CLASS 3
Some Context for the Politics and Personalities of the 1920’s.
continued…
March, 2016

What were some of these important issues and trends?

- Population trends.
- Changes in immigration.
- Coping with the Great War and its aftermath.
- Growth of media.
- End of the Progressive era, but…
- Economics policies and money, consumerism, easy credit, mass production, and the stock market.
- Social and religious stresses: prohibition, nativism, anarchists, the eugenics movement, the KKK, racism, anti-Semitism.

All of these factors influenced politics.

Continue with Eugenics

Good Reference:

Edwin Black (2013), War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America’s Plans to Create a Master Race (expanded edition).
Negative Eugenics

- In the US there was a well funded attempt to “improve the race” by ridding the population of “defectives.”
- The term “defectives” referred to: the feebleminded, paupers, alcoholics, criminals of all sorts (including those jailed for nonpayment of fines), epileptics, the insane, those who were “constitutionally weak,” those predisposed to certain diseases, the deformed, those with defective sense organs.

In its extreme, racist form, this meant wiping away all human beings deemed “unfit,” preserving only those who conformed to a Nordic stereotype. Elements of the philosophy were enshrined as national policy by forced sterilization and segregation laws, as well as marriage restrictions.

This activity was facilitated by US “philanthropic” organizations such as the Carnegie Institution and the Rockefeller Foundation:

- The Carnegie Institution established a laboratory complex and a large record keeping facility at Cold Spring Harbor on Long Island that stockpiled millions of records on ordinary Americans, as researchers considered the removal of families, bloodlines and whole peoples. From Cold Spring Harbor, eugenics advocates agitated in the legislatures of America, as well as the nation's social service agencies and associations. It also received funding from the Rockefeller Foundation.

- The Harriman railroad fortune paid local charities, such as the New York Bureau of Industries and Immigration, to seek out Jewish, Italian and other immigrants in New York and other crowded cities and subject them to deportation, confinement or forced sterilization.

Even Worse...

The extreme American focus on negative Eugenics helped generate and facilitate German eugenics activity.

For example...

http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/1796
• By 1926, the Rockefeller foundation had donated some $410,000 -- almost $4 million in 21st-Century money -- to hundreds of German eugenics researchers.

• In May 1926, the Rockefeller Foundation awarded $250,000 to the German Psychiatric Institute of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, later to become the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Psychiatry. Among the leading psychiatrists at the German Psychiatric Institute was Ernst Rüdin, who became director and eventually an architect of Hitler's systematic medical repression.

• - See more at: http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/1796#sthash.08id3i5K.dpuf

This movement was based on pseudoscience and a very poor understanding of medical and psychological research by nationally recognized “scholars” at Ivy League and other prestigious universities.

For example…

The Intelligence Testing Movement

• Binet and the original purpose of testing.

• Henry Goddard and the menace of the feeble minded. (idiots, imbeciles, and morons).

• Terman, Yerkes, etc.

Some good references
The “Normal” or Gaussian Distribution

Figure 1. The IQ distribution as a normal curve, showing the percentage of scores in each segment of the curve when it is divided into standard deviations.

Some Categories of Defectives: Goddard Discovers the Moron

- **Idiots** – mental age less than 4; IQ less than 25.
- **Imbeciles** – mental age between 4 and 8; IQ between 25 and 50.
- **Morons** – mental age between 8 and 12; IQ between 50 and 70.

Eugenists were especially concerned with morons, aka high grade defectives. These terms are no longer used in this way.

This Had a Big Impact on Immigration Policy

- Large numbers of immigrants were given IQ tests. There was a very large program to test many army conscripts.
- Given the procedures and biases of the testers, large percentages of immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe were “found” to be mentally inferior.
- Goddard was invited by the United States Public Health Service in 1912 to test immigrants arriving at Ellis Island. His report stated that 83% of the Jews, 80% of the Hungarians, 79% of the Italians, and 87% of the Russians were “feeble minded.”
- The number of aliens deported because of feeblemindedness went up by 570%.
From C. C. Brigham, A Study of American Intelligence (1923)

The Nordics are … rulers, organizers, and aristocrats … individualistic, self-reliant, and jealous of their personal freedom … as a result they are usually Protestant.

The Alpine race is the perfect slave, the ideal serf … the unstable temperament and lack of coordinating and reasoning power so often found among the Irish.

Our figures, then would rather tend to disprove the popular belief that the Jew is intelligent …. He is an Alpine Slav.

Note that Brigham chaired the CEEB and is regarded as the father of the SAT. I wonder what he would think of the new changes.

Mental Testing in the US Military

- IQ tests that could be administered the large numbers of people were developed. The “alpha test” for people who could supposedly read and the “beta test” for illiterates.

- Almost 2,000,000 men were tested.

- Their tests were very poor and badly interpreted – many of the testers later recanted – after the damage had been done.

- There is a lesson here: Ideology and expectations often overrule carefully looking at the data. Politicians tend not to be good at making subtle scientific distinctions.

- Confirmation Bias.

- We will talk about changes to immigration laws as bit later.
Note: They found that immigrants who had arrived in the US more recently scored more poorly than those who had been in the country for a few years. How would you interpret this result?
Some Eugenics Enthusiasts

- Theodore Roosevelt
- Woodrow Wilson
- Alexander Graham Bell
- Winston Churchill
- Maynard Keynes
- George Bernard Shaw
- Senator Henry Cabot Lodge
- Congressman Albert Johnson (sponsor of immigration bill)
- Oliver Wendell Holmes (“Three generations of imbeciles are enough.”)
- Margaret Sanger
- H.G. Wells

Margaret Sanger

- Born Margaret Higgins September 14, 1879.
- Died September 6, 1966.
- Occupation: social reformer, sex educator, nurse.
- Sanger popularized the term birth control, opened the first birth control clinic in the United States.
- As part of her efforts to promote birth control, she found common cause with proponents of eugenics, believing that they both sought to “assist the race toward the elimination of the unfit.”

- Sanger was born Margaret Louise Higgins in 1879 in Corning, New York, to Michael Hennessey Higgins, an Irish-born stonemason and free-thinker, and Anne Purcell Higgins, a Catholic Irish-American.
- Michael Hennessey Higgins had emigrated to the USA at age 14. He was a Catholic who became an atheist and an activist for women’s suffrage and free public education. Anne was born in Ireland. Her parents brought the family to Canada during the Potato Famine.
- Anne Higgins went through 18 pregnancies (with 11 live births) in 22 years before dying at the age of 49. Sanger was the sixth of eleven surviving children, and spent much of her youth assisting with household chores and caring for her younger siblings.
Some Quotes:

- **Woman and the New Race**, ch. 6: “The Wickedness of Creating Large Families.” Here, Sanger argues that, because the conditions of large families tend to involve poverty and illness, it is better for everyone involved if a child’s life is snuffed out before he or she has a chance to pose difficulties to its family.

- …[We should] apply a stern and rigid policy of sterilization and segregation to that grade of population whose progeny is tainted, or whose inheritance is such that objectionable traits may be transmitted to offspring.

- “Plan for Peace” from *Birth Control Review* (April 1932, pp. 107-108): Article 4. No woman shall have the legal right to bear a child, and no man shall have the right to become a father, without a permit … Article 6. No permit for parenthood shall be valid for more than one birth.

- In 1916, two years after coining the term “birth control,” Sanger opened America’s first birth control clinic, laying the groundwork for what is now Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Sanger and her sister were arrested by the police for violations of the Comstock Laws and the clinic was closed. Both were convicted and received jail time, in Sanger’s case only a month. Sanger appealed the conviction and it was upheld. The New York State appellate court, however, exempted physicians from the Comstock laws prohibiting distribution of contraceptive information. The NY court ruling permitted Sanger to open a legal doctor-run clinic in 1923 called the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau.

- In 1942, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. was adopted as the new, more comprehensive name for the Birth Control Federation of America.


- Aside from advocating for access to birth control, Margaret Sanger was an ardent eugenicist and advocated for the mass sterilization of “defectives.”

- Sanger vigorously opposed charitable efforts to uplift the downtrodden, so that that eugenically superior strains could multiply without competition from the “unfit.”

In her 1922 book, “Pivot of Civilizations,” she devoted a full chapter to the topic. The chapter was prefaced by the following quote:

“Fostering the good-for-nothing at the expense of the good is an extreme cruelty. It is a deliberate storing up for miseries for future generations. There is no greater curse to posterity than of bequeathing them an increasing population of imbeciles.”

https://archive.org/stream/pivotofcivilizat00sanguoft#page/n7/mode/2up
During the Progressive Era, eugenic approaches to social and economic reform were popular, respectable and widespread.

Quotes:
- “Less well known is that a crude eugenic sorting of groups into deserving and undeserving classes crucially informed the labor and immigration reform that is the hallmark of the Progressive Era. Reform-minded economists of the Progressive Era defended exclusionary labor and immigration legislation on the grounds that the labor force should be rid of unfit workers, whom they labeled “parasites,” “low-wage races” and the “industrial residuum.” Removing the unfit, went the argument, would uplift superior, deserving workers....
- Even policies that we might all agree on as good were put forth at least in part for eugenic purposes. Consider, for example minimum wage and anti-child labor laws. Can you figure out the eugenic rationales for these??
- American eugenics also resulted in compulsory sterilization laws adopted by over 30 states that led to more than 60,000 sterilizations of disabled individuals. Many of these individuals were sterilized because of a disability: they were mentally disabled or ill, or belonged to socially disadvantaged groups living on the margins of society.

Buck v. Bell 1927

Members of the Buck family “belong to the shiftless, ignorant, and worthless class of anti-social whites of the South” and “three generations of imbeciles are enough.”

The Supreme Court concurred “that Carrie Buck is the probable potential parent of socially inadequate offspring, likewise afflicted, that she may be sexually sterilized without detriment to her general health and that her welfare and that of society will be promoted by her sterilization.”
Note that some of these issues continue to appear in modern form and, in my opinion, are likely to become more prevalent as the population increases.

Can you think of any examples?
Prohibition had large and far-reaching effects on the country that involved many factors. It can be thought of as a culture war:

- Protestant versus Catholic.
- Rural versus urban.
- Anti-German feelings.
- Eighteenth amendment ratified January 16, 1919. Prohibition went into effect on January 16, 1920. Forbade the manufacture and sale of alcohol – did not prohibit the drinking of alcohol.
- Volstead act clarified what an alcoholic beverage was. The law applied to any intoxicating liquors that had more than 0.5% alcohol by volume. Passed January 5, 1920.
- But much of the country was dry before prohibition went into effect.

Prohibition fit in with the Progressive ideal of moral fitness and the belief in efficiency that resulted from scientific progress. Science showed that alcohol diminished the capacity of human beings to be productive and that it led to crime, poverty, and disease.

Also, the drive toward prohibition was helped by the war effort. Congress first outlawed the selling of liquor to soldiers and banned the use of grain and other foodstuffs for the distilling of alcohol.

Moreover, Prohibitionists linked German brewers with the German enemy.

“We have German enemies across the water. We have German enemies in this country too. And the worst of all our German enemies, the most treacherous, the most menacing are Pabst, Schlitz, Blatz, and Miller.”

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Some Negative Effects of Prohibition

The effects of Prohibition were far from what temperance activists promised. The supporters insisted that it would usher into existence a richer, healthier, safer, more moral society with less crime and violence.

As it went into effect, the famous evangelist Billy Sunday extolled the expected effects of Prohibition in glowing terms. “The reign of tears is over,” he preached. “The slums will soon be only a memory. We will turn our prisons into factories and jails into storehouses.” Indeed, so convinced were they that alcohol was the cause of crime, that some towns actually sold their jails.

Many churches promised that the effects of Prohibition would be higher morals and a more honest, even virtuous, citizenry. Some economists and industrialists believed that the workforce would become much more productive and prosperous. The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) promised that Prohibition would be a boon. It would lead to happier home life and a better environment for children.

Unfortunately, the beautiful dream soon turned into a nightmare. Prohibition failed to prevent or reduce drinking. But it also led to, or even made worse, many serious problems.

Here are some of the negative effects:

1. The Speakeasy
Prohibition led to the rapid rise of speakeasies (sometimes called blind pigs or bling tigers). Speakeasies owned by gangsters replaced neighborhood bars. They promoted heavy drinking, gambling and prostitution. The New York City police commissioner estimated it was home to thirty-two thousand drinking places — double the number of saloons and illegal joints it had contained in the pre-Prohibition era."

Even worse than the speakeasies were the “clip joints.” These were drinking places designed to victimize patrons. Customers were extorted for money. If they refused, they were beaten, robbed, and thrown out.

2. Crime
Prohibition promoted the rapid growth of organized crime. It created a demand for illegal alcohol that criminals could sell at high prices.

- The price of spirits rose 24%. That of beer jumped 700% during Prohibition. The profits of organized crime were enormous. This gave gangsters great political power. Al Capone made $60,000,000 in untaxed income annually. This was when the average industrial worker made less than $1,000 per year.

- Prohibition led to a rise in crime, including violent forms such as murder. It destroyed legal jobs and created a black market in which criminals violently fought over markets. It also diverted money from the enforcement of other laws.
During the first year of Prohibition the number of crimes committed in 30 major cities in the U.S. increased 24%. Arrests for drunkenness and disorderly conduct increased 21%. Arrests for drunken driving jumped by 81%. During the first ten years, the rate climbed 78% across the country.

Nationally, the homicide rate rose almost two-thirds during Prohibition. Its repeal was followed by a sharp drop throughout the 1930s and into the early 1940.

During Prohibition, the number of people serving time in prisons increased dramatically. The federal inmate population increased 561 percent from the pre-Prohibition period. State prisons, such as New York’s Sing Sing prison, also saw a large increase, which placed an enormous financial burden on all levels of government. This new burden precipitated a need for more tax revenues, threatening the vibrant economy of the 1920s and limiting government options once the economy began to decline.

Moreover, major criminals were widely followed in the news and were often admired by the public – for example, names such as John Dillinger, Bonnie and Clyde, Al Capone, Baby Face Nelson, Pretty Boy Floyd, Machine Gun Kelly, Bugsy Siegel, Bugs Moran, Dutch Schultz, and Ma Barker are still familiar to some of us.

3. Corruption and Hypocrisy

The sheriff, deputy sheriff, assistant chief of police, and over a dozen others, including police officers, were arrested for conspiracy in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The former county prosecutor of Morris County, New Jersey, was convicted of taking bribes from Prohibition violators.

A city magistrate in Philadelphia was convicted for taking $87,993 in bribes in only ten months.

In Edgewater, New Jersey, the mayor, chief of police, US customs inspector, two detectives, a New York police sergeant, and eight others were convicted of conspiracy.

The mayor, chief of police, fire chief, city commissioner, president of the city council, and almost the rest of the entire administration of the city of South Jacksonville, Florida, were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of corruption. And on and on….

Though violation of the Eighteenth Amendment was a matter of course in Washington, it was rather shocking to see the way President Harding disregarded the Constitution he was sworn to uphold…One evening…a friend of the Hardings asked me if I would like to go up to the study…No rumor could have exceeded the reality….trays with bottles containing every imaginable whiskey stood about….

Alice Roosevelt Longworth

Congress had its own bootleggers. There were many reports of cocktails enjoyed in the halls of Congress between sessions discussing Prohibition and its enforcement. The Speaker of the House of Representatives had an illegal still.
The director of Prohibition enforcement for Pennsylvania was convicted of conspiring to take 700,000 gallons of alcohol from storage and operating a slush fund of $4,000,000 to bribe Prohibition agents.

The director of Prohibition enforcement for northern California publicly admitted that he did drink occasionally because San Francisco is a wet community, and that he also served liquor to his guests because he was a gentleman and ‘not a prude.’

Not surprisingly, ….

4. Disrespect for the Law

- Prohibition led to a pervasive disrespect for law. New York City mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, sent instructions on winemaking to his constituents.
- Of 7,000 arrests in New York between 1921 and 1923, only 27 resulted in convictions. This is a conviction rate of only one for every 260 arrests. This seemed to reflect jurors’ disrespect for law rather than the facts in the cases. Breaking the law, even flaunting it, also became exciting and popular, especially among young people.

5. Dangerous Drinks

Some of the illegally produced alcohol was toxic.

Many stills used lead coils or lead soldering, which gave off acetate of lead, a dangerous poison. Some bootleggers added iodine, creosote, or even embalming fluid.

This sometimes caused paralysis, blindness and even death. In 1927 alone, almost 12,000 people died from drinking toxic bootleg alcohol.

In 1930, U.S. public health officials estimated that fifteen thousand persons were afflicted with “jake foot.” This was a debilitating paralysis of the hands and feet. It was caused by drinking alcohol flavored with ginger root. Industrial alcohol was legally distilled. But it was fairly easy to divert for illegal use. At least one-tenth of all industrial alcohol was ultimately drunk even though the Prohibition Bureau tried to make it undrinkable by requiring the addition of foul tasting things such as soap.

Frustrated that people continued to consume so much alcohol even after it was banned, federal officials had decided to try a different kind of enforcement.

They ordered the poisoning of industrial alcohols that were regularly stolen by bootleggers and resold as drinkable spirits. The idea was to scare people into giving up illicit drinking.

Instead, by the time Prohibition ended in 1933, the federal poisoning program, by some estimates, had killed at least 10,000 people.

The poisons used included wood alcohol, benzene, cadmium, iodine, zinc, mercury salts, ether, formaldehyde, chloroform, carabolic acid, acetone and brucine (closely closely related to strychnine).
Perhaps the intentional poisoning of drinkers by their own government should be listed in the sections on crime. This was perhaps the most shocking of the effects of Prohibition.

See:

“Normally, no American government would engage in such business. … It is only in the curious fanaticism of Prohibition that any means, however barbarous, are considered justified.”
Chicago Tribune, 1927

"Must Uncle Sam guarantee safety first for souses?"
Omaha Bee

6. Job Losses

The closing of breweries, distilleries and saloons obviously led to the loss of an enormous number of jobs. There was also loss of jobs among truckers, barrel makers, glass workers, hospitality workers and many others.

7. Loss of Tax Revenue

- Before Prohibition, many states relied heavily on alcohol excise taxes for their budgets.
- In New York, almost 75% of the state’s revenue was from such taxes. With Prohibition that revenue was lost.
- Prohibition cost the federal government $11 billion in lost tax revenue. And it cost over $300 million to enforce.
- From then on, most states and the federal government would increasingly rely on income taxes.

In 1900 over 60% of internal revenue collections came from alcohol excise taxes.
8. Disrespect for Religion

The failed promises and conduct of many religious discredited both religion and Prohibition. Methodist Bishop James Cannon, Jr., was for a period the most powerful Prohibition leader in the country. Journalist H. L. Mencken wrote that “Congress was his troop of Boy Scouts and Presidents trembled whenever his name was mentioned.” However, his power ended after he was scandalized. He was forced to defend himself:

• before the U.S. Senate on charges of financial irregularities as a lobbyist.
• before the Methodist Church on charges of immoral conduct.
• before a federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy to violate the Federal Corrupt Practices Act.

These kinds of embarrassments, along with the fallout from the Scopes “monkey” trial in 1925 resulted in a period of reduced political influence by the religious community until the rise of Jerry Falwell and the moral majority in the 1970’s.

9. Increase in Drinking and Illegal Drug Use

• Another of the ironic effects of Prohibition was the increase in drinking.
• It dipped during the first year of Prohibition. But it rose about 63% from the year before Prohibition to 1929.
• Prohibition also popularized drinking among new groups. “Liquor became a luxury item, a symbol of affluence and eventually status. Whereas before prohibition men of good families tended not to drink and the women certainly did not, during the 1920s it was precisely the sons and daughters of the ‘nice’ people who were patronizing the bootleggers and speakeasies.

• Prohibition also led to increased use of illegal drugs.
• Bootleg alcohol was sometimes toxic and increasingly expensive. This led many drinkers to switch to opium, cocaine, hair tonic, sterno or “liquid heat,” and other dangerous substances.
10. Popularizing the KKK

The Rise of the KKK

The rise of the “Second Klan” had several catalysts in 1915:

- The Second Klan was founded by William Simmons at Stone Mountain, outside of Atlanta, GA.
- There was the highly publicized lynching of Leo Frank in 1915.
- The film “Birth of a Nation” which glorified the KKK was released. It was shown in the White House by President Woodrow Wilson. Some say that he made very favorable comments about the movie. Others disagree.
- Wilson apparently made a statement about the movie that “It’s like writing history with lightning. And my only regret is that it is all terribly true.”

- Leo Frank was lynched. He was convicted of the rape and murder of a 13-year-old employee of the National Pencil Company. Because the evidence was weak, the governor commuted his sentence from death to a life sentence.

- They were not liquored-up yahoos,” said Steve Oney, a journalist, editor and Atlanta native who spent 17 years researching book about the event. “These were smart, deliberate people – from good, prominent families.”

- The lynchers included former Georgia Governor Brown, a Judge, politicians, a senator’s son, former sheriff Frey, and numerous other men who were from the highest strata of Georgia's government.
Shortly after the hanging of Leo Frank on August 17, 1915, post lynching photos where turned into postcards, which sold briskly and became a visually violent reminder for the general public of what happens to adult men who rape and strangle children.

• Postcards of the lynched Leo Frank were sold outside the undertaking establishment where his corpse was taken, at retail stores, and by mail order for years. The owner of the property where the lynching occurred refused repeated offers to buy the tree from which Leo Frank was hung. The dean of the Atlanta Theological Seminary praised the murderers as “a sifted band of men, sober, intelligent, of established good name and character - good American citizens.” The mob included two former Superior Court justices, one ex-sheriff, and at least one clergyman.

Birth of a Nation Movie

• The film “Birth of a Nation” which glorified the KKK was released in 1915. It was the first American movie shown in the White House. Some say that Woodrow Wilson made very favorable comments about the movie. Others disagree.

• Wilson apparently made a statement about the movie that "It's like writing history with lightning. And my only regret is that it is all terribly true."
The KKK saw threats everywhere. A major goal was to protect white womanhood. They were, for the most part:

- Anti-immigrant.
- Anti-Catholic.
- Anti-Black.
- Anti-Jewish.
- Anti-Communist.

The KKK also saw itself as a fraternal lodge, and for many of the leaders, it provided a great way to make money.

- Unlike the first Klan, in which members were exclusively White Protestant Democrats, members of the second Klan could be Democrats or Republicans. Membership could also be urban (e.g., 40,000 members in Detroit).
- Had a strong religious component: two-thirds of KKK lecturers were Protestant ministers.
- Developed woman’s auxiliary – who were responsible for seeing to it that no Catholics were allowed to teach in Texas public schools.
- Became a powerful political force.
Amway with Hoods

A recent paper co-authored by Steven Levitt (Freakonomics), argues that the group was more successful at raising money than at achieving its professed goals of passing racist legislation and intimidating black or foreign-born Americans... “the 1920s Klan is best described as a social organization built through a wildly successful pyramid scheme fueled by an army of highly-incentivized sales agents selling hatred, religious intolerance, and fraternity in a time and place where there was tremendous demand.”

The Klan did have an uncanny ability to raise revenue. New-member initiation cost $10 and annual dues $5, and members were required to buy an official Klan robe and encouraged to purchase other Klan paraphernalia, such as swords or helmets. Klan members typically spent about $275 (in today’s dollars) in their first year and about $80 in subsequent years. Recruiters received a 40 percent commission for bringing in new members. Using similar incentives up the chain of command, the Klan operated on a multi-level marketing principle, much like modern companies such as Amway and Avon do. The higher-ups reaped huge profits: the authors calculate that D. C. Stephenson, the “grand dragon” of Indiana, took in more than $2 million annually from state operations.

—“Hatred and Profits: Getting Under the Hood of the Ku Klux Klan,” Roland G. Fryer Jr. and Steven D. Levitt, NBER

The KKK and Prohibition

• Historians agree that the Klan’s resurgence in the 1920s was aided by the national debate over prohibition.

• The Klan opposed bootleggers, sometimes with violence.

• Membership in the Klan and in other prohibition groups overlapped, and they often coordinated activities.

• At its height, around 1925, Klan membership was as large as 5-6 million men. Consider what this means …

• One way they demonstrated their power was to have massive marches through Washington DC. Two occasions were August 8, 1925 and September, 13, 1926.
March through Washington, 1925

More than 50,000 marchers

Lynching and Race Riots

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Indiana, 1930
Anti-Lynching Legislation

- Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill (1922):
  - This refers to a 1922 Congressional effort to pass federal legislation to address and otherwise provide federal prosecution of nationwide lynchings, particularly those in the southern states.
  - The constitutional validity for proposed legislation was found in the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution. Because lynching was considered a private act outside the law, the proponents argued that state officials’ failure to uphold their sworn duties denied victims “equal protection of the laws” under the Fourteenth Amendment.
  - The Dyer Bill defined lynching as follows: “The phrase ‘mob or riotous assemblage,’ when used in this act, shall mean an assemblage composed of three or more acting in concert for the purpose of depriving any person of his life without the authority of law as a punishment for or to prevent the commission of some actual or supposed public offense.”
  - The legislation addressed lynching in three interrelated parts:
    1. the act punished state and municipal officers who failed to do their duty in protecting the lives of persons from mobs.
    2. the act punished the perpetrators of the crime of lynching by federal prosecution.
    3. the act compelled the county where the crime was committed to make compensation, by forfeiture of $10,000 to the family, or if no family, to dependent parents, and if none, to the United States.

The opponents articulated arguments based on the historic relationship of state, local, and federal authority. They cited the traditional role of local authorities to retain jurisdiction to enforce state criminal statutes and opposed federal intrusion into this area. They did not address proponents’ arguments that local authorities, in allowing lynching, had abdicated their constitutional enforcement duties.

The Dyer Bill was passed by the House, but was ultimately defeated by a Southern Democratic filibuster in December, 1922 and twice more thereafter. Despite having the passage of an anti-lynching bill in their 1920 platform, the Republicans, who were the primary sponsors of the legislation, were unable to pass a bill in the 1920s.

The first federal anti-lynching legislation was not passed until 1968, when lynching was specifically criminalized by federal legislation in the Civil Rights Act. That act specified that conspiring local officials, as well as participating citizens, would be held liable to prosecution in lynching cases.

Decline of the Second KKK

- Many groups and leaders, including prominent Protestant ministers such as Reinhold Niebuhr in Detroit, spoke out against the Klan, gaining national attention.
- The Jewish Anti-Defamation League was formed in the early 20th century after the lynching of Leo Frank, and in response to attacks against Jewish Americans and the Klan’s campaign to outlaw private schools.
- Opposing groups worked to penetrate the Klan’s secrecy. After one civic group began to publish Klan membership lists, there was a rapid decline in members.
Decline of the Second KKK

- The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People created public education campaigns in order to inform people about Klan activities and lobbied in Congress against Klan abuses.

- After its peak in 1925, Klan membership in most areas began to decline rapidly.

- Specific events contributed to the decline as well. In Indiana, the scandal surrounding the 1925 murder trial of Grand Dragon D.C. Stephenson destroyed the image of the KKK as upholders of law and order. In 1923, he had led the Klan chapters in the 23 states under his control to separate from the national KKK organization.

Estimated Membership

<table>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* This represented about 15% of all eligible men in the country.
Some Religious Stresses in the 1920’s

- Catholics versus Protestants.
- Radio Preachers.
- Fundamentalists vs Modernists.
- Attempts to ban the teaching of evolution.
- The Scopes “monkey” trial and its consequences (NOT like it was portrayed in the movie “Inherit the Wind”).

The Scopes “Monkey” Trial

- Fight over the teaching of evolution.
- Was the “trial of the century” – at least until O.J. Simpson.
- Resulted from feelings against evolution.
- Initially, these feeling lacked focus – but this changed in 1921 when the Baptist State Board of Missions in Kentucky passed a resolution calling for banning teaching of evolution in public schools.
- The idea spread, and the main carrier of the message was William Jennings Bryan (1896, 1900, 1908 – Wilson’s Secretary of State). The goal was to convince state legislatures to ban the teaching of evolution in public schools.
- In 1920, the State of Tennessee passed the Butler Act – which made the teaching of evolution in public schools a misdemeanor offense.
- It became law in February, 1925.
- The ACLU (formed in Jan, 1920) wanted the law to be overturned. So they wanted a conviction to occur so they could appeal it – and so ultimately the US Supreme Court could rule that the Butler Act was unconstitutional.
- So they started to run ads in Tennessee newspapers for people who might help them accomplish this.
- In the town of Dayton, TN (1800 residents), a businessman by the name of George Rappleyea read the ads and enlisted some people to help out with securing a conviction.
• Among Rappleyea’s group there were several motives, ranging from fundamentalist anti-evolutionism to the idea that having a trial would bring publicity to the town, boost tourism, and help local business.

• They approached John Scopes, a local high school teacher who taught biology and helped coach the football team. He was 24-years-old and living in the town temporarily.

• Bryan volunteered to serve as prosecutor.

• Charles Darrow (Leopold, Loeb) was the lead defense attorney.

• The ACLU wanted the case to focus on Scopes’ academic freedom and freedom of speech.

• Darrow saw as his role to battle evangelical religion and make fools of fundamentalists.

• The defense lawyers wanted to lose the case, so after much questioning and histrionics they stated as much.

• The judge imposed a $100 fine (cf. $1350 now).

• The Tennessee Court did not want to see the case appealed, so they threw out the conviction on a technicality. The fine was supposed to be imposed by the jury not the judge.

• So the ACLU never got what it wanted.

• However, the trial got an enormous amount of publicity and much of it proved embarrassing to the fundamentalist movement.

• Henry Ford was an innovative entrepreneur, but he was also a flagrant and unapologetic bigot: He dismissed books and art as a waste of time. He hated immigrants, and thought labor unionists were “the worst thing that ever struck the earth” and made no secret of his belief in “the Jewish plan to control the world, not by territorial acquisition, not by military aggression, not by governmental subjugation, but by control of the machinery of commerce and exchange.”

• He blamed Jewish bankers for everything that was wrong with the world, from the Great War to his own inability to buy out his company's shareholders during the recession of 1919. The first of the paper's anti-Semitic tirades appeared in May 1920.

• The newspaper circulated widely, as it was sold by subscription as well as through Ford's nationwide network of dealerships (had quotas).

• However, Ford would have not said he was anti-Semitic.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_M._Franklin
1922
FORD IS BEHIND HITLER CAMPAIGN, BERLIN INFORMED

BERLIN, Dec. 15—This morning Radio Berlin announced that the anti-Semitic campaign now being conducted in Germany is being directed by one of the most influential Jewish leaders. The announcement stated that this leader, known as 'Doctor M.', is the man behind the anti-Semitic movement. He is said to have密谋ed to this position after years of careful planning.

The announcement also revealed that the movement is supported by many powerful political figures, including some within the government. It is feared that the campaign could lead to further violence and instability in the country.

Ford is the only American mentioned in Mein Kampf.
• In 1927, a Jewish lawyer and farm cooperative organizer named Aaron Sapiro sued Ford for defamation. In court, Ford refused to take responsibility for the articles that appeared in his newspaper: in fact, he faked a car accident and hid in the hospital so he wouldn't have to testify.
• The suit ended in a mistrial, and--likely because of all the bad publicity the trial and the newspaper had brought him--Ford agreed to a private settlement with Sapiro.
• He issued a somewhat insincere public apology for his newspaper's years of defamatory content—"to my great regret," he wrote, "I have learned that Jews... resent this publication as promoting anti-Semitism"—and at the end of the year he closed down the Independent for good.

The paper had reached a circulation of 900,000 by 1925, second only to the New York Daily News, largely due to a quota system for promotion imposed on Ford dealers. Many of its articles and essays were collected and published in a book called “The International Jew: The World's Foremost Problem.” It was a bestseller in Nazi Germany and remains in print today. You can get it from Amazon for free.

Or, if you prefer the Arabic version

• Many of the columns are commentaries on “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,” a document created by the Czarist secret police in the early 1900s to slander Jews. It purportedly documents the meetings of Jewish leaders as they develop and outline their plot to take over the world.
• Hitler considered this document as an inspiration for his racial policies.
• In addition to publishing his book, Henry Ford also funded the printing of 500,000 copies of the Protocols document which he had distributed in the US during the 1920s.
• His good works did not go unrewarded …
In 1938, Henry Ford received the Grand Cross of the Order of the German Eagle as a birthday present from Adolph Hitler. Other recipients: Benito Mussolini, Charles Lindbergh.

Ford may have ‘used slave labor’ in Nazi German plants:

Ford Motor Co. Lawsuit

Washignton - Thanks to the reporting of the Baltimore Sun on Wednesday March 18, 1998, about a claim denoted as filed by a Belgian women, forced to work in a Nazi Concentration Camp during World War II. That women had sued the Ford Motor Company and its German affiliate, FORD WERKE A.G. It sought reasonable payment for the work performed and the deprivation of future profits using slaves to produce Ford cars.

This case, filed on March 4, 1998 in a U.S. federal court in Newark, demands that the company pay over $1 million, claimed from slave labor at the factories involved. The suit also demands that the company pay $100,000 to the company’s shareholders who were aware of the practice, which began in 1934.

Ford Werke A.G., Ford’s German subsidiary, was an major, aggressive and unscrubbed bidder for forced labor, an lawyer for the plaintiffs. By 1943, 90% of Ford Werke’s workers were slave labor, most non-Germans. As many as 10,000 adults and children were forced to work for Ford during the war.

Ford admits that slave labor was used at Ford Werke’s plant in Cologne but claims to US federal court that it ended with the end of Nazi Germany. However, in December 1944, continuing claims were made even later.
### What were some of these important issues and trends?

- Population trends.
- Changes in immigration.
- Coping with the Great War and its aftermath.
- End of the Progressive era, but…
- Social and religious stresses: prohibition, nativism, anarchists, the eugenics movement, the KKK, racism, anti-Semitism.
- Changes in immigration.
- Growth of media.
- Economics policies and money, consumerism, easy credit, mass production, and the stock market.

### US Immigration

- Up until 1875, the US had no federal immigration law.
- The 1875 law placed no numerical limits on immigration. It simply barred coolies, convicts, and prostitutes** (Page Act). There was also a “gentleman’s agreement” with Japan and certain regulations limiting certain races.
- However, there no limits on immigration from European countries.
- The 1882 immigration act barred “lunatics” and “idiots.”
- The 1903 law added epileptics and “insane people.”
- **This provision was used to bar almost all Chinese women.

### 1917 Immigration Act: Extended Types of People Barred

- Anyone from the “Asiatic Barred Zone.”
- Homosexuals; idiots; the feeble-minded; criminals; anarchists; epileptics; insane people, any people mentally or physically defective; polygamists; anarchists; all immigrants over 16 who were illiterates.
- Another law passed in 1918 made it easier to deport previously admitted anarchists (broadly defined).

### The Emergency Quota Act, also known as the Emergency Immigration Act of 1921, the Immigration Restriction Act of 1921, the Per Centum Law, and the Johnson Quota (May 19, 1921):

- This law restricted immigration into the United States. Although intended as temporary legislation, the Act “proved in the long run the most important turning-point in American immigration policy” because it added two new features to American immigration law: numerical limits on immigration from Europe and the use of a quota system for establishing those limits.
• The Emergency Quota Act restricted the number of immigrants admitted from any country annually to 3% of the number of residents from that same country living in the United States as of the U.S. Census of 1910. Based on that formula, the number of new immigrants admitted fell from 805,228 in 1920 to 309,556 in 1921-22.

• The act meant that only people of Northern Europe who had similar cultures to that of America were likely to get in. The excuse was the American government wanted to protect its culture when this act was introduced.


• This legislation limited the annual number of immigrants who could be admitted from any country to 2% of the number of people from that country who were already living in the US in 1890, down from the 3% cap, according to the 1910 census, that was set by the Emergency Quota Act of 1921.

• The law was aimed at further restricting Southern and Eastern Europeans, among them Jews who had migrated in large numbers since the 1890s to escape persecution in Poland and Russia.

• The revised formula reduced total immigration from 357,803 in 1923–24 to 164,667 in 1924–25. The law’s impact varied widely by country. Immigration from Great Britain and Ireland fell 19%, while immigration from Italy fell more than 90%. In 1921, 222,260 Italian immigrants arrived; in 1925, the number was 6,203.

• Non-quota status was accorded to: wives and unmarried children under 18 of U.S. citizens; natives of Western Hemisphere countries, with their families; non-immigrants; and certain others.

• It provided that no alien ineligible to become a citizen could be admitted to the United States as an immigrant. This was aimed primarily at Japanese and Chinese aliens. It imposed fines on transportation companies who landed aliens in violation of the law.
Who Was Shut Out?: Immigration Quotas, 1925–1927

In response to growing public opinion against the flow of immigrants from Northern and Eastern Europe in the years following World War I, Congress passed the Quota Act of 1921, which was the most restrictive immigration law in history (the Johnson-Reed Act). Initially, the 1921 law imposed a total quota on immigration of 165,000—less than 20 percent of the pre-World War I average. It based ceilings on the number of immigrants from any particular nation on the percentage of each nationality recorded in the 1890 census—a major effort to limit immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, which mostly occurred after that date. In the first decade of the 20th century, an average of 200,000 Italians had entered the United States each year. With the 1924 Act, the annual quota for Italians was set at less than 4,000. This table shows the annual immigration quotas under the 1924 Immigration Act.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Quota</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>Great Britain and Northern Ireland</td>
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<td>British West Indies</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Estonia</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>600</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>803</td>
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<td>471</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free City of Danzig</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>All others</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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**Northwest Europe and Scandinavia**

**Eastern and Southern Europe**

**Country** | **Quota** | **Country** | **Quota** |
-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
Germany      | 51,227    | Poland      | 5,092     |
Great Britain and Northern Ireland       | 34,007    | Armenia    | 3,845     |
Ireland      | 28,590    | Italy       | 3,075     |
British West Indies                      | 28,590    | Australia  | 2,260     |
Sweden       | 2,061     | Czechoslovakia | 3,075   |
Norway       | 6,453     | Russia      | 671       |
Denmark      | 2,789     | Turkey      | 600       |
Switzerland  | 2,081     | New Zealand & Pacific Islands | 473 |
Netherlands  | 1,648     | Lithuania  | 344       |
Austria      | 788       | Latvia     | 142       |
Belgium      | 712       | Spain      | 131       |
Estonia      | 471       | Spain      | 131       |
Albania      | 228       | All others | 1,000     |
Belgium      | 100       | Greece     | 100       |

**Countries of Eastern and Southern Europe**

**Country** | **Quota** | **Country** | **Quota** |
-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
Germany      | 51,227    | Poland      | 5,092     |
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Belgium      | 712       | Spain      | 131       |
Estonia      | 471       | Spain      | 131       |
Albania      | 228       | All others | 1,000     |
Belgium      | 100       | Greece     | 100       |

Source: Thomas A. Bailey et al., The American Plagueant, D.C. Heath and Co., 1938 [adapted]
What were some of these important issues and trends?

- Population trends.
- Coping with the Great War and its aftermath.
- End of the Progressive era, but...
- Social and religious stresses: prohibition, nativism, anarchists, the eugenics movement, the KKK, anti-Semitism.
- Changes in immigration.
- Growth of media.
- Economics policies and money, consumerism, easy credit, mass production, and the stock market.

Mass Media

- Increases in Mass media during the 1920s
  - Print and broadcast methods of communication.
  - Examples:
    - Newspapers
    - Magazines
    - Radio
    - Movies

Radio

- November 2, 1921. The first US radio station KDKA Pittsburgh began broadcasting with the Harding-Cox presidential returns.
- By the end of 1922 there were 508 US radio stations.
- In 1921, there were no radios manufactured in the US. There were 4,428,000 produced in 1929.
- Advertising using the new media became an important economic factor, as it fueled the new consumerism of the 20s...
- The new media had important cultural effects – broad interest in the new music and arts and celebrities.
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- Social and religious stresses: prohibition, nativism, anarchists, the eugenics movement, the KKK, anti-Semitism.
- Changes in immigration.
- Growth of media.
- Economic Prosperity in the 1920's

After the recession of 1920-21, there was considerable improvement in the economy. Reasons:

- Lower taxes / laissez faire economic policies / predictable.
- Technological innovation and mass production / cars / roads / suburbs / construction.
- Consumerism* / advertising*.
- Easy credit*.
- Increase in average wages in some sectors of the economy.
- Large corporations made huge amounts of money.

Also, low inflation, mass production, cars (cheap), road construction, suburbs, homes, decent wages, appliances, electricity, credit, steady prices, chain stores, shopping centers, installment plans, charge accounts, greater proportion of the population in the work force, advertising, consumerism, expansion of banking, the stock market.

- Cost goods
- Advertising
- Technology
- Prohibition
- Consumerism
- Easy credit
- Increase in wages
- Large corporations
- Economic Prosperity in the 1920’s

Economic Prosperity in the 1920's

- Effect of the First World War
- Economic recovery
- Technological innovation
- Mass production
- Suburbs
- Construction
- Consumerism
- Advertising
- Easy credit
- Increase in wages
- Large corporations
- Economic Prosperity in the 1920's

Also, low inflation, mass production, cars (cheap), road construction, suburbs, homes, decent wages, appliances, electricity, credit, steady prices, chain stores, shopping centers, installment plans, charge accounts, greater proportion of the population in the work force, advertising, consumerism, expansion of banking, the stock market.
The 1920s Economy: A Statistical Portrait

Industry / Agriculture / Electric Power / Economic Concentration / Business Failures / Distribution of Wealth / Advertising / Consumer Credit

Industry: % of Increase from 1922-28
- Industrial Production: 70%
- Gross National Product (GNP): 40%
- Output per factory man hour: 75%
- Corporate Profits: 62% (1923-1929)

Electric Power: % Industries powered by electricity in 1929: 50%

Advertising: Total Spending:
- Pre WWI: $300-400 Million a year
- 1929: $1.8 Billion/year

Workforce Participation:
- Men 88%, Women 25%, Men Older Than 65+: 59%

Compare with 2014:
- Men 63%, Women 56%, Men Older Than 65: 23%

http://demog.berkeley.edu/~andrew/1918/figure2.html
Workers’ Wages
- Percentages of Increase, 1923-29: skilled and semiskilled workers 5.3%; unskilled workers 8.7%; women 1.7% (but note there was virtually no inflation).
- Average Work Week: -4%
- Minimum income necessary for a decent family standard of living: $2500
- Percentage of American families with incomes under $2500 in 1929: 71%

Agriculture
- Farm Production in 1919: $21.4 billion
- Farm Production in 1929: $11.8 billion

Distribution of Wealth
- Rise in per capita income for top 1% of population, 1920-1929: 75%
- Rise in per capita income for nation as a whole: 9%
- % of American Families with no savings: 80%
- % of savings held by top .1% of Americans: 34%
- % of savings held by top 2.3% of Americans: 67%

Consumer Credit
- 1925: $1.38 Billion (Consumer Credit outstanding)
- 1927: 15% of all consumer durables bought on installment payments
- 60% of automobiles bought on installment payments
- 80% of radios bought on installment payments
- 1929: $3 Billion (Consumer Credit outstanding)
- $7 Billion (Total Consumer Goods purchased on Credit)

Economic Concentration, 1929
- % of banks controlled by the top 1% of Banking Corporations: 46%
- % of industry controlled by top 200 Corporations: 50%
- % of corporate wealth controlled by top 200 Corporations: 49%
- % of all wealth controlled by top 200 Corporations: 22%
So, as the end of the decade approaches, we have:

- Laissez faire, trickle down economics.
- Concentration of wealth.
- Overproduction of goods.
- Overextended credit.
- Most people have little or no savings.
- Very hot, speculative stock market.
- Lots of margin buying of stock.
- Much of this money being loaned by banks.
- Banks being encouraged by government to give loans to people so they can buy homes.

Where could this be going? What could possibly go wrong?

To be continued in Class 6…

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**Summing Up**

- Population trends.
- Changes in immigration.
- Coping with the Great War and its aftermath.
- Growth of media.
- End of the Progressive era, but… Economics policies and money, consumerism, easy credit, mass production, and the stock market.
- Social and religious stresses: prohibition, nativism, anarchists, the eugenics movement, the KKK, racism, anti-Semitism.

---

**Remember…**

"History does not repeat itself but it often rhymes."
The 1920s Economy: A Statistical Portrait

Web version: https://www.econlib.org/library/ed/1920s economía.html

Table 1. Tax Receipts and Share of Taxes Paid by Income Group

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<th>Income</th>
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<td>10,000-25,000</td>
<td>172</td>
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<td>83</td>
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<td>25,000-100,000</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>246</td>
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<tr>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>724</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>1,164</td>
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</table>


Figure 1: Real GNP Per Capita, 1919-1930


Wealth Concentration Has Been Rising Toward Early 20th Century Levels

Share of total wealth held by the wealthiest families, 1931-2012

Top 1 percent

Top 0.5 percent

Source: Saez and Zucman, October 2014

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP).
Share of total before-tax income flowing to the highest income household (including capital gains)

- **Top 1 percent**
- **Top 0.5 percent**

The Mass-Consumption Economy

- World War II and the G.I. Bill led to greater prosperity for the middle class.
- Radio and television brought much entertainment to the middle class.
- The Baby Boom was fed by advertising which encouraged Americans to buy more and more.
- Spending became a major factor in the consumer economy of the 1950s.
- Buying a new car was another new feature of the post-war economy.
- Prosperity was accompanied by expanding credit and debt.
- The economy became increasingly vulnerable to downturns of the credit structure.

Mass Consumption

- Mass consumption, described as the phenomenon where people purchasing goods in excess of their needs.
- Mass consumption occurred as a result of Mass Production, which was necessary for mass consumption.
- Mass Production required higher productivity and higher wages.
- Higher wages led to higher demand for consumer goods, which in turn led to Mass production.
- Mass consumption caused a rise in prices, which led to inflation.
  - Higher production and higher wages, which led to
  - Mass demand for consumer goods, which in turn led to mass production.
Three Trends

- Renewed isolationism
- Resurgence of nativism
- Political conservatism
  - weak govt (not like during Progressive Era)

Table 1: Real Average Weekly or Daily Earnings for Selected Occupations, 1929-1930

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workers in 25 Manufacturing Industries</td>
<td>Workers in 25 Manufacturing Industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>22.16</td>
<td>15.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>22.20</td>
<td>15.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>22.23</td>
<td>15.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>22.25</td>
<td>15.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>22.27</td>
<td>15.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>22.29</td>
<td>15.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>22.31</td>
<td>15.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>22.33</td>
<td>15.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>22.35</td>
<td>15.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Credit allowed people to buy goods on credit, such as cars, in installments.
- This meant that rather than paying for a car all at once, people were able to spread out the payments over time.
- Lenders, recognizing this, regarded Credit as a cure for the Great Depression, but this helped spur the American economy to boom.
- Wage earners' higher incomes were spending their higher wages and improving life standards, and total real value added in factories was advancing, meaning factories would only become larger able to produce goods that consumers were so willing to buy.
| YEAR | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | AVG |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1914 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.0 | 1.0 |
| 1915 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | -1.0 | -1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| 1916 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.9 | 7.9 | 9.9 | 10.8 | 11.7 | 12.6 | 7.9 |
| 1917 | 12.5 | 15.4 | 16.3 | 16.9 | 16.6 | 20.4 | 18.5 | 19.3 | 19.6 | 19.9 | 19.9 | 17.6 |
| 1918 | 19.7 | 17.5 | 16.7 | 15.7 | 13.3 | 12.0 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 10.8 | 11.7 | 12.6 | 9.9 |
| 1919 | 17.9 | 14.9 | 17.1 | 17.6 | 16.6 | 15.0 | 15.2 | 14.9 | 13.4 | 13.3 | 13.5 | 14.0 |
| 1920 | 17.0 | 20.4 | 20.1 | 23.6 | 21.9 | 23.7 | 19.3 | 14.7 | 12.4 | 9.9 | 7.0 | 2.6 |
| 1921 | -1.4 | -0.6 | -1.3 | -1.0 | 1.8 | -1.0 | -1.1 | -1.0 | -1.0 | -1.0 | -1.0 | -0.9 |
| 1922 | -1.1 | -0.2 | -2.7 | -1.7 | -6.4 | -6.1 | -6.1 | -6.1 | -6.1 | -6.1 | -6.1 | -6.1 |
| 1923 | -6.0 | -6.0 | -1.6 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 5.6 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| 1924 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| 1925 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 1.8 | 2.9 | 5.5 | 4.1 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 4.7 | 3.5 |
| 1926 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 2.9 | 4.1 | 2.9 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| 1927 | 2.6 | -0.6 | -0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| 1928 | -1.1 | -1.7 | -1.0 | -1.5 | -1.5 | -1.5 | -1.5 | -1.5 | -1.5 | -1.5 | -1.5 | -1.5 |
| 1929 | -1.3 | 0.0 | -6.6 | -1.2 | -1.2 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| 1930 | 0.0 | -0.6 | -0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| 1931 | 1.0 | -1.6 | -1.7 | -1.7 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.3 |
| 1932 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |

Historical Inflation Rates: 1914-2015