






USA
Society +
Intolerance
Revision

1919 - 1930

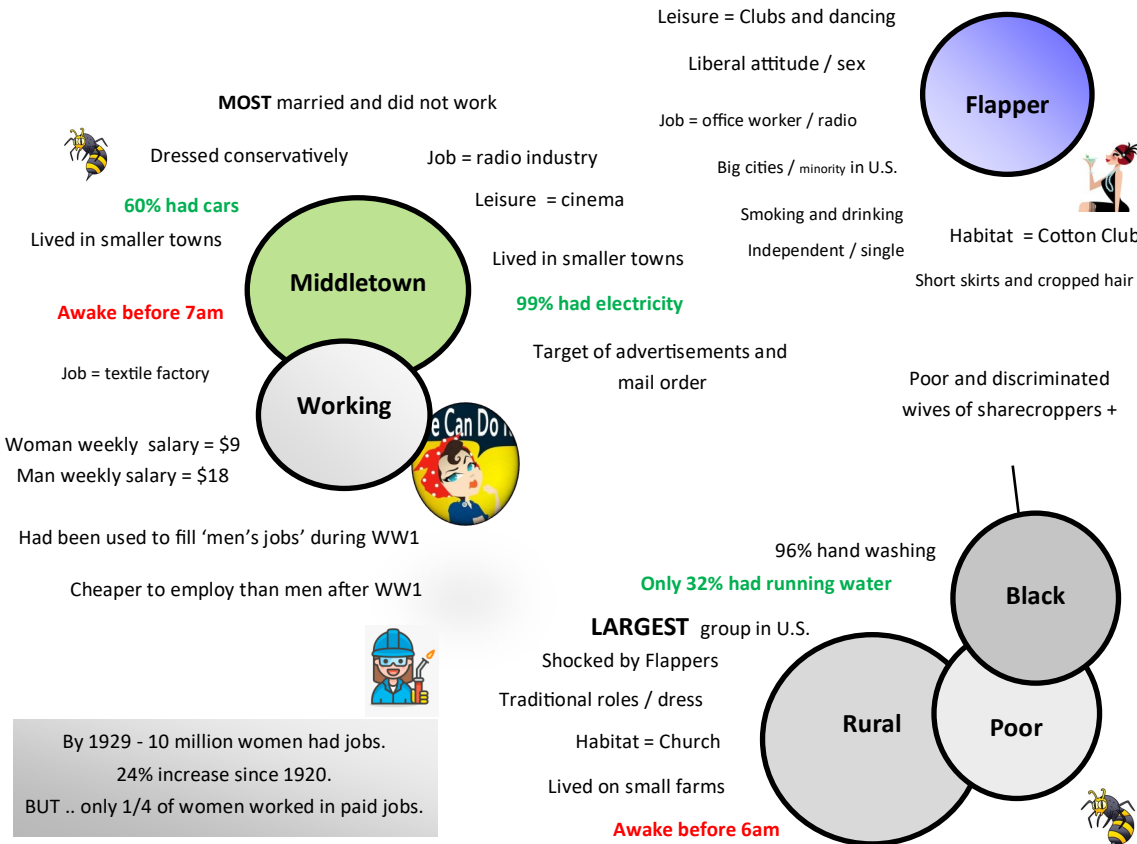
How Far Did U.S. Society Change in the 1920s?

"I pay our women well so they can dress attractively and get married."

Henry Ford

What were the Roaring 20s?	
The Roaring 20's were ...	a romanticized and exaggerated view of America as progressive, exciting and 'fun'.
Freedom in cars 	Gave people more freedom - allowed the growth of suburbs - easier for young people to have sexual freedom. Commit crime!
Watching sports	Sports such as baseball and boxing— more popular. People could use car to travel.
Radio	Growth in production in consumer good—cheaper radios to listen to jazz and sports - 40 % owned by 1930.
Jazz Music 	This period is famous for the emergence of jazz music from black artists in northern cities. Luis Armstrong
Cinema	Huge growth—youngsters went 2-3 per week. Movies helped spread ideas such as sex / fashion and female celebrity - Clara Bow.
Dancing / Clubs 	More popular—The Charleston was famous for its moves performed by 'Flapper' types. Cotton Club in New York.
Sex	A growing attitude of more freedom for women in larger northern cities. Car = sexual freedom!
Advertising	Companies became more skilled at selling to a mass market through mail order catalogues and use of credit options.
Consumerism	Advertising helped provide the 'need' for people and the age of the consumer was born.

How far did the roles + attitude of women change in the 1920s ?



The Temperance Movement

The Temperance Movement consisted mostly of strict Christian groups that felt alcohol was harmful. They campaigned to ban / prohibit alcohol. There were two main groups.

- 1: The Anti - Saloon League
- 2: The Women's Christian Temperance Movement

The campaign was strongest in the South. By 1916, 21 southern states had banned saloons. People who wanted to prohibit alcohol became known as dries. Their main argument was drinking took fathers away from their homes and they used evidence such as 3000 infants a year were smothered in their beds by drunken parents.

The campaign for prohibition gained support from large employers who felt alcohol negatively impacted their workers and therefore their profits.

The First World War

The First World War helped the dries Prohibition campaign. Drinkers were accused of being unpatriotic cowards as most of the larger brewing companies were run by German immigrants.

Finally, the dries linked alcohol to communism and the lawlessness in immigrant communities.

The Volstead Act

By 1917, the Prohibition campaign had support from enough states to change the constitution (law) .

In 1920, the **Volstead Act** prohibited the making, sale and consumption of alcohol across the entire USA.

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Unpopular + Hard to Enforce

Many Americans liked to drink - inc.. the police. It was part of American culture. With so many still drinking it couldn't be stopped in reality. More illegal bars (speakeasies) than there had been legal saloons.

"What Americans needs now is a drink".
FDR - 1932.

Corruption

Criminals made large profits and used this money to bribe mayors, judges, police and politicians. Once bribed they were at the mercy of the criminals - who could then commit other crimes without fear of prosecution. Police were not paid well so they became involved in illegal activities related to alcohol.

Prohibition created a stinking, corrupt mess.

Gangsters + Organised Crime

Organised gangs and gangsters - (Al Capone) made almost 2 billion a year from Prohibition. Rival gangs fought each other for control of the illegal alcohol .

1926 -27= 130 gangland murders in Chicago. No one was charged!

Cars and machine guns helped interstate crime and increasingly powerful bosses who had politicians 'in their pockets'.

St Valentine's Day Massacre

Why - a dispute between 'Bug' Moran and Al Capone.

What - Capone's men disguised as police machine gunned 7 of Moran's men.

Impact - shocked Americans who were tired of the violence, corruption and weariness with Prohibition - the failed 'national experiment'.

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'WASPS'



Much of the intolerance that existed in 1920s USA was due to the conservative (traditional) values held by 'WASPS'. The growth of liberal city attitude and lifestyle plus new immigrants from Eastern Europe made them fearful. WASPS were the majority group.

W.A.S.P = White Anglo - Saxon Protestant

1919

1930

The Red Scare



Nutshell - U.S. fear, paranoia + hysteria about communism.
Why - influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe.
What - worker strikes fuelled idea of communist takeover.
What - AG M Palmer house bombed to Palmer raids
Impact - 556 'aliens' arrested and deported. Hysteria.

'The Red Menace'

1919

1921

Sacco + Vanzetti

Nutshell - the 'unfair' execution of Italian immigrants.
Why - see Red Scare PLUS 'possible' evidence of their guilt.
What - paymaster shot - Sacco and Vanzetti blamed.
What - convicted on flimsy / weak evidence and hostile judge.
Impact - global protests + appeal failed and executed in 1927.

"Did you see what I did to those Anarchist bastards the other day?"
Judge Thayer.

1919

1927

Ku Klux Klan



Nutshell - revival of racist, terrorist group after 1915.
Why - Birth of a Nation movie fuelled existing racism.
What - claim of 5 million members by 1925.
What - anti black, Jew, catholic foreigners, communist.
Impact - growth of extreme intolerance up to 1925.

1915

1925

The Monkey Trial

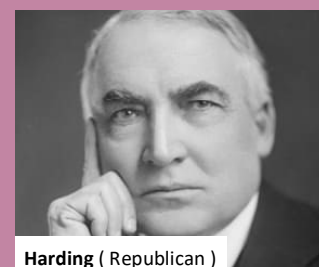


Nutshell - Fundamentalist V Modernists.
Why - to challenge the 1925 Butler Act.
What - a very public trial of John Scopes.
What - national public debate on evolution.
Impact - Modernists won argument BUT Scopes guilty (\$100 fine) + more states evolution teaching - e.g. Mississippi.

'A battle between science and religion'

1925

Immigration



Harding (Republican)

Nutshell - crackdown on Eastern European immigration.
1921 - Warren Harding elected.
1921 - Emergency Quota Act. Limited number immigrants from Eastern Europe.
1924 - National Origins Act. This further restricted quota from Eastern Europe in favour of the English and Irish.

A melting pot??

1921

1924

Prohibition



Nutshell - 1920 Volstead Act = banning of alcohol in the USA.
Why - Women's Christian Temperance Union + Anti - Saloon League.
What - national experiment what largely failed.
What - rise in speakeasies, moonshine, gangsters and corruption.
Impact - violence, crime, Al Capone and repeal in 1933.

"What America needs now is a drink"
President FDR - 1932.

1920

1933

Type of Intolerance?

Mainly Political

Mainly Racial

Mainly Social

Mainly Religious

Backlash = bad reaction to

Origins = Where from?

Conservative = Traditional

Liberal = Freer 'belief / action'

Anarchist = Anti-Government

St. Valentine's Day Massacre

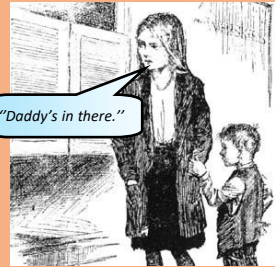


Nutshell - Gang related murder of 7 men in Chicago.
Why - Capone V Moran.
What - Capone's men dressed as police.
Impact - Showed Americans the violence of gangsters linked to bootlegging.

Bootlegging - illegal making and distribution of alcohol

1929

Anti - Saloon League



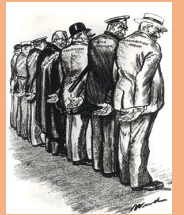
Nutshell - A powerful Temperance movement group.
Why - Dad drinking ruined the family.
What - Used anti-war sentiment against German owned breweries. Put pressure on politicians. Were they .. 'wet' or 'dry'?

"I tell you that the curse of God Almighty is on the saloon".
Billy Sunday - an influential evangelist

Formed 1893

Bribery / Corruption

Nutshell - Bootleggers made huge profits and could pay off / bribe police / judges / mayors.
What - Police were low paid and therefore unlikely to risk their lives to go against powerful crime bosses. 1 in 12 Prohibition Agents were fired for taking bribes.



'10 years ago honest policeman were a rarity ... now ...their relationship with the bootlegger is perfectly friendly'

E.Mandeville. Outlook Magazine.

WCTU



Nutshell - A powerful Temperance movement group led by (mostly) rural women.
Why - Alcohol ruined families and created poverty.
What - Emerged from a more broad feminist movement to focus primarily on alcohol by 1919.

WCTU = Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Founded 1874

Business Owners



Nutshell - Some owners of large businesses supported Prohibition.
Why - Alcohol led to lower worker productivity and loss lower profits.
Key quote - *"Until booze is banished we can never have really efficient workmen ... it is purely a question of dollars and cents".*

Key quote by - Edwin Theiss - Factory Owner

Moonshine



A Still

Nutshell - although the Volstead Act banned alcohol it was readily available. Illicit (illegal) alcohol was 'home brewed' in stills. **More** - home brewed alcohol could be dangerous. 760 people died as a result of alcoholic poisonings in 1926. There was simply too much alcohol being made to stop it being drunk!

"A boy once drank from a flask of whiskey he found and died in a few hours".
1920s School textbook

Unpopularity

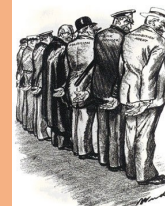
Nutshell - By the end of 1920s more people were against Prohibition than were for it. There were demonstrations organised by groups such as the **Association against Prohibition Amendment** and **Smart Society Women**.

Another argument against Prohibition was that it hurt the economy - money went to criminals rather than back into the system.

"What America needs now is a drink"
Newly elected - President FDR - 1932.

Bootleggers + Smugglers

Nutshell - Bootleggers brought in alcohol from Canada and the West Indies.
What - Big businesses and owners got involved. They created networks to smuggle the illegal liquor / alcohol. This made them enormous amount of money.



'10 years ago honest policeman were a rarity ... now ...their relationship with the bootlegger is perfectly friendly'
E.Mandeville. Outlook Magazine.

Categorise Topic - Prohibition

Why Introduced

Problems Enforcing

Why Repealed

Prohibition Quiz



USA Society Revision Part 1 of 2

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