

# Politics of the 1920s

Three Republican Presidents



Warren G. Harding
President 1920-23



Calvin Coolidge
President 1923-1928



Herbert Hoover
President 1928-1932

all promoted "a return to normalcy" after WWI

# **Washington Conference**

1922

post-WWI, America is very <u>isolationist</u> (don't get involved in what's going on in other countries)

attends the conference in Washington, DC with eight other nations

US and other nations agree to limit their <u>militaries</u> (men, arms, ships)

Japan had taken land from China, so we told them they could only have \_\_\_3 \_ ships for every \_\_\_5 of ours (?)





# WE'LL NEVER CHANGE THE BLUE AND WHITE TO RED

# Red Scare

a fear of foreigners and **communism** emerged from 1919–1921 natives were worried that immigrants would take their jobs natives didn't like immigrants' differences: religion, dress, food, etc.

Attorney General

A. Mitchell Palmer arrested about 6,000 people; some were deported

(sent out of the country)

(he slowed down a bit after a bomb blew up his house)



# The Prohibition "Experiment"

came about from anti-foreign sentiment and religious crusading against "demon rum" 18th Amendment was passed prohibiting ( outlawing in 1919, the

increased decreased there were positive results: bank savings and absences at work



many violated or ignored the prohibition laws





# The "Golden Age" of Gangsterism

prohibition created an entire industry for organized crime: <u>liquor</u> <u>distribution</u>
gangs were born and staked out their territories for selling alcohol in their " speakeasy " bars





guests of a speakeasy
had to know a

password
to enter



<u>Chicago</u> had the greatest number and strongest gangs

"<u>Scarface</u>" Al Capone was the biggest and the baddest of the crime bosses

the "G-men" ( Government men = federal police) named him "Public Enemy Number One"

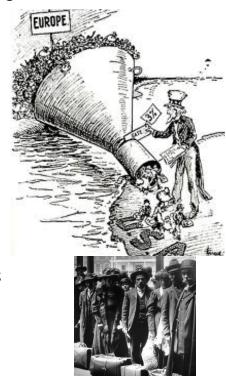
although never convicted of mob-related activities, he was put in jail for \_\_\_\_\_ tax \_\_\_\_ evasion\_\_\_\_

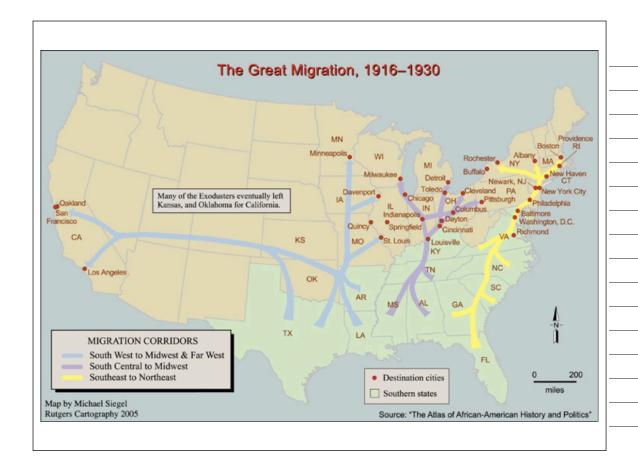
# **Restricting Immigration**

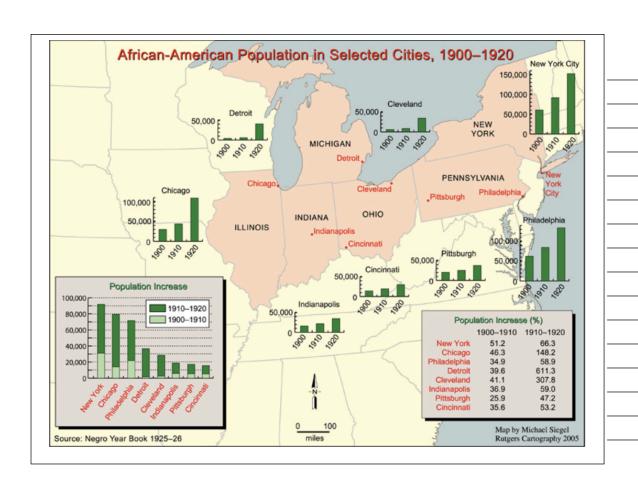


Emergency Quota Act (1921) cut the umber of people admitted to the US to 3% of the total number of people in any group already living in the US in 1910

Immigration Act of 1924 (1924) cut down to 2% of a group's U.S. population in 1890:
New Immigrants v. Old Immigrants
NO Japanese immigrants







# Harlem Renaissance

An African - American arts movement (writing, music, and art) in the 1920s that centered on Harlem.



Notable Harlem Renaissance Artists:
Langston Hughes, Author
Louis Armstrong, Jazz Musician
Duke Ellington, Jazz Musician
Marian Anderson, Singer
Billie Holiday, Singer







# **Langston Hughes**



In his many poems and novels of the 1920s, Langston Hughes creatively suggested the idea that black culture should be celebrated.





### The Weary Blues (1925)

Droning a drowsy syncopated tune,
Rocking back and forth to a mellow croon,
I heard a Negro play.
Down on Lenox Avenue the other night
By the pale dull pallor of an old gas light
He did a lazy sway . . .
He did a lazy sway . . .
To the tune o' those Weary Blues.
With his ebony hands on each ivory key
He made that poor piano moan with melody.
O Blues!

Swaying to and fro on his rickety stool He played that sad raggy tune like a musical fool. Sweet Blues!

Coming from a black man's soul. O Blues!

In a deep song voice with a melancholy tone I heard that Negro sing, that old piano moan—

"Ain't got nobody in all this world, Ain't got nobody but ma self. I's gwine to quit ma frownin' And put ma troubles on the shelf."

Thump, thump, went his foot on the floor. He played a few chords then he sang some more—

"I got the Weary Blues
And I can't be satisfied.
Got the Weary Blues
And can't be satisfied—
I ain't happy no mo'
And I wish that I had died."
And far into the night he crooned that tune.

The stars went out and so did the moon.
The singer stopped playing and went to bed
While the Weary Blues echoed through his head.
He slept like a rock or a man that's dead.



New Orleans native Louis
Armstrong moved to New York City
in 1924, where he played the clubs
and on Broadway, helping to spread
the sound of jazz to a larger
audience.

By forming a band, moving to New York City in the early 1920s and playing at exclusively white clubs like the Cotton Club, Duke Ellington impacted the way that Jazz developed as an artform during the Harlem Renaissance.





Songstress Marian Anderson made her contralto voice heard as an opera singer who performed at Carnegie Hall in 1928 and at the New York Metropolitan Opera House in the 1930s, the first black performer to ever do so.

Billie Holiday moved her career forward into becoming one of the most influential jazz singers in history after performing in the Apollo Theater in Harlem.



# Hooded Hoodlums of the KKK

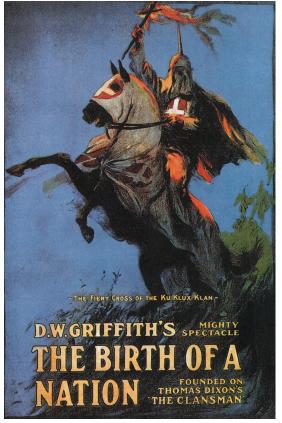


membership in the Ku Klux Klan <u>increased</u> dramatically during the 1920s

although started as an antiblack group, in the 20's it was also opposed to Catholics, Jewish, pacifists, communists, internationalists, revolutionists, bootleggers, gambling, adultery, and birth control

(basically, the KKK was pro-white Anglo-Saxon Protestant - "WASP" and anti-everything else)

KKK membership reached its peak during the 20's to about \_\_\_**5** \_\_\_million \_\_\_ members they used fear, \_\_\_lynchings \_\_\_, and intimidation to gain and keep their power



The Birth of a Nation, 1915

silent film
directed by D. W. Griffith
based on the novel and play
The Clansman, by Thomas Dixon, Jr.

many Americans believed it was true, including

President Wilson

Birth of A Nation excerpt





The first daylight Ku Klux Klan parade in the US and the first Klan parade in New England took place in Milo, ME on September 3, 1923.

In the 1920s the Klan had as many as 20,000 members throughout Maine.



Ku Klux Klan procession, Portland, ca. 1923

The Ku Klux Klan impacted Maine politics in 1923 when over 7,000 of their number rallied to change the Portland city government structure from having an elected mayor to hiring a city manager.

The Klan had a huge headquarters complex on Forest Avenue. The Klan's Maine director, F. Eugene "Doc" Farnsworth, spoke against Catholics, Jews and immigrants.



A Ku Klux Klansman and horse in full regalia lead a motorcade of members to the Brownville Centennial Pageant Grounds in 1924.

Civic leaders had put up \$500 to celebrate 100 years as a town. The Piscataquis County community of 1,743 people was experiencing divisive labor problems and some residents struck out at arriving Catholic Franco-Americans.





Wilbur and
Orville Wright
flew for the first time on
December 17, 1903 for 12
seconds at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Planes were used a little in WWI - for spying, dog fighting each other, and bombing

After WWI planes were used for air mail - <u>transcontinental</u> airmail started from New York to San Francisco in 1920

in 1927 Charles Lindbergh was the first to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 33 1/2 hours

# The Automobile Revolution

Henry Ford's

assembly line
produced a new car every
10 seconds

by 1929, there were
26 million
registered cars - 1
car for every 4.9
people America
(now it's 1 for every 3 people)



cars created 6 million new jobs (making cars and gas stations, roads, etc.)





Replica of the Benz Patent Motorwagen (1886)

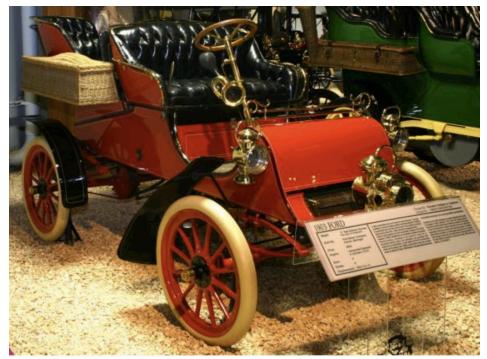
France, Germany, Austria (1890s)

internal combustion engine: expanding power of burning gas to drive pistons

Karl Benz's "Velo" model (1894) entered the first automobile race

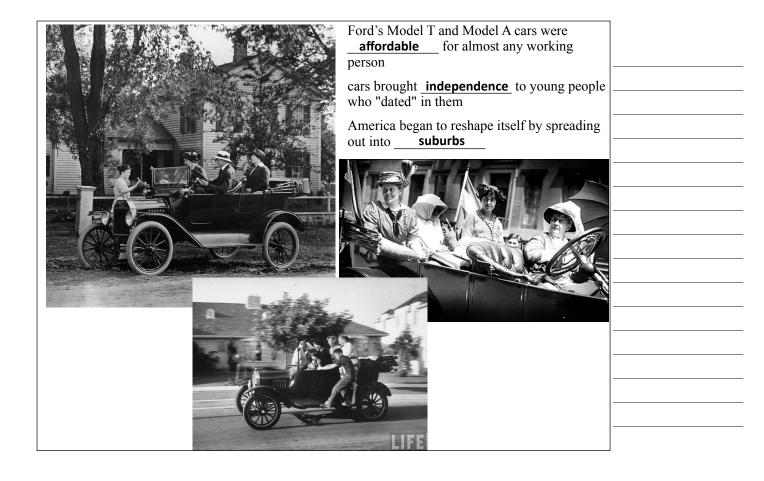






The original Ford Model A, also called the Fordmobile, was the first car produced by Ford Motor Company, beginning production in 1903.





# "Flappers"





young modern women in the 20's visited speakeasies, drank alcohol, dressed in short dresses, "bobbed" their hair

danced to the **Charleston** 



# Some of the Many Other American Events and People of the Roaring 20s

# 1920

First Commercial Radio Broadcast Aired League of Nations Established Women Granted the Right to Vote in US

# 1921

Lie Detector Invented

### 1922

Insulin Discovered The Reader's Digest Published

### 1923

Talking Movies Invented Time Magazine Founded

### 1924

First Olympic Winter Games J. Edgar Hoover Appointed FBI Director

### 1925

Flapper Dresses in Style The Scopes (Monkey) Trial

### 1926

A.A. Milne Publishes Winnie-the-Pooh Houdini Dies After Being Punched

### 1927

Babe Ruth Makes Home-Run Record The First Talking Movie, The Jazz Singer Lindbergh Flies Solo Across the Atlantic Sacco and Venzetti Executed

### 1928

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Stock Market Crashes

Bubble Gum Invented	
First Mickey Mouse Cartoon	
rst Oxford English Dictionary Published	
Kellogg-Briand Treaty Outlaws War	
Penicillin Discovered	
Sliced Bread Invented	
1929	
Car Radio Invented	
First Academy Awards	
The Great Depression Begins	