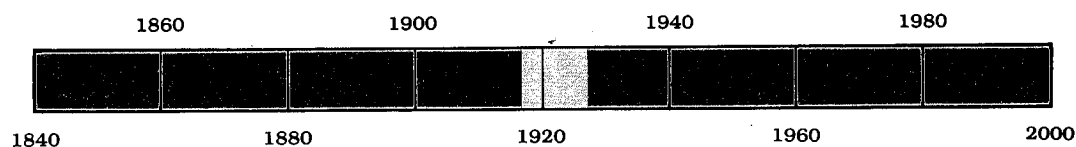


Part **5**

*The  
Turbulent  
Twenties*



# Looking Ahead



**Prohibition** began in 1920, after the nation ratified the 18th Amendment. The amendment outlawed the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages. But drinking did not stop. It just became illegal. Gangsters took control of the liquor trade. Dealers, called **bootleggers**, made the alcohol in illegal stills or smuggled it into the U.S. from Canada or Cuba. Millions of Americans broke the law by drinking. Prohibition was the most extreme social reform ever tried in America. It cast a shadow over the whole decade (10-year period).

Prohibition did not slow down the young generation, though. Many just wanted to forget about the war. Women threw out their corsets and long skirts. They cut their hair and

*Flappers were in fashion, and the Charleston was the rage during the 1920's. Writer F. Scott Fitzgerald called the period "The Jazz Age."*

wore short, swingy "flapper" dresses. Young people painted their Model-T cars in bright colors and wrote crazy slogans on them. They hung out in "speakeasies" (illegal bars), danced the Charleston, listened to jazz, and sat on flagpoles. One craze seemed to follow another.

**Fear and intolerance.** But the 1920's were not all lighthearted fun and good times. They were years of tremendous social and political changes. In Russia, the Bolsheviks (BOL-shuh-vicks) had overthrown the government and murdered the czar (Russian emperor) and his family. The Bolsheviks were **Communists**. They believed the government should own and control all land and industry. A bloody civil war raged in Russia. Americans were horrified by newspaper accounts of the violence. Many feared that a Communist revolution could break out in the United States. Communists were never much of a threat. But many Americans blamed them for strikes, terrorist bombings, and race riots.



*During Prohibition, Americans made gin in bathtubs and beer in basement breweries. This photo shows an official destroying illegal liquor.*

Americans had learned to hate Germans during World War I. Now they learned to hate and fear Communists and **anarchists** (people who are against all forms of government). Their fears mushroomed into a kind of national panic, known as the "Red Scare." It reached a peak in 1920, when the federal government jailed thousands of aliens (noncitizens) suspected of being Communists.

The fear and hatred of outsiders lingered on throughout the decade. It was a period of great **intolerance**. Some Americans were not willing to share their rights with others. Blacks, Roman Catholics, and immigrants to the U.S. from southern and

eastern Europe were all targets of this intolerance. So was anyone who was different. Some people felt that "America must be kept American." In 1921, Congress passed a law that closed the door to most southern and eastern European immigrants.

**Getting the vote.** Women had been fighting for suffrage (voting rights) since before the Civil War. Wyoming was the first state to grant women the right to vote, in 1890. Then, slowly, other states passed laws extending suffrage to women. Finally, in 1920, women won the right to vote in all the United States. Some men predicted that women would take over the nation. But it soon became clear that women tended to vote the same way that men did.

**"Talkies."** The 1920's saw great changes in everyday life. Automobiles replaced horses and wagons; new highways appeared all over the nation. Filling stations, garages, and billboards also sprang up. And most homes had a radio. Later, the first "talkies"—motion pictures with sound—came to local theaters. Movie-goers idolized stars such as Rudolph Valentino, Greta Garbo, and Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. Advertising became bolder, and weekly magazines grew in popularity. Henry Luce started publishing *Time*, the first weekly news magazine.

Some people called the 1920's the Jazz Age. Black musicians had brought jazz from the South to the big cities during World War I. Enthusiastic crowds flocked to Chicago's South Side and New York City's Harlem to hear Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong, and many other black musicians singing and playing the blues.

A number of black writers and artists also became famous at this time. Some people thought the race problem would be over in a few years. But it turned out that they were wrong.

**Heroes and scoundrels.** Both heroes and scoundrels thrived during the 1920's. Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. Gertrude Ederle swam the English Channel. Babe Ruth set new records in baseball. Easygoing Warren Harding took office as President in 1921. He brought along with him a number of old friends. Some of them used their positions in government for personal gain. Harding's administration was shaken by scandal after scandal.

The 1920's were good years for big business. Harding called for a return to "normalcy" in politics. One aim of normalcy was to remove some of the government controls that had been placed on big business during World War I. Wall Street thrived in the 1920's. Many people made money by buying and selling **stocks** (shares of ownership) in the nation's businesses. But the buying and selling got out of hand. In October 1929, the price of stocks came crashing down, and the nation went from boom to bust.

Many people looked back on the 1920's as a childish, stupid time. But many others said it was a great time to be alive.

*This cartoon against immigration reflects the mood of intolerance after World War I.*



## CHAPTER 25

# Foreigners Not Wanted

**M**any Americans were violently anti-German during World War I. They took out their anger on German immigrants and German-American citizens. After the war, the hatred and prejudice spread to foreigners in general. Some Americans attacked anyone who seemed "different." This included a wide range of people—blacks, Jews, Asians, Roman Catholics, southern and eastern European immigrants, anarchists, and Communists. But Communists and anarchists topped the American hate list.

**Red Scare.** "Workers of the world, unite!" cried the Communists. "Revolt against your bosses." Communists believed that all businesses and land should be owned by a government of workers. Anarchists opposed all forms of government. Both groups used violence at times to promote their causes. In 1917, the Communists had staged a revolution and taken over the government of Russia. Then, the Russians had pulled out of World War I, deserting the Allies.

Some people feared that the Communists would also try to take over the United States by revolution.

Some Americans believed that eastern and southern European immigrants might be Communists or anarchists. They suspected that Communists were behind a series of labor disputes and strikes in the United States. And they blamed the Communists for several race riots. Thousands of blacks had moved to Northern cities during the war. Some of these cities had race riots following the war. The worst riot was in 1919 in Chicago. It lasted for six days and took 38 lives. Many Americans also blamed the Communists for a rash of bomb scares. One bomb went off in Wall Street in New York City, killing 30 people. No one ever discovered who planted the bombs.

It finally got so bad that anyone who was different was suspected of being a Communist. People were afraid to speak out. They were afraid that they would be suspected too. The Attorney General of the United

States, A. Mitchell Palmer, led a series of raids in 1919 and 1920. He was looking for "Reds" (Communists). Palmer's raiders went into immigrant neighborhoods all over the country. They arrested more than 6,000 people. Many were American citizens. Very few were Communists. Even if they had been, it was not against the law to be a Communist or an anarchist. This Red Scare lasted for months. In the end, the federal government **deported** (sent out of the country) a few hundred aliens (noncitizens).

The Red Scare had run its course by the end of 1920. The country started to return to normal. Some Americans spoke out against the raids. They realized that the scare had put free speech in danger. And it had violated the civil rights (one's rights as a citizen) of many individuals. A few Communists did hope to take over the U.S. government. But in the early 1920's, Communists had not succeeded in taking over anything at all.

**Closing the door.** The Red Scare was over, but prejudice against immigrants and minority groups remained. For more than a century, America had opened its arms to European immigrants. Millions had come to find freedom and a better life. They helped build our farms, cities, dams, canals, and railroads. And they contributed enormously to American culture.

For some years, Asian immigrants had been less welcome. In California, the Chinese had begun to compete with whites for jobs in the 1870's. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. This and later laws re-



*The United States did not open its doors to all who knocked. Some immigrants had to wait for months on Ellis Island in New York harbor before being admitted. Lewis Hine photographed this eastern European woman as she waited her turn.*

duced Chinese immigration dramatically. In 1908, an agreement between the United States and Japan cut back Japanese immigration as well.

**Quota system.** World War I had re-



duced European immigration to a trickle. But after the war, it began to grow again. In 1921, however, Congress passed a new immigration law. For the first time, America placed limits on how many people could come from each country. This was called the **quota system**. Each nation could send only three percent of the number of its people living here in 1910. (In 1924, the quota was changed to two percent of those nationalities living here in 1890.) The law favored northern European nations. This was because so many English, Germans, and French had settled in the United States in the early years. The quota system worked against the Italians, Greeks, and Poles, because so few of them had come to the U.S. before 1910.

Why did the United States decide to limit immigration? First, many Americans did not like "foreigners." They seemed to forget that their own ancestors had been foreigners at one time. World War I had changed the

attitudes of many people. Many were disappointed with the results of the war and wanted to wash their hands of Europeans and their problems. Second, many Americans, whose ancestors came from northern Europe, believed they were better than people from eastern and southern Europe. Third, some people feared that eastern and southern European immigrants might be Communists or anarchists or criminals. Fourth, many American workers were afraid that immigrants would take their jobs away. Immigrants, they said, would work longer hours for less money.

**The shoemaker and the fish peddler.** On April 15, 1920, a paymaster and a guard were killed outside a shoe factory in Braintree, Massachusetts. The money they were carrying was stolen. Witnesses said five people had taken part in the holdup. The police arrested two Italian immigrants—Nicola Sacco, a shoe worker, and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, a fish ped-

*This Puck cartoon says that all Americans, no matter how opposed to foreigners, have immigrant roots.*



der. Both men were anarchists and draft-dodgers (people who avoid military service).

This took place at the height of the Red Scare. Not surprisingly, prejudice played a large role in the case. But there was also some evidence against Sacco and Vanzetti. Both men had guns. One of their guns was identified as the gun carried by the murdered guard. And neither man had a good alibi for the time of the robbery.

There was also good reason for doubt. At the trial, some witnesses swore they saw Sacco and Vanzetti at the holdup. Others swore they did not. Also, five people had been involved in the holdup. Where were the other three? Why hadn't any of the stolen money been found on Sacco or Vanzetti?

Sacco and Vanzetti were found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. Many people felt that they did not get a fair trial. They believed that Sacco and Vanzetti were convicted because they were foreigners and anarchists. The case divided all America.

For six years, their lawyers fought for a new trial. A gangster confessed to the killings—but still Sacco and Vanzetti did not get a new trial. All over the world, people protested. Both men continued to swear they were innocent right up to the end. "I am never guilty, never, not yesterday, nor today, nor forever," exclaimed Sacco. The two men were executed on April 23, 1927.

To this day, people still argue about the Sacco and Vanzetti case. Some believe the two were guilty. Others believe they were victims of prejudice.



*People from many parts of the world came to Ellis Island. One man who worked there described it this way: "For one who passed by, everything was all right. For one who was detained, or sent back, oh that was awful."*

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## Chapter Check

1. What was the Red Scare? In what ways did it affect people's rights?
2. In what ways did the U.S. limit immigration? Do you think the U.S. was right to limit immigration? Explain your answer.
3. What was the importance of the Sacco and Vanzetti case? Could such a thing happen today? Why or why not?



## CHAPTER 26

# Winning Votes for Women

**W**ashington, D.C., was swarming with women from many parts of the nation. They had come to the Capitol Building for their "big day." So had several Congressmen who had taken some risks in getting there. One arrived with a broken arm. Another staggered in straight from a hospital bed. A third was brought in on a stretcher.

It was January 10, 1918, and the hubbub was over women's suffrage. The U.S. House of Representatives was deciding whether or not to grant all women 21 and over the vote. Women in several states already had voting rights. But laws differed from state to state. Now many women wanted to amend the U.S. Constitution to allow for women's suffrage all across the nation.

The vote on women's suffrage had been a long time coming. Women had first demanded the vote in the years before the Civil War. These demands had grown sharper late in the 19th century. Some suffragists, such as Susan B. Anthony, became well

known all over the country.

Yet many Americans still balked at the idea of women's suffrage. Some political leaders were against it, for they feared that their parties might lose power. Most saloon-keepers were against it, for they thought women would try to pass laws against liquor. And a great many people—women as well as men—were against it simply because it meant change.

**Wyoming's stand.** The first crack in the solid front against women's suffrage came from the West. In 1889 Wyoming Territory applied for statehood. Women had voted in Wyoming for 20 years. Congress debated Wyoming's application. Wyoming's delegate wired home that the territory might have to give up women's suffrage in order to enter the Union. Wyoming's lawmakers wired back: "We will remain out of the Union a hundred years rather than come in without the women." Wyoming entered in 1890—with the women.

One by one other states began to yield. Women's suffrage picked up



*Suffragists marched, picketed, handed out leaflets, and often got arrested to promote their cause. Women finally won the right to vote in 1920.*

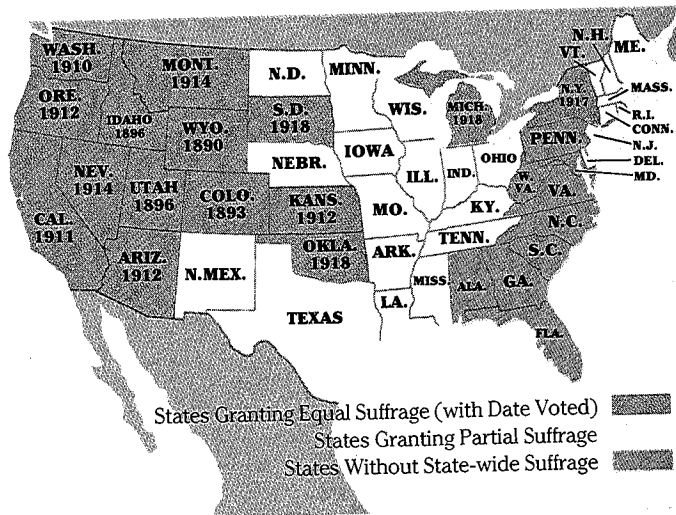
added support during the progressive years. A new generation of suffragists with new ideas joined the movement. They staged parades, picketed the White House, went to prison, and held hunger strikes.

Their first success on a national level came on January 10, 1918. The House passed the 19th Amendment, and the women who looked on were overjoyed. But the Senate rejected

the amendment a few months later. Suffragists noted which Senators voted against it. The women worked against their re-election. In 1919 a newly elected Congress considered the matter again. This time, the amendment passed both houses.

Now the amendment had to be ratified (approved) by three fourths of the states. Thirty-five states ratified it right away. Then the issue came to

## Women's Suffrage Before 1920



a vote in Tennessee. If Tennessee approved the amendment, it would become law.

Representatives from both sides tried to persuade Tennessee lawmakers to vote their way. By the day the vote was scheduled, the suffragists lacked two votes to win. They had not counted on support from the youngest member of the Tennessee legislature. He was a man named Harry Burn.

**Mother's advice.** Burn knew that political leaders in his area opposed the amendment. He said he would vote in favor of it only if his vote was needed to get the amendment passed. But Harry Burn's mother was a strong suffragist. "I have been watching to see how you stood, but have noticed nothing yet," she wrote her son. "Don't forget to . . . [vote for] ratification."

When the roll of names was called, Harry Burn followed his mother's advice. "Yes," he said, tying the vote. For a few moments the issue stood in doubt. Then another lawmaker, Banks Turner, changed his stand. He also voted in favor of suffrage. Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment.

The 19th Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920. The right to vote had been won by 26 million women then of voting age. Many of them cast their first votes in a Presidential election the next November. Most women favored the winning candidate, Republican Warren G. Harding of Ohio.

Fears of great changes at the polls soon proved groundless. In the next few years, it became clear that women tended to vote the same way as men. Still, the 19th Amendment had made women the equals of men at the polls. And it had prompted many women to take a more active role in the world at large.

### Chapter Check

1. Give three reasons why some people opposed women's suffrage.
2. Though the Senate rejected the 19th Amendment in 1918, suffragists continued to work for its passage. What did they do? What was the result?
3. The 19th Amendment gave women voting rights. In recent years, women have protested that they still are not treated as the equals of men. Are there situations in which inequality exists today?

## CHAPTER 27

# The Wets and the Drys

**O**n January 29, 1920, the United States went "dry." The making, selling, or transporting of liquor was prohibited by law. The new law, the 18th Amendment, was called Prohibition.

"A splendid experiment," some people said. Others groaned.

Prohibition lasted 14 years. People argued about it the whole time. Those in favor of Prohibition were called "Drys." Those against it were "Wets."

Prohibition probably did cut down on drinking and drunkenness. But it did not succeed in ending all use of liquor in the United States. A joke of those times was, "Prohibition is a darn sight better than no liquor at all." True, the saloons were gone. But a new kind of bar called a speakeasy soon took their place.

Sometimes these illegal bars were found in dark alleys or on side streets. Sometimes they were out in the country. But they were not very secret. If you wanted to know where a speakeasy was, all you had to do was ask around.

Sometimes speakeasies were raided by the police. Then people were often arrested. Or owners might pay off the raiders to let their places stay open. Payoffs and bribes made Prohibition hard to enforce. A **bribe** is a gift made or promised to persuade someone to act dishonestly. Payoffs and bribes also raised the costs of running speakeasies. This made speakeasies expensive places to go.

Speakeasy customers were mostly people with lots of money. Women drank too, which was almost unheard of in saloon days. But in the speakeasy, drinking was taken as a sign of women's "freedom." Working men and the poor complained about speakeasies—they could no longer get a cheap drink or a nickel beer.

**New sources.** Some of the liquor was homemade. "Bathtub gin" wasn't just a joke. Illegal stills—small "factories" for making liquor—sprang up in basements, backyards, and barns. Some of the "bootleg" (illegal) drinks put up in these stills were very harmful. They could poison



*Speakeasies were illegal and were often raided by police. Owners and patrons were arrested, and liquor and furnishings were destroyed. Despite these tactics, police were unable to eliminate the speakeasies.*

or kill people who drank too much.

Smugglers, called *rumrunners*, sneaked liquor into the country from Canada and the West Indies. They charged a high price for the risks they took. Some big-time smugglers made millions of dollars.

Soon the liquor business came under the control of gangsters and the "rackets." They began to carve out "territories" where only one gang sold all the liquor. Gangsters also owned most of the speakeasies. If one gang got in another's way, there would be trouble. The gangsters settled their troubles with submachine guns and bombs. Gang wars broke out in some cities. In Chicago more than 500 gang murders took place in the 1920's.

About half a million people were arrested for breaking the Prohibition laws during the 1920's. But most of these were common citizens caught in speakeasy raids, or small-time still operators. Big-time gangsters and criminal leaders were hardly ever touched, except by other gangsters.

**New controversy.** The Wets pointed out all these things and said that Prohibition should be ended. "This is a law that is good for bootleggers [sellers of illegal liquor]," they said. "We can't enforce a law that nobody wants."

The Drys said the law *could* be enforced. And they believed it *should* be enforced more strongly. If the law cracked down, they said, rumrunners wouldn't risk getting caught. The stills would go out of business. Then there would be no liquor for the gangsters to get mixed up in. The speakeasies would close. It was as simple as that, or so the Drys believed.

But the Drys were slowly losing ground. People were getting more and more disgusted with the crime that Prohibition encouraged.

In the election of 1932, the Democrats promised to support repeal of

the Prohibition amendment. They said they hoped to make the country "wet" again. One reason to get rid of Prohibition was that the country was in a Depression that began in 1929. Almost 13 million workers were out of jobs. People needed jobs. The liquor industry would provide work for some, the Democrats said. The government would put a tax on liquor. This would provide money for assisting people without jobs. These arguments helped the Democrats win the election.

In February 1933 Congress passed the 21st Amendment. It took a new amendment to repeal the old one. This new amendment gave authority for controlling the sale of liquor back to the states. By December, three fourths of the states had ratified (approved) the new amendment. Some local areas would remain "dry" for many years. But on a national basis Prohibition was dead.

## Chapter Check

1. What was Prohibition? What were speakeasies, and what part did they play in Prohibition?
2. Why did gangsters become so powerful during Prohibition?
3. In the election of 1932, the Democrats promised to support repeal of Prohibition. What were their reasons? By what process was Prohibition repealed?
4. Drys called Prohibition "a splendid experiment." Wets said it encouraged disrespect for the law. Which view do you think was correct? Why do you think so?
5. The 21st Amendment is the only Constitutional Amendment that repealed an earlier amendment. Do you think this means that Congress and the states were admitting that they had made a mistake? Discuss.

*Prohibition was the result of a long battle against the bottle. Saloons closed, but speakeasies opened.*





## CHAPTER 28

# The Tin Lizzie

**I**t shook, rattled, banged, and groaned. It wasn't pretty, either. It looked like a black box sitting on high, skinny wheels. But it could do almost anything, and go almost anywhere. And it was cheap.

What was it? It was the Model-T car—better known as the Tin Lizzie. It was the king of the road for nearly 20 years. And it changed the American way of life forever.

The man who had the idea for the Tin Lizzie was a Detroit mechanic named Henry Ford. Ford had been born on a farm near Dearborn, Michigan, in 1863. As a boy, Ford loved big steam engines. When he was 12, he saw one that really excited him. It was on wheels, but it wasn't pulled by horses. It had a chain connecting the engine to the rear wheels. It could go about 10 miles an hour under its own power. Ford saw that it was heavy and clumsy, but the steam engine gave him a great idea. It started him on his dream of building a better engine. It prompted him to build a "horseless" carriage—an

auto that would run on gasoline.

At 16, Ford quit the farm and left school. He got a job as a mechanic in Detroit for \$2.50 a week. He could fix almost anything within 30 minutes. At night he made money fixing watches. There wasn't a watch he couldn't repair.

**Ford's horseless carriage.** By this time, many inventors and mechanics were working on horseless carriages. Ford was one of them. He worked at home at night. At first he tried to make a better steam engine to use in an auto. But in December 1893 he began working on a gasoline engine. When he finished it, the little engine made a popping noise—and ran. Now Ford was ready to put an engine into a car.

The car took more than two years to build. Friends helped him. The engine he finally used had two cylinders. It had about three horsepower. The car weighed only 500 pounds (225 kilograms). At last, on June 4, 1896, it was ready for a trial run. Ford and his friends pushed the car

into the street. One friend rode ahead on a bicycle to warn all horses and buggies away. That morning Ford made only a short run. But the car worked, and many people were soon talking about it. It was a "sign of the future," some said.

Ford went on to make other cars, some of them for racing. In 1903 he formed his own company, the Ford Motor Company. Some auto-makers believed that cars would always be luxury items. But Ford wanted to make a car that would be simple, tough, and cheap. He wanted everyone to be able to buy a car. So Ford came up with the Model T. The first ones came out in 1908. The Model T remained the company's only model until 1927.

**Ford's Model T.** It was quite a car. You had to crank it to start it; there was no starter to turn the engine over. Once it got going, it jittered and clanked. But it usually ran—and ran and ran. The Tin Lizzie was light. It was only about eight feet (254 centimeters) long and could turn within a 12-foot (360-centimeter) circle. It was high enough off the ground to clear ruts, large stones, and even tree stumps. Because it was so light, it could pull itself out of sand and mud. (And that was important in those days of dirt roads.) The car was strong and rarely tired. A farmer could use his Model-T engine to pump water, saw wood, and run machinery.

Hardly anything could go wrong with it. If something did, you could fix it with a few simple tools. New parts were cheap. A new fender cost \$2.50. A new muffler was \$1.25. You could order a Model T part by part



*Henry Ford didn't invent the horseless carriage, but he was the first person to mass-produce it. He is shown here behind the wheel of a 1903 Ford car, a forerunner of the Model T.*

and put it together yourself. Many people did.

The Model T was plain. It came in one color—black—and had few gadgets. But stores sold hundreds of gadgets you could put on it yourself.

People liked to make jokes about the Tin Lizzie. There was a story about an old lady who saved all her old tomato cans. She sent them to the Ford factory. Soon she got a letter from the factory. It said, "Your shipment arrived. We are making it up today and will send you one new Model T. We are also returning eight cans left over." Henry Ford loved such jokes. They helped advertise his car.

**Ford's assembly line.** The Model T was gobbled up by the public. Eleven thousand Model T's were sold in 1908. They cost \$850 each. Other



As more and more autos rolled off assembly lines, Americans built more and more highways. Artist Winsor McCay predicts these highways will unite all regions of the United States.

cars cost almost three times more. Then Ford put the assembly-line system of making cars into use. Each car was put together as it moved along an overhead chain. Each worker did one special job on the car. This made it possible to turn out cars much faster and cheaper. In 1924 Ford turned out 1.6 million Model T's. This was more than half the new cars on the road. And you could buy one for less than \$300!

On June 4, 1924, the 10 millionth Model T rolled off the assembly line. There were big celebrations. The car was driven from New York to San Francisco. Brass bands welcomed the car in almost every town. And more than five million Model T's would still be made.

What finally happened to the Model T? It went out of style. The Model-T body style never changed. By 1926 the flashy-looking Chevrolet outsold it. Then Ford shut down his factories. Next year he came out with a new car—the fancier Model A.

But the Model T had done its job. Partly because of it, new concrete roads were built everywhere in the

U.S. It became easier for farmers to visit towns and cities. City people were able to drive to the country. The Model T had put America on wheels.

## Chapter Check

1. What were the advantages of Henry Ford's Model T?
2. What is an assembly line? How did it affect the price of the Model T? If you were a worker, what would you like about a job on an assembly line? What might you dislike?
3. From 1908 until 1927, the Ford Motor Company produced only one model—the Model T. Could an auto company operate this way today? Give reasons for your answer.
4. What were the lasting effects of the Model T on transportation in America? What other effects can you think of?

## CHAPTER 29

# What Next?

**A**mericans went mad over a new toy in the early 1920's. It was called the radio. This amazing box brought voices and music over the air. People had to use earphones, though, to hear these early radios. So they took turns listening.

An Italian named Guglielmo Marconi (gool-YELL-mo mar-COE-nee) had made the first radio in 1895. The early ones could not carry voices or music, only staticlike sounds. Radio operators used Morse code to communicate. Morse code is a series of short and long sounds (shown as dots and dashes), which stand for letters.

By 1900, the radio was sending human voices over the air. Soon there were thousands of amateur radio operators, called "hams." They talked to each other by radio.

**Disc jockey.** In 1920, Dr. Frank Conrad set up an amateur radio station. He ran it above his garage in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Conrad was surprised to discover that many nearby "hams" were listening to him.

When he got tired of talking, Dr. Conrad played records. More and more people started tuning in to his broadcasts. They asked for baseball and football scores too.

Dr. Conrad worked for the Westinghouse Company. The company thought that radio was going to become a big thing. It started a commercial station (one run as a business)—KDKA. The first radio broadcast was on November 2, 1920. It included the announcement that Warren G. Harding had just been elected President of the United States. About 500 people heard the broadcast. The next day, the newspapers carried stories about the news sent "over the air." Before long everyone *had* to have a radio.

**Live music.** KDKA started playing music by a "live" band. It also broadcast church services and speeches. Soon radio stations were springing up all over America.

Ed Wynn was the first comedian to perform over the airwaves. But Wynn couldn't work without an audience.



Radio made great changes in the everyday lives of most Americans. Listeners could hear news reports and live music from around the country without ever leaving home.



The announcer rounded up electricians, the cleanup crew, and telephone operators. They became the first studio audience. Within a few years, radio became a big business. Radio networks (associations of stations) carried shows coast-to-coast. Everyone listened to the news reports, popular singers, and comedy shows that were on every week.

**"Flying machines."** Radio was only one of the technological wonders of the day. By the twenties, the airplane had come of age. Radios carried sound over the airwaves. But planes could carry people.

Wilbur and Orville Wright had built the first airplane near Kitty Hawk,

*As radio broadcasts became more frequent, a new type of entertainer appeared—the radio celebrity. Along with celebrities came fan magazines. This cover drawing for the November 1932 issue of Radio Stars magazine shows comic Ed Wynn.*

**YOUR RADIO FAVORITES REVEALED!**



When Charles A. Lindbergh edged the nose of *The Spirit of St. Louis* onto a French runway on May 21, 1927, it was *Lucky Lindy's* luckiest day.

North Carolina. On December 17, 1903, their flimsy little machine reached an altitude of 10 feet (three meters) and flew for 59 seconds. In the following years, many daring young men and women tried to do better. They risked their lives to fly farther and faster. It was quite a sport then. During World War I, however, flying became very serious. Flying machines turned into fighting machines. Faster, more powerful, and safer planes were developed.

People began talking about flying across the Atlantic Ocean. In 1919, a hotel owner in New York City offered a prize of \$25,000 for the first non-stop flight between New York and Paris. Six men died trying to get the prize.

**"Lucky Lindy."** In May 1927, three more planes were ready to have a crack at it. One was a small, silver-colored plane called *The Spirit of St. Louis*. It had a single engine, no radio, and no fancy instruments—only a compass. And Charles Lindbergh, the pilot, intended to fly across the Atlantic alone.

To begin with, Lindbergh had a hard time getting his plane off the ground. It was overloaded with gasoline. Next, he had a problem with ice on the plane's wings. Later, he had trouble staying awake. He pushed his head out the cockpit window until the cold air revived him. After 33½ hours in the air, Lindbergh landed at an airfield outside Paris. A huge crowd was there to greet him. He became a world hero. Back home, "Lucky Lindy" received a welcome never seen before.

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## Chapter Check

1. Who invented the radio? What later improvement made it easier for amateurs to use the radio?
2. Station KDKA, Pittsburgh, played an important role in the history of radio. Explain. What were some of the early radio programs?
3. How did networks affect radio programming?
4. What made Charles A. Lindbergh a hero to millions of people? What was the significance of his flight?



## CHAPTER 30

# Harlem Renaissance

“**O**h, to be in Harlem again after two years away. The deep-dyed color, the thickness, the closeness of it. The noises of Harlem, the sugared laughter. The honey-talk on its streets. And all night long, ragtime and ‘blues’ playing somewhere . . . singing somewhere, dancing somewhere! . . .”

This is what Claude McKay wrote in his book *Home to Harlem*. McKay's story is about Harlem in New York City. Harlem was the capital of black America during the early 1920's. The twenties were a “roaring” time, and Harlem was a “with-it” place.

Ragtime and blues were the musical styles of the twenties. They had started out as Dixieland in New Orleans. Then they came north and found a second home in Chicago during World War I.

From Chicago the blues went to Harlem. There they found a third home. Bessie Smith gained fame singing them. King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and

others made their names playing the blues. Many great musicians flocked to Harlem. Soon the whole nation was listening to this new sound. It combined sounds of Africa and America and of city and farm into a sweet blue music that told stories of love and deep sadness.

**Black literature.** But there was more going on in Harlem than the sweet blue notes played and sung by the great artists of jazz. To Harlem came black writers from all over the country. They wrote novels. They wrote short stories and autobiographies (stories of their own lives). They wrote plays too. But most of all, they wrote poetry.

At first the work of some black writers was printed in a magazine called *The Crisis*. Then book publishers took notice. The publishers thought these writers were important. They had something to say.

Soon writers such as Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay, and Countee Cullen became famous. Their success



*Singers such as Bessie Smith created the jazz that made Harlem clubs famous in the 1920's. But blacks were often refused a chance to listen.*

brought more black writers to Harlem. Never before and not again till the 1960's was so much written by black Americans or about them.

What did they write about? Themselves, mostly. They were telling their readers what it meant to be black. Some of their stories and poems were full of joy and hope. Some were very funny. Others were filled with sadness and anger. They wrote stories about the unfair treatment of black people. They protested against poverty. Sometimes they blasted whites.

There was a lot of pride and soul in these works. Pride in being black.

While all this was going on uptown in Harlem, changes were taking place in white New York. Black people were appearing on the stage in important roles. There were all-black plays and musicals.

**Black theater.** Black actors were cheered and applauded for their work on the stage. Among them was Paul Robeson, a former All-America football player. He won fame for his starring performance in *Othello*, a play by William Shakespeare. He was also a concert singer.

Black writing. Black music. Black acting. Black entertainers. Some called this time the *Harlem Renaissance*, although some of it took place outside Harlem. Renaissance is a French word that means "rebirth."

The Harlem Renaissance was also a wild time. It was part of an age, the 1920's. Many people remember Harlem and the South Side of Chicago for the singers and the nightclubs and good times in the speakeasies.

But it wasn't all fun. Only a few black people read the poems, stories, and plays of the black writers and



Actor-singer Paul Robeson was barred from many U.S. stages because he was black. He is shown here in the role of Othello.

poets. Most could not afford to buy books. Some Harlem nightclubs were Jim Crow spots, for whites only. Blacks could play their jazz there. But they couldn't sit at the tables to hear it. They could act on the stage. But sometimes they couldn't get in to see the play.

That was one reason for the sadness and anger of black writers. They were "telling it like it was."

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## Chapter Check

1. What was the Harlem Renaissance? Who were some of the famous people involved in it?
2. Where did the Harlem Renaissance take place?
3. Why did black singers, musicians, and actors sometimes perform for whites only? Why was this a cause of sadness and anger among many blacks?

## CHAPTER 31

# Return to “Normalcy”

**T**he convention hall was hot and humid. The Republican delegates had come to Chicago in June of 1920 to nominate a candidate for President. Vote after vote was taken, but the delegates could not agree upon a candidate. By the ninth ballot, however, a new candidate had moved into the lead—Warren G. Harding. The handsome Senator from Ohio was well liked and, as everyone said, he looked like a President. On the 10th ballot, the Republicans chose Harding as their candidate.

In his campaign for President, Harding called for a return to “normalcy.” **Normalcy** meant the way things used to be before the war. It meant calling a halt to government interference in business and everyday life. It meant avoiding any foreign involvement that could lead the U.S. into another war. “America’s present need,” proclaimed Harding, “is not heroics, but healing; not nostrums, but normalcy.”

Harding and normalcy were both very popular with the voters. Many

Americans resented the restrictions the government had imposed on them during the war. What they wanted was a return to a quiet, hands-off government. Harding was in tune with the times. In November, he easily defeated the Democratic candidate, James M. Cox.

**The Harding years.** Under President Harding, business expanded and industrialists set up trade associations to limit competition. The progressives’ laws were left on the books. But some, such as the antitrust laws, were ignored or not strictly enforced. Others were overturned by the courts. In his three years as President, Harding appointed four very **conservative** (against change) Justices to the Supreme Court. The Court struck down a law forbidding child labor and a law providing for a **minimum wage** for women. (A minimum wage is the lowest salary that can be paid by law.) The cancellation of government war contracts hurt some businesses. But on the whole, the Harding years were good for

business.

Warren Harding was not a brilliant thinker nor a great leader. He had, in fact, few qualifications to be President. And Harding was well aware of his limitations. "I cannot hope to be one of the great presidents," he once said, "but perhaps I may be remembered as one of the best loved."

Harding did bring several outstanding men into the government. His Cabinet included Charles Evans Hughes as Secretary of State, Herbert Hoover as Commerce Secretary, and Andrew Mellon as Secretary of the Treasury. During Harding's administration, an international treaty to limit naval arms was signed, and the Bureau of the Budget was created. For the first time, the government worked out a plan for its spending and receipts for the coming year. But the administration's accomplishments were overshadowed by a series of scandals involving Harding's "friends."

**The "Ohio Gang."** Harding was most comfortable in the company of his old political pals. They were often called the "Ohio Gang." Harding

loved to relax with his buddies, play poker, and drink. (This was during Prohibition.) A number of his poker pals were appointed to high government positions. They used these offices to great advantage—to steal freely from the public. Sooner or later, the public was bound to find out.

**Teapot Dome.** Harding's good friend Albert B. Fall was named Secretary of the Interior. Fall persuaded Harding to transfer control of some oil fields in California and Wyoming to the Interior Department. The fields had been set aside to supply the Navy with oil in case of war. In 1922, Fall made a secret deal with two rich oilmen. He gave them the right—called a **lease**—to pump oil out of the fields and sell it. The leases were not actually illegal. But the government was giving away a valuable public resource and getting little in return. The oilmen, on the other hand, stood to make a bundle—as much as 200 million dollars.

News of the leases soon leaked out. In 1923, the Senate began an investi-

*President and Mrs. Harding (center) and Vice-President Calvin Coolidge (second from the right) are shown here at a ceremony in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Coolidge became President when Harding died in office.*



gation of this "Teapot Dome" scandal. The name came from an odd-shaped rock that was located in one of the leased oil fields in Wyoming. The rock, which resembled a teapot, stood over a rich oil reserve ("dome"). It was discovered that Fall had received nearly \$500,000 in bribes (money given for favors) for the leases. He was tried and convicted on bribery charges and spent a year in prison. Fall was the first member of the U.S. Cabinet ever to go to jail.

Teapot Dome was only one of the scandals to rock the Harding administration. Members of the "Ohio Gang" bribed Congressmen and stole millions of dollars from federal agencies. Charles Forbes, head of the Veterans' Bureau, stole or mismanaged \$250,000 of government funds. Attorney General Harry Daugherty received \$50,000 in a deal involving the return of a foreign company seized during the war. Jess Smith, a close friend of Daugherty, worked in the Justice Department. He arranged deals and collected bribes for members of the gang.

**Unhappy end.** Harding himself was never accused of wrongdoing in these scandals. For a long time, he didn't even know what was going on. As he learned about each of the shady deals in which his administration was involved, he grew gloomier and gloomier. "I can take care of my enemies all right," he told a newspaper editor. "But my . . . friends . . . keep me walking the floor nights."

In the summer of 1923, Harding went to Alaska and the West on a speech-making tour. He fell ill in San Francisco and died. Vice-President Calvin Coolidge succeeded him. It



*In 1923, the Republican party (sometimes called the GOP for "Grand Old Party") was stunned by news of a Wyoming "teapot" in a tempest.*

was announced that Warren Harding died of a stroke. But some of his friends believed he died of a broken heart.

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## Chapter Check

1. What were the qualities Harding's backers were looking for in their candidate for President? What qualities do you think a U.S. President should have? Why? Do you think Harding had the necessary qualifications?
2. When Harding ran for President, he promised a return to "normalcy." What did he mean by "normalcy"?
3. How did the policy of "normalcy" affect business and social welfare during the Harding administration?
4. What was the "Ohio Gang"? How did the actions of the gang's members create problems for Harding?



## CHAPTER 32

# The Babe

**H**e was the greatest home-run hitter of his time. He was called "the Babe," or "the Bambino." His real name was George Herman Ruth.

The Babe didn't *look* like a ball-player. The Babe was fat. And he was top heavy—he had skinny legs. One sportswriter said he had a belly like Santa Claus. Yet he could hit the ball a mile—and the fans loved him for it. The Babe didn't like to bunt or get a base on balls. He swung for the fences. When he missed, his body twisted up like a pretzel. Each time the Babe came to bat, the fans roared. They expected him to hit a home run.

In 1927 Ruth set the record for home runs in a 154-game season. He did it on the next-to-last day of the season. The date was September 30. The place was Yankee Stadium in New York City. The pitcher for the Washington Senators was Tom Zachary.

The Babe had already hit 59 home runs, tying his old record, set in

1921. Now Babe waited for the pitch, swinging his bat a little. Zachary's pitch came in. The Babe swung. *Crack!* It was the special sound Babe Ruth made when he connected. The ball sailed far over the right-field fence. Seconds later the Babe came trotting around the bases. He tipped his hat to the cheering fans. Sixty home runs in one season! It was a record that was not topped until baseball officials made the season longer.

**"Bad kid."** Babe Ruth was born February 6, 1895, in Baltimore, Maryland. He came from a very poor family. As a boy, Babe played "hookey" and ran around in the streets. "I was a bad kid," he later said. When he was seven, his parents put him into St. Mary's Industrial School. It was for orphans and "bad kids." Babe lived there for 12 years.

At St. Mary's, Brother Gilbert got

*The Babe ate too much and drank too much. Yet there was power in his swing, magic in his name.*



the Babe interested in baseball. Soon Ruth was the pitching and batting star of his team. At 19 he was signed by the minor league Baltimore Orioles. "You mean you'll *pay* me to play baseball?" Babe asked. "Sure," said Jack Dunn, manager of the Orioles. "Six hundred dollars a year to start."

**Great hitter.** When Ruth came to the Orioles, a coach said, "Here's Jack Dunn's newest babe." After that, Ruth became known as "the Babe." Soon he was sold to the Boston Red Sox of the American League. Ruth was a fine pitcher, winning more than 20 games a year. But by 1918 he was also playing the outfield. In 1919 he hit 29 homers, more than anyone had ever hit before.

Then the Red Sox sold the Babe to the New York Yankees for \$125,000. The Yankees wanted Babe's bat in the lineup every day. So Ruth gave up pitching completely and played only the outfield. In his first year with the Yankees, he hit 54 home runs. Ruth helped the Yankees win their first seven pennants. With Ruth and other great players such as Lou Gehrig, the Yankees became known as "Murderers' Row." And the new Yankee Stadium was called "the house that Ruth built." Baseball was becoming a big business. Ruth's salary climbed to \$80,000 a year—the highest in that sport. It was more than the President of the United States was making at the time.

Off the field, the Babe ate and drank like a giant. And he loved kids.

He was never too busy to visit a sick boy in a hospital. He'd give the boy a bat and a baseball, which he signed. Then he'd promise to hit a home run that afternoon. Usually he did.

The Babe retired as a player in 1935. His greatest disappointment was that he never became manager of the Yankees. When he died of cancer in 1948, he left behind a magic name and a long list of records. His greatest record was hitting 714 major league home runs. This record went unbroken until 1974, when Henry Aaron finally passed it. In 1969 sports fans across the nation were asked to pick the greatest baseball player of all time. They chose the Babe.

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## Chapter Check

1. What was Babe Ruth famous for? How did he get the name "Babe"?
2. Ruth's salary rose from \$600 a year to \$80,000 a year. What do these figures suggest about the development of the business of baseball during those years?
3. Babe Ruth was once criticized for making more money as a baseball player than Herbert Hoover was earning as President of the U.S. "Why not?" the Babe replied. "After all, I had a better year than he had." What does this story say about the values of American society?

# Looking Back: The Turbulent Twenties

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## MAIN EVENTS

1. The Communist revolution in Russia caused a "Red Scare" in the U.S. Many immigrants were accused of being Communists. Congress passed new laws limiting the immigration of southern and eastern Europeans.
2. The 18th Amendment, ratified in 1919, brought in Prohibition.
3. The 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, gave women the right to vote in national elections.
4. Henry Ford's Model T put America on wheels. In 1926, Ford introduced the Model A. Automobiles changed the American way of life.
5. The first radio broadcast was made in 1920. The radio brought news and entertainment into millions of American homes.
6. The Harlem Renaissance was a period of great achievement and expression for black writers, artists, musicians, and performers.
7. Warren G. Harding was elected President in 1920. He wanted to return to "normalcy" by ending the growth of government regulation brought on by World War I.
8. In 1927, Babe Ruth broke the record for home runs hit in a season. The Yankee slugger became an American hero.
9. That same year, Charles Lindbergh was the first person to fly nonstop from New York to Paris. His trip in *The Spirit of St. Louis* took 33½ hours.

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## WORDS TO KNOW

Match the vocabulary terms below with the definitions that follow. Number your paper from 1 to 13, and write the correct term beside each number.

Prohibition	intolerance	quota system	conservative
bootlegger	stock	bribe	minimum wage
Communist	deport	normalcy	lease
anarchist			

1. shares of ownership in a business
2. a person who is against all forms of government
3. a term used by President Harding to refer to the way things were before World War I
4. a contract granting temporary use or possession of property or land
5. the lowest salary that can be paid by law
6. a gift given to persuade someone to act dishonestly
7. unwillingness to respect the beliefs, practices, and backgrounds of other people
8. against change
9. to send back to one's native country
10. the period during which it was illegal to make, sell, or transport liquor in the U.S.
11. a person who made or sold liquor during Prohibition
12. a member of a political party that believes all business and land should be owned and controlled by the government
13. immigration laws that limited the number of people who could immigrate to the U.S. from each foreign country

## THINKING AND WRITING

### A. Recognizing Fact and Opinion

Below are 8 statements from conversations that may have taken place in the 1920's. Some of the statements are *facts*. Some are *opinions*.

Number your paper from 1 to 8. If the statement is a fact, write "fact" next to the number of the statement. If the statement is an opinion, write "opinion" and explain why.

1. "The Communists are to blame for all these race riots!"
2. "The Attorney General's raiders have arrested more than 6,000 people in their Red raids."
3. "The quota system is a fair way to decide which people can come into the country."
4. "Sacco and Vanzetti were not guilty."

5. "Louis Armstrong plays the greatest trumpet in the world."
6. "You can hear some of the newest jazz and blues singers in the clubs of Harlem!"
7. "Eleven thousand Model T's were sold in 1908."
8. "Radio is the greatest invention of modern times."

### B. Voting Rights for Women

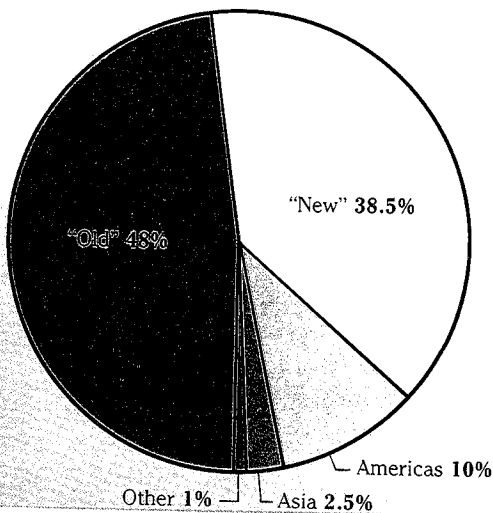
Imagine that you are working to help the 19th Amendment pass the U.S. Senate. This amendment will finally give women the right to vote. Make a list of three or four arguments you will use to convince the Senators from your state to vote in favor of the amendment. State your points clearly and convincingly.

## SHARPENING YOUR SKILLS

During the early 19th century, most immigrants to the United States came from northern and western Europe. Then in the 1880's thousands of people from southern and eastern Europe began arriving. Historians called the first group "old" immigrants and the second "new." Using both the graph and the pie chart, answer the questions.

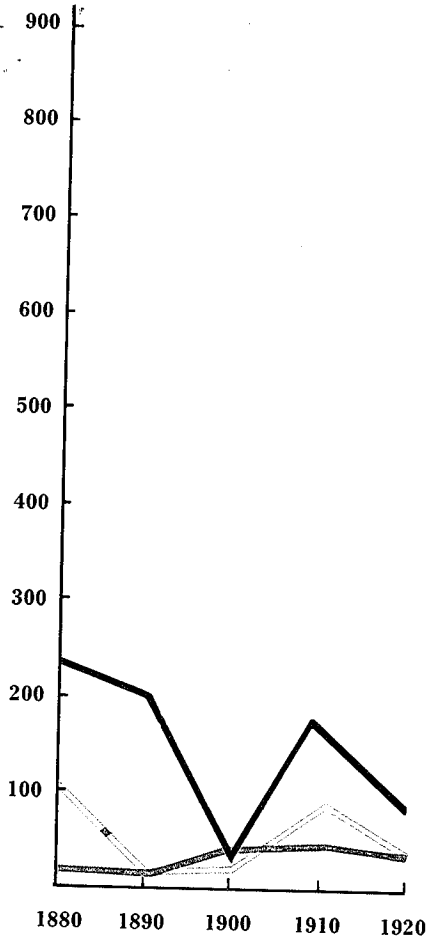
1. In what decade did "old" immigration reach its high point?
2. In what decade did "new" immigration reach a peak?
3. At the beginning of which decade did "new" immigration become larger than "old" immigration?
4. Of the European immigrants, which group was larger by 1925, the "old" or the "new"?
5. What total percentage of immigrants were European by that year?

**Total Immigration by Area of Origin, 1820-1925**



## Changing Patterns of Immigration, 1880-1920

Figures show total immigration for each decade in thousands. From 1901 to 1910, for example, immigration of all groups was about 8,800,000.



— "New" immigration from eastern and southern Europe  
 - - - "Old" immigration from Britain and northern Europe  
 . . . Immigration from elsewhere in the Americas  
 - . - Immigration from Asia