

. Postwar American Attitudes

- Disillusionment following World War I, particularly among veterans, artists, and intellectuals (the Lost Generation)
 - Society lacking idealism and vision
 - Sense of personal alienation
 - Americans obsessed with materialism and outmoded moral values

Postwar American Attitudes continued

- Fear of Bolshevism
 - Success of Russian Revolution combined with epidemic of strikes frightened Americans into "Red Scare" mentality of 1919-1920
 - Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer arrested 6000 suspected radicals and deported many, following several bombings



Postwar American Attitudes continued

- Fear of foreigners
 - Over 800,000 immigrants came to America in 1920-21, with 2/3 coming from southern and eastern Europe
 - Quotas were set up to restrict new immigration in a series of acts
 - National Origins Act of 1924: cut immigration to 2% of each nationality from the 1890 census.
 - Sacco and Vanzetti, two Italian anarchists, were executed in 1927 for murder despite protests from within and outside the U.S.
 - anti-immigrant attitudes prejudiced their trial.



SACCO AND VANZETTI

Rise of the nativist Ku Klux Klan

- Reconstituted the new KKK was more anti-foreign than anti-black. Its strength was in the Midwest and South
 - Targets: foreigners, Jews, Catholics, pacifists, communists, and evolutionists
 - By 1925, 5 million members had joined to march in parades, burn crosses, and hold secret meetings
- Movement lost strength, particularly after it was exposed as a money-making scheme by organizers



Ku Klux Klan Women Parade in Washington, D.C.
National Archives at College Park, Maryland
Chapter 22, *America's History*, Seventh Edition
Copyright © 2011 by Bedford/St. Martin's
Page 696

Prohibition: 18th Amendment



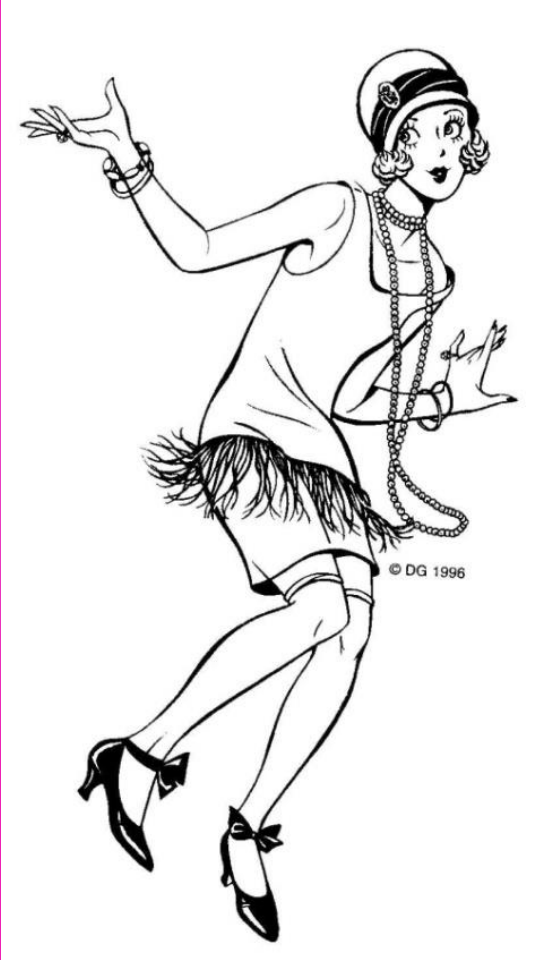
- Strong demand for alcohol and weak enforcement led to widespread hypocrisy
- Saloons were replaced by illegal "speakeasies" serving high proof alcohol
- Home-made alcohol (bathtub gin) sometimes resulted in blindness and death
- Organized crime stepped in, most famously in Chicago, to meet consumers' needs to drink

Fundamentalism vs. Modernism

- Fundamentalist Christians
- Modernist Christians
- John Scopes purposely violated Butler Act forbidding the teaching of evolution
 - William Jennings Bryan & Clarence Darrow
 - Scopes found guilty
- Aimee Semple McPhearson
- Billy Sunday



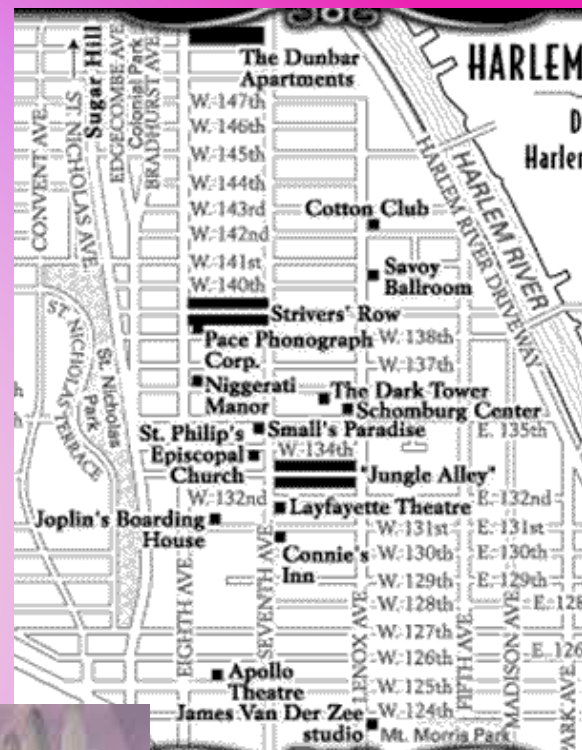
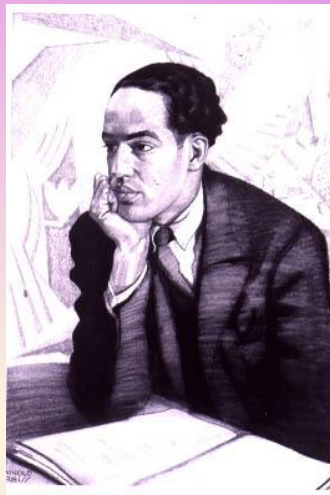
Women in the 1920s



- Women finally have the right to vote. . .but now what?
- The “new” woman emerges
 - Characterized by the flapper
 - Liberated from their Victorian past
 - Most middle class women remained at home
- Former suffrage workers find new pursuits
 - League of Women Voters
 - Equal Rights Amendment

The Harlem Renaissance

- Literary, artistic, cultural and intellectual movement
 - New-found pride helps liberate African-Americans from their former self-image
- Centered in Harlem
 - Artists working all over the country
- Hughes, Hurston, Cullen
- Douglas, Reiss, Motley
- Jazz



Marcus Garvey



- Jamaican born activist
- Settled in Harlem around 1916
- Founded the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)
- Promoted political, social and economic separatism
- Black Star Shipping Line
- Back to Africa movement
- Convicted of mail fraud and deported

Economic Developments

- Golden Twenties: Booming business
 - Brief depression followed by growth and prosperity
 - Growth of corporations
 - Businessmen entered new fields
 - Output and profit increased
 - Employment opportunities
 - Increase in public confidence

Flaws in the Boom

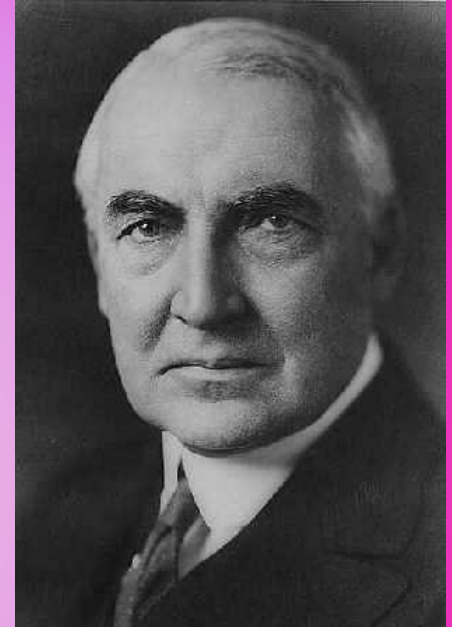
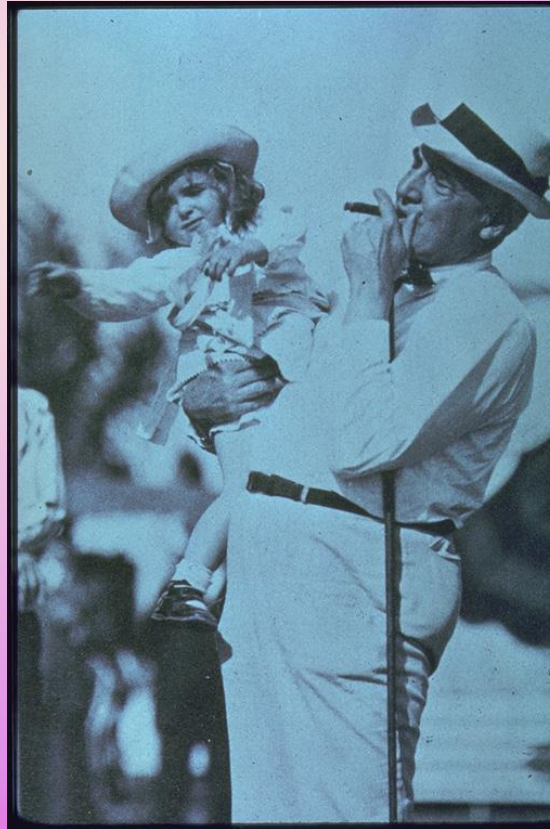
- Some industries did not share in the boom
- Agriculture was troubled
- Railroads faced competition from the auto
- Income did not keep pace with output
- Get rich quick schemes

The Economy

- Increased production of consumer durable goods
- Increased business consolidation
- Welfare Capitalism
- Growth of “white collar” sector
- Credit (installment plan) and Advertising spur the boom
- Growth of new chain stores—increased standardization
- Increased investment in the stock market (buying on margin)

Harding Administration

- Harding is a “Dark Horse”
- Evasive on League of Nations—Democrats support it
- “Return to Normalcy”
- Harding’s approach to government.
- Presidency marred by scandals
 - Ohio Gang
 - Teapot Dome



Calvin Coolidge

- Background
 - Boston Police strike
- Election of 1924
- Business administration
 - Encourage business
 - Little regulation
 - Reduce gov't spending
 - Reduce taxes



“The business of America is business”

The Hoover Administration



- Election of 1928
 - Al Smith
- Background
 - World War I
 - Rugged individualism
 - Government intervention in business limited personal freedom

Signs of trouble in the economy

- Banking and Credit
- International trade and debt
 - Smoot Hawley Tariff
- Stock market crash
- Collapse in the agriculture sector