

- **Civil Service Exams-** Laws were passed requiring individuals to pass tests before obtaining government jobs in order to **eliminate patronage and corruption** in government hiring (prevent the people in the government from hiring their friends or accepting bribes). This was a reaction to the **Spoils System** (officials rewarding their supporters with government jobs).

Progressive Labor Movement/Unions

Labor Union- An organization of employees formed to bargain with the employer in order to get certain things such as better working conditions, benefits, and pay. Business leaders opposed the efforts of Labor unions to organize and improve conditions. **Clayton Antitrust Act** made unions legal.

Collective Bargaining- Discussions between labor union leaders and management (owners/ bosses) to agree on a contract for workers.

Wagner Act (1935)- Legalized collective bargaining.

Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire- Tragedy in which many women workers were killed in a factory fire. Drew national attention to the need to protect the safety of workers.

Samuel Gompers- Organized workers into unions in order to strive for better conditions and better pay.

American Federation of Labor- The first long-lasting, successful labor union in the U.S., because it fought for the rights of skilled workers, focused on gains in wages and working conditions, and was organized on a nationwide basis,

Pure Food & Drug Act (1906)- Law that provided federal inspection of meat products and forbade the manufacture, sale, or transportation of unsafe food products and poisonous medicines. Resulted from demands for direct **consumer protection**. Federal government was able to pass it because of the **elastic clause**.

Meat Inspection Act- Created **sanitary standards** established for slaughterhouses and meat processing plants. Passed as a result of writings of **muckrakers**. The publication of **The Jungle** by **Upton Sinclair** led congress to pass the law.

Muckraker- Writers during the progressive era that exposed social ills of inner cities, factory conditions, and political corruption. Focused on issues including the monopoly of Standard Oil, cattle processing, meat packing, child labor, and wages. Ex) **Upton Sinclair, Ida M Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, Jacob Riis**.

Populist Party- A political coalition of **farming interests** directed **against banking and railroads**.

- A **third party** that eventually disappeared but **proposed ideas that later became law**.
- Expressed the discontent of many **farmers** with their ongoing economic problems.
- Proposed the national **income tax**, free and unlimited coinage of silver, **direct election of senators, government ownership of railroads**. Supported **anti-trust laws**.
- **Similar to the Progressive Party** because both **opposed** the strict **laissez-faire** attitudes of the federal government, and both wanted the use of **Federal power to correct social and economic problems**.

Granger Movement- Wanted to force **railroads to lower freight rates**. Wanted to pass laws increasing Federal regulation of monopolies. Supported by farmers in the west.

Theodore Roosevelt-

- **New Nationalism-** Policy designed to help the U.S. solve problems caused by industrialization.
- **Square Deal-** Increased the role of the Federal Government in dealing with social and economic problems.

- **Trust Busting-** Had policies that encouraged competition in business by **attacking monopolies, trusts, pools,** etc. Became known as the **Trustbuster**. Believed the **government should regulate big business**.
- **Big Stick Policy-** *“Walk softly but carry a big stick.”* Policy that was used by the U.S. to police the Western Hemisphere and intervene in Latin American affairs. Wanted to prevent the extension of European control over Latin America.
- **Expanded the Monroe Doctrine-** Claimed the Monroe Doctrine permits the U.S. to intervene actively in the affairs of Latin American nations.
- U.S. influence in the Caribbean Sea region is significantly increased as a result of Roosevelt’s policies.
- Helped negotiated the end of the Russo-Japanese war (war between Russia and Japan).
- A primary objective of his was to awaken public interest in **conservation efforts** (saving the environment). Set aside land for **national forests** and **water projects**.

U.S. Global Involvement/ Imperialism

- Between the 1890’s and the start of World War I (1914), the U.S. **expanded** its access to **overseas markets** and **raw materials** through the policy of **imperialism** (a policy of extending your rule over foreign countries).
- **Reasons for Imperialism-** Due to the **expansion of American industry** (big businesses and factories) during the 1800’s, the **U.S. needed** to obtain **raw materials** and **new markets** (the U.S. needed more raw materials to make products and a place to sell those products).
- **Dollar Diplomacy** -attempted to **increase the U.S. power in Latin America**. Indicated a U.S. desire to interact with foreign countries in ways that were profitable to U.S. corporations. Corporations needed a place to sell surplus (extra) goods.
- U.S. practices **economic nationalism** by implementing **protective tariffs** to help American industry.
- **Protective Tariff-** A tax on foreign products making them more expensive so people will buy American products instead.
- **Open Door Policy (1899-1900)-** Issued in order to secure **equal trade opportunities in China** and guarantee access to its markets.
- U.S. annexes (take over a territory) Hawaii and the Philippines.

Spanish American War- (1898)

- **Joseph Pulitzer** and **William Randolph Hearst** used **yellow journalism** to **generate public support for the war**. They wrote articles about the sinking of the U.S. battleship Maine in Havana Harbor.
- As a result of the war, the U.S. built the **Panama Canal** so they could move more quickly between oceans in order to increase trade and military security.
- A major **result** was that U.S. obtained overseas **colonies** and was recognized as a **world power**.

Woodrow Wilson

- **Supported** the creation of the **Federal Reserve System** (1913) in order to regulate the amount of money in circulation.
- Worked to **limit the power of big business**.
- **New Freedom-** Designed to help the U.S. **solve problems caused by industrialization** (big business).
- Adopted a policy of **neutrality** (not taking sides in the war) at the **beginning of World War I**.
- Claimed that the Progressive movement would be best served by continued peace (avoiding WWI).

- During his reelection campaign in 1916 he used the slogan “*He kept us out of war,*” but after he was reelected in 1917 Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany because Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare.
- In the years before the U.S. entered WWI, Wilson **violated** his position of strict **neutrality** by supporting **economic policies** that **avored the Allied nations** (Britain & France).

U.S. in World War I

Causes of WWI

- At the outbreak of WWI in Europe (1914), most Americans believed that their country should stay out of war.
- During the first 3 years of WWI, the U.S. tried to maintain freedom of the seas and trade with European nations (Britain & France) but Germany attacked any ships that traded with their enemies.
- German’s violate the freedom of the seas by resuming **unrestricted submarine warfare** (which became a major reason for why the U.S. entered WWI in 1917).
- Wilson declares “*The world must be made safe for democracy*” in order to justify his decision to ask Congress to **declare war against Germany**.

During War

- **Espionage Act/ Sedition Act (1917)**- Used by **Wilson’s administration** during WWI to **silence critics of the war** effort. This illustrated that national interest is sometimes given priority over individual rights.
- **Schenck v. U.S. (1919)**- Supreme court ruled that freedom of speech for war protesters could be limited during wartime. The “**clear-and present danger**” doctrine **permits the government to limit speech** that threatens the security of the nation. Freedom of speech is not absolute.
- During WWI, relations between the U.S. and Mexico were characterized by hostility and suspicion.
- **Wilson ordered controls on the U.S. industry to fight WWI.**
- These actions show that Executive (aka **Presidential**) **power can increase during times of international crises**. Similar to Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt because they all expanded presidential powers.

Economic Effects of WWI

- WWI was a significant **benefit to the U.S. economy** because it **provided a market for the U.S. industry** (the armies of the U.S. and its allies needed a lot of supplies which gave U.S. factories a lot of business).
- **Growth of automobile industry** after WWI changed the U.S. economy by stimulating the development of other new industries.
- In terms of international trade and finance, the **U.S. emerged from WWI as a leading creditor nation** (U.S. becomes the world’s leading economic power).
- American **women** helped gain **support for the suffrage** (right to vote) movement by working in wartime industries.
- **African Americans migrate to the North** during and following WWI as a result of the availability of **new factory jobs**.

Political Effects

Fourteen Points-statement of **principles proposed by President Wilson** that would **govern the postwar world**.

- Designed to provide for a **just and lasting peace**.

- Aimed to prevent international tensions from leading to war again.
- Believed that the principal of self-determination should be applied to people of all nations (they should be free to rule themselves (aka no more colonies)).
- Established the **League of Nations**.
- U.S. follows a policy of **neutrality & isolationism** during the 1920's and 30's because of a disillusionment (disappointment, frustration) with WWI and its results.
- **Congress refuses to sign the Treaty of Versailles** (even though President Wilson wanted them to) because many **Senators objected to the U.S. membership in the League of Nations**, fearing that it would pull the U.S. into another major war.
- **Washington Naval Conferences & Kellogg-Briand Pact**- Were attempts by the U.S. to achieve peace and arms control in the decade after WWI
- **Bolshevik Revolution** (Communist takeover of Russia 1917) increased nativism leading to the **Red Scare** (fear of Communism in the U.S. following WWI).
- Passage of the **immigration quote acts of 1921 & 1924** (restricted the amount of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe) because of a recurrence of nativist attitudes following WWI (Americans became more fearful and hateful of foreigners being communists).

Women's Rights

- Women were granted the right to vote through the **19th Amendment** during the **Progressive Era** (1917).
- The national effort to ratify women's **suffrage** (right to vote) was strengthened by the economic opportunities created by **World War I** because women had to perform the jobs of men while they were away at war.
- Seneca Falls Convention-
- **Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott** were major female leaders of the women's rights movement.
- Many of the **western states granted** women the **right to vote before** the adoption of the **19th amendment** because frontier (western) women played important roles in society.

Roaring Twenties

The 1920's are called the "Roaring Twenties" because of widespread **social and economic change** and **changing cultural values (social change)**. During the 20's there was a conflict between old and new American ideals.

Social Change

- **Prohibition**- Law authorized by the **18th Amendment** that **banned** the manufacture and sale of **alcoholic beverages**.
 - Led to an increase in organized crime.
 - Respect for the law decreased.
 - Led to a public awareness that unpopular laws are difficult to enforce.
 - Prohibition was officially **ended by the 21st Amendment**.
- **Increase of nativism** can be illustrated by the **Red Scare, trial of Sacco and Vanzetti**, and the activities of the **Ku Klux Klan**.
- Immigration acts of the 1920's attempted to use quotas to limit immigration from southern and eastern Europe.

- **Sacco and Vanzetti**- Two immigrant anarchists who were convicted of murder and executed with very little evidence during the height of the Red Scare. **Demonstrated U.S. intolerance toward immigrants**. Represented **a threat to civil liberties**.
- **Scopes Trial**- John Scopes was convicted in 1925 for **teaching about evolution** (because it conflicted with what the Bible says).
 - The conviction was supported by some Americans who wanted to promote traditional **fundamentalist values** (people who believe strictly in a set of principals and do not consider other views or opinions).
 - Illustrated **a conflict concerning religious beliefs and scientific theories**.
 - Illustrated a larger **conflict over cultural values** in American society during the 20's.
- **Harlem Renaissance**- African American authors and artists used literature and art to celebrate the richness of their heritage. Increased pride in African American culture. Ex) **Langston Hughes, Bessie Smith, Duke Ellington**.
- **Flappers**- Women during the 1920's that **rejected traditional feminine roles**. Refused to conform to society's expectations (they acted and dressed how they wanted to, not how society told them they should).
- Automobiles, radio, and motion pictures standardized American culture (influenced what people considered to be "American culture").

Economic Change

- **Henry Ford**- Use of the **assembly line** in the production of automobiles led directly to a **decrease in the cost** of automobiles.
- Growth of the automobile industry changed the economy by stimulating the development of other new industries.
- Development of many **new consumer goods led to rapid economic growth** during the 1920's.
- The number of **credit purchases increased** (people bought on credit rather than using cash).
- Emergence of a **"consumer culture"** because advertising and installment payments encourage buying.
- **Installment Buying**- Paying for something a little at a time rather than all at once.
- Increase in consumer buying and spending.
- A belief in never-ending prosperity (economic success) helped to promote **heavy increases in stock speculation**.
- During the 1920's prevailing view of government's role in the economy was that the **government should interfere as little as possible**.
- **President Warren G. Harding**- Called for "a return to normalcy" by advocating for reduced international involvement and **less government regulation of business**. Supported **isolationism**.
- **President Calvin Coolidge**- believed the economy functions best if government allows business to operate freely (**free enterprise system**). Small farmers did not fare well during the Coolidge prosperity in the 20's.
- **Overproduction of Farm Crops**- Demand for American farm goods dropped dramatically during the 1920's because European need for imported farm products declined after WWI. Owners of small family farms experienced the most severe economic problems during the 20's.
- **Dust Bowl**- Caused by over-farming and severe drought. The Great Plains (flat farming center of the U.S.) suffered most directly from the Dust Bowl. Resulted in increased westward migration (people in the Great Plains moved west in order to find a better living).