



**Social Unrest
During the
1920s**

Strikes:

- 1919- more than 3000 strikes; most failed
- Caused by end of wartime wage agreements
- Created a legacy of public fear and anger
- Union membership declined
- Employers offered



Red Scare continued...

- 1920- creation of American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to challenge constitutionality of laws and actions of government



As a Result of the Red Scare

- Many people were unjustly accused of being communists
- Hundreds of alien “radicals” were deported
- Many states passed laws making it illegal to advocate violence

Anti-immigrant Sentiment

- To slow immigration, two acts were passed by Congress:
 - Emergency Quota Act of 1921:** added 2 new features to American immigration law: (numerical limits on immigration from Europe and the use of a quota system for establishing those limits)
The 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
 - National Origins Act of 1924:** the law was aimed at further restricting the Southern and Eastern Europeans who were immigrating in large numbers starting in the 1890s, as well as prohibiting the immigration of Middle Easterners, East Asians and Asian Indians. (lowered the 3% to 2%)

Sacco and Vanzetti Case

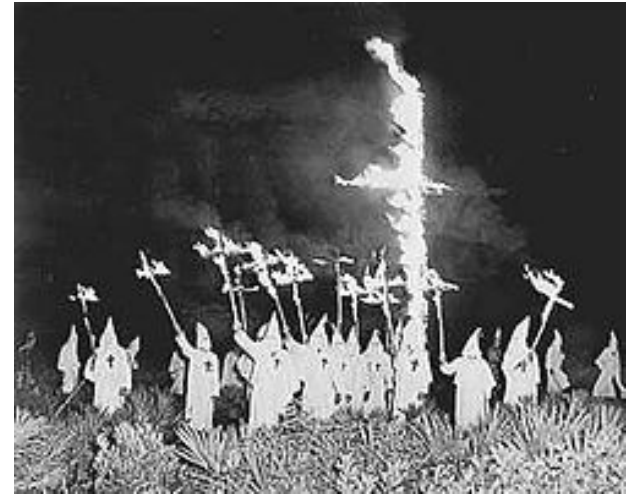
- 1920-1921 (evidence of hostile attitudes toward immigrants)
- They were anarchists who were convicted of murdering two men during a 1920 armed robbery in South Braintree, Massachusetts.
- After a controversial trial and a series of appeals, the two Italian immigrants were executed on August 23, 1927.
- There is a highly politicized dispute over their guilt or innocence, as well as whether or not the trials were fair.



Bartolomeo Vanzetti (left)
and Nicola Sacco in
handcuffs

Traditionalists Fight Over Change in America

- Revival of Ku Klux Klan:
 - gained strength across the U.S.
 - broadened its attacks to include not only African Americans, but also Jews, Catholics, and foreigners
 - membership rose to 5 million men by 1925
 - greed and hypocrisy of Klan leaders led to its decline; by 1930 it had only 9000



Ku Klux Klan rally, Gainesville, Florida, December 31, 1922.

Era of Prohibition

- 1919-1933- the 18th Amendment led to passage of Volstead Act to enforce prohibition
- Private clubs (speakeasies) flourished
- Bootlegging grew and led to organized crime such as Al Capone's group in Chicago
- 21st Amendment repealed the 18th Amendment

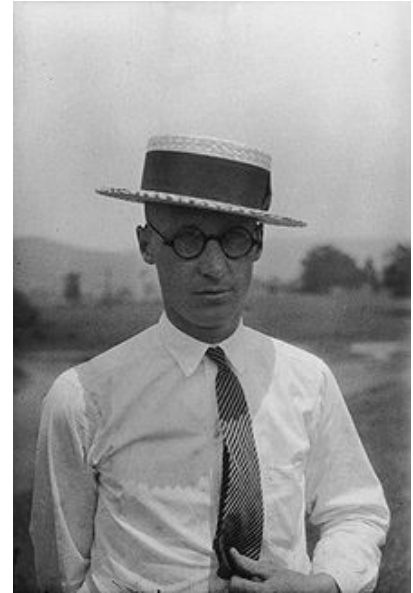


A raid in 1925, in Elk Lake, Ontario



Rise of Fundamentalism

- Christian Fundamentalism: belief in literal interpretation of the Bible led to challenge against teaching evolution
- 1925 Scopes Trial “Monkey Trial”
 - Tennessee law forbid teaching evolution
 - John Scopes (high school teacher) violated the law
 - ACLU defended Scopes (ACLU lawyer Clarence Darrow)
 - prosecutor was William Jennings Bryan
 - Scope was found guilty-fined 100 dollars
 - trial exposed intolerance common in the U.S. in the 1920s



Clarence Darrow (left) and William Jennings Bryan chat in court during the Scopes Trial.

Women in the 1920s

- 19th Amendment (1920) gave women the right to vote
- Equal Rights Amendment: was proposed but never enacted
- wanted protection against all forms of discrimination based on



Modern Woman of the 1920s

- Women's behavior also changed:
 - smoking
 - drinking
 - dating without chaperones
- New sexual practices would follow.
- Dances such as the Charleston were popular.
- Inspired by women such as Margaret Sanger, women began to question their doctors and to seek more information about birth control.
- Opponents said such a movement was increasing female immorality.



African Americans in the 1920s

- The 1920s inspired an outpouring of African-American talent.
- The Harlem Renaissance produced writers such as Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen.
- Jazz music emerged, dominated by African-Americans and adopted by white musicians.

