

The popular image of the 1920s is of flappers and the Charleston. Indeed, the country changed radically during this decade into one with which we would be much more familiar today—a mass consumption society, strong economy, big time spectator sports and entertainment, fads and superheroes, mobility, suburbs, etc. But notice as you read the chapter how strong the popular resistance was in many quarters to the brave new world thus created. Today’s societal changes provoke similar resistance in many.

**1. Prejudice, Immigration, and Anti-Foreignism (pp. 728–732)**

a. The authors attribute much of the anti-foreignism of the post–World War I period to disillusionment after Wilson’s idealistic crusade in Europe had resulted in so little. The \_\_\_\_\_ Revolution in Russia in 1917 sparked fears that every labor dispute was stirred up by foreign “communists” bent on overthrowing the capitalist system and installing a “dictatorship of the proletariat.” The “\_\_\_\_\_ Scare” of 1919–1920 was led by Attorney General A. Mitchell \_\_\_\_\_, who rounded up some \_\_\_\_\_ thousand suspected subversives on flimsy evidence. **(Remember him when we get to the rabid anticommunist of the 1950s, Sen. Joseph McCarthy.)** Another example cited is the famous case of Nicola \_\_\_\_\_ and Bartolomeo \_\_\_\_\_, whose Italian origin and anarchist political leanings were at least a contributing factor to their hysterical trial and ultimate execution for murder. \*\*\* Why do the authors say on p. 729 that the Red Scare “was a godsend to conservative businesspeople”?

b. In this atmosphere, the once-moribund Ku \_\_\_\_\_ expanded to some \_\_\_\_\_ million members and marched openly on Washington, expanding its agenda well beyond its anti-black crusade to oppose anything not purely Anglo-Saxon. The government moved to sharply cut back the “new wave” of immigrants now coming mostly from the poorer regions of southern and eastern Europe. In the \_\_\_\_\_ Act of 1921, immigration was restricted through the use of annual quotas related to the national origin of the population as of the 19\_\_\_\_ census. Three years later, the \_\_\_\_\_ Act of 1924 further reduced unwanted immigrants by pegging the quotas to the census of 18\_\_\_\_, when there were far fewer people of eastern and southern European origin. \*\*\* Look at the chart on p. 732. How would you describe the change in immigration patterns between 1914 and 1924?

**2. Booze and Monkeys (pp. 732–738)**

a. The temperance ladies finally got their way and booze was outlawed in 1919 by the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment to the Constitution (repealed in 1933). Gangsters such as Chicago’s Al \_\_\_\_\_ took advantage of Prohibition to sell “bootleg” liquor. \*\*\* Remembering that Wilson wanted to “make the world safe for democracy,” what do the authors mean on p. 752 when they say that this Amendment and its enabling \_\_\_\_\_ Act “made the world safe for hypocrisy”? What does “hypocrisy” mean in this context?

b. A high school education was largely mandatory in the 1920s under the progressive theories of Prof. John \_\_\_\_\_ of Columbia. However, the “fundamentalists” got their day in court when science teacher John \_\_\_\_\_ was brought to trial in Tennessee for the “crime” of teaching the evolutionary theories of Charles \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the biblical interpretation of creation. The old war-horse, William Jennings \_\_\_\_\_ came in to prosecute the case, but he was bested in the battle by criminal lawyer Clarence \_\_\_\_\_ and he died a few days after the trial.

**3. Automobile Revolution (pp. 738–742)** Just as the railroad was the catalyst for the Gilded Age industrial boom, the automobile was the centerpiece of 1920s prosperity and cultural change, led by the “scientific management” theories of Frederick W. \_\_\_\_\_ and the assembly line mastery of Henry \_\_\_\_\_. The chart on p. 740 shows that a Model T cost about \_\_\_\_\_ months wages for the average worker in 1924, down sharply from \_\_\_\_\_ months wages in 1908. (If a schoolteacher now makes \$30,000 per year after tax and an average new car costs \$20,000, it takes \_\_\_\_\_ months salary to pay for a new car today!) The automobile had huge “spin-off effects” on the country.

(1) Advertising—What is the image being portrayed of the Model A in the ad on p. 742?

(2) Name a few non-automotive businesses that benefited from the auto boom.

(3) Name a few social changes that were spurred by the effect of the automobile.

**4. Communications and Cultural Revolution (pp. 742–751)**

a. As you read these pages about the massive cultural changes in the 1920s, note one or more significant things in the following areas.

(1) Airplane:

(2) Radio:

(3) Movies:

(4) Woman’s role/rights:

(5) Sexual mores/styles:

(6) Music:

(7) African-American culture:

(8) Literature:

b. \*\*\* Reflecting on this section, do you have any thoughts on what it would have been like to have been a middle class, urban young person in the 1920s? What would be the pros and cons?

**5. Wall Street Boom (pp. 751–752)** Wealth accumulation in the 1920s was encouraged by the probusiness policies of people like Secretary of the Treasury Andrew \_\_\_\_\_. On the stock exchanges, the authors say that “speculation ran wild” and led to an excessive \_\_\_\_\_ (bull or bear) market. \*\*\* What do you think the word “speculation” means in this context? Are people still “speculating” in stocks, real estate, or other such investments today?

## CHAPTER 32 TERM SHEET

### The “Roaring Twenties”

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#### **Pages 728–732**

Bolshevik Revolution (1917)

Seattle general strike (1919)

“Red Scare” (1919–1920)

A. Mitchell Palmer

Sacco and Vanzetti (1921)

Ku Klux Klan

“New Immigration”

1921 Emergency Quota Act

1924 Immigration Act

#### **Pages 732–738**

Eighteenth Amendment (1919)

Volstead Act

“Speakeasies”

Al Capone

Prof. John Dewey

Religious fundamentalists

John Scopes/“monkey trial” (1925)

William Jennings Bryan

Clarence Darrow

#### **Pages 738–742**

Bruce Barton

Babe Ruth

Jack Dempsey

Frederick W. Taylor

Henry Ford

Model “T” (“Tin Lizzie”)

**Pages 742–751**

Wright brothers (1903)

Charles A. Lindbergh (1927)

Guglielmo Marconi

*Amos 'n' Andy*

Thomas A. Edison

D. W. Griffith/*Birth of a Nation* (1915)

Al Jolson/*The Jazz Singer* (1927)

Margaret Sanger

“Flappers”

Dr. Sigmund Freud

Jazz

Langston Hughes

Marcus Garvey

H. L. Menken

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Ernest Hemingway

Sinclair Lewis

William Faulkner

Ezra Pound/T. S. Eliot/Robert Frost/e. e. cummings

Eugene O’Neill

Harlem Renaissance

Frank Lloyd Wright

**Pages 751–752**

“Speculation”

Buying “on margin”

National debt

Andrew W. Mellon