOMIST ASKS A QUESTION



Analysis Questions:

- 1.) What does the man on the park bench represent?
- 2.) What does the location of the man (sitting on the park bench) add to the cartoon?
- 3.) How is the man caricatured to show that he is a responsible citizen?

Critical Thinking:

- 4.) Why do you think the cartoonist chose a squirrel for this cartoon? What can you infer about the cartoonist choice?

Reassuring the Nation

Main Idea:

Supporting Details (2)

Hoover Takes Action

Main Idea:

Supporting Details (2)

Hoover
Pg. 684

Main Idea:

Supporting Details (2)

Cassing the Bonus Army

Overall Statement

Americans Get a New Deal

Main Idea:

Supporting Details (2)

Helping the American People

Main Idea:

Supporting Details (2)

FDR
Pg. 694

Main Idea:

Supporting Details (2)

New Deal Comes Under Attack

Overall Statement

FDR 1st Inaugural Address

Unit 6 – Anchor Text

Essential Understandings:

1. How did FDR's speech lay the foundation for expanding the role of the national government?
2. How did FDR's policies shape the American economy?

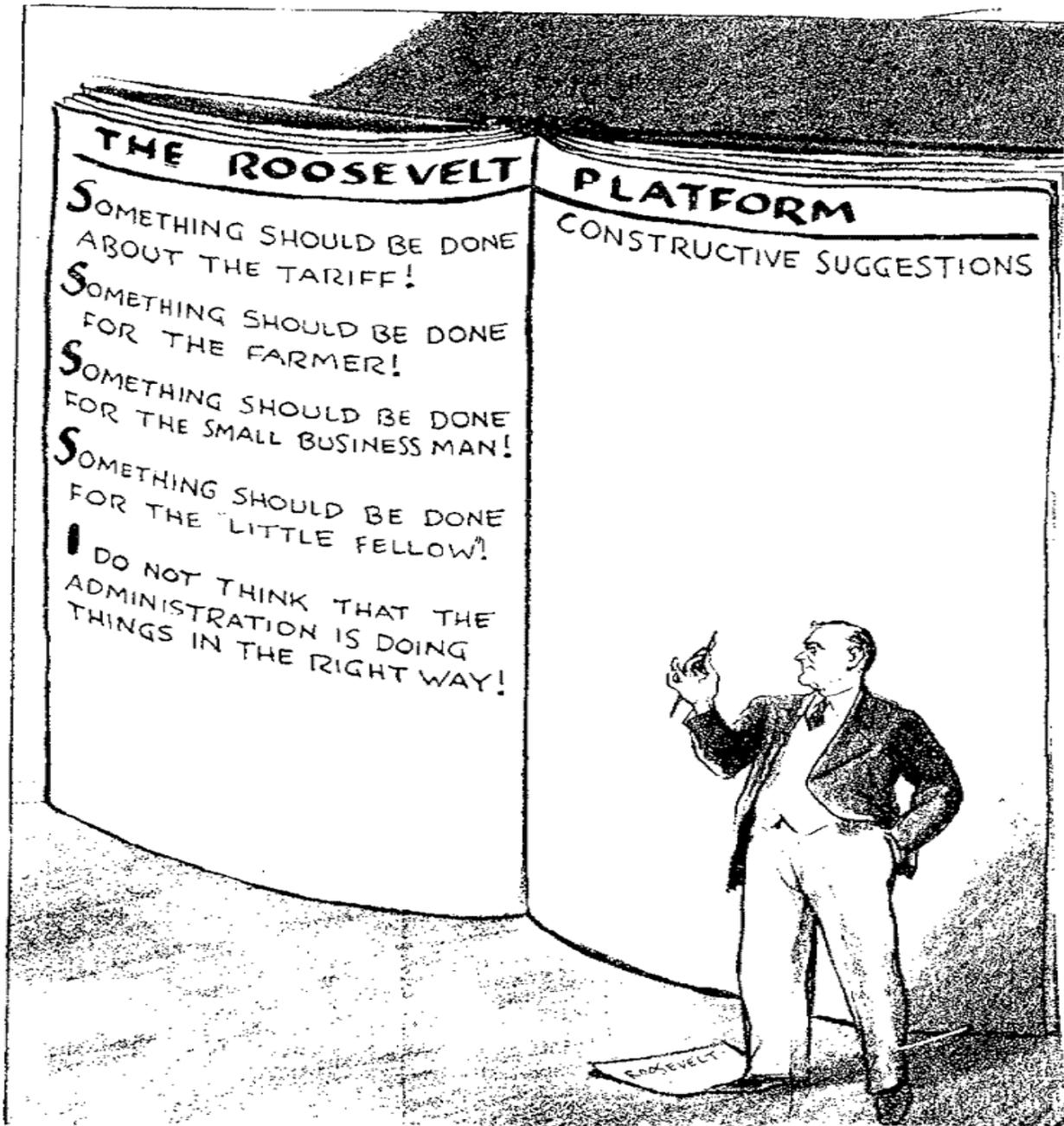
Historical Context: Franklin D. Roosevelt's First Inaugural Address, delivered on March 4, 1933, in the midst of the worst economic crisis ever experienced by the United States, is one of the most famous speeches of its kind in American history. At the Capitol, FDR braced himself on his son James's arm as he approached the podium to take the oath of office. Breaking precedent, he recited the entire oath, instead of simply repeating "I do." Unlike his predecessor, Herbert Hoover, Roosevelt did not shy away from blaming the business community for incompetent and unethical practices that had led to economic disaster. While he emphasized that "the people of the United States have not failed," he regarded himself as the leader they elected to restore a sense of "discipline and direction."

Directions: You will complete a before, during and post activity for FDR's First Inaugural Address that will allow you to understand and evaluate change and continuity over time, make use of evidence, and develop arguments about the American past.

Before Activity: Use the political cartoon on the next page to answer questions 1-3.

1. Based on the political cartoon and your previous knowledge, create a list of adjectives that describe the mood of the American people on the eve of FDR's inauguration.
2. Based on the cartoon, what were the expectations of the American people of their government and the new president?
3. Looking at the political cartoon, FDR asks for "constructive suggestions". Write down the suggestions you recommend to deal with the nation's problems on the right side of The Roosevelt Platform?

THE BLANK PAGE



1st Inaugural Address

On March 4, 1933, newly inaugurated President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered this speech, his first of four inaugural addresses.

In this area – draw the images that come to mind when you read FDR’s address.



I am certain that my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a decision which the present situation of our Nation impels. This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today.

This great **Nation** will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.

In such a spirit on my part and on yours we face our common difficulties. They concern, thank God, only material things. Values have shrunken to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone.

More important, a host of unemployed citizens face the grim problem of existence, and an equally great number toil with little return. Only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment. Primarily this is because the rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods have failed, through their own stubbornness and their own incompetence

Stripped of the lure of profit by which to induce our people to follow their false leadership, they have resorted to exhortations, pleading tearfully for restored confidence. They know only the rules of a generation of self-seekers.

The measure of the restoration lies in the extent to which we apply social values more noble than mere monetary profit.

Restoration calls, however, not for changes in ethics alone. This Nation asks for action, and action now.

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Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously.

If I read the temper of our people correctly, we now realize as we have never realized before our interdependence on each other; that we can not merely take but we must give as well; that if we are to go forward, we must move as a trained and loyal army willing to sacrifice for the good of a common discipline, because without such discipline no progress is made, no leadership becomes effective.

I shall ask the Congress for the one remaining instrument to meet the crisis—broad Executive power to wage a war against the emergency, as great as the power that would be given to me if we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe.

In this dedication of a Nation we humbly ask the blessing of God. May He protect each and every one of us. May He guide me in the days to come.

1. Reread the first two sentences of Roosevelt's speech. What does Roosevelt say the present situation requires him to do when speaking to the American people?
2. In his first paragraph, Roosevelt uses both the pronouns "them" and "we" in reference to his audience. What is the desired effect of using different pronouns at different places in the speech?
3. What does Roosevelt state that Americans should fear? Why would he choose to begin his speech by addressing the citizens' fears?
4. Why is the word "Nation" capitalized in the written version of the text? Why is it significant? From whom does the "Nation" demand action?
5. What are examples of war metaphors that provide support for his plans for the country?

Name: _____

New Deal Programs

Why was the agency/program established?	Agency/Program	Result/Effect on Society	Did the agency/program affect the country in a Political, Social, or Economic manner
	Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)		
	Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)		
	National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA)		
	Works Progress Administration (WPA)		
	Social Security Act		
	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)		
	Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)		
	National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)		

	Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)		
	Federal Housing Administration (FHA)		